



Fitting farewell to a Popular VC

Speakers hail contributions, humane approach of Dr.K.R.Viswambharan



Minister for Agriculture, K. P. Mohanan described Dr. K. R. Viswambharan as a model administrator who knew the pulse of common people.

Inaugurating the public meeting held to bid farewell to the outgoing VC, the Minister said that K.R. Viswambharan possessed an outstanding ability to convert confrontation to conciliation. 'He handled many volatile situations with aplomb. In KAU he launched several new generation

courses, created a farmer friendly face for the University, cared for the internal population and stakeholders alike and collected many awards. His tenure was a landmark phase in KAU's history'.

'The kole land project, Food security army concept and proposal for Green cadet Corps in schools would not have materialised but for his positive thinking and pragmatic approach. I hope I can rely on his experience and thinking in future as well. I wish him all the very best in future endeavours' K.P.Mohanan elaborated. The Minister also presented a memento to Dr. Viswambharan on behalf of KAU Community.

M.P. Vincent, MLA in his presidential address said that K.R. Viswambharan is the most popular VC, Kerala has ever seen. 'Down to earth, very practical

and highly innovative, he had a passion to the downtrodden. His approach is worth emulating. I enjoyed my stint as Executive Committee member with him', the MLA said.

Padmasree Bharath Mammatty said that Viswambharan handled every responsibility entrusted with him in a unique manner. 'He was our leader in College life. He continued to play that role in all walks of life. I am eager to see what he is upto after March 28', Mammatty quipped while handing over an album of events during Dr. Viswambharan's tenure to him.

K.R. Jyothilal IAS, Secretary (Agriculture) said that he wish to take advantage of the congenial atmosphere K.R. Viswambharan created in KAU. 'I appreciate his humane approach and abilities. I wish him all the best'.



Perhaps the most relevant tributes came from Mohanan, Unni and Viswanathan, farmer representatives from Palakkad who came all the way to greet a distinguished friend. They also carried special mementoes to the Vice-Chancellor whom they called as 'our motivator'. Dignitaries such as Thirissur Corpn. Mayor I.P.Paul, Dist.. Panchayath President K. V. Dasan, CUSAT VC Dr. Ramachandran Thekkedath, KUFOSVC Dr. B. M. Kurup, District Collector

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Seedless Watermelon Developed



Scientists at Department of Olericulture, College of Horticulture, KAU have succeeded in developing the first yellow fleshed seedless watermelon hybrid in India.

The accomplishment was achieved through a KSCSTE funded research project entitled Developing Seedless watermelon suitable to Kerala through polyploidy and mutation breeding. It

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Academic Performance KAU Bags National Award Again

When Kerala Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Dr. K. R. Viswambharan received the ICAR academic performance award from Union Minister for Agriculture on 17 Feb '12 it came as a double delight for him.

The award cake itself was sweet but the icing on it is that Dr. Viswambharan himself was Vice-Chancellor on all five occasions, which is also a unique feat. 'I am proud of the KAU community in general and students and teachers in particular. I wish KAU will continue with the good work in



Union Minister Sharad Pawar congratulates KAU VC

future also,' beaming Dr. Viswambharan said. Agricultural Minister Sharad Pawar and ICAR Director General Dr. S. Ayyappan lauded the achievement of KAU. K. P. Mohanan, Minister for Agriculture, Kerala and Pro Chancellor of KAU also hailed the unique feat of securing the award for five years in a row.

K.R. Jyothilal assumes Charge as KAU VC

K. R. Jyothilal IAS, Secretary to Government (Agriculture) has taken over additional charge of KAU Vice-Chancellor with effect from 28 February following the completion of tenure of Dr. K.R. Viswambharan.



Governor and Chancellor of the University ordered the charge arrangement pending appointment of a regular Vice-chancellor.

Budget Plans New faculties, Courses and Centres

KAU budget 2012-13 envisages establishment of new infrastructural facilities, modernisation of administration and strengthening of academic, research and extension activities.

Presenting a 332.92 crore budget in the 113rd meeting of KAU General Council held at College of Agriculture, Vellayani Executive Committee member M.P. Vincent MLA, thanked the Union Government for the special grant and State Government for enhancement of non-plan grant.

Terming the 2012-13 budget as the

gateway to 12th plan, M.P. Vincent MLA highlighted the academic and research accomplishments of the university during the past five years. The budget envisages Affiliated Colleges, New PG programmes, agri polyclinics in all Regional stations and efforts to popularise farm mechanisation.

