



KAU NEWS

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Centres of Excellence to strengthen research plans to boost planting material production, income generation

A brainstorming session of KAU officers convened by Minister for Agriculture and University Pro-Chancellor K. P. Mohanan proposed Eight Centres of Excellence to augment specific research and production of planting materials and bio agents.

The session held at Government Guest House, Thycaud on 12 February was attended by scientists from all research stations under KAU, Vice-Chancellor and other Officers of the University as well as the Agricultural Production Commissioner. The session conducted an effective SWOT analysis of each research station and mooted creative suggestions to improve the functioning, income as well as public perception of KAU.

Addressing the scientists, Minister said that the University is carrying out a good amount of research and academic work which directly and indirectly benefits Kerala's economy. He said that the Government intends to make Kerala an organic state and the programmes in this direction should be piloted by KAU. 'KAU should

be able to lead the revival of agriculture in Kerala and redress the issues in the sector. Not an inch of land should be left fallow and new technologies needs to be generated and popularised to mitigate climate change issues. I am happy to see the response and feedback from different KAU stations' Minister said.



Pro-Chancellor K. P. Mohanan and Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran

Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor said that the new Centres of excellence will enhance the efficiency of agricultural management through research activities pertinent to respective sectors and assure supply of quality planting materials and bio control agents.

The conclave also mooted proposals for income generation, energy management, delinking of research and production activities and active interface with line departments and other R&D institutions.

Proposed Centres of Excellence

Centres for research on Farming Systems at Kumarakom (wetland ecosystem), Vyttila (coastal rice ecosystem) & Mannuthy (Koleland); Centre for farm mechanisation (ARS, Mannuthy & KCAET, Tavanur); Centre for Biotechnology and Secondary Agriculture (Vellayani & Vellanikkara); Centre for Rice Research and development (Pattambi); Centre for spices, cool season vegetables and subtropical fruits (Ambalavayal); Centre for Protected cultivation and Precision farming (Vellanikkara); Centre for Production of Seeds and Planting materials (Vellanikkara, Vellayani and Anakkayam) and Centre for Biofertilisers and Bio Control agents (Vellayani and Vellanikkara).

KAU budget eyes conservation of Resources and functional reforms

KAU Budget 2013 - 14 envisages ambitious plans for conservation of energy, water and soil and reforms in academic, research and extension fronts.

The budget with an outlay of Rs. 480.64 Crore was presented by Thomas Unniyadan MLA in the 116th meeting of General Council held under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran on 23 March at KAU HQ.

The budget envisions a comprehensive technological back up for fallow less Kerala and plans to enhance internal revenue of KAU by competitive pricing of technological and consultancy



Thomas Unniyadan MLA presenting KAU budget in the General Council meeting held on March 23. EC member Dr. Jose Joseph, Vice Chancellor & Registrar are also seen

services. New Post Graduate Courses in Agri-Biotechnology and Bio Informatics, Agri Business Manage-

ment Graduates Course in self-supporting mode, Vocational Diploma and Certificate Courses in agri related subjects are planned.

The meeting was attended by Executive Committee members I. C. Balakrishnan MLA, Dr. Jose Joseph, Adv. Sony Sebastian, P.A. Salam & Baby Balambrath; GC members P. A. Madhavan MLA, Dr. A. Anilkumar, Dr. Jiju P Alex, K. Sunilkumar, V.S. Sathya Seelan, Dr. Abdul Hakim, P. G. Baburaj, K. Gireendrababu, P. A. Ramanibai, I. K. Raveendraraj, Avinash Reji Thomas, M. N. Mohanan, Francis Kombara, Dr. Mary Regina, Dr. Arthur Jacob & Dr. S. Devanesan; Registrar and other officers of the University.

BUDGET PROGRAMMES

Development of a F1 hybrid in rice, Switch over to solar energy, water harvesting mechanisms, utilising organic waste for Bio-gas in Hostels and Labs, location specific research projects, Collaboration with international research institutions of repute and PSUs, Strengthening research in vegetables, fruit crops and coconut, small farm mechanisation, thrust on secondary agriculture, ICT enabled linkage between research and field activities, New Agri Polytechnics at Haripad and Koothuparamba. KAU mall and Mobile sales units, Media resource centre and Convention centre cum guest house.

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KAU to lead Pudukkad Bio diversity Project

KAU will lead the implementation of a novel project for bio diversity conservation in Pudukkad Assembly Constituency in Thrissur District.

