

Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Agricultural education and Research has always been significant in the progress of our nation. History reveals that enhanced food grain production has instigated general progress and decline in food grain production has led to a static or retarding economy.

The greatest challenge before mankind is food security. Scientists world over are warning us against consequences of inadequate food grain production. Global warming and resultant climatic changes are leading the world in to a totally insecure situation.

The emerging scenario is a challenge to science in general and Agricultural science in particular. The paramount importance of food grain production and dignity of this vocation should be brought to the attention of all world, especially the youth. If more youngsters engage themselves in food grain production, more effective will be the alternate strategies being evolved.

Equally or more important is to attract more brains to Agricultural education and research. Over the years there has been a shift to other streams of professional education and the reasons are plenty. But the shift has also resulted in a kind of brain drain as far as agricultural education and research is concerned.



Professionals in every field is essential for the society. Even while acknowledging astonishing feats achieved by medical science and technocrats it should be accepted that a doctor cannot treat hunger, an engineer can't build castles in a starving society nor will software be a substitute for food grains.

Therefore, all connected to education sector, whether it be policy makers, teachers, researchers, career guides and students as well as their parents, should think it out. To feed a fellow being is the most divine profession and to contribute to it by studying and developing agricultural science is a noble vocation indeed. I hope this message will be received well and the country is benefitted by an inflow of brilliant students to our Agricultural Universities.

KAU Vice-Chancellor nominated for Dewang Mehta Award

K. R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, KAU has been nominated for Dewang Mehta B school Award for significant contributions to education sector.

K. R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, KAU has been nominated for 18th Dewang Mehta B school awards for significant contributions to education sector.

The award is in recognition of leadership, development and innovation shown by him in the education sector. Under the leadership of K. R. Viswambharan, Kerala Agricultural University has won ICAR Performance award for academic excellence for four years in a row. His leadership in evolving new strategies for attracting youth to Agriculture, spreading the message on food security issues, vision in launching new generation courses and the vital steps taken to lead scientists to the doorstep of rural farmers have attracted world wide attention.

The award is named after late Dewang Mehta, former high profile chief of NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies). The awards given under the catch of B school affairs is promoted by onward education foundation and Dewang Mehta foundation, Mumbai.

Only a United World Can save the Planet :

Dr. T.M. Thomas Isaac

Technical expertise to counter global warming would be useful only if the world stay united, said Dr.T.M.Thomas Isaac, Minister for Finance, Kerala. He was delivering the key note address in the ceremony launching KAU's new generation course on Climate change adaptation. Despite being convinced of the gravity of the situation world countries could not arrive at a consensus on counter measures. This shows that a political will is also imperative to save the planet. 'Without the will there cannot be a way' - Dr. Issac explained. 'My own experience is that interaction with the best brains in the field will help students to expand their knowledge sphere. In order to provide the facility of interaction with foreign faculties to KAU students I allocate Rs.50 lakhs.' Minister said. Prof. Alan Robson, Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia (UWA) said that the launch of the new courses timely. 'All



Minister, Prof. Robson and Vice-Chancellor at the inaugural ceremony

countries in the world are facing unusual weather conditions. As our planets warms, we are seeing these climate extremes more frequently. The consequences will be devastating. It is therefore imperative to adapt to climate change in agriculture and allied sectors to minimise the impacts. Around the world there are only a few technical persons in this arena. Definite

policies in this branch of study and experts in this field are urgently required. By the collaboration of UWA and KAU we form a platform for realising these objectives'- Prof. Robson pointed out. K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, KAU while welcoming the gathering elaborated on the relevance of the course and new initiatives of KAU. Rajaji Mathew Thomas, MLA in his presidential address explained the motive behind KAU's decision to start innovative academic programmes. Message from Mullakkara Retnakaran, Minister for Agriculture was read out in his absence. P.C.Chacko MP, Prof. C. Raveendranath MLA, Kadambote Siddique, Director (Institute of Agriculture-UWA), Peter Forby (Marketing Director-Australia, India) and Dr.GSHLV Prasada Rao, (Course Director) spoke. Dr. C.B.Manomohan (Registrar, KAU) proposed vote of thanks.

Food security

The Food Security Army concept evolved by KAU is catching the attention and gaining the appreciation of all.

After the successful training of Food Security Army cadets in different parts of Thrissur, the home District of KAU, a Mobile Agro Machinery Training Unit (MAMTU) was launched. The first task undertaken by MAMTU was training of farmers in Erode, Tamil Nadu.

