

KAU NEWS

HOUSE JOURNAL OF THE KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

KAU Maintains Academic Excellence

The KAU has secured the third position among 34 Agricultural Universities in India in academic excellence, as reflected in the All India Examination in Agriculture and allied subjects for Junior/Senior Research Fellowships, conducted during the year 2003 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

During 2001 and 2002, the KAU had secured first position in academic excellence. This year, the first position was bagged by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore followed by the G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pant Nagar.



Dr. K.V. Peter, Vice Chancellor, Director (Acad & PGS) and the Deans of Faculties receives the trophy from Shri. Rajnath Singh, Central Minister.

A trophy and Rs.5 lakhs for securing the National Honour was received by Dr.K.V.Peter, Vice Chancellor from Shri.Rajnath Singh, Central Minister.



Dr. S.L. Mehta, National Director, NATP lights the traditional lamp in the formal function for the release of the Vaccine against Duck pasteurellosis

The KAU has successfully developed a new vaccine against duck Pasteurellosis, popularly known as Duck cholera. The vaccine was formally released to the farmers by Dr. S.L. Mehta, National Director, National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) at a function held at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy on April 16, 2004. The vaccine was developed in collaboration with the NATP on Productivity Enhancement

of Ducks, implemented at the Centre of Advanced Studies in Poultry Science under the leadership of Dr. A. Jalaluddin and the Department of Microbiology, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy headed by Dr.V. Jayaprakasan. Duck Pasteurellosis is caused by a bacterium *Pasteurella multocida*. Ducks, which are in peak lay and in its good health conditions are affected first in a flock. Because of the sudden death of ducks, farmers called this disease as

Vets developes vaccine against Duck Pasteurellosis

“attack” as similar to human heart attack.

In the experimental condition the vaccinated birds were able to withstand even the challenge of 500 Lethal Dose (LD) 50 when the control birds could not complete 24-8 hours of life. The vaccine has also shown to be protective against heterologous challenge, with strains from other avian species. The vaccine is advised for 2 to 3 months aged birds and it is better to vaccinate them before the onset of monsoon and the vaccination may be repeated yearly. The dosage is 0.5 ml by intra muscular route at the breast region. So far no toxicity of cellulitis is noted on the vaccinated birds. The expected protection period is 9 months.

Vets develops vaccine..... continues

expected protection period is 9 months. The vaccine is an experimental one. The technology would be transferred to any government or private agencies, for manufacture of the vaccine in commercial line to assure availability to the farmers.

Dr.K.V. Peter, Vice-Chancellor presided over the function. Dr. E. Nanu, Dean, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy welcomed the gathering. Dr. A. Jalaluddin presented the report on the project. Dr. V.Jayaprakasan gave a brief description about the vaccine. Dr.C.K. Peethambaran, Director of Research felicitated. Dr.Leo Joseph proposed the vote of thanks. An interface of farmers and scientists were also arranged in connection with the function, which was also inaugurated by Dr. Mehta.

Maintain austerity in use of water

The judicious use of water for drinking and in day-to-day use and its prudent management in agriculture can help to overcome the impact of drought in Kerala, which is blessed with a mean rainfall of 2821 mm over a period of 131 years, said Dr.K.V.Ahamed Bhavappa former Director, CPCRI and FAO consultant. He was inaugurating the project on Economic Impact Assessment of Agro Advisory Services and the Farmers' Interface in connection with the observance of the World Meteorology Day at the College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara on March 23, 2004. Kerala gets a rainfall of 3000mm during a normal monsoon year. During 2003, rainfall in the State was below average, 2380 mm.

Shortage of rainfall combined with

Depositors and borrowers The kings of Banks

One day Seminar on 'Changing Landscape of the Indian Financial Sector' was jointly organised by the Department of Rural Banking and Finance Management of the College of Co-operation, Banking and Management and the Students' Economic Forum of the South Indian Bank Ltd. on November 11, 2003 at the College at Vellanikkara.