The Project initiated by KAU GC member Prof. C. Raveendranath MLA envisages cultivation of indigenous heritage plants and trees for twin purposes-conservation of species that are becoming extinct or neglected and commercial exploitation of world market to ensure financial stability for the project.

A meeting of KAU scientists led by Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension held on Friday evening formulated a blueprint for the project. Prof. Raveendranath MLA chaired the meeting.

'KAU will provide the technical back up and expertise. The first phase of planting will be in campuses of the seventy nine school and fifty odd worship places in the constituency. Conservation of biodiversity to arrest the erosion of gene pool and sustainable income for implementing agencies are major goals.

Bio diversity register will be maintained at unit and panchayat levels. Motivating common man and educating future generations on necessity and importance of conserving our heritage and bio-diversity is another goal of the project. We can't convince people by preaching alone and hence creating real models is planned' Prof. Raveendranath explained.

Dr. P. V. Balachandran said that the project involves collection and conservation of germplasm of all indigenous plants and trees. 'There will be separate plots for Medicinal plants, banana, coconut, pulses & cereals, flowers, vegetables, minor fruits, tubers and tree crops. We will start with preparation of specific project protocols, identification of species/varieties and bio diversity mapping of the project area.' He explained.

The meeting held at Directorate of Extension was attended by scientists assigned with cropwise projects, Agricultural officers in Pudukkad Constituency and officers of the University.



Minister of Agriculture K. P. Mohanan inaugurating Harvest festival of Kaipad ezhome varieties in the experiment plot of College of Agriculture, Padannakkad in Ezhome Grama Panchayath, Kannur district. T.V. Rajesh MLA chaired the function.

THRISSUR KVK BRINGS OUT A BOX OF BOOKS

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran released a packet of twelve booklets, christened *krishivijnaanappetti*, brought out by Thrissur KVK on April 26. The Vice-Chancellor handed over the first copy of bookbox to R. T. Ravivarma Thampuran, the octogenarian farm



R. T. Ravivarma Thampuran (Seeri) Receives the first copy of *Krishivijnaanappetti*, the collection of twelve booklets brought out by Thrissur KVK from Dr. P. Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor

journalist. The booklets, without being highly technical, delineate nuances of rabbit rearing, goat farming, fruit & vegetable processing, cultivation of nutmeg in homesteads, agri machinery for homesteads, tuber cultivation and bio gas from kitchen waste.

KVK also honoured the veteran for his contributions to farm journalism. An agri information touch screen providing technical information on agricultural activities installed at the KVK was inaugurated by Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension. KVK Head Dr. Ranjan S Karippai offered welcome and Dr. Rahmath Niza proposed vote of thanks.

FDI policy not in favour of farmers: Management expert

FDI in retail may not augur well for farmers and producers of perishable goods, said Dr. Sukhpal Singh, Professor, IIM, Ahmedabad.

Inaugurating a Seminar on FDI in retail organized by College of Co-operation, Banking & Manangement, Dr. Singh said that the reality is far from myths on FDI propagated by the proponents of new policy.

'The benefits projected like better price to farmers, lakhs of new jobs and benefit to consumers are not true if the experience of western society as well as that of Indian Metros are any indication. FDI policy puts downward pressure on producer prices with higher costs and responsibilities, exclude small producers, and cause decline of the traditional wholesale and retail markets which are important for small producers.' He said.

'Bigger buyer need not lead to higher price as prices are more about bargaining power especially in Perishable produces. The marketing system of the organised retailers does not fit into the standard contract farming and corporate farming formats. These are not favourable to rural farming community' Dr. Singh elaborated. He also suggested that India should have some remedies for the ailments in store as well.

The seminar was chaired by Dr. A. Sukumaran, Associate Dean, CCBM. Dr. M. Jayaprakash, State General Secretary, Kerala Vyapari Vyavasai Ekopana Samithi; T. R. Vijayakumar, Managing Director, Eite Super Market; K.C. Jose, President, Kerala Small Industries Association; Philip Sabu, Director, MBA (ABM); Vijayarajan, Director, Nanma Producer Company and Dr. A. M. Jose, Associate Professor participated.



The Technology week celebrations of Kollam KVK was inaugurated by District Panchayath president Jaymohan on March 7. The inaugural session chaired by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran was attended by GC member Dr. Arthur Jacob, Director of Extension Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Peoples' representatives and Dr. S. Subaida Beevi, Head, KVK.

Drought Mitigation: Workshop propose multipronged strategies

The workshop on strategies for drought mitigation in Agriculture organized by KAU on March 21 evolved a series of short term, midterm and long term strategies for mitigation of drought in agriculture.

