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KAU Stands First in All India Competitive Exams

The Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) has been ranked first among the State Agricultural Universities (SAU) in the field of Agricultural Education as reflected in the All India Competitive Examinations. Dr. SL Mehta, Former Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in a message to Dr. KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor, KAU has informed that the KAU students

Colleges having major share of JRF

* College of Veterinary Science, GBPUAT, Pant Nagar	23
* College of Horticulture, KAU, Vellanikkara	23
* College of Agriculture, KAU, Vellayani	17
* Agriculture College, TNAU, Coimbatore	15
* BHU	14
* Madras Veterinary College, TNVASU	12
* College of Agriculture, Bapla, ANGRAU	12

stood first in the All India Competitive Examinations held by the Council during 2001. The performance of the KAU over the last three years has improved substantially from a position of fifth rank to second rank during 1998-99 and first this year. Dr. Mehta has conveyed deep appreciation for the untiring efforts of the Deans and teachers of the faculty. The Vice-Chancellor shared his happiness with the faculty and students.

KAU releases High yielding Variety of Cardamom

The Cardamom Research Station, Pampadumpara has developed a high yielding variety of small cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum* Maton), which is suitable for cultivation in the cardamom hill reserves of the Idukki district of Kerala.

The variety christened as Pampadumpara-2 (PV2) has been recommended for release as a state variety by the XVI National Work-

shop of the All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Spices (AICRP), held at Vellanikkara, Thrissur on November 1-3, 2001.

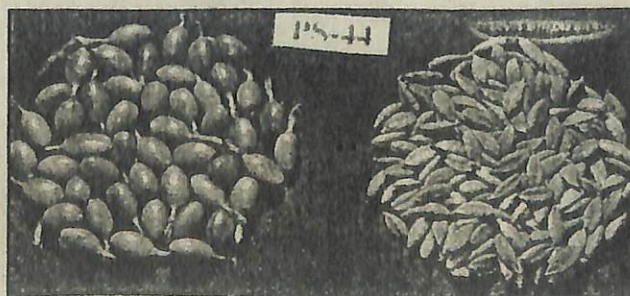
This vazhukka cardamom variety has been developed through selection from open pollinated seedlings of PV-1 variety released by the KAU earlier. This variety has a yield potential of more than 2500 kg. per hectare. The capsules of this variety are bold and have a recovery

of 23.8% owing to the low moisture content of the capsule rind.

This variety is relatively tolerant to thrips, azhukal/capsule rot and rhizome rot and tolerant to pseudo-stem/panicle/capsule borer. The capsules of the PV2 are ovoid to ellipsoid in shape. The cured capsules have an attractive parrot green colour. PV-2 has been developed under the leadership of Dr.S.Backayarani, Assoc.Professor.



Pampadumpara-2 (PV-2)



Pampadumpara-2 (PV-2) wet and dry capsules

Activities of Scientific Societies

National Conference on Strategies for Safe Food Production

The Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (India), Thrissur Chapter in association with the Government Homeopathic Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram has organized a National Conference on Strategies for Safe food Production at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy on November 22. Dr. PP Balakrishnan, Dean i/c, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy inaugurated the conference. Presenting the papers, the Homeopathic doctors suggested that the bad effects of the ill conceived and excessive use of antibiotics, pesticides and fertilizers could be overcome by popularizing the use of homeopathic medicines. The seminar also gave emphasis to the steps essentially needed in the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors for



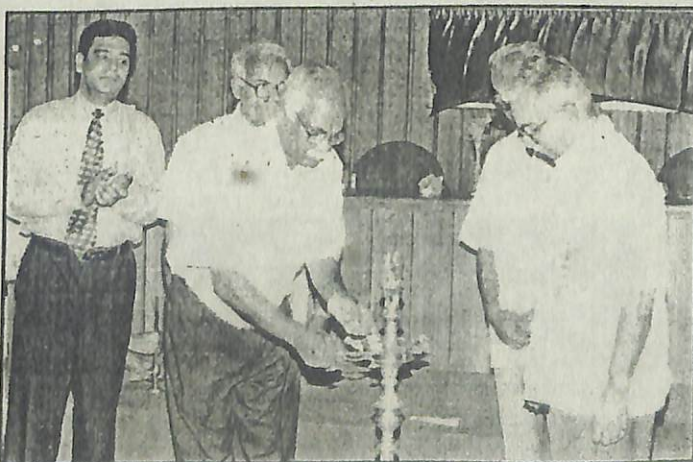
Shri MC Paul, Chairman and Managing Director, Kerala Solvent Extractions Ltd., receives the Award of excellence from Dr. KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor, KAU.

