

## Scientists told to harness farmers' knowledge

Governor Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam called upon the agricultural scientists to enrich and harness the knowledge of farmers.

Speaking after inaugurating the valedictory function of CoA Diamond Jubilee held at Vellayani on 16 November, Justice Sathasivam, who is the chancellor of University as well, told the audience to foster stronger ties between the University and the Department of Agriculture so as to ensure prosperity of farming and farmers.

The Governor inaugurated the gateway to the campus sponsored by alumni association and also laid the foundation stone for a new PG hostel complex.



*KAU Chancellor and Kerala Governor Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam inaugurating the valedictory of Diamond Jubilee celebrations of CoA, Vellayani*

Minister for Agricultural development and Farmers' welfare Adv. V. S. Sunil Kumar in his presidential address highlighted the relevance and importance of Haritha keralam project piloted by the government and the need to ensure its success.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, Dean Dr. B. R. Raghunath and alumni association secretary Dr. K. M. Abdulkhader spoke.

## Kerala farmers Keeps Date with Plant Genome Awards

Kerala farmers once again made the state proud by marking strong presence in the Plant Genome Saviour awards function held at New Delhi on December 21.

Four from Kerala figured in the list of Plant Genome Saviour awardees (2014) declared by the PPV & FR authority in 2016. Seven out of the fourteen awards for 2013 presented last year were bagged by Kerala farmers.

While two individual farmers, Chandran from Thrissur and Arvind from Palakkad, were selected for Plant Genome Saviour recognition, Shaji N. M. of Wayanad got Plant Genome Saviour Reward and Changalikodan banana growers association, Erumapetty, Thrissur has been bestowed with Plant Genome Saviour Community award.

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## Plant Genome Awardees honoured

Minister for Agricultural Development and farmers' welfare, V. S. SunilKumar has called for conscientious efforts to conserve the conventional crop varieties, traditional knowledge and bio diversity resources.

Speaking at a function organised by KAU to felicitate the winners of Plant Genome Saviour Awards, the minister said that the quality of produce, not alone quantity, is what matters in ensuring the health of society. 'Our ancestors had formulated a menu based on our needs, climate and resources. We have obliterated it and blindly adopted a menu followed by people living in different agro-climatic conditions which has led to the discard of traditional crops. The farmers whom we felicitate here have led



*The Plant Genome Saviour awardees with Minister & other dignitaries*

a noble fight to preserve traditional crops and traditional knowledge. We have to carry forward this fight', he said.

The minister highlighted the role played by KAU in facilitating the farmers' road to national recognition. The number of Plant Genome Saviour Awards won by Kerala farmers is the proof of commitment shown by KAU, he said. The minister also inaugurated a Hi-Tech Kitchen garden model designed for small families at the function held at Directorate of Extension.

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## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

**Dr. K. P. Sudheer**, Professor & Project Coordinator, Centre of Excellence in Post-harvest Technology, KAU has been conferred with National fellow title by ICAR. Dr. Sudheer has thus become the first KAU scientist to win ICAR National Fellow title.



The recognition is for the research on Safety and quality of High Hydrostatic Pressure Processed fruits and vegetables. The award consists of research grant of Rs. 500 lakhs, which will be used for standardizing the process protocol for minimally processed tropical fruits like jackfruit and pineapple. High hydrostatic pressure technology for safe and shelf-stable food production has enormous potential in the food industry, controlling food spoilage, improving food safety and extending product shelf life while retaining the characteristics of fresh, preservative-free, minimally processed fruits and vegetables. Dr. Sudheer has recently received the state award for the best agricultural scientist.

**Dr. Rashmi Vijayaraghavan**, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, CoH bagged the best poster award in the 29<sup>th</sup> Kerala Science Congress held at Thiruvalla from 28 to 30 January 2017. She won the award for her presentation on the "Efficacy of fungicides and bioagents against downy mildew of bittergourd" authored by Reshmi Vijayaraghavan, VimiLouis, Sally K. Mathew, Fridin Davis, Anjali Varghese and Dilna.