In the Research arena, focus will be on hi-tech agriculture, protected cultivation and precision farming. Research Centres for vegetables and fruits are planned under Idukki package.

Extension will be strengthened and activities of KV Ks will be streamlined.

A media centre, Agri-super bazar, technology museum, international training institute, Annual farmers' science congress and mega agri fairs are also envisaged.

Students' facilities will be upgraded, new central placement cell will come into being and convocation will be made an annual affair.

Dr. K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, addressing his last GC, thanked one and all for the support extended to him during his tenure. He hoped that the University will achieve further heights in the years to come.

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Foundation Stone laid for Climate Academy

Minister for Agriculture K.P.Mohan laid the foundation Stone for Academy of Climate Change Education and Research. In a function held at KAU HQ on 26 March, Minister stressed the relevance of climate change education and offered all help to the academy.

Dr. K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor; K.R. Jyothilal IAS, Secretary (Agriculture); Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha, Registrar; Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research; Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension; Dr. Sverup John, Dean (Agriculture); T.S. Majeed, Comptroller and other officers of the University participated. The Academy building to house lecture halls, labs and offices will be built at KAU Campus at a cost of 3crores.

Record yield in Farm trials with Factmix

The collaborative field experiment of KAU Communication centre and FACT has yielded record crop of paddy in Alappuzha, Thrissur and Palakkad districts.

Factmix, a crop customized fertilizer mixture for rice with nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potash introduced by FACT in 2011-12, proved its worth in scaling down fertilizer costs and inducing high yield.

A comparison of 70% of PoP recommended dose and 70% of farmer practiced dose of Factmix was made with 100% normal fertilizer application during demonstration trials in selected padasekharams extending over 120 acres in the three districts.

While the average yield in all the three districts is much higher than that obtained from normal fertilizer practices, the highest yield crossed 11 tonnes/ha.

Academic Book Fair at CCBM

An academic Book fair conducted at College of Cooperation, Banking & Management was inaugurated by Sri. K. Ramachandran, noted travelogue writer. Dr. K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor presided. CCBM Assoc. Dean Dr. A. Sukumaran, KAU Librarian K.P. Sathyan and Dr. Philip Sabu spoke. Over one lakh books from different streams were exhibited.

Academic Council Moots increase in stipends; New Department & PG Course in Seed technology

KAU Academic Council meeting held on March 13 decided to enhance grants and stipends to students and establish a new Department of Seed technology at College of Horticulture (CoH), Vellanikkara, and a PG course in the discipline.

'The new department will facilitate more studies and research in this thrust area. KAU is looking forward to institute more new job oriented and need based courses. We also wish

to recast syllabi of all courses in tune with global trends', said Dr. K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor.

The annual research contingency fund for M.Sc. students will be enhanced from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 40,000 and that for PhD scholar from Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 60,000. The fellowship for PG will be raised from Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,500 while Ph.D. fellowship will be raised from Rs. 800 to Rs. 2,000 per month. UG students

will henceforth receive Rs. 8,000 per month for the RAWE programme. They were being paid just Rs. 1,500 per month.

The meeting chaired by Vice-Chancellor was attended by Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha, Registrar; Dr. P.K. Asokan, Director (Academic); Deans of faculties and Directors of Extension and Research and elected representatives of Teachers and Students.

HUNDRED CRORE SPECIAL CENTRAL AID FOR KAU

In the wake of announcement of a 100 crore special grant by Union Government to KAU the University Community accorded a grand reception to P. C. Chacko MP in recognition of his invaluable help.

'We are grateful to the Union Government and Agricultural Minister. We acknowledge and appreciate the help of P.C. Chacko MP, who was instrumental in realizing this dream. Though KAU's accomplishments have been consistent, this is the first time that the achievements are acknowledged', said Dr. K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor.

M. P. Vincent MLA echoed similar

feelings. 'We all know that KAU has been ranked top in the country consecutively for the last five years. The research contributions has been recognized the world over. The Kannur KVK was judged the best among all the KVKs in the nation. Let me thank P.C. Chacko MP for the invaluable help'.

P.C. Chacko, in his address said that the grant, if utilized properly, will attract more support from the centre. 'Prove your capabilities and pave way for more funding. KAU is one among the two Universities sanctioned such a grant this year. I'll be with you and we together should be able to raise this University to the level of an international Centre of excellence' he said.