production of safe food. The general consensus arrived in the seminar was that in future the challenges in safe food production could be faced only if the producers and those in the food processing sectors give proper emphasis in the matter. Shri Jose Kattookaran, Mayor, Thrissur Corporation presided over the valedictory function. Dr. KV Peter, Vice

Chancellor, KAU, Dr. AI Jose, Director of Extension and Shri CR Das, Councillor, Thrissur Corporation spoke on the need for safe food production. Considering the services of Shri MC Paul, Chairman and Managing Director, Kerala Solvent Extractions Ltd. an Award of Excellence was presented to him by the Vice-Chancellor.

Indian Society for Veterinary Surgery – Kerala Chapter Inaugurated

Dr. KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor, KAU has formally inaugurated the Kerala Chapter of the Indian Society for Veterinary Surgery on November 4 at the College of



Dr. K.V.Peter, Vice-Chancellor inaugurates the Kerala Chapter of the Indian Society for Veterinary Surgery

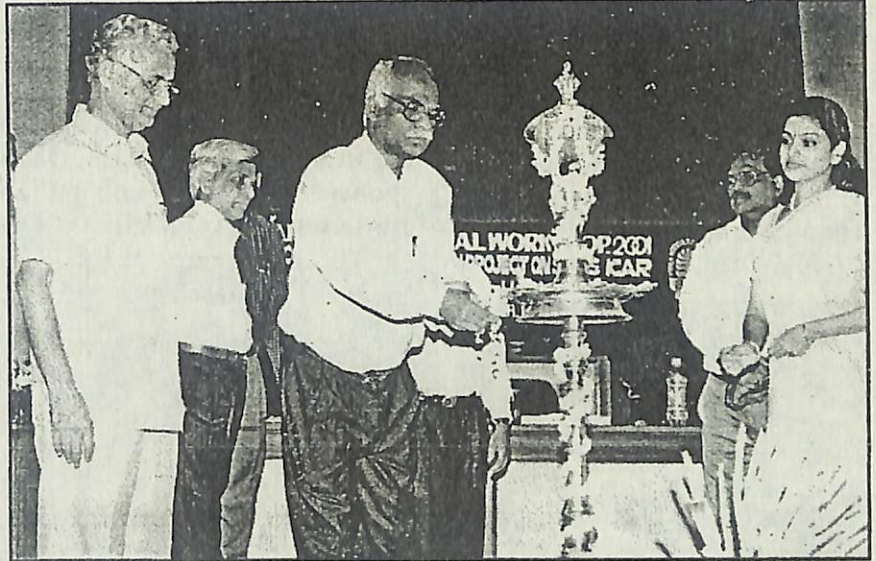
Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy. Presiding over the meeting Dr. PO George, Former Professor and Head, Department of Surgery, College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Mannuthy said that the surgeons should acquire the eyes of an eagle and heart of a lion. Educational compact discs on surgical procedures in dogs co-produced by ISVS Kerala Chapter and Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Ahmedabad were also released by the Vice-Chancellor. A monograph on teaching, research and extension activities of the Department of Surgery till 2001 was released by Dr. PO George. Dr. S Ravindran Nair, Professor of Surgery (Retired) and Dr. Nithin Bhatiya, Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd. felicitated. Dr. KN Muraleedharan Nayar, Convenor, ISVS Kerala Chapter welcomed the gathering. A seminar on High Velocity Trauma was also conducted on that day.

Increase Productivity and Production Potential of Spices

- Dr. G. Kalloo, Deputy Director General (Hort.)

In a competitive global market the production cost is intimately linked to productivity, and unless and until we achieve high productivity we will not be able to compete with other countries, said Dr. G. Kalloo, Deputy Director General (DDG), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). He was delivering the presidential address in the XVI National Workshop of the All India Co-ordinated Research on Spices (AICRP) at the Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Thrissur. He stressed that the enhancement of productivity and production potential needs a multi-pronged approach integrating high yielding varieties, appropriate production technology and constraint alleviation.