In his presidential address, Shri. M.Valsan, Chief General Manager, South Indian Bank Ltd. stated that the year 1991 in which financial sector reforms were initiated was the watershed year in the Indian financial sector, rather than the year 1969 - when nationalization of major Indian commercial banks took place. He recalled that in earlier days, depositors were considered as the 'Kings' of banks, while now-a-days, both the depositors as well as borrowers are accorded equal status. He concluded with the remark that 'survival of the fittest' is the logo of the current competitive Indian banking sector.

Dr. K.V. Peter, Vice Chancellor



The Vice Chancellor inaugurates the seminar on Changing landscape of the Indian Financial Sector

inaugurated the Seminar.

Dr. M. Mohandas, Associate Dean, College of Co-operation, Banking and Management welcomed the guests and the participants. Dr. Molly Joseph, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Rural Banking and Finance Management proposed the vote of thanks.

The seminar provided an open forum for the academic community and the bankers to sit together, discuss and deliberate on the issues and strategies for the future development, in the back drop of the financial sector reforms.

the factors like the destruction of forests, increase in population and total ignorance of rainwater harvest has brought an acute shortage of drinking water during the period of droughts in Kerala. He opined that the rain harvest and conservation of water, developing one's own water sources like wells, ponds and judicious use of water should be the plans for the next year and years to come to face the acute drought, if it recur.

Dr. Bhavappa was deeply concerned over the unplanned and unrestricted digging of borewells and overexploitation of ground water resources. The uncontrolled sand mining has led to the depletion of water resources and drying up of rivers. He suggested to maintain austerity in the use of water and recycling of waste water like the

water from the washing machines for flushing etc as the judicious use of water for domestic use.

Use of techniques to reduce water loss, judicious irrigation, mulching to reduce evaporation, use of compost coir pith, burial of coconut husk etc. were the tips mentioned to preserve the water content of the soil. Instead of flood irrigation, drip irrigation and irrigation in pits were suggested.

Dr.A.I.Jose, Director of Extension, presided over the function. Dr.C.K.Peethambaran, Director of Research, Dr.G.S.L.H.V. Prasad Rao, Associate Dean, College of Horticulture, Dr.F.M.H.Khaleel and Dr.C.P.Muhammed spoke on the occasion.

KAU Budget approved

The Kerala Agricultural University Budget for 2004-2005 which envisaged an income of Rs.11,825.52 lakhs, an expenditure of Rs.13,204.55 lakhs and Rs.1,379.03 lakhs deficit, was passed at the Annual General Council meeting held at the Government Guest House, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram on March 27, 2004. The budget was presented by Prof. K.P. Mukundan, Member, Executive Committee.

A sum of Rs.976.05 lakhs has been allocated to complete the civil works taken up by the University, of which 564 lakhs would be spent for improving the infrastructure facilities of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookod. A sum of Rs.50 lakhs has been allocated for research in emerging sectors.

Establishing Krishi Vigyan Kendras at Kannur,



Prof. K.P. Mukundan, Member, Executive Committee presents the KAU Budget

Malappuram and Thrissur with the financial assistance of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research projects to explore the commercial viability of forestry with the assistance of ICAR, Central and State Governments, establishing Centres for Higher Studies in Agriculture and Rural Development at College of Agriculture, Vellayani and College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara are some of the new schemes proposed during this year. □

International Women's Day observed

The Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture (CSGCA) of the KAU commemorated the International Women's Day March 8, 2004 by organizing a conference on "Gender Issues in Agriculture and Women Development in Kerala" in collaboration with the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) of the Government of Kerala at Trivandrum. The Conference was inaugurated by Smt. K. R. Gouri Amma, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture of the State. Shri. V. P. Joy, Secretary (Agriculture)

presided over. Smt. Mina Swaminathan, Director, Gendeavour, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai delivered the keynote address. The technical sessions of the Conference were moderated by Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair, Former Vice Chancellor of KAU. Delegates to the conference constituted representatives from the Agricultural University, Department of Agriculture, Banking Institutions, Non Governmental Organisations and Farmers' Groups in the State.