The training in operational modes and repairing techniques of Agricultural machinery imparted to selected farmers in Erode District of Tamil Nadu has been well



Vice-Chancellor flagging of the MAMTU

appreciated. The training unit is headed by Dr. U. Jayakumaran, Professor and Head, ARS, Mannuthy. After the parade, the 20 number training group demonstrated transplanting using mechanical paddy transplanter in 3 acres of paddy field which was not cultivated for the last 17 years. The training was part of a state wide programme



Karnataka officials in KAU farm

undertaken by Integrated Co-operative Development Project (ICDP) to spread mechanisation.

Even as the training was on at Erode a high level delegation from Karnataka, headed by Joint Directors of State Agriculture Department paid a visit to KAU to have a first hand knowledge of the Food Security Army Concept. The ten member delegation held talks with Vice-chancellor and visited paddy fields where mechanisation was successfully employed.

KAU General Council has already decided to establish an institute to train youth in agricultural operations.

Formation of Food Security Army in different parts of the state is another priority of the University. In the north malabar sector, steps have been already initiated by CoA, Padannakkad and RARS, Pilicode for this purpose.

KAU Develop e governance tools



Dr.T.M.Thomas Issac, Minister for Finance complemented the KAU IT personnel for developing user-friendly softwares indigenously in a global scenario where outsourcing is the fashion and trend.

Launching the University Financial Accounting system (UFAST) and University Legal Information System (ULIS) in a simple function held at KAU HQ, he expressed satisfaction on the progress made by KAU in recent times, which he termed as visible by all. Minister also revealed his Ministry's plans to help the

Universities with a one time grant to wipeoff their liabilities, so that the next financial year can be commenced on an even footing. The ERP based UFAST is the first of its kind in India and has proved successful in managing 1888 heads of accounts in KAU. It can be successfully adapted to institutions of similar nature.

The other software named as University Legal Information System (ULIS) provides the details and day to day status of all litigations KAU is involved in. Anybody can check the details of any case on line. The software is also developed by the IT personnel. This could well be another model to be adapted by other institutions of the country.

Rajaji Mathew Thomas MLA, Vice-Chancellor K. R. Viswambharan, Dr. K. Aravindakshan, Member, KAU EC, Dr. C.B. Manomohan, Registrar, K. Jayakumar, Comptroller and Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research participated in the function.

Punarjani of agriculture in prison yard

Punarjani, revival of rice cultivation in Viyyur Prison premises was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Mullakkara Ratnakaran on Tuesday, 3rd August.

Agriculture is the only vocation through which prosperity is attained without any malpractices. The honour of feeding the fellow beings and the serenity of work places calms the mind of farming community', the minister said.

A joint venture of Prisons department, KAU, Paddy mission and Department of Agriculture, *Punarjani* is expected to make the prison self sufficient in rice.

Shri. Therambil Ramakrishnan, MLA presided. K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, KAU delivered keynote address. Dr. Alexander Jacob IPS, ADGP offered welcome and Anil Kumar, Jail Superintendent i/c proposed vote of thanks. Dr. Leenakumary (Member, KAU EC), Dr. C.B. Manomohan (Registrar, KAU), Dr. P.V. Balachandran, (Director of Extension, KAU), H.Gopakumar (DIG-Prisons), Jaisy. P. Jacob (PAO, Thrissur) Sureshkumar (Corporation Councillor), T.G. Santhosh (Welfare Officer) & Dr. Jiji Joseph (Paddy Mission) offered felicitations.

ULF day celebrated

ULF Day, foundation day of University Livestock farm and Fodder Research unit (ULF & FRDS), Mannuthy, was inaugurated by K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-chancellor.

The Vice-chancellor prompted scientists to evaluate research findings in the light of advancements in agricultural progress and food security issues.

Dr. C.K.Thomas, Director, Doordarshan Kendra, Thrissur released a documentary CD on Dairy Cattle rearing named KSHEERA SAGARAM.

Dr.T.R.Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research, KAU released pamphlets in English and Malayalam on Dairy farming. Dr. P.C.Alex (Assoc. Director of Veterinary Research) inaugurated the seminar and Dr. V.K. Raju (Assoc. Director of Research - Farms) distributed calves to the farmers. Dr. N. Gopa Kumar (Dean i/c) presided.

ICAR Accreditation

ICAR has extended the accreditation of KAU, following the recommendations of Peer review Team and Education Division of the Council. The successful efforts of KAU to meet accreditation criteria of the Council.

Sanitation award for CoA

CoA, Padannakkad received District Level Award for total sanitation under *Malinya Muktha Keralam* scheme 2010.

The award was instituted by Govt. of Kerala for the best sanitation facilities and cleanliness in public offices.

CoA won the highest 3 star rating and first place in Kasargod District. The Vice-chancellor congratulated Staff and Students of CoA for this creditable achievement.

Car Free Day observed

International Car Free Day was observed in KAU. Officers and Staff refrained from using private vehicles and depended on public transport to disseminate meaningful message of Energy Conservation, Environmental Protection and sustainable development. It has been decided to spread the awareness of promoting bicycle travel within the campuses.

