



KAU NEWS

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Message from the Vice-Chancellor



Haritholsavam, the mega Kissan Mela organised by Kerala Agricultural University in Vellayani Campus was a historical step in Kerala's Agricultural Education & Research as it showcased the achievements of the state in Agricultural Sector.

The Mela witnessed heavy rush on all days. People from all walks of life including policy makers, researchers and even multifaceted personalities like Padmasree K.J Yesudas visited the stalls. All the visitors appreciated the value of achievements in the sector. The seminars on topics of relevance were source of information and provided insight in to many unknown aspects.

I take this opportunity to congratulate those who perspired for the success of Haritholsavam 2011. Hats off to Scientists, Students and Staff who spent sleepless nights and restless days for making the mela a success.

Such melas should be held in all parts of the state. The next focus should be on central and northern regions. Station heads in these regions and staff under their control should take a leaf out of the effort put in by the men - not to forget the women too - of Vellayani and come up with viable proposals in this regard. I hope all will act fast in this context.

Development Should Emerge from Agriculture: Finance Minister

Finance Minister K.M.Mani called upon the agricultural scientists to come up with innovative research and development programmes to ensure comprehensive development of the state. Inaugurating the Haritholsavam 2011 at Thiruvananthapuram the minister highlighted the importance of agriculture in overall economy of the country.

'There cannot be an economic advancement without agricultural progress. The development of India should emerge from the development of agricultural sector. It is our failure to

enhance agricultural growth rate that is hampering overall development of the country.' K. M. Mani said.

The Minister also offered adequate support for innovative research programmes in agricultural sector. He appreciated the efforts being taken by KAU to popularise scientific farming practices and suggested that the University move ahead with village adoption programmes for which state government would provide support.

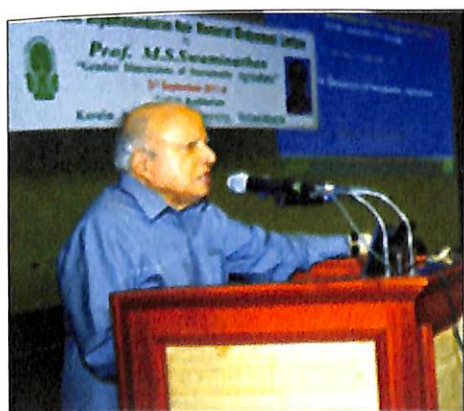
The inaugural session was presided



Finance Minister K. M. Mani inaugurating Haritholsavam

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Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Moots Legislation for Women Empowerment



Father of Green revolution and Member of Parliament Prof. M.S. Swaminathan said that he plans to introduce a private bill in ensuing session of parliament to provide for the gender

specific needs of women farmers, to protect their legitimate needs and to empower them.

Prof. Swaminathan was delivering the sixth endowment lecture in memory of Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair, former VC of KAU and member of State planning board at Kerala Agricultural University on Sept 3rd.

'Agriculture will be sustainable only if the three important parameters of Economic stability, Environmental sustainability and Social adaptability are sustained, Said Prof. M. S. Swaminathan,

'I am happy to note the initiatives of the Centre for Gender studies in KAU

established by Dr. Shyamasundaran Nair in women empowerment. He was a visionary leader and humanist who demonstrated how to convert concepts of pro-nature, pro-poor, and pro-women development in to reality. The bio-village paradigm of sustainable development projected by him had been well received by policy makers and found roots in Puduchery, TamilNadu and other states.' Swaminathan reminisced.

'We have to provide dignity and prestige to help the labour gain in self belief, esteem and pride. There should be women in science and science for women. Curriculum for UG courses should be made gender sensitive and feminization

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Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Moots Legislation for Women Empowerment

of agriculture should be expedited. This is where the example of Latharaveendran of Wadakkancherry stands tall.

With KAU's technical support she could not only find a remunerative field in agricultural operations, but also



provide employment opportunities to 40 odd women. I wish to project her as a role model' Prof. Swaminathan said. Later he called her to the stage and presented a bouquet in appreciation of her resilience.