The workshop organized in collaboration with FACT was inaugurated by Dr.V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE. Dr. Pillai, said that a luxurious misconception of abundance in water resources and spendthrift attitude in water spending has landed Keralites in a crisis.

Dr. P. Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor who presided over the inaugural session said that global warming and climate change is the gravest crisis mankind has ever confronted

because the effects of drought in primary sector leads to serious repercussions in all other sectors.

Dr. S. Wani, Assistant programme Director, ICRISAT in his key note address said that rain fed agriculture has the potential

to become the engine for sustainable rural development.

Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension, Dr.T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research and P.K. Chandrasekharan, Director (Marketing), FACT attended the inaugural function.



Dr. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE inaugurates KAU workshop on Drought Mitigation

IN SHORT

The general strategies recommended by the workshop includes adoption of drought tolerant varieties, moisture conservation practices and water efficiency enhancing mechanisms like Drip irrigation, fertigation and mulching. Foliage application of nutrients was recommended as a better option in summer.

In paddy cultivation advancement of second crop to gain advantage of residual water, use of Short duration varieties and transplanting method have been proposed.

In the case of perennial crops like coconut, it was noted that ill effects of drought would be long lasting and hence long term planning and practices are required. Effective recycling of used water, intercropping and interspace ploughing to conserve moisture have been recommended for these crops.

Drought mitigation in different crops, Integrated Farming System (IFS) approach to mitigate drought, ITK-Farmer Innovations for drought mitigation, Precision Farming, High tech Agriculture & Remote sensing and Water conservation and water harvesting were discussed in detail in order to formulate crop specific recommendations. Dr. Kamalam Joseph, P. S. Biju, and Dr. P. Salini Pillai Presented the Lead papers.

Academic Council nod for Honouring Farmers, revising Syllabi



Vice-Chancellor addressing the Academic Council

who have made significant impact in agrarian sector through important and relevant inventions or innovations.

The meeting held on April 3 also approved the proposals to revise the syllabi of KAU Courses once in four years, prescribe a minimum OGPA of 6.00 for passing UG Courses, change internal external elements of evaluation to 50:50 and include an external examiner in PG Viva Voce.

'Syllabus revision will help to reflect contemporary scientific and Technological developments in students' knowledge bank and enhance their general proficiency. In order to encourage research in

thrust areas, PG students will henceforth choose their research project from a project bank prepared by experts. Publication of research papers has been made mandatory in the case of PhD scholars' Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor said.

The Council nominated Dr. Thomas George as its representative to Kerala Higher Education Council. The College level and Faculty level Research Committees have been restructured and the existing UG study tour pattern modified. UG students will have one All India Tour after sixth semester and one All Kerala Tour during final semester, the latter designed to familiarize students with different agro climatic conditions, research stations and their functioning.

The Council chaired by Vice-Chancellor was attended by Registrar; Deans of faculties; Directors of Extension, Research and Students Welfare; elected and nominated members.

KVK Honours Senior Scientists

Thrissur KVK honoured six senior scientists who pioneered research, teaching and extension activities of KAU in yester years and five persons who made significant contribution to progressive farming.

The guruvandanam programme was organized in connection with Farmer-Scientist interface conducted by KVK on Feb 6. The scientists honoured were Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan, Dr. C. Sreedharan, Dr. C. C. Abraham, Dr. M. S. Nair, Dr. A. I. Jose and Dr. A. Sukumara Varma. Lead farmers Joseph Pallan, Ramanathan master, Sabira moosa, Ramkumar and Jailor of Viyyur Jail K.J.Thomas were the other personalities honoured.

While KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran set the ball rolling by honouring Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan, Thrissur District Panchayat President K.V.Dasan, ADM Dr. P. K. Jayasree, Madakkathra Panchayath President Sujatha Balakrishnan, Director of Extension Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, PAO K. G. Omana and ATMA District coordinator Mercy Thomas were privileged to honour others.

The invaluable contributions made by these personalities were recognized with gratitude and the scientists shared their experience and wisdom with the farmers. The farmer groups eagerly listened to the words of wisdom from senior scientists and success stories of lead farmers in different sectors. A special round of applause greeted K. J. Thomas, the jailor whose efforts to sustain successful farming in Viyyur jail premises won a special recognition by President of India.



Vice-Chancellor honours Dr.R.Gopalakrishnan



VIPs being introduced to new pepper variety

Ministers & MLAs tasting Neera, the health drink from coconut inflorescence sap produced by KAU

Ministers cherish coconut byproducts too.

