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Bring true professionalism in agri. education

Dr. JC Katyal, Deputy Director General (ICAR) exhorted the students of the state agricultural universities (SAUs) to achieve more professionalism in agricultural education. They have to put into practice what ever skills they have acquired by way of their practicals. Dr. Katyal was addressing the students of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences on June 17, 2002 after the formal opening of the Main Examination Hall and Students Counselling Centre at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy.



Dr. JC Katyal, Dy. Director General (Edn), ICAR addresses the students of the Veterinary College, Mannuthy

Dr. Katyal also chaired a brain storming session on revision and engendering of undergraduate curriculum of KAU on June 18 at the Central Auditorium, Vellanikkara. Dr. KN Shyamasundaran Nair, Former Vice-Chancellor of KAU made the key note address. Dr. KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor welcomed the participants. The Deans and Directors of the University attended the session.

Achieve all round upgradation of technology in vegetable production

- Dr. Kirthi Singh

"The golden days of agricultural graduates which are green in our memory are already over. Out of 10,000 graduates produced by the SAUs every year, only 5000 are getting jobs. Among the agricultural post-graduates unemployment rate is 20-25%. To face this grim situation, the agricultural universities must create true professionals by imparting professional skills. Rather than job seekers the agricultural graduates have to provide jobs for others" he said.

Vegetable production in our country has touched new height in recent past. As a result of coordinated efforts, more than 200 varieties including 41 hybrids in different vegetable crops have been released, said Dr. Kirthi Singh, Secretary, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

(contd...page 2)



Dr. Kirthi Singh, inaugurates the XX Group Meeting of the AICRP on Vegetable Crops at Vellanikkara

General Council reconstituted

General Council of the Kerala Agricultural University has been reconstituted for a period of three years from June 18, 2002. Following are the members of the General Council

Ex-officio Members

1. The Chancellor
2. The Pro-Chancellor
3. The Vice-Chancellor
4. The Agricultural Production Commissioner
5. The Secretary to Govt. Department of Agriculture
6. The Secretary to Govt. Department of Finance
7. The Secretary to Govt. Department of Fisheries
8. The Secretary to Govt. Dept. of Animal Husbandry
9. The Director of Agriculture
10. The Director of Animal Husbandry
11. The Director of Dairy Development
12. The Director of Fisheries
13. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
14. The Chairman, Rubber Board Kottayam – 686 002
15. The Chairman Spices Board, Sugandha Bhavan, NH Bypass PB No. 2277 Palarivattom P.O., Kochi – 682 025
16. The Chairman Marine Products Export Development Authority, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi
17. The Director CPCRI, Kasaragode-671 124
18. The Director, KFRI, Peechi Thrissur – 680 653.
19. Dr. B.S. Bisht (Representative of ICAR) ADG (HRD-1), ICAR KAB – II, Pusa, New Delhi – 110 012

20. Shri. P.P. George MLA (The MLA representing the constituency in which the headquarters of the University is situated) Pulikkal House, Zion Road P.O., Pudukkad, Thrissur

Elected Members

Members of the Legislative Assembly

21. Shri. A.K. Balan, MLA "Janani" Parakkunnam P.O. Palakkad – 678 001
22. Shri. T.H. Musthafa, MLA Bismillah Manzil Thottathil Kottappurath Marampally P.O. Ernakulam – 683 107
23. Shri. Umesh Challiyil, MLA Challiyil Veedu Kodungallur 680 664.
24. Shri. A.P. Anilkumar, MLA Akkarappurackal House Downhill Malappuram – 676 519

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Achieve all round upgradation of technology in vegetable production

Dr. Singh was inaugurating the XX Group Meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Vegetable Crops at the KAU, Vellanikkara on April 9, 2002.

Presently vegetables occupy 5.86 million hectares with a production of over 90 million tonnes. India is the second largest producer of vegetables after China, contributing about 13.38 per cent of the total world production, he said.

According to him the full realization of biotechnology in agriculture depends on continued successful and innovative research. To achieve this, biotechnology should be fully integrated with

classical plant breeding. The potential to increase sustainable vegetable productivity will rely largely upon newly developed DNA technology and molecular markers. These techniques enable to select better genotypes through isolation and cloning of desirable genes for creation of transgenic plants.