KAU-UMANITOBA tie up on cards

A collaboration between Kerala Agricultural University and University of Manitoba, Canada (UManitoba) in the spheres of Academic and Research has been mooted. The proposal has been discussed between the authorities of the two Universities during a visit of Dr. Michael Trewan and Dr. Merv Pritchard, Dean and Vice - Dean of the UManitoba to KAU HQ on 30 Sept 2011.

The structure and activities of KAU was explained to the visitors by Dr. K. R. Viswambharan, Vice - Chancellor.

KAU GC nod for PSC appointments

KAU General Council passed the statute amendments in favour of entrusting the future appointments to all non-teaching categories to Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC).

Once this statute amendment is assented to by the Chancellor, all vacancies will be reported to PSC and the appointment process will be set into motion, said Dr. K. R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor. At present the University is facing acute man power shortage as more than one third of posts of administrative and field staff are vacant.

The 111th meeting of the supreme body of the University also nodded in favour of statute for recognising Forestry as a faculty. Hitherto forestry was being treated as a discipline under Faculty of Agriculture. As and when Chancellor gives his assent to this

"Mis-match of processing technology and Post-harvest technology should be ended. Population Control is also a very critical element. Population growth can be limited if people have a duty towards those who are not yet born, that duty is not to give them existence but to give them happiness". He concluded.

Dr. K. R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor welcomed the gathering. Highlighting the achievements of KAU and contributions of Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair for the institution's advancement, the Vice - chancellor also stressed the need for enhanced Government support for the University.

Sri. P. C. Chacko MP delivered special address. Sri. M. P. Vincent MLA presided over the function. Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension paid a tribute to Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair while Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan introduced the chief guest. Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha, Registrar presented a memento to Dr. Swaminathan and Dr. P. S. Geethakutty proposed vote of thanks.

Dr. Michael Trewan explained the activities and specific areas of interest of his institution. Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha, Registrar; Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension; Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research; Dr. P. K. Asokan, Director, Academic; Dr. B. Mohankumar, Associate Dean, CoF; Dr. C. T. Abraham, Associate Dean, CoH; Dr. A. Sukumaran, Associate Dean, CCBM; Dr. M. Sivaswamy, Dean, Agrl. Engg and other senior officers part took in the discussions.

statute the number of faculties will become three. The General Council has also decided to establish an Agricultural Policy Research centre to ensure persistent monitoring of need based research activities and follow up.

The annual report for 2010-11 was approved by the General Council. The meeting chaired by Dr. K. R. Viswambharan was attended by Executive Committee Member Sri. M. P. Vincent MLA and E. K. Prakash, Spl. Secretary (Finance). Dr. K. Anilkumar, Sri. K. Sunil Kumar, Prof. M. Muraleedharan, Dr. Arthur Jacob, Dr. Jose Joseph, Dr. Jiju. P. Alex, Sri. V. S. Sathyaseelan, Sri. K. Gireendrababu, Sri. P. G. Baburaj, Sri. N. M. Mohanan, Sri. Avinash Reji Thomas and Sri. Achuth J. Sankar participated.

Scientists listen to farmers on Farmers' Day

Departing from the conventional methods KAU Scientists lent a listening ear to Farmers on the Farmers' day Celebrations on Chingam 1 this year.

The interface with Farmers organized at KAU's Communications Centre on the auspicious day was presided over by Raju Narayanan, winner of the State Young farmer Award. He stressed the need to promote farm mechanization to mitigate the adverse effects of labour shortage and also proposed that every family should strive to cultivate vegetables in their backyard.

The meet was attended by a large group of farmers from different parts of the District and scientists led by Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha, Registrar; Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension & Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research. It was organized as a prelude to state level farmer interfaces planned by the University.

Eritrea seeks Collaboration with Kerala Agricultural University

Tekeste Ghebrimedhin Zemuy, Counsellor, Eritrean Embassy in India sought co-operation between his country and KAU in the field of Agricultural Education & Research.