**Dr. Jalaja S. Menon**, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Plantation Crops & Spices, CoH received the best paper award in the 2<sup>nd</sup> National symposium on edible alliums organised by the Indian Society of alliums and Directorate of Onion and Garlic research at Jalna during Nov. 7 to 9.

**Dr. Sheeja K. Raj**, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), has received the Agronomist Award by Society for Educational & Scientific Research in the International Conference on Green Technology for Health and Environment: Implementations and Policies held at Bangalore on 15 & 16 December, 2016.

**M. Jyolsna and Dr. V. S. Devadas**, won the best poster award the Platinum jubilee seminar of Hort society of India held at IARI during 15-18 November 2016.

## Drought mitigation Measures formulated

The Pre-Rabi farmer - farm science professional interface organised by KAU at Thrissur on October 7 has made several recommendations to mitigate the water deficiency and drought expected in the Rabi season.

The interface was organised to fine tune the recommendations chalked out on the basis of problems presented in the workshop held at Directorate of Extension on September 30. It was pointed that all the major crops, vegetables and fruits are vulnerable to infestations and productivity problems during the season on account of water scarcity and climatic challenges.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in his inaugural address highlighted the necessity to change crop pattern and cropping calendar in tune with climatic variations. 'Farming is an activity which goes in tune with nature and its vagaries. Hence the changes in nature and natural conditions should be taken in to account and farming calendar re designed accordingly. Crops which can withstand stress needs to be promoted even while scientific management practices are popularised.', he said.

The technical sessions on crop management in food crops and plantation crops, management of pests, diseases and weeds, Water management for different crops and terrains, Soil health management and mechanization were led by experts from KAU and ICAR institutions in the state.

The recommendations formulated on the basis of discussions in workshop on September 30 were subjected to detailed analysis, A compilation of recommendations finalised in the interface is being circulated to all district level officers in department of Agriculture and Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the state for effective transfer of technology, said Dr. S. Estelitta, Director of Extension.

## Madakkathara becomes First ODF Panchayat KVK felicitates Panchayat Officials

Thrissur KVK felicitated the governing council of Madakkathara Panchayat on the local body being recognised as country's first Open Defecation Free Panchayat.



Vice-Chancellor presenting memento to Madakkathara Panchayat President

Speaking after inaugurating a function and waste management training programme on 25 October 2016, Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran said that the pollution of air, water and soil has precipitated umpteen health threats to humans as well as other living beings.

'Waste management is the biggest challenge confronting mankind. This achievement of Madakkathara Panchayat needs to be hailed. Let this lead to a new level of life and prompt other Panchayats to follow suit.', he said.

Panchayat President P. S. Vinayan said that the achievement is a result of sustained efforts and people's participation. 'Sustaining the status is no less a challenge than achieving it. I solicit the support of all residents in general and KAU in particular for our efforts to March ahead and pursue further achievements.', he said

KAU Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta presided over the function. KVK head Dr. A. Prema offered welcome and Dr. T. Suman proposed vote of thanks. Panchayat council members, University officers and public participated.

## General Council decides to redress man power shortage, assure support to Haritha Keralam Project

KAU General Council decided to expedite steps to resolve the acute manpower shortage in the University.

The 127<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council held at Thiruvananthapuram on November 29 formed a subcommittee to make recommendations to report the vacancies of non-teaching staff. In the case of teaching staff, University will speed up the recruitment process.

The Vice-Chancellor also assured the house that selection of farm labourers will also be expedited.

The members unanimously pointed out that shortage of man power in all

sectors is crippling the University. Vice-Chancellor said that filling up the vacant posts is a priority and University will take all possible measures for the same.

The council also decided to strengthen the internet-intranet facilities at College of Agriculture, Vellayani. The Vice-Chancellor informed the house that the University will provide necessary technology back up to Haritha Keralam programme piloted by state government.