"India being the land of spices, does occupy a prominent place both in production and export of spices. It has been estimated that we produce annually spices worth around Rs.31,000 crores in the country. We have been dominating the world trade by contributing about 30% of its volume. This was due to the combined effort of Indian farmers, traders, merchants and exporters. In the past years in the spice export and during 2000-2001, India exported spices - 2,30,000 tonnes valued Rs. 1,612.07 crores as compared to 2,36,142 tonnes valued Rs.2,025.09 crores during 1999-2000, thus a drop of 6,142 tonnes valued about Rs. 413 crores. The domestic consumption of spices is also quite high and the exportable surplus is just about 10%. In this whole spices production scenario of our country, the AICRPS has played a very significant role in increasing both production and productivity of spices. The productivity of spices



The Vice-Chancellor, KAU inaugurates the XVI National Workshop of the AICRP on Spices. Dr. G. Kalloo, Deputy Director General (Hort.), ICAR, Dr. RN Pal, Asst. Director General (Plantation Crops), ICAR can also be seen.

has increased significantly during the past two decades, but still very much less compared to the productivity of other producing countries", Dr. Kalloo stressed.

Dr. Kalloo cautioned that in spite of all achievements, the whole picture is not as cosy as we expect. Fluctuations in production and market prices, high production cost, poor post harvest practices, harmful pesticides and residues, microbial and toxic contaminations pose threat to the progress of our spices industry.

"As we entered in to the twenty first century all scientists and organizations associated with the spices research should struggle hard to find solution to these problems. In this process always keep in mind that in the competitive world the consumer is the master and ask yourselves whether your research is sufficiently fine-tuned to meet the needs of the consumers in the market?" He exhorted the scientists.

Inaugurating the workshop, Dr. KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor,

KAU expressed hope that the prominent place of India in the world market both in production and export of spices will remain unchanged in the years to come. He said that the present crisis faced by our spices farmers was only a temporary phase. India is the leader in the area of spices and will continue to be so. Our competition in the area of spices is with the developing countries like Thailand, Vietnam, Guatemala and the most developed among them is Brazil. We are not in the fray with developed countries like United States of America and those countries in Europe", said Dr. Peter.

Dr. RN Pal, Assistant Director General (Plantation Crops), ICAR, Dr. YR Sarma, Director, Indian Institute of Spices Research, Shri Koshy Abraham, Director (Development), Spices Board and Dr. K Kumaran, Director of Research i/c, KAU offered felicitations. Dr. EV Nybe, General Convenor proposed vote of thanks.

Awards and Recognitions

Dr. K. Narayanankutty secures Best Teacher Award

Dr. PG Nair Endowment Award for the year 2001 has been presented to Dr. K Narayanankutty, Senior Scientist, AICRP on Poultry Improvement. The award has been given in view of his achievements in the field of teaching, research and extension in the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. The award was presented to him by Dr. KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor in



Dr. K Narayanankutty receives the award from the Vice-Chancellor

a function held at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy on November 1, 2001. Dr. KN Muraleedharan Nayar, Dean i/c welcomed the gathering. Dr. PG Nair, the former Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, KAU, who had contributed Rs. One lakh for the institution of the award, Dr. AI Jose, Director of Extension and Dr. K Kumaran, Director of Research i/c felicitated. Dr. E Nanu, Professor of Public Health read the Citation.

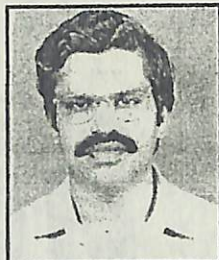
Dr. GB Singh Memorial Award



Dr. C Ibrahimkutty, Assistant Professor, Live-stock Research Station, Thiruvazhamkunnu has received the Dr. GB Singh Memorial Award-1999 of the Indian Society for Study of Animal Reproduction for the best research paper on Animal Reproduction by a young scientist for the year 1999.

Best Research Award

The research paper entitled "Effect of levels and frequencies of organic manure and inorganic fertilizers on growth and productivity of bittergourd (*Momordica charantia* L)" authored by Kum. CR Rekha and Dr. TR Gopalakrishnan was selected for the Best Research Paper Award sponsored by the South Indian Horticultural Association. The



Dr. TR Gopalakrishnan

award was presented to Dr. TR Gopalakrishnan, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Olericulture, College of Horticulture, for presenting the paper in the National Seminar on Changing Scenario in the Production Systems of Horticultural Crops held at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

New System Developed for earnotching Pigs

Shri TK Haridasan and Shri CG Varghese, Farm Assistants have developed a new system in earnotching of pigs. Under the new system practiced at the Centre for Pig Production and Research, Mannuthy 6399 animals can be consecutively and efficiently



CG Varghese

numbered. In the previous system only upto 399 pigs could be numbered and the process had to be repeated in the case of more animals.