On a special visit to KAU where several students from Eritrea are pursuing studies in Agriculture and Agri-business management, the Eritrean Counsellor held talks with Dr. K. R. Viswambharan, Vice - Chancellor, Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha, Registrar, Dr. P. K. Asokan (Academic Director) and other Officials.

'The Eritrean students in KAU are happy. I appreciate the facilities extended to them and thank the KAU authorities on behalf of all Eritreans. I look forward for wider and stronger collaboration with KAU', Tekeste Ghebrimedhin Zemuy said.

Haritholsavam through the lens



Padmabhushan Dr. K.J. Yesudas signifies food security



K. Jayakumar IAS inaugurating Symposium



Valedictory Function in progress



A glimpse of the stalls

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Development Should Emerge from.....

over by M. P. Vincent MLA. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. K. R. Viswambharan welcomed the gathering. Shasidhar, CGM, NABARD delivered the keynote address. Peoples' representatives, Lead farmers and KAU Officers participated.

The valedictory function was inaugurated by Kodyeri Balakrishnan, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Kerala Assembly. Dr. Jamelaprakasam MLA presided. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. K. R. Viswambharan; Dean (Agri) Dr. Sverup John; Director of Extension Dr. P. V. Balachandran; People's representatives and General Council members offered felicitations.

KAU hosts Workshop on GI User Registration

An Awareness Workshop on "GI's-User Registration" jointly organised by Kerala Agricultural University and WTO Cell, Government of Kerala was held on 2nd September 2011 at College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara. The workshop intended to educate the producers and traders of registered GIs in Kerala about the importance, relevance and modalities of GI User registration was inaugurated by Dr. K. R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor called for retention and protection of indigenous produces as well as age old food habits, which can play a crucial role in mitigating many health hazards. He pointed out that KAU is the only University in Kerala to

have succeeded in obtaining GI registrations for important agricultural goods.

The Inaugural function was attended by Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research, KAU, Dr. Jiju P. Alex, Member KAU GC, Dr. A. Augustine, Assoc. Dir. of Research and Dr. C. T. Abraham, Assoc. Dean, College of Hort. Dr. S. Regina, Special Officer, WTO-Cell, Govt. of Kerala, Dr. C. R. Elsy, Coordinator, KAU IPR Cell and Adv. Biju K. Nambiar, IPR Practitioner conducted technical sessions. Sixty odd farmers from different parts of the state along with traders, officials of State Dept. of Agriculture, scientists, students of KAU etc. participated in the workshop.

Farm Mechanisation to gather momentum

Mechanisation in Agriculture will get a real boost with the advent of National Mission on mechanisation in the XIIth Plan, said Dr. Surendra Singh, Project Director (Farm Implements & Machinery), Central Institute of Agricultural engineering, Bhopal. He was inaugurating the meet of agricultural manufacturers in Kerala sponsored by ICAR and hosted by KAU at Thrissur.

Dr. Singh pointed out that the mission on mechanization will have an outlay of Rs. 6000 crores. 'At present the facilities for production, testing and quality control of farm machinery in the country is limited to four zonal centers. Recognising the inadequacy we have already succeeded in getting sanction for twenty more centers in different parts of the country and one of them is at KAU.'

Dr. Singh said.

Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research, KAU presided. Dr. M. Sivaswamy, Dean (Agri Engg); G. Jayachandran, (State Agricultural Engineer) & Dr. U. Jayakumaran were present. About 150 manufacturers of agricultural implements and machinery from different parts of Kerala partook in the conclave.

AGRICULTURAL MINISTER CALLS FOR POPULARISATION OF SCIENTIFIC FARM JOURNALS



Minister for Agriculture and KAU Pro Chancellor K.P.Mohanan called for popularisation of Scientific Agricultural Journals so as to inculcate agricultural insight in future generations. He was speaking after releasing the revived agricultural publication *Kalpadhenu*, *KAU at a glance* and *Krishi panchangam* and launching Harithasree and Falasree projects of the Kerala Agricultural University.