P.C. Chacko MP being received by Vice-Chancellor & MLA

University officers such as Registrar, Comptroller, Directors of Extension, Research, Academic, Physical Plant and Planning; Associate Deans of Colleges; Associate Directors; Leaders of Service Organisations and Labour Unions spoke.

KAU and Oushadhi Plan Joint Ventures



Johny Nellore, Dr. K.R. Viswambharan, R. R. Sukla IFS explain the joint programme

KAU & Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M), Kerala Ltd. (OUSHADHI) has decided to initiate and institutionalise new avenues of mutual collaboration in identified fields.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. K.R. Viswambharan and Oushadhi Chairman Johny Nellore said that several fields of activity have been identified for collaborative operation

to benefit the public. The two institutions will soon sign a MoU for this, they said.

R.R. Sukla IFS, MD, Oushadhi; KAU Scientists Dr. K. Aravindakshan and Dr. Sajan Kurien; Oushadhi personnel Raghunandan Menon, Sasidharan, Vinitha, Dr. K. Gopalan, Dr. P.M. Chandrasekharan and Dr. Sheela Karalam took part in the deliberations.

WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

A three day workshop to educate stake holders about the trends, features, opportunities and challenges perceived in international trade of crops and products was held at College of Horticulture from 23 Feb. 2012.

The workshop jointly organized by KAU, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and Union Ministry of agriculture was inaugurated by Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research, in a function presided over by Dr.

C.T. Abraham, Associate Dean, CoH, K. Unnikrishnan, Regional Director, Federation of Indian Export Organisations, Dr. A. Sukumaran, Assoc. Dean, CCBM, Dr. N. Rajan Nair, Dr. A. Prema, Dr. Jayasree Krishnankutty and Dr. Anil Kuruvila spoke.

Officers of Government departments, Commodity boards, entrepreneurs, farmers, agri-traders, representatives of NGOs involved in agri-marketing, exporters and academics attended the workshop.

Students make a Fest of harvest

The harvesting of paddy and tapioca crops cultivated by the students of CoH, Vellanikkara was inaugurated by Directors of Extension and Research, Associate Deans and Associate Directors along with course teachers in a festival atmosphere.

While the teachers and senior officers ventured on to the field for harvesting students rejoiced and sang the harvesting tunes of yesteryears.

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Farewell to Dr. K.R.Viswambharan

P.M.Francis and Press Club president Joy Mannur spoke.

Dr. P.B.Pushpalatha, Registrar welcomed the gathering and Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension proposed vote of thanks. Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research; Dr. P.K. Asokan, Director (Academics); Dr. Sverup John, Dean (Agri.); Dr. Sivaswamy, Dean (Agri. Engg.) and other officers of the University also praised contributions of Dr. K.R.Viswambharan.

Leaders of Service Organisations and Labour Unions, B.Shiras; C.V.Poulose; Dr.P.K. Rajeevan; Dr.T.Pradeepkumar; Dr.Usha; K.V.Jose; Joseph Perumpilli and E. Kunjuni Menon also hailed the outgoing VC's approach and attitudes.

In his reply Dr.Viswambharan thanked one and all for the love, regards and appreciation showered on him. 'I am overwhelmed by the amount of affection bestowed on me. I have always been a team man and will continue as such. I thank everyone for



Comptroller presenting a memento their help, support and contribution for my efforts to KAU's development', he said.

FELLOWSHIPS TO KAU STUDENTS

Gleena Mary C.F and Jyothi Sara Jacob, PhD Scholars of CoH, Vellankkara have been selected for Maulana Azad National fellowship implemented by Central Government through UGC. While Gleena Mary is studying the **Efficiency of Ligno phenolic compost in the suppression of soil borne plant pathogens**, Jyothi Sara is researching on **Biotic agents for the management of American Serpentine leaf minor *Liriomyza trifolii***.

Deepa James, another PhD scholar has been awarded DST Fellowship for research on **Enhancement of resistance to bacterial wilt in tomato by entophytic microbial communities**.

R 4 D in Agriculture

KAU and ICRISAT Sign MoU



Dr. K.R. Viswambharan and Dr. William D Dar signing the MoU

Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) and International Crops Research institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for intensive co-operation and collaboration in agricultural research for development,

advanced training and related academic activities.

Dr.K.R.Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, KAU and Dr. William D Dar, Director General, ICRISAT signed the MoU in a function held at Hyderabad on March 2. Senior Officers of the two institutes participated.