He cautioned that with the advancement in technology and trade agreements like GATT under the WTO we are bound to adopt control measures like Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and sanitary and phyto sanitary procedures (SPS). The quality standards of preserved vegetables have been upgraded in

many developed countries. We must accept these quality standards (ISO 9000). If we intend to be a member of the international trading community, there is need for all round upgradation of technology, which would imply modernizing the system in production, handling, processing, preservation, packaging, transportation and marketing.

Dr. KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor, KAU in his address, underlined the importance of competitiveness in vegetable production in the globalized scenario. He also stressed the need for improving post-harvest technologies.

Dr.G Kalloo, Deputy Director General (Hort) presided over the function. Dr.MK Banerjee, Director, IIVR presented the research report. Dr.Premkumar, FAO Consultant also spoke.

Accreditation team express satisfaction over the facilities in KAU

The KAU was academically audited by the accreditation team constituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The KAU with its constituent colleges presented self study reports to the ICAR for accreditation. The team was headed by Dr. JB Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology as the Chairman.

The members were Dr. SL Shambhogue, former Director of Instruction, College of Fisheries, Mangalore, Dr. V Jayaramkrishna, former Dean, Faculty of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, ANGR Agricultural University, Rajendra Nagar, Dr. PG Chengappa, Director of Instruction, College of Agriculture, UAS, Bangalore, and Dr. S Singh, Joint Director, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal. Dr. NL Maurya, Assistant Director General (Accreditation) was the Member Secretary. The team visited the KAU and its



Dr. K.V. Peter, Vice-Chancellor explains to the members of the Accreditation Team

constituent colleges from February 3-7, 2002. The team expressed satisfaction over the academic standards of the university especially in view of the Award of Excellence considering the number of students securing JRF and first position in Agriunifest.

The team remarked that the university has made good strides in implementing the academic programmes in all the colleges which have facilities to impart educational programmes as well as extra-curricular activities. The team observed that the number of women

in teaching as well as the girl students are very high when compared to other SAUs in the country. The team was highly impressed with the facilities such as Instructional Farm, computer facilities in colleges and good Central Library facilities. The committee also observed that the university has addressed the needs of farmers in the area of horticulture, livestock, agricultural

engineering, forestry and fisheries. The committee noted that the ICAR institutes in the state such as CPCRI, CMFRI, IISR etc. should be involved in post graduate teaching. The matter relating to the conduct of experiments by the veterinary students involving animals which has been banned by the National Animal Welfare Board was discussed in detail and the committee felt that the issue should be taken up at the national level permitting veterinary colleges to undertake research involving livestock.

(from...page 2)

Teachers of the University

25. Dr. C.M. Aravindakshan
Assoc. Professor
College of Veterinary &
Animal Sciences, Mannuthy
26. Shri Jose Joseph
Asst. Professor
Communication Centre
Mannuthy
27. Dr. F.M.H. Khaleel
Assoc. Professor
College of Horticulture
Vellanikkara
28. Dr. P. Sudheer Babu
Asst. Professor
College of Veterinary and
Animal Sciences, Mannuthy

Students of the University

29. Shri Muhammed Aslam
College of Veterinary and
Animal Sciences, Mannuthy
30. Kum. V.H. Shyma
College of Veterinary and
Animal Sciences, Mannuthy

Non-teaching staff of the Uty

31. Shri P. Sreejith
Sel. Grade Assistant, KAU
Head Quarters, Vellanikkara
32. Shri S. Sudhakaran Nair
Office Superintendent,
Directorate of Students
Welfare, Mannuthy

Permanent labourers of the Uty

33. Shri N.V. Chandran
Permanent Labourer
College of Hort., Vellanikkara

34. Shri P. Sethumadhavan
Permanent Labourer
Livestock Farm, Mannuthy

Representative of Calicut Uty

35. Shri. K.V. Mani
Kalluveli House
Mannarkkad P.O., Palakkad

Representative of CUSAT

36. Shri. K. Mohanachandran
Asst. Librarian, CUSAT
Kochi - 682 022

- Eleven members are to be nominated by the Chancellor.
- Representative of the University of Kerala is vacant.
- Constituency of Deans of Faculties of the university is vacant