The Minister for Agriculture, urged the development officials to realize the true spirit behind the programmes of Women in Agriculture and to act accordingly. Smt. Mina Swaminathan

reiterated the glaring issues of gender in the farming scene. Quoting facts and data, she pointed out the need of taking direct action to solve the problems women face in agriculture with regard to technology, land ownership, support services, and multiple work load and pleaded the researchers and extension workers to be gender sensitive in their efforts. Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair emphasised the different dimensions of gender issues in the farming scene and identified the actors - planners, administrators, scientists, extension workers, banking institutions and farmers who are responsible to bring about the change needed in the scene. The paper presented by Shri. Jayakrishnan J Menon, Managing Director, SFAC focussed on the gender issues related to the credit support facilities in agriculture and the needed changes in the sector and institutions. Dr. P. S. Geethakutty, Co-ordinator, Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture, KAU in her paper on the 'Changing mindset of research and technology transfer' emphasised the need of gender perspective among the workers of agricultural development-scientists and extension personnel. Smt. Annie Alexander of NABARD shared the experiences and success stories of Self Help Groups for women empowerment. □

Smt. K.R. Gouri Amma, Minister for Agriculture & Smt. Mina Swaminathan, Director, Gendeavour, MSSRF during the conference



Lal Bahadur Shastri Young Scientist Award



Dr. A. Joseph Rajkumar, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology), Cardamom Research Station, Pampadumpara was conferred the prestigious ICAR's Lal Bahadur Shastri Young Scientist Award for the biennium 2001-2002 for the outstanding contribution in the field of Agricultural Entomology. The award comprising of a certificate, citation and cheque for Rs. 12,500 was received from Dr. R.C. Maheshwari, ADG (TC), ICAR on Dec. 8, 2003.

Young Scientist Award



Dr. T. Vanaja, Assistant Professor (Plant Breeding & Genetics), Pepper Research Station, Panniyur has secured the Young Scientist Award in the area of biotechnology

at the 16th Kerala Science Congress held on December 29-31st 2003 at CWRDM, Kozhikode. Research Paper on "DNA finger printing of rice varieties of Kerala using microsatellite molecular markers and indication of molecular markers for kernel colour in rice" was adjudged for the award.

Rashtriya Samman Puraskar & Gold Medal



Dr. K. Narayanankutty, Senior Scientist, AICRP, Poultry has been honoured with the Rashtriya Samman Puraskar & Gold Medal by the Indian Society for Industry and

Intellectual Development. The award is to honour his outstanding contribution in the field of poultry science.

International workshop attended



Dr. V. Ganesan, Associate Professor and Head, Dept. of Agri. Engg., COA, Vellayani attended and presented a paper "Agricultural Expert System for the Diagnosis of Pest and Diseases" in the

Fifth International Workshop in collaboration with IFAC/CIGR on Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture AIA 2004, during March 8-10, 2004, at Cairo, Egypt.

Awards-Recogni

Felicitations

The KAU News felicitates the recipients of the following Endowments/Awards in the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. The awards were distributed in the Endowment Award Distribution Ceremony held on April 21, 2004 at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy.

Sri. C.L. Vareed Memorial Prize

Dr. V. Mary John, Dr. Mini Bharathan, Dr. R. Venugopal, Dr. Preetha C. Pillai, Dr. Lissy Vadakkal, Dr. Deepa Surendran, Dr. Raji Jose Jacob, Dr. Neena Ancy Zacharia and Dr. A. Dhannia

Gosri Dairy Prize

Dr. V. Mary John, Dr. G. Ajith Kumar, Dr. K. M. Lucy, Dr. Deepa Chirayath, Dr. Smitha Rose Sebastian, Dr. J.P. Smitha, Dr. Raji Rose Jacob, Dr. M.N. Nisha and Dr. M.K. Dipu