The meeting Chaired by Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran was participated by Executive Committee members

Dr. Jose Joseph, Aji Francis, K. A. Sheeba and Dr. C. N. Ravishanker.

Dr. Jiju P. Alex, Dr. S. Devanesan, V. S. Sathyaseelan, N. L. Sivakumar, Sasthamangalam Mohan, Rajiv Nellikkunnel, Dr. A. Prema, Varghese Ollukkaaran, C. H. Muthu and Vishnu Narayanan took part in the discussions.

Registrar Dr. S. Leenakumary, elected and nominated members of the council, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Research, Extension, Physical Plant and Academic and other officers attended the meeting.

## Republic Day Celebrated



Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran addressing the Republic Day parade at KAU HQ

Sixty Eighth Republic Day of India was celebrated in all KAU stations.

Republic Day celebration in KAU was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran by hoisting the national flag at the headquarters. Officers of the University, students, staff and labourers participated in the parade.

Addressing the gathering the Vice-Chancellor called for intensive efforts to protect natural resources like soil, water and biodiversity. He called upon

the researchers to utilise advancements in information technology for augmenting productivity enhancement and resort to economy in spending in the wake of challenges posed by climate change. 'Youth organisations, being the biggest force in society, should involve in and promote technology advancement in agriculture and allied fields. The claim for one's rights should be complimented by the efforts to perform duties as well,' he said.

Respective station heads hoisted the national flag and addressed the parade in the satellite stations of the University.

## KAU VC receives award

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran has been conferred with international educational excellence award by Confederation of Indian Universities. The award was presented to him in a function held at Kolkata on October 5.

The award is given to academicians who have made notable contributions in the field of sustainable development, educational planning and applied research. Dr. Rajendran was selected for the award in view of his exceptional skills in teaching, research administration and planning.

He was nominated by the International Association of Educators for world Peace, an affiliate of UNICEF.

## Rashtriya Ekta Divas Observed



Rashtriya Ekta Divas (National Unity Day) on 31 October to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel was observed at KAU. *Run for Unity* organized at the University Headquarters was flagged by Dr. Mercy George, Director of Students' Welfare.

Dr. Sajan Kurien, Director of Research addressed the students after pledge. A cycle rally to spread the message of Swachh Bharath Mission was also held. Dr. B. Raghunath, Dean (Agriculture); Dr. George Thomas, Associate Dean, CoH; T. S. Majeed, Comptroller, Dr. T. E. George, Director (Academic) and Dr. V. S. Devadas Assoc. Director of Research participated.

## *Message from the Vice - chancellor*

### **The Drought Situation should wake us up**

I am writing this in winter but our state is confronting unprecedented drought. The water table has gone four meters down and availability of water for man, animals and plants is in peril. A state like Kerala known for rivers and undiminishing greenery is struggling for water as the rainfall deficit of about forty percent has depleted its water bodies.

The situation is grave and one shudders to think of real summer if the situation persists. Water stress affects every living being on earth. In the primary sector water availability to plants is denied, quality of water is compromised and whatever water is left behind gets contaminated with pesticides, factory effluents, heavy metals and microbial loads.



Temperature variation – estimated at 1.8°C to 4°C – is set to cause 20 to 40 percent reduction in agricultural productivity. In a consumer state like Kerala it has a double effect. On one hand the domestic production suffers and consequent increase in import of food grains, vegetables and other eatables impairs the economy on the other.

The rise in temperature also leads to high incidents of pests and diseases and ill health of plants affecting crop sustenance. Inevitable use of plant protection chemicals coupled with water scarcity leads to increased residues which in turn pose health hazards to humans and domestic animals. Livestock production and productivity will also be adversely affected.

Thus it is clear that the effect of water stress is not limited to crops. Changes in primary sector will have inevitable repercussions in secondary and tertiary sectors as well. Price of rice has already gone up and so is the cost of vegetables. Price of pulses, fruits etc. will follow suit. The irreparable injury to economy on account of this is another fallout of water stress.