Platinum Jubilee of RARS, Pattambi **Foundation stone laid for the seed store**



Shri. V.K. Chandran, MLA releasing the logo of the Platinum Jubilee of RARS, Pattambi by handing over to Dr. K. Karunakaran

Regional Agricultural Research Station, (RARS) Pattambi, established in the year 1927 is all set to celebrate its Platinum Jubilee in October 2002. The beginning of the jubilee celebrations was marked by the release of logo during the occasion of the foundation stone laying ceremony of the seed store which is being constructed utilizing the Local Development Fund of the MP, Ottappalam, Shri S. Ajayakumar. An amount of Rs 10.40 lakhs was allotted for the seed store with all facilities for the long term storage of seeds. The foundation stone for the seed store was laid by Shri Ajayakumar, MP during January 2002 in a function presided over by Shri CP Muhammed, MLA. Dr. KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor hoisted the flag marking the beginning of the Platinum Jubilee year. The Platinum Jubilee logo was released by Shri VK Chandran, MLA by handing over the logo to

Dr.K Karunakaran, the former Professor of KAU. Dr. PV Balachandran, Associate Director welcomed the dignitaries.

Energy and Conservation Club

The first Energy and Environmental Conservation Club in the Faculty of Veterinary & Animal Sciences came into existence on March 18, 2002. Prof. VK Sasikumar, Vice-President, State Energy Conservation Society, an expert in field of solid waste management, formally inaugurated the club. He explained the need to conserve natural resources and highlighted that our country has petroleum reserves only for 12 years, if the import is stopped. Dr.PP Balakrishnan, Dean i/c of the Veterinary Faculty presided over the function. Dr. KP Sreekumar, President of the club welcomed the gathering.

Thrissur Pooram Exhibition -2002

KAU Pavilion Adjudged as the best

Due to globalization of agriculture and the consequent import of agricultural commodities at cheaper rate, there is sharp fall of prices of agricultural produces in Kerala. This situation has caused great concern to the small and marginal farmers in the state. The present challenge calls for a shift in the mindset of our farmers. Hitherto the emphasis was to enhance the production and productivity. Now there should be a shift in emphasis to produce quality products at comparatively cheaper cost affordable to the consumers. More attention be given to diversify production and convert agriculture produces to value added products. The Kerala Agricultural University Pavilion in the Thrissur Pooram Exhibition 2002 intended to convey this message to the visitors. Shri TV Thomas, *Karshakasree 2002* formally

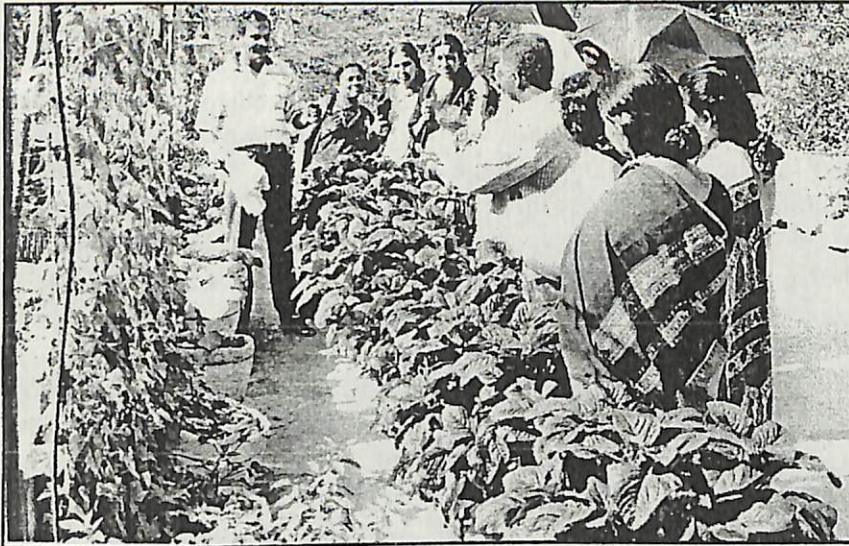


Shri. T.V. Thomas, 'Karshakasree' 2002 inaugurates the KAU Pavilion

inaugurated the pavilion on April 18, 2002. Dr. KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. AI Jose, Director of Extension and other senior officers of the university were present to grace the function. The pavilion was adjudged as the best among the category of autonomous institutions.