People's Dairy Prize

Dr. V. Mary John, Dr. G. Ajith Kumar, Dr. G. Dimesh, Dr. Preetha C. Pillai, Dr. Lissy Vadakkal, Dr. I.S. Sajitha, Dr. V. Mridula, Dr. Midhula Roy and Dr. A. Dhannia

Best Training Organizers



Dr. J. Abraham and Dr. V.K. Mallika were conferred the awards for the Best Training Organizers for the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. Dr. Abraham was the Professor and Director, Centre of Excellence in Meat Technology, Mannuthy and Dr. Mallika is the Professor of the Cadbury Cocoa Project, College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara. The awards were presented to them at a function held at the Communication Centre, Mannuthy on April 13, 2004.

Dr. V.N. Krishna Iyer

Memorial Prize

Dr. V. Mary John, Dr. G. Ajith Kumar, Dr. K. M. Lucy, Dr. Deepa Chirayath, Dr. Lissy Vadakkal, Dr. Deepa Surendran, Dr. V. Mridula, Dr. Hiron M. Harshan and Dr. S.S. Devi

Quiz Competition

Surej Joseph Bunglavan (Second Prize in State Level competition)

Republic Day Camp Competitions



Cpl. Prince C. Kurien
(Silver Medal in HAV A
GAMBLE competition)



Cpl. Vinod Panavila
(Silver Medal in HACKS
competition)



UO Roon Mariam Mathai
(Silver Medal in HACKS
competition)



UO Raimon
(Silver Medal in HACKS
competition)

Nominations

Prof. K. V. Peter



Prof. K.V. Peter, Vice Chancellor, KAU has been nominated to the Standing Committee of the Association of Indian Universities for the year 2004-05.

Dr. P.C. Saseendran



Dr. P.C. Saseendran, Professor & Head, Department of Livestock Production Management, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy has been

nominated to the Board of Management of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Chennai.

tions - Hounours

Dr. A. Jalaluddin bags Best Teacher Award



Dr. P.G. Nair Endowment Award for the year 2002 for the Best Teacher in the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences of the KAU was awarded to Dr.A.

Jalaluddin, Associate Professor and Director i/c., Centre for Advanced Studies in Poultry Science by Dr. R. Kadirvel, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University (TANU VAS), Chennai on April 21, 2004 at a function held at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy.



Dr. A. Jalaluddin receives the Best Teacher Award from Dr. Kadirvel, Vice Chancellor, Tamilnadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University.

The award was bestowed on him considering his monumental contribution to the field of poultry science and also to the farming community.

N.P. Panikkar Memorial Prize for the PG students was awarded to Dr.Liz Simon and Dr.S. Ramamurthy, Dr.Latha Kuppuswamy and Dr. P. Arun.

Young Talents: The KAU High school team members, Boaz Vincent, Athul Ajith and S.Saranya who scored maximum points in Thrissur District in the State level mathematics exhibition held at Ernakulam during Nov.2003 along with K.P. Thressiamma, Head Mistress and T.J. Maggie, Maths teacher.



Dr. Kadirvel in his inaugural address hoped that recognizing the contributions suitably could motivate the scientists and students. He also suggested that the teamwork among the scientists should be recognized, as the teamwork is more fruitful compared to the individual efforts.

Dr. P.P. Balakrishnan, Dean, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookod welcomed the gathering. Dr.E. Nanu, Dean, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy, presided over the function. Dr.K.V. Peter, Vice-Chancellor addressed the award winners. Dr. V. Prasad, Associate Dean, Dairy Science College and Sri.Franco Louis, President, Press Club, Thrissur felicitated. Dr.C.M. Aravindakshan proposed vote of thanks.

The contribution of Dr. A. Jalaluddin in the field of Poultry Science is indeed remarkable. His urge for research work saw him associating, planning and organizing various research projects. He has guided about 15 postgraduate research scholars.