The drought situation will also cause despair and disenchantment for farmers driving away at least some of them. This may also lead to the likelihood of more arable lands being left fallow unless micro irrigation options are promoted. Protecting and preserving water bodies is another important task. Proper planning and prompt action is the need of the hour.

Increased water use efficiency, water harvesting and thrust on waste water recycling are basic concepts of water management. Tailoring new varieties tolerant to stress situations and screening of existing varieties to choose the best suited for the situation is another priority. We are bound to resort to better options in the emerging scenario.

Every citizen has to contribute to the solutions since water is not a commodity of import. Gone are the days when Kerala could boast of the overflowing rivers and abundance of water bodies. The fact is that we are cornered by our own follies. Our reluctance to prepare for the situation has put us in jeopardy. Let's accept the facts and strive to tide over the precarious situation.

## CoF Academic Block inaugurated

### Minister Calls for Research – Extension Coordination

Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar inaugurated the silver jubilee academic block of College of Forestry on December 17.

In his inaugural address the Minister said that the full potential of KAU is to be exploited. It is after several visits to different campuses and detailed interactions that I have realised the true potential of KAU. The volume of research done here is enormous and the outcome is immense. These should be translated in to direct

benefits of farming community. Social responsibilities have to be fulfilled and expectations of people should be met. All sections of KAU community should contribute to this. The government wants to ensure a cordial relation between KAU, other research institutes in the state and the department of agriculture. 'he said.

Minister for Forests and wildlife, K. Raju, in his keynote address said that more advanced studies in the field of forestry is imperative and the college of forestry has to play a key role in it. 'Man-animal conflict is an issue which



Agri Minister inaugurates the CoF academic block

needs scientifically evolved solutions than emotion oriented decisions. The government is keen to evolve a solution to wild animals invading human habitats and causing loss to life and property. Perhaps a better management of forest area would help to solve it. We have decided to discourage planting of extraneous tree species in forest lands.' he said.

KAU Executive committee member K. Rajan MLA presided. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran offered welcome. Registrar Dr. S. Leenakumari, Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta, Forestry Dean Dr. K. Vidyasagar and other officers participated.

## Proper Planning must to sustain farming : MLA

KAU Executive Committee member K. Rajan MLA has called for a planned approach in vegetable farming.

Speaking after inaugurating a training programme on advanced plant propagation techniques, conducted at the Directorate of Extension, Rajan said that the current thrust in vegetable farming felt across the state in general and higher strata of society in particular is uni dimensional leading to surplus production of same items and insufficient availability of other items.

'Proper planning is imperative before deciding on which crop to grow,. The move to popularise advanced propagation techniques is highly relevant in enhancement of vegetable production.' he said.

Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta presided. Associate Director Dr. Alexander George, Prof. Sreevalsan J. Menon and training coordinator Dr. Jalaja S. Menon spoke.

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### Awardees honoured

All the awardees were nominated by KAU which has been in the forefront in providing guidance and support for farmers. ICAR had honoured KAU for consistent support for farming community which had ensured notable presence of Kerala farmers in the list of awardees every year.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran said that the sustained efforts of university IPR Cell has ensured lion's share of Plant Genome Saviour Awards ever since their inception. The efforts to promote deserving farmers also proves KAU's commitment to the farming community, the Vice-Chancellor said.

KAU Executive Committee member K. Rajan MLA presided over the function. Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta, Registrar Dr. S. Leena Kumari, Associate Director of Research Dr. Mercy George and IPR Cell coordinator Dr. C. R. Elsy spoke.

### 'Implement pulse promotion programmes'

Professor Kadambot Siddique, UN- FAO Special Ambassador for the Inter-national Year of Pulses said that neglect of legumes in routine diet Keralites has led to a compromise on human health, sustainability of food production and crop rotation.