TK Haridas

The Executive Committee has approved the proposal for awarding of a Citation and Medal to Shri TK Haridasan and Shri CG Varghese, Farm Assistants, Centre for Pig Production Research, Mannuthy as token of the KAU's appreciation for having developed a new system for earnotching in pigs.

Nominated to the Governing Board of CMD

Dr. M Mohandas, Associate Dean i/c, College of Co-operation, Banking and Management, Vellanikkara has been nominated to the Governing Board of the Centre for Management Development, Thiruvananthapuram, representing the Universities in Kerala.

Ph.D. Awarded



Dr. CT Sathyan

Dr. CT Sathyan, Assistant Professor, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, KAU has been awarded the Ph.D. in Dairy Science by the KAU for his work on *Somatic Cell count and its influence on the quality of milk in cross-bred cows.*

Group Meeting of AICRP on Cropping Systems



The Vice-Chancellor, KAU, inaugurates the All India Group meeting of the AICRP on Cropping systems. Dr. Gurubachan Singh, Asst. Director General and Dr. SK Sharma, Director, PDCSR can also be seen.

Dr.KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for a shift in Cropping System approach to farming system for

better use of resources and gainful employment to small and marginal farmers of Kerala. He was inaugurating the All India Group Meeting of the AICRP on Cropping Systems at the College of Agriculture, Vellayani on November 23. Offering the introductory remarks Dr. Gurubachan Singh, Assistant Director General, emphasized the need for orientation of research programmes to be more client oriented for better adaptation. Dr. SK Sharma, Director, PDCSR, Modipuram spoke on the accomplishments of the cropping systems research. Dr. K Kumaran, Director of Research i/c., KAU welcomed the gathering. Dr. R Vikraman Nair, Dean i/c., College of Agriculture, Vellayani proposed vote of thanks. The technical sessions were held under the chairmanship of Dr. Gurubachan Singh and Dr. S.K. Sharma. The strategies for farming system characterization, X plan priorities, documentation of ITK and issues of future research were also discussed in the meeting.

“Understand the nuances in Gender Concerns”

Dr. KN Shyamasundaran Nair, the former Vice-Chancellor of KAU said that gender concerns in agriculture is the key issue in the agricultural sector of the country. He called upon the agricultural professionals to understand the nuances in gender concerns. He was inaugurating the National Training on Women in Agriculture Programme organized by the Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture, KAU in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India on November 6 at the College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara.

Dr.KV Peter, Vice Chancellor, KAU and Ms.Mina Swaminathan, Director, Gendeavour, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai were the Chief guests on the occasion.

The training was given to the facilitators of the Central Sector Scheme on Women in Agriculture from the North Eastern States- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam,



Dr. KN Shyamasundaran Nair, Former Vice-Chancellor of KAU, inaugurates the Training Programme. Ms. Mina Swaminathan can also be seen.

Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The training imparted as induction and capacity building experiences for the facilitators of the programme gave importance for the gender perspective to be given focus in agricultural endeavors and special programmes for women in agriculture through group approaches. The training also focussed on the need of natural

resource integration and new technologies and structures for rural development.

In the valedictory function of the programme on November 30, Dr.KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor awarded certificates to the participants. Dr.Tara Thomas, Regional Economist of the Ministry of Agriculture was the Chief guest.

Forthcoming events

DAE-BRNS Regional Workshop

The KAU and the Biomedical Group, Baba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) will be organizing the DAE-BRNS Regional Workshop on the Impact of Applications of Radiation on Food and Agriculture on December 27-28, 2001 at Vellanikkara, Thrissur. Smt. KR Gouri Amma, Minister for Agriculture, will inaugurate the workshop. Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Department of Atomic Energy and Secretary, Government of India will be the chief guest. The Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management, KAU will host the workshop.

Introduction of nuclear energy, irradiators and irradiation process; impact of applications of radiation on food and agriculture; topics of specific interest to Kerala such as natural high background radiation, earthquake etc. are the major themes of the workshop.