TRAINING

Training in vegetable cultivation on house terrace



Dr. V.S. Vijayendra Bhas, a terrace cultivator explaining his experiences

Sixteen housewives from five Residents' Association in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation were trained in vegetable cultivation on house terrace under the vocational training programme of the Central Training Institute of the KAU during January this year. Dr.VB Padmanabhan, Associate Professor was the Course Director. In the follow up of the programme it could be observed

that the trained housewives were cultivating vegetables on their house terraces, harvesting the vegetables for their household consumption and distributing the vegetables to their neighbours. The leisure time of the housewives and their family members could be effectively utilized for production of fresh, hygienic and safe vegetables at low cost so that each family could attain self-sufficiency in vegetable production.

Agribusiness Training

A unique training on Agriclincs and Agribusiness for graduates in agriculture and allied subjects is being undertaken by the KAU in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), and the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).

The two month course on agripreneurship and business management is designed to equip graduates with necessary skills so that they may be in a position to establish agriclincs and agribusiness centres with financial assistance from NABARD and continued services from the KA U.

The first batch of the training was inaugurated by Prof.KV Peter, Vice-Chancellor, on May 14, 2002 at the Communication Centre,

Mannuthy. Shri A Sundaram, Managing Director, Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. AI Jose, Director of Extension, and Dr. KH Vedheni, Programme Officer, MANAGE, Hyderabad were also present.

Those who are interested to join the subsequent batches may contact the Professor of Extension and Nodal officer, Central Training Institute, KAU, Mannuthy.

Training on Extension Tools

Officers of Spices Board from various states of the country were imparted with training on Extension Tools and Their Application in Extension Work at the Central Training Institute, Mannuthy from May 21-23, 2002.

CRS, Anakkayam participates in Karshakasree Fair

The Cashew Research Station, Anakkayam (CRS) participated in the Karshakasree Farm Fair-2002 organized by the Malayala Manorama at the Municipal Stadium, Malappuram from May 1-5, 2002.

The main attraction of the CRS Stall was the cashew grafts of all the varieties and the nuts of these varieties. The die-back disease affecting the cashew was explained with the samples taken from the farm. Charts explaining comparative yield, manuring, attack of pests and diseases etc were also displayed.

SPORTS

Basket Ball and Volley Ball Tournaments

The KAU inter-collegiate basket ball and volley ball tournaments were organized at the Veterinary College grounds, Mannuthy from April 18-20. All the eight college teams of the KAU participated in the tournament. Dr.P.P. Balakrishnan, Dean i/c, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences was the guest of honour and he distributed the trophies and certificates to the winners and runner up. Dr. Jose John Chungath, the then DSW i/c welcomed the gathering. Shri OK Paul, Dy. Director of Students' Welfare proposed vote of thanks.

Inter collegiate Athletic Meet

The KAU Athletic Meet was organized from May 9-10 at the Veterinary College grounds, Mannuthy in a befitting manner. The meet was inaugurated by Dr.J Abraham, DSW i/c. The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy won both the Men and Women Championships of the meet. The second position in the men section was secured by the College of Fisheries, Panangad and in the women section, Kelappaji College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Tavanur. Shri Mathew John of the College of Fisheries and Kum. Beena Francis of KCAET, Tavanur emerged as individual champions of the men and women sections respectively.

Dr.D Balakrishnan, former Joint Director of Technical Education and Hon.Secretary of Thrissur District Sports Council was the guest of honour of the closing ceremony. Shri OK Paul,

Dy Director of Students' Welfare extended welcome address and Shri Pazhania Pillai, Associate Professor, College of Agriculture, Vellayani proposed vote of thanks.

Foot Ball Tournament

The football tournament was held at the Veterinary College ground, Mannuthy from May 22-24. The tournament was won by the College of Horticulture and the runner up position was secured by



The winners with Chief Guest Smt. P. Chandramathi Amma, Comptroller

the College of Forestry. Smt.P Chandramathi Amma, Comptroller was the guest of honour.

Annual Athletic Meet

The Annual Athletic meet of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy was conducted during May 6-7 at the college grounds. All regular events including the traditional event of catching the fowl were conducted. The meet was won by 2000 batch in both men and women sections. Shri Prince C.Kurian and R Anupama were declared as individual champions.