Dr. Jalaluddin is known for his non-conventional and pragmatic approach and has done pioneering works in poultry science leading to the Thakur Ram Avtar Singh Research Award in Poultry Breeding in India (1989) and a certificate of merit for contribution to the development of livestock nutrition in India (1992).

He is also an excellent undergraduate and postgraduate teacher and has more than sixty research papers to his credit in the field of poultry science.

His contribution in transferring the technology developed to the farmers and entrepreneurs is significant.

Check unsustainable exploitation of fish stock

- Dr. S. Ayyappan

The over exploitation of fish stock and pollution of water bodies are some of the serious issues plaguing the Indian Fisheries Sector said Dr.S.Ayyappan, Deputy Director General (Fisheries), Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Delivering the Devi Das Menon Endowment Lecture, 'On Indian Fisheries at cross roads,' at the College of Fisheries, Panangad, Dr. Ayyappan felt that the



Dr. S. Ayyappan, DDG (Fisheries) delivers Devi Das Menon Endowment Lecture.

country was yet to fully tap its potential in coastal aquaculture. The unsustainable exploitation of fish stock and marine pollution should be checked, he said.

At present only 30% of the aquaculture farm area were being utilized for farming. There is need to diversify to more species instead of focussing on just two or three varieties for aquaculture farming operations. He stressed the need for increasing fish production from the current 2.90 million tonnes to the projected target of 3.90 million tonnes. The international pressure for installing Turtle Exclusion Device in fishing nets and the upgradation of quality standards in fish processing units were some of the issues that had caused considerable hardship to the Indian Seafood Industry. Dr. Ayyappan said that now a new controversy regarding the reported presence of antibiotic residues is plaguing the industry.

Dr. K.V.Peter, Vice-Chancellor presided over the meeting. Dr. D.D. Namboodiri Dean, College of Fisheries welcomed the gathering.

KAU Pavilion inaugurated



Dr. K.V. Peter, Vice Chancellor inaugurates KAU Pavilion in connection with the Thrissur Pooram Exhibition 2004

The KAU Pavilion, in connection with the famous Thrissur Pooram All India Exhibition 2004 was inaugurated by Dr.K.V.Peter, Vice Chancellor on April 19. The Secretary, Thrissur Pooram Exhibition Committee, senior officials and members of the staff of the University were present to grace the function.

Project for Commercial Production of Banana & Vanilla

The KAU will implement a research project "Kerala biotechnological intervention and opportunities towards enhancing crop production in Kerala". The project envisages commercial adoption of micro propagation protocols for producing quality planting materials and biological control of bio fertilizers and bio control agents. Out of the total budget of Rs.100 lakhs earmarked for the project Rs.60 lakhs is for KAU and Rs.40 to the Department of Agriculture.

In the first phase of the project thrust will be given for the commercial production of the Banana, Vanilla and bio control agents such as Trichoderma, and Pseudomonas. A virus indexing centre and bio control lab at College of Agriculture, Vellayani .. and Micro Propagation Centers, one each at College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara and College of Agriculture, Vellayani and at the Regional Agricultural Research Stations at Ambalavayal, Kumarakom, Kayamkulam and Pattambi will be established under the project.

New Research Projects sanctioned

Title	Principal Investigator	Outlay (in Lakhs)
College of Agriculture, Vellayani Standardisation harvesting post harvest treatments, handling and storage techniques in cut-flower orchids	Dr.Sabeena George	12.97
College of Forestry, Vellanikkara Distribution and abundance of bamboos in the home gardens of Kerala and Studies on Bamboo root distribution pattern	Dr.B.Mohan Kumar	12.52
College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara Network Project on Engendering Agricultural Research and Extension	Dr.P.S.Geethakutty	11.39
Women Empowerment Net working in Kerala through Science and Technology	Dr.P.S.Geethakutty	26.74
Biotech-Kerala Biotechnological interventions and opportunities towards enhancing crop production in Kerala (BT & IT)	Dr.P.A.Nazeem	60.00
RARS, Pattambi Mechanization of experimental plots	P.E.Deepthi Soosan	32.50
Onattukara RARS, Kayamkulam Survey and identification of root wilt disease free palms and evolution resistant genotypes in coconut through selection and hybridization	Dr.Swerup John	34.87
Communication Centre, Mannuthy Monitoring and Evaluation of Macro Management Schemes of the Department of Agriculture	Dr.R.M. Prasad	15.00