ICAR VIII Regional Committee meeting

The VIII Regional Committee Meeting of the ICAR will be held at CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram during December 14-15. Smt. KR Gouri Amma, Minister for Agriculture will inaugurate the meeting.

Vice - Chancellors' Conference

The Vice-Chancellors' Conference is scheduled during the first week of January 2002 at New Delhi.

Agri Unifest 2002

The KAU has got the opportunity to host the AGRI UNIFEST 2002. Elaborate arrangements have been made for the cultural event to be held from January 21-24, 2002. Shri AK Antony, Chief Minister of Kerala will be the Chief guest. Smt. KR Gouri Amma, Minister for Agriculture will preside over the inaugural function. Dr. Panjab Singh, Director General, ICAR will be the Chief Patron.

NATP Combined Review Meeting

The NATP combined review on ducks and pigs is being organized on December 17-18, 2001. Dr. EG Silas, former Vice-Chancellor, KAU and the Co-chairman, Scientific Advisory Panel of the coastal agro-ecosystem will attend the meeting.

Kissan Mela 2001

The Kissan Mela 2001 was organised at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Pilicode on October 30 to November 1, 2001. Shri T. Govindan, MP inaugurated the function which was presided over by Dr. KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor. Dr. AI Jose, Director of Extension welcomed the gathering. Dr. K Kumaran, Director of Research i/c. briefed the activities of the station. Officials of the Spices Board, Department of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry and Pilicode Grama Panchayat attended the function.

Agricultural seminar, exhibition, cattle show, agro-clinic, crop competition, soil testing camp, anti-rabies cell, infertility camp, farming related tribal art, photo exhibition etc. were arranged in connection with the Kissan Mela.

The seminar focussed on coconut processing and product diversification, processing of fruits and vegetables, production processing and marketing of spices, IPM in paddy and cashew apple and nut processing. About 2500 farmers participated in the mela.

Assumed office

Comptroller

Smt. P Chandramathy Amma has assumed charge as Comptroller of the KAU. She was the Joint Secretary in the Finance Department, Government of Kerala.

Dean, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences

Dr. PP Balakrishnan, Special Officer, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookkod has been placed in the full additional charge of the Dean, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, consequent on the superannuation of Dr. KN Muraleedharan Nayar, Dean i/c.

Retirement



Dr. KN Muraleedharan Nayar

Dr. KN Muraleedharan Nayar, Dean i/c, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy laid down office on superannuation on November 15, 2001. He was the Professor and Head, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences before assuming charge as the Dean i/c. Dr. Nayar took the BVSc degree from the Kerala Veterinary College, Mannuthy, MVSc from the Madras Veterinary College and Ph.D from the Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar. He is popular in the State and outside as an eminent surgeon in the treatment of Elephant diseases.

Dr. Muraleedharan Nayar served in various capacities such as the Editor of the Kerala Veterinary Journal, Member of the Academic Council of KAU, Member of the Kerala Veterinary Council and the Member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Society for Veterinary Surgery.

KAU Pepper varieties

Panniyur-6 and Panniyur-7

The State Variety Release Committee has recommended the release of Black pepper varieties Panniyur-6 and Panniyur-7, the high yielding varieties developed by the Pepper Research Station, Panniyur. After the release of the popular variety Panniyur-1, the station has released Panniyur-2, Panniyur-3, Panniyur-4 and Panniyur-5.

Panniyur-6 (Karimunda III)

This is a selection from a local cultivar, Karimunda. This variety belongs to the medium maturity group with vigorous growth of wine and it is not susceptible to major pests and diseases affecting black pepper. Special attribute of this variety is production of more number of spikes per unit area with close setting and attractive bold medium berries. Panniyur - 6 gives stable and regular yield and performs well under open as well as partial shaded conditions. It has an average yield 2127kg. dry pepper/ha and potential yield 3359 kg. dry per ha.



Panniyur - 7

Panniyur-7 (Cul 1558)

This is a selection from the open pollinated progenies of local cultivar, Kalluvalli. It is stable and regular in yield and performs well under open as well as partial shaded conditions. Panniyur - 7 has high piperine content and has long spike. It gives an average yield of 1410 kg. dry pepper/ha and has potential yield of 2770 kg. dry pepper/ha.