The MoU envisage joint operations to explore and forewarn the emergence of new crop pest and diseases, develop saline/flood/heat/drought tolerant varieties through biotechnology tools, strengthen research in Social Sciences and provide access to the students and faculty at higher level of learning.

International Refresher course on Crop Management

An International refresher course on Integrated Crop Management for Tropical Horticultural Crops was hosted by KAU in association with Centre for Development Innovation (CDI), Wageningen University, Netherlands.

The course held at Thiruvananthapuram in October - November was inaugurated by K. P. Mohanan,

Minister for Agriculture, in a function presided over by Jameela Prakasam, MLA. Dr. K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Siert Wiersma, Wageningen University; Dr. Sverup John, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture; Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research; Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension; Dr. K. Prathapan, Director, SHM and

members of KAU General Council participated.

The course funded by Nuffic was attended by twenty five delegates from Egypt, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and India, participated in the programme. Dr. M.S. Sheela, Associate Director, Dr. Siert Wiersma, CDI and V.K. Girija coordinated the course.

Annual Review of KVK Programmes

The Annual Review cum Action plan meeting of KVK's in Kerala, Goa, and Lakshadweep held at KVK Thrissur on 9th and 10th of March 2012 was inaugurated by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. K.R. Viswambharan. Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension, KAU presided over the inaugural function.

Dr. S. Prabukumar, Zonal project Director, Zone VIII of ICAR presented the Zonal Perspectives and

expectations.

The Vice-Chancellor also released the revised edition of *Inventory of Agricultural technologies in Kerala* by handing over the first copy to Dr. M.J. Chandra Gowda, Principal Scientist, Zonal Project Directorate.

Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research, KAU; and Dr. B.T. Rayudu, Scientist, Zonal Project Directorate participated. Dr. Koshy Abraham, Head, KVK, Thrissur proposed vote of thanks.

IFS First rank For KAU student

Keerthi R. of KAU Forestry College, secured the first rank in Indian Forest Service Selection 2011. Three



other graduates of College of Forestry has also been selected to IFS in 2011. They are Mr. Sumesh Soman (20th rank), Mr. Samom Khelen Singh (68th rank) and Mr. Rohini Ballave Saiki (73rd rank).

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Seedless Watermelon

is the first time in India that public sector research tasted success in producing seedless yellow fleshed watermelon. Dr. T. Pradeepkumar, Associate Professor and Principal Investigator of the project said that major impediment in the development of seedless watermelon in India was non availability of locally adoptable stable tetraploids. Hitherto Triploid hybrid seeds were being imported and marketed in India at a very high cost by private agencies.



Dr. T. Pradeepkumar with seedless yellow & seeded red watermelons

Dr. Pradeepkumar and team isolated a stable tetraploid and indigenously developed a triploid to cross with a diploid cultivar having desirable horticultural characters to produce triploid hybrids. Seedless fruits borne on these triploid plants in 90-95 days are characterized by bright yellow flesh, medium size (2 kg) and high TSS (11° Brix).

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. K.R. Viswambharan, Director of Research Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Extension Dr. P.V. Balachandran and Associate Director of Research (Vegetables) Dr. T.E. George congratulated Dr. Pradeep and fellow scientists.

ISO Accreditation for KAU Laboratory

Pesticide Residue Research and Analytical Laboratory under the AINP on Pesticide Residues, College of Agriculture, Vellayani of Kerala Agricultural University has been accorded ISO 17025 : 2005 accreditation by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).

No other public sector lab in Kerala is accredited by NABLs.

The accreditation empowers Vellayani lab to conduct pesticide residual tests and issue authentic test results with NABL logo. The lab functioning under the leadership of Dr. S. Naseema Beevi is accredited for analysis of diverse samples for estimation of pesticide residues in fruits, vegetables, cereals, pulses, surface water and groundwater. Public can make use of the services of the laboratory at nominal charges.

Diploma Course, HRD centre & ERP tools inaugurated Agri Minister lauds modernization moves

Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan hailed the Academic Excellence achieved by Kerala Agricultural University, which has helped it to secure first position among State Agrivarsities and ICAR institutes in India for five consecutive years.

He was speaking after launching new programmes and facilities in KAU on Friday, February 17. Minister inaugurated the reintroduced Diploma Course in Agriculture at RARS, Pattambi, a new HRD Centre and Health club at CTI, Mannuthy, and two new ERP tools developed indigenously by KAU IT Personnel.