Address Farmers' Problems: VC

Practical problems confronted by rural farmers of Kerala should be the subject of Agricultural research, said K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, KAU.

He was inaugurating *PRANATHI 2010*, the Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) programme of students in College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara.

The Vice-Chancellor asked the students to learn traditional knowhow and trusted agricultural practices from rural farmers while educating them about scientific farming techniques. 'You should also try to inculcate awareness in youth and encourage them to undertake food production, which is the most important and respectable vocation in the world. Then only you will be successful

in proving your worth as an agricultural professional.' he told the students.

RAWE programme, six month long statutory module incorporated in the 7th semester of UG programme provide training to students in different phases such as Watershed Management Analysis, Farm planning, SHG training, Attachment to banking sector, NGO training and a separate Experiential training in research institutions and Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Dr. C.T. Abraham, Associate Dean, CoH presided. Dr. P.K. Asokan, Director (Academic) explained the characteristic of RAWE programme and the proposed amendments to its schedule. Dr. FMH Khaleel, Professor and Head, Dept of Extension welcomed the gathering and Jijo Joseph, students representative proposed vote of thanks.

File Clearance Programme in KAU

A File clearance programme has been initiated in KAU. The Programme christened 'Around a Section' initiated by the Vice-chancellor aims at avoiding delay in decision making at all levels and clearing all pending cases in the University.

The Programme was officially launched on 18 September 2010 by A.T. James, District Collector, Thrissur. 'Some files may be older and some others heftier than the persons handling it. Timely decisions save time, energy and sometimes human lives and families too' - Collector said.

Vice-Chancellor K.R. Viswambharan explained that the drive is expected to gather momentum in coming months and every section and every station of the university will witness the change.

KAU - CUSAT Tie up

KAU and CUSAT (Cochin University of Science & Technology of Science & Technology) is set to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration in Academic and Research Activities.

In the beginning the two institutions will join hands for advanced studies in climate change adaptation. The MoU will facilitate joint research activities, joint academic activities and exchange of academic materials and information.

The MoU aims at fostering collaboration among Indian Universities in the field.

'An annual award for best performing section will be instituted. We are targeting enhancement of efficiency and involvement of all in decision making.' He said.

Dr. K. Aravindakshan (Chairman, Legal Monitoring Committee), Dr. C.B. Manomohan (Registrar), K. Jayakumar, (Comptroller), Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, (Director of Research), Dr. P.V. Balachandran (Director of Extension) and officers in KAU HQ participated in the function.

The first section to undergo the process was legal section with 1200 files. Section Assistants, Section Officer, Deputy Registrar and Registrar sat along with Vice-Chancellor for five hours at a stretch and cleared many long pending files. Steps to be taken to clear remaining files were also finalized.

GI registration for Rice, Jaggery

Kerala Agricultural University initiatives for the registration of three Agricultural products viz. "Wayanad Jeerakasala Rice", "Wayanad Gandhakasala Rice" and "Central Travancore Jaggery" as "Geographical Indications" (GIs) has borne fruits.

Earlier efforts of Kerala Agricultural University had resulted in the registration of Pokkali rice and Vazhakkulam pineapple as GIs. Unique efforts of KAU for the GI Registration of goods to protect the rights of local communities / artisans over their products have received national appreciation.

Jeerakasala and Gandhakasala are cultivated in 400 ha. in unique agro ecological situations of Wayanad. The climate, organic modes of cultivation, traditional genetic make up of cultivars, and unique processing technologies contribute to the specific aroma and flavour of Jeerakasala and Gandhakasala. Kerala Agricultural University and "Wayanad Jilla Nellulpadaka Karshaka Samithi" were the joint applicants for the GI Registration of these aromatic rices. The efforts were done through National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP), being implemented in Wayanad through RARS, Ambalavayal.

Central Travancore Jaggery stands top in the quality of jaggery produced in India. From fresh sugarcane juice, it is produced without the addition of harmful chemicals and hence it is highly preferred to use in Ayurvedic preparations. It is having a high iron content also. In Central KAU together with two farmer societies viz., "Gar khandhasari Industrial Cooperative Society", Kottayam and "Madhya Thiruvithamcore Karimpu Vikasana Samithi", Alleppey are the proprietors for this product.

Vice-Chancellor Felicitated

K.R.Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor was felicitated by KAU Community for being nominated for Dewang Mehta award.

In a simple function held at KAU HQ after the news on his nomination for the award arrived. The Vice chancellor was felicitated by Registrar, Deans and Directors and other officers. Dr.K.Aravindakshan, Member, KAU Executive Committee was also present. Representatives of KAU Community shared the joy in the nomination and felicitated the Vice-Chancellor.