Catching the fowl

Reception to College Games Torch Rally

The Torch Rally organized by the Kerala Sports Council heralding the proposed conduct of the Fourth College Games during February 2002 was received with pomp and glory at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy and the College of Fisheries, Panangad. The ceremonial Torch Rally started from Kasaragode touching identified prestigious college campuses. At the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences the torch was received by Dr.PP Balakrishnan, Dean i/c. At the College of Fisheries Dr.DM Thampy, the then Dean of the college received the torch from Shri Madhavan Nair, Captain of the rally team. The Torch Rally was accompanied by former international athlete Shri MC Varghese and many outstanding sportsmen.

NSS Activities

NSS volunteers distribute spectacles

The NSS Unit of the College of Fisheries, Panangad distributed spectacles to 50 patients in a function held at the college. Shri KS Radhakrishnan, President, Kumbalam Grama Panchayath inaugurated the function.

NSS volunteers assist a poor youth

Under the Help Line Programme of the NSS volunteers of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy, a poor youth Shri Vijayan, Pazhampilacode, Alathur, who was seriously injured after falling from a tree, was given financial assistance of Rs 5000 to procure motorized wheel chair.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

NATP – New Projects

Physiological evaluation of stress and meat quality induced by growth promoters in broiler chicken; Project Cost Rs.12.54 lakhs; Principal Investigator-Dr.PT Philomina

Isolation and *in-vitro* screening of *Hirsutella thompsonii* and other fungal pathogens against coconut mite *Aceria gurreronis*; Project cost 18.92 lakhs; Principal Investigator- Dr.S Pathummal Bevi.

Rainshelter Cultivation of Vegetables for off season production and employment generation; Project Cost-13.59 lakhs; Principal Investigator-Dr.P Indira.

(To be continued in the next issue)

DBT Project for breeding commercial orchid hybrids

The Dept. of Biotechnology, Government of India has provided financial assistance of Rs19.66 lakhs to KAU for implementing the project Breeding for Commercial Orchids at the College of Agriculture, Vellayani. Dr.C Lekha Rani, Asst. Professor is the Project Coordinator.

Germplasm Bank for Ayurvedic Medicinal Plants

The Dept. of Biotechnology, Government of India has cleared financial assistance of Rs.49.15 lakhs for implementing the project of establishing a germplasm bank for ayurvedic medicinal plants. The project proposal was submitted by Dr.Indira Balachandran, Arya Vaidyasala, Kottakkal. KAU is a collaborating centre for implementing the project. Dr. Alice Kurian is the Co-principal Investigator.

On-Farm Evaluation of Tissue Culture Derived Black Pepper Plants

DBT has extended a financial assistance of the 95.93 lakhs for implementing a multi - institutional project entitled On Farm Evaluation of Tissue Culture Derived Black Pepper Plants at KAU, IISR, Kozhikode and Spices Board. Dr.KV Peter is the Project Coordinator of the three centres and Dr.PA Nazeem is the Principal Investigator of KAU.

The KAU Centre is expected to concentrate studies on black pepper and vanilla. In black pepper the studies will be concentrated in the following areas:

Molecular characterisation of identified varieties, somaclones and selected species using markers like RFLP, RAPD and AFLP.

Identification of Pathogenesis related proteins for detection of defense genes.

Construction of cDNA library.

Control measure for pepper mussel scale

Two sprayings of either dimethoate 0.05% or monocrotophos 0.05% at fifteen days interval can effectively check the black pepper mussel scale (*Lepidosaphes piperis*) at high ranges of Idukki district. This finding of Dr.Joseph Rajkumar and his coworkers at the Cardamom Research Station, Pampadumpara was recommended for inclusion in the Transfer of Technology for black pepper by the XVI Biennial Workshop of AICRP on Spices. The spraying is recommended immediately after the harvest. The concentration used is lower by 50% compared to the existing recommendation in the POP.

Assumes charge**Dr. D.D. Namboothiri**

Dr. DD Namboothiri, Head, Department of Fish Processing Technology assumed office as Dean i/c, College of Fisheries, Panangad on February 2, 2002.