State Legislation in Animal Breeding - need of the hour

Absence of a specific and clear cut policy in animal breeding on the part of the State Government has resulted in uncontrolled import of the germplasm of exotic animals and cross breeding with genetic native breeds, said Dr. M.P. Yadav, Director, Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI). He was inaugurating the second Annual Scientists' Meet of the "All India Network programme on Haemorrhagic Septicaemia" at the College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Mannuthy. Though the introduction of exotic breeds had increased production within a short span of time, many of the animals were highly susceptible to the tropical diseases. Infertility was also found as a great problem among the animals as it is reported to be 30%

among the buffalo population in India. As there were no stringent regulations to ensure that the exotic animals were free from diseases, exotic germplasm in fact contributed for the outbreak of new diseases and destruction of animal wealth and consequent economic loss causing untold miseries to rural farmers who are dependent on livestock wealth. Dr. Yadav opined that as animal husbandry is the state subject it is for the State governments to bring appropriate legislation and evolve policies for breeding of animals.

Dr.K.V.Peter, Vice Chancellor presided over the function. Dr. Neam Singh, Project Coordinator and Dr. Lal Krishna, Asst. Director General (Animal Husbandry), ICAR spoke on the occasion. Dr.E.Nanu, Dean, College of Vety. & Animal Sciences, Mannuthy welcomed the gathering. Dr. G. Krishnan Nair, Principal Investigator of the Mannuthy Centre proposed vote of thanks. Scientists from the seven collaborative centers attended the Scientists Meet.

ANP on Haemorrhagic Septicaemia

The All India Network programme on a Haemorrhagic Septicaemia is a programme of ICAR linking the coordinating centre and main laboratory at IVRI Iztanagar to seven collaborating centres located in seven states viz. Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Kerala.

Pasteurellosis in animals and birds is one of the oldest animal diseases still continuing its devastating effect on the economy of animal industry in this country.

The main objectives of this Programme are to undertake a national level effort to isolate *Pasteurella* spp. from divergent species of animals and birds and to characterize and compare them with the aim of developing a National Policy on the control measures of this disease.

At present, facility for serotyping is not available in our country. This facility will be developed at the Coordinating Centre, with the help of Regional FAO Centre on Pasteurellosis, Veterinary Research Institute, Sri Lanka.

All the seven Collaborating Centres are to isolate *Pasteurella multocida* organisms from different ailing/ apparently healthy animals and send them to the Coordinating Centre, after preliminary identification and antibiogram testing. Those centres where facilities for molecular characterization are available may further characterize the isolates and send them to IVRI.

The Coordinating Centre will confirm the identity of the isolates received from the seven centres, by molecular biology based techniques and serotyping will be done with the help from Sri Lanka. This will help in understanding the epidemiology of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS) in the country and in selecting suitable serotypes for vaccine production. The Coordinating Centre will produce both inactivated as well as live vaccines against HS and also combined vaccine against HS and Foot and Mouth Disease. These vaccines would be tested both at the Coordinating Centre and at the Collaborating Centres, for their validation.

Rank Holders Honoured



Kum. Poornima, Kum. Neelima and Kum. Subi of the 1999-2003 B.Sc. (Ag.) batch bagged the gold medal instituted by PTA of the College of Agriculture, Vellayani during 2003. His Highness Shri. Padmanabhadasa Uthradam Thirunal Marthanda Varma Maharaja presented the gold medal to the rank holders in a ceremony held on Feb. 27, 2004.