Inaugurating the HRD Centre

attached to CTI, Mannuthy, the Minister stressed the need of appropriate HRD programmes and the relevance of such programmes in enhancing efficiency of administration, Education and Research. 'Agriculture is the most healthy culture in the world. Earlier generations were aware of this and had inherent knowledge about practice of HRD options suitable to each individual. I am happy that scientifically organized HRD tools are given importance in KAU', he said.

Minister also received a proposal for establishing an international training institute at Mannuthy from M.P.Vincent MLA,

member of KAU EC. The first crop of Chinese savoi cabbage, a variety suited for salads cultivated in Kerala for the first time was presented to Minister by Dr. U. Jaikumaran, Prof & Head, ARS, Mannuthy.

KAU is the first University in India to develop a complete ERP package using indigenous resources. The two new ERP tools, UPAST (University Pension Administration System) and USIST (University Sales Information System), launched by the Minister denotes another significant leap in e-governance in KAU.

The functions were attended by M.P.Vincent MLA; C.P.Muhammed MLA; T.N.Kandamuthan, Palakkad



Agricultural Minister inaugurates HRD Centre at CTI, Mannuthy

District Panchayat president; Dr. P.B. Pushpalatha, Registrar; Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension; T.S. Majeed, Comptroller; Dr. I. Johnkutty, Dr. V.K.Raju and Dr. A. Augustine, Assoc. Directors of Research; Dr. Joy Mathew; Dr. Jacob Thundiyl, Roy Varghese and M. Viswanathan Nair.

KAU SCIENTIST BAGS PRIZE IN GLOBAL MEET



among 300 entries from different countries including 190 presentations from India. Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan, KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. K.R.Viswambharan, Registrar Dr. P.B.Pushpalatha and Director of Extension Dr. P.V. Balachandran congratulated Sajeena on the achievement .

S. Sajeena of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) won the second prize in poster presentation in the Global Conference on Women in Agriculture (GCWA) held at New Delhi from March 13 - 15. She is the only Indian in the list of prize winners. The first prize was won by Philippines and third by Sri Lanka.

A Soil scientist with Malappuram Krishi Vigyan Kendra of KAU, Sajeena received the prize from President of India Prathiba Patil on 15th March 2012.

Her presentation on Empowerment of rural women through rice mechanization in Malappuram district of Kerala was ranked in top three from

KAU Launch Agri web portal

A Bi lingual Agro-tech portal has been launched by KAU. The portal, a shelf of Agricultural Knowledge Information Systems designed by the Centre for e learning , was launched by Dr. K. R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor on 21 March.

The Vice-Chancellor described new web portal as an agricultural information gateway to convert *knowhow* to *do how*.

It includes ICT enabled services such as *krishi jaalakam*, an illustrated e-window for farmers, easy to use expert systems on crop nutrient management, Crop protection and other cyber extension packages. The portal is available in Malayalam and English versions.

Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Dir. of Research; Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension; Dr. C.T. Abraham, Assoc. Dean, CoH, Dr. B. Mohankumar, Assoc. Dean, CoF; Dr. A.Sukumaran, Assoc. Dean, CCBM; Dr. Sajan Kurien, Director, Planning; Prof. K.M. Nair, Director, CITI; Dr. Pathummal Beevi, ADR; Dr. A. Augustine, ADR; Dr. U.Jaikumaran, Prof. & Head, ARS; Dr. F.M.H. Khaleel, HoD, Dept. of Extn; Dr. P. Ahmed; Director, CeL; Sheela Mohammed, PAO and Dr. Zakeer Hussain spoke.

Package of Practices (crops)-2011 released

The Package of Practices(crops) 2011 edition was released by K.P. Mohanan, Minister for Agriculture in a simple function held at KAU HQ on 26 March 2012.

While handing over the first copy of new edition to Dr.K.R.Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, the Minister congratulated the Extension wing and Compilation team for having brought out the compendium in an attractive manner.

K.R.Jyothilal IAS, Secretary to Govt. (Agriculture); Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha, Registrar; Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension; Dr. T. R.Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research; Dr. Sverup John, Dean (Agri); T.S.Majeed, Comptroller; Dr. Jim Thomas, Professor & Head, Communication Centre; Dr. Estelitta, Coordinator, and members of compilation team participated.

The new edition of this compendium of agricultural practices includes the details of new varieties of paddy, coconut, vegetables and medicinal plants released by the University. While excluding banned chemicals the package has incorporated non hazardous substitutes.



Agri. Minister Releasing Package of Practices (crops) 2011 edition