Dr. R. Vikraman Nair

Dr.R Vikraman Nair, Associate Director of Research, NARP (SR),Vellayani assumed office as the Director of Research i/c.

Sri. K.R. Muraleedharan, IAS Registrar, KAU has been appointed as District Collector, Malappuram.

Retirements**Dr. DM Thampi**

Dr.DM Thampi, Dean, College of Fisheries, Panangad retired on February 1, 2002. Dr.Thampi was the Member of Executive Committee and General Council of KAU. He was also a member in the Special Task Force to coordinate and implement speedy development in fisheries sector, by the Government of Kerala.

Dr. K. Kumaran

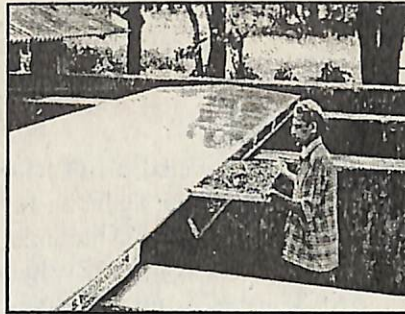
Dr.K Kumaran, Director of Research i/c retired from service on May 29, 2002. He was the Associate Director of Research at the Regional Research Station, Ambalavayal and at the KAU headquarters.

Prof.PK Unnikrishnan Nair

Prof PK Unnikrishnan Nair, Head, Pepper Research Station, Panniyur retired on April 15, 2002. He has made significant contribution for the release of the black pepper varieties Panniyur-6 and Panniyur-7.

Solar drier developed under NATP

A solar drier system for drying organic wastes including sea food wastes like prawn wastes, kitchen wastes, slaughter house and hatchery wastes was installed under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) in the Centre for Pig Production and Research, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy. The system was inaugurated by Dr. EG Silas, former Vice Chancellor of the K A U and Co-Chairman, SAP, NATP (PSR). The capacity of the system is 150kg/day. The system helps to dry various organic wastes for converting them to valuable animal



Solar Drier

feeds, especially pig feed, which are otherwise wasted leading to environmental pollution. The speedy drying prevents decomposition of various food wastes thereby enabling to store them and later used as animal feed.

Awards

Malcom S. Adiseshiah Award



Dr. K. Vijayakumar, Assistant Professor, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy has secured the Malcom S. Adiseshiah award instituted by the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University for the best Ph.D. thesis. He received the award for his work on the diagnosis and prophylaxis of ovine toxoplasmosis, a dreaded zoonotic disease transmitted from animal to man.

Dr. Harbhajan Singh Award-2000

Dr. S. Rajan, Officer on Special Duty, Directorate of Research, KAU was awarded Dr. Harbhajan Singh Award for the best research paper in vegetable science for the year 2000 for the paper entitled Peroxidase isozyme as a marker for bacterial wilt resistance in tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill). published in Vegetable Science, Vol. 27, No. 2 (2000) pp.136-141.

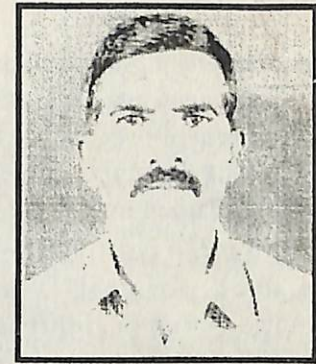


Dr. S. Rajan

OBITUARY

Dr. T.P. Manomohandas

We express our deep felt condolences on the sudden and untimely demise of Dr. TP Manomohandas, Assoc. Professor, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ambalavayal.



He passed away on May 16, 2002 due to cardiac arrest while attending a state level research extension interface seminar at KILA, Thrissur.

Dr. Manomohandas entered KAU service as Asst. Professor at the Regional Agril. Research Station, Ambalavayal and was continuing in the RARS and KVK intermittently since then. From the very beginning of his career, he devoted his entire service for the welfare of the farming community of Wayanad. He was instrumental in popularizing oyster mushroom cultivation in Wayanad by producing and distributing the spawn and imparting training. His active participation in managing the foot rot disease of black pepper was commendable. He was responsible for the production of *Trichoderma* culture on a large scale, which was isolated from the soils of Wayanad to control the foot rot disease of black pepper in an effective manner. He is survived by his wife and two sons.