Panniyur - 6

Seminar on Anthrax awareness

An Anthrax awareness Seminar was held in the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences on November 7, 2001. Dr. KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor, KAU inaugurated the seminar. Dr. E Nanu, Professor of Public Health, Dr. V Jayaprakash, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology and Dr. Prabhakumari, Professor, Community Medicine, Medical College, Thrissur, presented papers. Dr. M Krishnan Nair, former Dean of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences was the Moderator. The experts suggested that the Periodic vaccination of the cattle population of the state rules out the possibility of the disease incidence. The respiratory form of Anthrax was reported to be more dangerous than the cutaneous form. Proper diagnosis of the disease at proper time can prevent the dangerous consequences. The experts opined that Anthrax is treatable disease and undue fear is not needed.

NEWSSCAN

Annual Review Meeting

The Vice-Chancellor, KAU pointed out that the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) can play an effective role in transfer of latest agricultural technologies evolved in research stations. He was inaugurating the Annual Review Meeting of KVKs, Trainers Training Centers (TTC) and Agricultural Technology Information Centers (ATIC) and Institution Village Linkage Program Centers of Kerala and Lakshadweep for the year 2000-01 at the KVK, Ambalavayal during October 11-12. The function was attended by Dr. RK Samanta, Zonal Co-ordinator, TOT Projects (ICAR), Dr. AI Jose, Director of Extension and Shri PC Sharma, Principal Scientist, ICAR. Over 25 delegates from various TOT Centers of KAU, ICAR institutes and NGOs from Kerala and Lakshadweep attended the meeting.

Animal Health Camps

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ambalavayal in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry organized two animal health camps in Konchankode and Pottamkolly villages. Vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease and HS for dairy cattle was given in the camps. Free medication was also arranged for milch animals and goats. More than 200 farmers were benefitted from the camps.

The KAU Team Claims Championship in Women Athletics

The KAU Team participated in the All India Inter Agricultural Sports and Games Meet 2001 held at the Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner from November 5-9.

In Athletics the women championship was claimed by the

KAU with a total point of 18. The individual championship was won by Kum. Mini T Jose, College of Fisheries, Panangad. The KAU team was declared as winner in table tennis. The University was placed in the third position in volley ball (women).

Integrated Animal Husbandry Survey

The NSS volunteers of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences conducted an Integrated Animal Husbandry survey at Manaly in Choondal Panchayat in Thrissur District on November 26-27. Shri TV Chandramohanam, MLA inaugurated the first phase of the survey. The survey was organized by the Choondal Panchayat in collaboration with the Kerala Agricultural University and the Department of Animal Husbandry.

The survey of about 6,000 families in 14 wards in the panchayat was conducted by 60 NSS Volunteers of the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the final year BVSc students of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy.

The survey would provide a data base on the existing number of animals of the Panchayat and its diarying potential. The data base will enable the Panchayat to work out schemes to produce the milk needed for its own area. During the survey the animals were given the required treatment and vaccination.

Farmer-veterinarian interaction programme was also arranged in the evening. Dr. AI Jose, Director of Extension, Dr. PP Balakrishnan, Dean i/c, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Dr. KG Suma, District Animal Husbandry Officer and the office bearers of the Panchayat offered felicitations. Shri MA Subramanian, President, Choondal Grama Panchayat presided over the function.

Training Programmes

- Training on Extension Tools and their application in Extension work for the Extension Assistants of the Spices Board was conducted at the Central Training Institute, Mannuthy from November 6-8.
- A training programme on Audio visual Aids and Communication Methods for Field officers of Rubber Board was conducted at the CTI, Mannuthy from November 20 - 24.
- Training on Cashew Graft Production for farm labours from the Kozhikode District was conducted at Cashew Research Station, Madakkathara during November 5-7.
- Training on Fruit and Vegetable Processing for Self-employment for unemployed women was conducted at the College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara from November 26-30.

Weather at Vellanikkara

Weather parameters	November 2001	Normal (1980-1981)	Deviation from normal
Max. temperature (°C)	31.6	31.7	(-) 0.1
Min. temperature (°C)	23.1	22.8	(+) 0.3
Rainfall (mm)	115.8	112.2	(+) 3.6
Rainy day (No. of days)	6	5	(+) 1
Evaporation (mm)	122.2	117.4	(+) 4.8
Sunshine (hours/day)	6.8	6.7	(+) 0.1