In his reply, K.R.Viswambharan told the house that the award is an achievement of the University and result of the hard work put in by the University Community. 'I am only your representative', he said. 'This is a recognition for the University and the efficiency of its machinery. I am happy that I can represent this institution in the award function.'

Dr. C. B. Manomohan, Registrar presided. Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan (DR),



Dr. P.V. Balachandran (DE), R. Jaya Kumar (Comptroller), Dr. P.V. Asokan (Dir. Academic), Dr. P.C. Saseendran (Dean i/c, CoVAS), Dr. C.T. Abraham (Assoc. Dean, CoH), Dr. U. Ramachandran (Assoc. Dean, CCBM), Dr. K.Sudhakara (Assoc. Dean i/c, CoF), Dr. P.B. Pushpalatha, Dr. Jagdees Kumar, Dr. Leo Joseph, M. N. Pavithran, B. Shiras, R. Vijayan, C.V.Poulose, U. Divakar, N.V. Unnikrishnan Nair and P. K. Mohanan hailed the contributions of K.R.Viswambharan and felicitated him.

KAU to host ICAR Sports 2010

ICAR Sports 2010, the 12th All India Inter-Agri varsity Sports & Games will be hosted by KAU. The meet featuring sports talents from all Agricultural Universities in India will be held at Vellanikkara - Mannuthy Campuses from 16th to 20th February 2010.

Take stock of Development schemes - Dr. K.P. Kannan

A re look by planning mechanism is imperative to sustain realistic agricultural development, said Dr.K.P.Kannan, Professor of Development Economics, CED, Thiruvananthapuram.

Delivering the Fifth Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair memorial Lecture at KAU, Dr.Kannan called for a stock taking of entire gamut of issues for meeting the challenges of Agricultural Development in a fast growing non agrarian Kerala economy and a concomitantly fast transforming society. 'Despite reduction in cultivable land area, Kerala still remains the least food insecure state in India. This is attributed to the buying power as well as a well functioning Public Distribution system. Kerala also stands second in terms of value generated per ha and third in terms of net income', he pointed out.

'Yet the loss of cropped area is an alarming factor. A serious and sustained effort is required to stage a come back, which is inevitable. If atleast 3.5 lakh ha of land area

AMIC Predicts Brighter days For Coconut

Agricultural Marketing Intelligence Centre (AMIC) of KAU has predicted an optimistic price level for coconut. According to the latest release from AMIC coconut prices may form up in the long run on account of short falls in production, increase in demand and festival seasons.

Based on the econometric analysis and market sentiments, AMIC considers that a price range of Rs.14.50- 17.50 per Kg may prevail for partially dehusked coconut till mid January, which is 30 percent higher than the corresponding price in last year.

The Centre has also predicted the upward trend in pepper prices. The decline in pepper production in Indonesia due to climate change, hurried selling due to Ramzan, lack of stock at the disposal of Vietnam, favourable climate for enhanced production, high demand in the marriage and festival season both Indian and foreign markets are seen as factors favouring pepper producers in India.

A detailed analysis of these parameters point at a price of Rs.205-215 in October, Rs.195-205 in November and Rs 185-200 in December 2010.

Thanniyam becomes fallowfree

Thanniyam was declared as the second fallow free panchayat in Kerala by Mullakkara Ratnakaran, Minister for Agriculture, on 3rd August 2010.

The Minister, while congratulating the farmers and panchayat committee for the success, also cautioned them on the added responsibility to sustain the status.

Hailing the commendable work done by KAU scientists in promoting farming activities and rendering necessary technical help to the farmers, he urged them to create more fallow free areas so as to enhance food grain production.

K.R.Viswambharan, Vice-chancellor, KAU in his key note address stressed the need to attract youth towards vocation of food grain production. Congratulating the farming community of Thanniyam for the persistent hard work, Vice-Chancellor offered all help from KAU for sustaining the effort.

V. S. Sunilkumar, MLA presided. Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension, Members of District, Block and Grama panchayats, farmers' club representatives and a host of farmers participated.

is ensured for paddy cultivation and an average productivity of 4 tonnes per ha is achieved the total production ever attained in the state can be matched.' Dr. Kannan said.



Shri. K.R.Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, KAU, who presided over the function remembered the services of Dr. K.N.Shyamasundaran Nair. He said Dr. Nair was the most humane Vice-chancellor he has ever seen and the best tribute to him is to impart a new outlook to agricultural education.

The endowment lecture was organized by Centre for Gender concerns in Agriculture established by Dr. Shyamasundaran Nair. Dr. P.K. Asokan, Director -Academics welcomed the guests and Dr. P. Rajendran, Co-ordinator offered vote of thanks. Dr.C.B.Manomohan, Registrar presented a memento to Dr. Kannan.