After releasing *Kalpadhenu* by handing over copies to Smt. Jessy P Jacob, Principal Agricultural Officer; Smt. Sathi Chandragupthan and Haseena Sulaiman, winners of Karshaka thilakam and Udyana shreshta awards of State Government and Avinash Reji Thomas, student representative in KAU GC, the Minister received copies of English and Malayalam Brochures on KAU from Sri. M.P.Vincent MLA, Member KAU EC who presided over the function. The lead farmers received the first Copy of *Krishipanchangam* from the Minister.

'It is with the view of educating up coming generations on scientific agricultural practices that the Government has decided to issue free copies of Kerala karshakan to all schools. Even as all agricultural journals serve the farming community, the one published by KAU would be more effective because of its scientific content. I appreciate the efforts taken by KAU Extension wing to bring out the new publications and congratulate those who worked behind them.' The Minister said.

Kalpadhenu the first and foremost agricultural periodical in Malayalam was being revived after several years. Malayalam and English versions of Institutional profile was published by Public relations Wing of the University. The revised and updated edition of *Krishi panchangam*, which delineates seasonal operations for plant protection and propagation, is brought out by Communication Centre.

These publications are meant to disseminate contemporary agricultural news, provide essential information on the institution and equip farmers with first-hand knowledge on crop improvement and plant protection methods.

The minister formally launched the Harithasree and Falasree projects aimed at intensive vegetable cultivation and agroforestry farming models by planting vegetables and fruit plants. A Xylarium in College of Forestry was also opened by the Minister. Later the Minister paid a visit to GVHSS, Puthukkad where the first batch of Green Cadet Corps (GCC) was launched.

Dr. K. R.Viswambharan, Vice - Chancellor welcomed the gathering while Dr. P.B. Pushpalatha proposed vote of thanks. Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension, explained the relevance of publications brought out while Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research presented a report on Harithasree and Falasree projects. Dr. T.E. George and Dr. B. Mohankumar, leaders of the two projects handed over the relevant documents to the Minister.

Seminar on Poison free Farming: Thrust on organic farming practices

Popularisation of organic farming and providing marketing support for organic produces through dedicated sales outlets is the only practical solution to arrest decline of agriculture, said noted writer and social critic Madamp Kunjukuttan.

He was delivering the key note address in the district level agricultural seminar on poison free farming organised by Kerala Agricultural University at Thrissur.

'Farmers cannot be held responsible for agricultural lands turning fallow. The nature have abundant resources to feed every one provided it is properly cared and nurtured, but it cannot and will not respond to greed.' Madamp opined.

The seminar was inaugurated by K.V. Dasan, President, District Panchayat. 'Let this seminar be a good beginning for a poison free district. Let this pave way for a district population devoid of health hazards caused by indiscreet pesticide use

of farmers in neighbouring states. Let Thrissur become a model in this concept. I congratulate KAU for this significant and relevant initiative, he said.

Dr. R. M. Prasad, Associate Director of Extension presided. The topic was introduced by Dr. Joy Mathew, Prof. & Head, CTI; Dr. Jiju P Alex, Member, KAU GC; Dr. P. S. John, Prof. of Agronomy and Dr. Jim Thomas, Prof. & Head, Communication Centre participated.

The seminar provided expert inputs in to Integrated Pest Control management incorporating mechanical and biological methods. The speakers explained how organically oriented plant protection schemes can meet the viability and sustainability parameters in Agriculture. Dr. Estelitta, Dr. K. R. Lyla, Dr. Koshy Abraham and Dr. Mani chellappan piloted the discussions. Nearly 300 farmers from different parts of the District attended the seminar.

Friends of Coconut; Training in KVKs

The *friends of Coconut* programme under which enthusiastic youth are trained in coconut climbing, harvesting and pollination methods, pest control measures and identification of nuts launched by Coconut development Board (CDB) in association with KAU was conducted at the KVKs in all the Districts of Kerala.

The programme aims to train at least 5000 youth in the coconut care operations. Each trainee, on successful completion of the training will get a climbing machine. A project to arrange a two wheeler and a mobile phone through bank loan is also on the anvil. In the light of scarcity of manpower in this sector each youth becoming a *friend of Coconut* will be able to earn a steady and handsome income.