Release of Book

The book "Advances in the diseases of Plantation crops and Spices" edited by Dr. P. Santhakumari, Associate Professor, COA, Vellayani was released by his Highness Shri. Padmanabha dasa Uthradam Thirunal Marthanda Varma Maharaja on February 27, 2004 by giving a copy to Dr. C. Sundaresan Nair, Dean, COA, Vellayani. The book was published by International Book Distributing Company, Ludhiana.

Retirements



Dr. A. I. Jose

Dr. A.I. Jose, Director of Extension, laid down the office on April 14, 2004. Dr. Jose had his M.Sc.(Ag) Degree in First Class and First Rank from the University of Kerala and secured Ph.D degree from the University of Madras. He had undergone the Post-doctoral Research in 1976 at Rothamsted Experimental Station, England under the Programme of Exchange of Young Scientists between India and UK. He represented India at the 6th International Conference at the Institute of Tropical Research, Karl Marx University, Leipzig under the Indo-GDR Cultural Exchange Programme. He was the Editor of the Journal of Tropical Agriculture for the last 22 years.



Dr. R. Vikraman Nair

Dr. R. Vikraman Nair, Director of Research retired from service on superannuation. He secured his M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agronomy from the College of Agriculture, Vellayani and Ph.D from the G.B.Pant University of Agriculture & Technology. He was the Professor (Cocoa) under the KADP in the College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara and the Professor & Chief Investigator of the Cadbury-KAU Cocoa Research Project. He also served as the Associate Director NARP (SR) and Dean, College of Agriculture, Vellayani. He was the Principal Investigator of a number of externally funded projects operated in KAU.



Dr. K. Pushkaran

Dr. K. Pushkaran, Director of Acad & PG Studies retired from service on April 24 2004. He took his M.Sc.(Ag.) Degree from the University of Kerala and Ph.D from the KAU. He was the Professor & Head, Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics, College of Horticulture. On the invitation of the international agencies, he had visited Cameroon, France, UK and Germany and presented papers in the international conferences.



K.S. Natarajan

Shri. K.S. Natarajan (Kavil Raj), Assistant Comptroller retired from service on March 31, 2004. He was recipient of the "Ambedkar Gold Medal" instituted by the Delhi Sahitya Academy, New Delhi. He authored a number of books, which include 'Jwalakal', 'Akshatham' (collection of poems), 'Kanal', 'Indra Moksham' (play), 'Oridathoru Onthu' and 'Jeevanulla Pukakkuzhal' (Children's literature).

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New ATIC building inaugurated

The new building constructed for the Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) was inaugurated by Shri.V.M.Gopala Menon, District Collector on December 1, 2003.

The Information and Sales Centre, Mannuthy was established in 1993 as an independent unit of KAU. The ATIC is a single window support system for providing technology, product, diagnostic services and Technology Information to the farmers and other end users.



Dr. V.M. Gopala Menon, Dist. Collector, Thrissur inaugurates the new building of the ATIC

The successful experiment in Technology and Information dissemination was the brainchild of Dr.A.M. Michael, the former Vice Chancellor of KAU. The Centre gained national attention and prompted the ICAR to develop a national project under NATP namely Agricultural Technology Information Centre, (ATIC). In the year 2000 the Information and Sales Centre was upgraded as ATIC. Last year the transactions at ATIC had registered a tremendous growth crossing more than Rupees one crore.

Forthcoming Events..

South Zone Vice-Chancellors' Conference

The KAU will be the venue of the South Zone Vice-Chancellors' Conference 2004 to be held on September 2-4, 2004. About 50 Vice-Chancellors of the Southern Zone are expected to participate in the Conference.

Veterinary Hospital, Kokkalai: Centenary celebrations

The valedictory function of the Centenary celebrations of the Veterinary Hospital, Kokkalai will be organized during August 2004. Seminars, exhibitions, field camps, vaccination and treatment camps and public functions will be organized in connection with the celebrations.