Delivering a lecture on Pulses contribution to production and dietary diversity to eradicate hunger and malnutrition at Academy of Climate Change Education and Research, KAU on January 17, the Kerala born scientist working with University of Western Australia said that Kerala in particular has to implement more pulse promotion programmes so as to ensure nutritional security of people and economic stability of farmers.

'India is the largest producer of pulses but it is also a major importer since domestic production is grossly insufficient to meet the requirements. Kerala, which in earlier days used to cultivate a variety of pulses has discarded them. Pulses are the best options for crop rotation and have a major say in nutritional security. Economic and environmental factors also encourage pulse cultivation.' he said.

Dr. Siddique said that the world in general and developed countries in particular have reduced meat consumption and increasingly depend on pulses for proteins. KAU Director of Research Dr. Sajan Kurien and ACCER special Officer Dr. P. Indiradevi led the discussions on the topic.



Prof. Kadambot Siddique speaking at ACCER

## KAU to Launch Massive Open Online Courses

KAU Academic Council decided to launch Online PG Diploma course in Food Safety and Quality assurance, a certificate course in integrated farming and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for popularising scientific practices and emerging techniques in farming.

The meeting held at the University Headquarters on December 28 also approved the amendments in academic regulations of Graduate courses, brought in to achieve national level unification as recommended by the fifth Deans' Committee appointed by ICAR.

The proposed Online PG Diploma course in Food Safety and Quality assurance is expected to meet the increasing demand for human resource requirement in food safety and quality management, said the Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran. 'Food safety is a fundamental public concern and has become a priority for manufacturers, retailers, consumers and regulators. Producing, packing and distributing eatables in a manner which prevents food borne diseases is science which needs to be popularised.' he said.

The MOOCs pertaining to farming will be conducted by Centre for e learning under SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) platform formulated by UGC. A high power committee has been constituted to work out the content of the courses and other modalities.



*Vice-Chancellor flanked by Registrar and Academic Director in the Academic Council meeting*

The certificate course in integrated farming, to be conducted at Regional Agricultural research Station, Kumarakom, will be a course oriented to promote self-entrepreneurship.

The meeting chaired by Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor was attended by Registrar Dr. S. Leena Kumari, Academic Director Dr. T. E. George, Controller of Examinations Dr. R. Krishna Kumar, Heads of educational institutions, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Research and Extension and elected members.

### Thrissur KVK Launch Agri Development Programme

Thrissur KVK has launched a programme for agricultural prosperity through scientific farming practices in collaboration with Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs).

The programme envisaged in KAU budget was started with training to Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) from different Panchayats in Alathur Block of Palakkad District.

The training on preparation of organic inputs is imparted in groups containing five women. Eight such groups underwent training for ten days each to master the technique of preparing organic inputs to produce safe to eat vegetables.

The training programme was inaugurated by Associate Director of Extension Dr. Alexander George on January 23. KVK head Dr. A. Prema presided over the function. Rani Prakash, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Alathur explained the programme.

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## Kerala farmers win more Plant Genome Saviour Awards

N. A. Chandran from, Vemballur, Thrissur is maintaining collections of coconut, mango, coconut, Pokkali rice, heliconia types, native animal breeds like Vechur cattle and a traditional rice cultivar (Mundakan) apart from bamboo varieties his organic farm.



Mr. Aravind K., P. V. Kalam, Pombra P. O., Palakkad district, maintains 2.5 ha organic garden of fruit and vegetables, medicinal and aromatic plants, vegetables, Plantation crops, Farm animals etc. He is also active in popularising the concept of natural living and biodiversity conservation.

Shaji N.M of Edavaka Panchayath in Waynad district is a guardian of tuber crops. He is conserving a large variety of tuber crops like Greater yam, Colocasia, Sweet Potato, Tapioca, Elephant foot yam, Arrow Root, Chinese Potato, Lesser yam, Turmeric etc. along with other plantation crops, native orchids, vegetables and medicinal plants.



Erumapetty banana growers association won the plant Genome Saviour Community award for the sustained efforts in conservation and promotion of Chengalikodan, a Nendran Banana variety with unique taste, shape and colour. This variety was recognised as a Geographical Indication in 2015.

## Minister Calls for Planned Development of Agricultural research stations

Pooppoli 2017, the fourth edition of annual flower show and agricultural exhibition at RARS, Ambalavayal was inaugurated by Minister for Agricultural development and farmers' welfare V. S. Sunil Kumar on January 27.

Speaking after inaugurating 2017 edition of Pooppoli, the minister mooted a national workshop on processing and value addition of jack and other indigenous fruits at Ambalavayal.

'Pooppoli has become the biggest flower show organized in Kerala and the varietal treasure showcased here is praiseworthy. Yet there is scope of improvement like exhibition on live crops of Wayanad. I wish to make Pooppoli an annual event scheduled in the tourism calendar. I understand there is dearth of manpower in remote stations like Ambalavayal and it would be addressed on priority,' Minister said.

Sunil Kumar also stressed the need of planned development in research stations. 'Each research station under KAU should be developed on the basis of a master plan because the research findings of KAU is so pertinent for action programmes taken up at field level. I also want KAU to prepare a report on effects of climate change in Wayanad so that specific programmes to redress it can be formulated,' Minister said.

Organising committee chairman I. C. Balakrishnan MLA presided over the inaugural function. KAU Vice-Chancellor



*Minister for Agricultural development and Farmers' welfare V.S. Sunilkumar Inaugurates Pooppoli 2017*

Dr. P. Rajendran welcomed the gathering. KAU Executive Committee member K. Rajan MLA opened the exhibition stalls. District Collector B. S. Thirumeni, KAU Executive Committee members Dr. Jose Joseph and Aji Francis, LSGI representatives, KAU Registrar Dr. S. Leenakumari, Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelita, Director of Research Dr. Sajan Kurien, Comptroller T. S. Majeed and representatives of different service organisations and trade unions participated.

Pooppoli show cases a rich and varietal collection of Rose, Gerbera, Gladiolus, Orchids as well as indigenous flowers. Stalls selling seeds, seedlings and organic plant protection materials are also part of the exhibition.

## KAU School Celebrates Thirty Sixth Anniversary

The thirty sixth anniversary of KAU school was inaugurated by Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor in his address appreciated the excellence in education and co curricular activities KAU school has achieved. Congratulating the students and teachers for the accolades received, he exhorted them to work harder to keep up the standards set by themselves. Vice-Chancellor also assured the audience that all possible steps to redress the inadequacies of school would be initiated.

Dr. S. Leenakumari, Registrar presided over the function. The awards instituted by endowments in memory of school founder N. Kaleeswaran IAS and Lalitha Kaleeswaran were presented to meritorious students. Madakkathara panchayat president P. S. Vinayan delivered key not address. Director of Students Welfare Dr. T. I. Manoj, Headmistress T. J. Maggi, PTA president Gangadharan and alumni association representatives participated. The celebrations culminated with a series of art programmes by students.



*Vice - Chancellor presenting memento to Madakkathara Panchayat President*

## Books, the light houses of Life : Sebastian Paul

Annual Book fest organised at KAU central library was inaugurated by Dr. Sebastian Paul on December 19. KAU Executive Committee member K. Rajan MLA presided.

Addressing the audience after inaugurating the event, Dr. Sebastian Paul highlighted the value of books in human life. 'Books are light houses which help you reach the desired destination in life. Unlimited reading imparts unlimited joy and the pleasure of acquiring knowledge through reading is incomparable. While libraries in educational institutions guide the carrier of students, book fests help to cut down the growing distance between public and books. The books which one read formulates and also reflects his personality', he said.

K. Rajan MLA in his presidential address reminded the role played by library movement in redefining social culture of Kerala. Executive Committee member Dr. Jose Joseph released the book Climate change and Plantations authored by C. S. Gopakumar and GSHLV Prasada Rao.

KAU General council members Dr. R. Krishnakumar and V. S. Sathyaseelan, Forestry Dean Dr. K. Vidyasagar, CoH Associate Dean Dr. C. George Thomas, Comptroller T. S. Majeed, Librarian A. T. Francis and heads of institutions spoke.

## Let's Save the Earth: Agri Minister

Minister for Agriculture V. S. Sunilkumar has called for a conscientious effort to regain fertility of soil, purity of water and serenity of air.

Speaking after inaugurating a Farmers' market window at the premises of Wayanad KVK, Ambalavayal, on November 21 the Minister said that policy makers, scientists, officers, farmers and common man have to contribute to this cause in their own way, as this is inevitable for wellbeing of future generations.

'Agriculture is the most important aspect of our culture. Human actions have led to erosion of soil fertility, contamination of the ground water, pollution of air and destruction of bio diversity. We have to strive to regain the lost ground,' minister said.

Minister also stressed the need to promote value addition as the best way to ensure adequate remuneration to farmers.

The function participated by farmers, peoples' representatives, public men, KAU scientists and officers of agricultural department was presided over by I. C. Balakrishnan MLA. KAU Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta welcomed the gathering and KVK head Dr. P. Rajendran proposed vote of thanks.

## Kannur KVK selected to implement ARRYA

Kannur KVK under KAU has been identified as the lone centre for implementing ICAR sponsored ARRYA (Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture) project in Kerala.

ARRYA, intended to provide entrepreneurship opportunities to two hundred youth, will facilitate indirect employment to more than twenty thousand persons. The programme mainly concentrates on value addition of Jackfruit, Coconut etc. It will also benefit farmers, service providers and other stake-holders. The selected youth will be trained in production, processing and marketing.

Kannur KVK will be developed as an incubation centre for entrepreneurship development under the programme. It is the only KVK in Kerala covered under ARRYA project being implemented in twenty five selected districts across the country. Kannur KVK had won the best KVK award in 2010.

## KAU Pavilion Hogs the limelight In VAIGA 2016

The KAU Pavilion hogged the lime light in the exhibition held in connection with 'International Workshop on Agro Processing and Value Addition,' (VAIGA-2016) at Thiruvananthapuram.

KAU pavilion, the biggest in the whole exhibition showcasing a variety of value added products from native agricultural produce drew appreciation from all the visitors and was adjudged the best among stalls put up by Research institutes.



Hon'ble Governor and Agri. Minister at KAU Pavilion in VAIGA



Chief Minister visiting KAU Pavilion in VAIGA

Hon'ble Governor, Chief Minister, Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Industry among others appreciated KAU pavilion.

Food products and nutraceuticals made from under utilised fruits and vegetables star attractions. Osmotic dehydration technology for preservation of fruits like mango, papaya, banana, pineapple etc. also attracted attention.

## Strengthen libraries to aid qualitative improvement: MP

Strengthening, modernisation and optimum utilisation of library system is imperative to enhance the quality of education and research, said C. N. Jayadevan, M. P.

Inaugurating the Two Day National Seminar on "Academic Inclusion of Librarians in Digital Era" held at KAU on November 4, Jayadevan pointed out that library movement was the key to social reformation in Kerala.

'Now the library system is getting transformed with the evolution of information revolution and emergence of digital book world. It is important that students, teachers and scientists acquire skills to utilise the modern system and librarians enhance their core competency to create an atmosphere conducive for knowledge sharing', he added.

KAU Executive Committee member Dr. Jose Joseph presided. Adv. Aji Francis, member, EC delivered Key Note Address and opened the Technology Exhibition. Dr. A. T. Francis, University Librarian & Organizing Secretary, Sanjo Jose, State General Secretary, Academic Library Association (ALA), V. S. Kunju Muhammed, Librarian, Kerala Fisheries University spoke. CoH Associate Dean Dr. C. George Thomas welcomed the gathering and Dr. V. S. Swapna offered vote of thanks.