One of the many curious visitors



Time to quench the thirst with organic juices



KAU stalls became the cynosure of all eyes in All Kerala Agri-Food exhibition Organised by Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotions at Ernakulum during February 17-21. The camera shots reflect people's affinity to the stalls displaying processed agri products, agri machineries and value added materials .



People thronging the Medicinal Plant stall



Crowd continues to explore KAU Technologies



Secretary to central Government is keen on Agri machinery; Director of Extension clarifies a point



KAU helps Kerala farmers dominate National Plant Genome saviour awards



B. Pradeesh

KAU has once again helped Kerala farmers dominate the Plant Genome saviour national award for the second successive year by grabbing the community award as well as the newly introduced individual awards. While the Plant Genome saviour community award for 2012 is bagged by Akampadam – Chimpanchia Padasekhara samithy of Palakkad, Ciby Kallingal of Pattikkad, Thrissur and N. Vasavan of Pachapoika in Kannur won the individual awards.

The official intimations of these awards instituted through Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right (PPV&FR) authority was received by KAU which sponsored and recommended the awardees. The first community award instituted in 2011 was won by Pokkali farmers sponsored by KAU. The community award carries Rs. 10 lakhs, memento and a citation whereas the individual rewards carry a cash price of Rs. one lakh along with memento and citation.

KAU Vice-Chancellor congratulated the awardees and appreciated the scientists who motivated them. 'Consecutive

awards for farmers recommended by KAU reflect our commitment and efforts in protecting farmers' rights as well as biodiversity of the state. KAU is proud to have partnered these farmers and succeeded in projecting enterprising models of farming. Such awards not only come as recognition but also as inspiration to pursue more challenging research avenues,' said Dr. Rajendran.

The Akampadam – Chimpanchia Padasekhara samithy led by B. Pradeesh had partnered with KAU to produce the first ever varieties developed through participatory research viz. Kunjukunju Varna and Kunjukunju Priya as part of the innovative GALASA programme introduced by KAU in 1999.



N. Vasavan

Ciby George Kallingal, a model for young agripreneurs, has been selected for the award based on excellence of farming practices in his 20 acre farm. Vasavan N. of Kannur is a traditional farmer whose seven acre farm houses rare collection of germplasm of coconut, cashew, pepper and medicinal plants.



Ciby Kallingal

Spread Cocoa cultivation : VC

Seminar on cocoa organized by Cadbury Cocoa Research Project (CCRP) in KAU was inaugurated by Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor in his inaugural address highlighted the significance of introducing cocoa in coconut and rubber plantations. Such intercropping will not only ensure additional income and strengthen rural economy but will also reduce the risk associated with monoculture, he said.



Cocoa farmers assemble for a field trip during seminar

The inaugural session presided over by Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research was attended by Dr. Joy Mathew, Comptroller; Vijayakumar, GM, Cadbury India Ltd; Jose, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Thrissur and Dr. C.T. Abraham, Associate Dean, College of Horticulture.

The Technical sessions were handled by Vijayakumar, Dr. Koshy Abraham, Dr. S. Prasannakumari Amma and Dr. Jim Thomas.

Best Paper Awards

Dr. Shaheena. P., Associate Professor, College of Cooperation, Banking & Management won the best paper award for her paper *Fiscal devolution and Revenue Mobilisation* at the International conference on Contemporary issues in Public Policy Management organized by IIM, Kolkotta during 7-9, February 2013.



Dr. Swapna Alex, Associate Professor, Department of Biotechnology, College of Agriculture, Vellayani won the Best poster Award in Biotechnology at the 25th Kerala Science Congress held at Technopark, Thiruvananthapuram from 29th January to 1st February, 2013.

ICAR Sports : KAU Student wins Silver

Susan George, IV Semester student of MBA (Agri Business Management) bagged silver medal for High Jump in the XIVth All India Agri Varsity Sports Meet held at Karnanataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar during 6-10 March 2013.



KAU develop seedless hybrid of Red watermelon also

A new Red seedless hybrid of watermelon has been developed by KAU scientists. The new hybrid, which was developed by Dr. T. Pradeepkumar and team who developed yellow seedless melon last year, is characterised by deep red colour without any seed and high TSS of 10.5. The fruits have average weight of 3.5 kg with thick rind making it suitable for long distance transport.



The hybrids developed as part of RKVY project on vegetable seed production will be a boon for high tech vegetable cultivation and poly house farming.

Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan demonstrated the new hybrid in a function attended by ADR (Vegetable Mission) Dr. T. E. George, ADR (Seeds) Dr. V. S. Devadas and Principal investigator of the RKVY project Dr. T. Pradeepkumar.

BANKING SCHOOL AT CCBM

The College of Cooperation, Banking & Management organized a One Week School on Bank management from 18th March 2013 to enable MBA Students acquire the skill required for managerial positions in the banking industry.

The school was inaugurated by M. P. K. Nair, Former Chairman, Federal bank Ltd. Dr. A. Sukumaran, Associate Dean, CCBM chaired the inaugural function. A. G. Varghese, General Manager, South Indian Bank Ltd. delivered the Keynote Address. Philip Sabu, Director, MBA introduced the school to the participants.

The modules covered Electronic Banking, Financial Inclusion, Asset-Liability Management, Asset-Quality Management, Loan Portfolio Management, Treasury Management and Financial Planning.

Seminar Calls for reforms in Paddy procurement and pricing

The farmer-Scientist-industrialist interactive workshop on procurement, processing and marketing of paddy held at ATIC proposed a series of measures to redress the problems confronted by paddy farmers in the state.

The workshop mooted an enhancement of paddy procurement price to Rs. 25/Kg from the current rate of Rs.18/Kg considering cost of production, quality of produce and availability of material. It also said that permanent and adequate human resources should be ensured for paddy procurement.

The paddy farmers stressed the need for a production incentive instead of the current subsidy mechanism. They proposed an incentive equivalent to fifty percent of production cost, which would directly benefit genuine farmers. Another proposal was to revise the handling and processing charges paid to Millers as the rate in vogue was fixed several years back.

It was also pointed out that the milling percentage of 68% insisted by FCI is unscientific and unattainable except for Jyothi variety. As different varieties and different regions influence the actual milling percentage it

should be scientifically refixed, the workshop resolved.

The workshop organized by Paddy Mission under KAU was inaugurated by Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension, KAU in a function presided over by Dr. Jessy Thomas, Professor & Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, CoH. Dr. A. Prema presented the report. Thrissur Kole farmers' Association Secretary N. K. Subrahmanian, Rice Mill consortium president N.R. Antony, Paddy marketing officers of Thrissur and Palakkad districts, KAU scientists and farmers participated.

Book Fest at KAU Library

Books and printed material have a unique role and relevance even though knowledge dissemination is dominated by electronic media, said Dr. P. Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor. True experience of learning is imparted only by reading and knowledge accumulated by reading tends to be retained longer, he opined.

The Vice-Chancellor was inaugurating international book festival organised at KAU central library. The inaugural function held on March 20 was presided over by Dr. E.V. Nybe, Director (Academics). K. P. Sathyan, University Librarian, Alphonsa, K.V, Dr. A.T. Francis and Lino Davis spoke.

Aromatic rice varieties for Kerala fields identified

KAU scientists have identified aromatic rice varieties suitable for the state, thus paving way or another critical intervention.

The trials conducted by Dr. C.A. Rosamma at Agricultural Research station (ARS), Mannuthy has succeeded in identifying four varieties ideal for the cultivation in the state. Experiments at ARS found that Pusa Sugandh-2, Pusa Sugandh-4, Sugandhamathi and Rasakadam do not lose aroma in tropical climate and productivity is an impressive 5 tonnes per ha, KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurated the sale of rice produced from these



KAU Vice-Chancellor inaugurates the sale of aromatic rice produced at ARS, Mannuthy

varieties by giving first packets to Registrar Dr. E. K. Mathew and Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan on February 6.

The University is planning experimental cultivation of these varieties in farmers' fields before sale of seeds is initiated.

POORAM PAVILION FASCINATES VISITORS

The Kerala Agricultural University Pavilion in Thrissur Pooram exhibition, which embodies the virtues of successful homestead farming, has attracted public attention in a big way.

The Pavilion, opened for public by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. Rajendran, showcased an integrated system of vegetable, mushroom, fruits and flower cultivation in small holdings.

Vertical garden at the entrance, precision farming model for kitchen garden, an easy to operate and cost-effective drip irrigation



Vice-Chancellor inaugurates KAU Pavilion in Thrissur Pooram Exhibition

mechanism, model Mushroom unit and *Nakshathra vanam* fascinated the visitors. The value added products, small farm machineries and planting materials had many takers. More than five lakh people visited the KAU Pavilion.

Technology Week at Palakkad KVK

The Technology week celebrations of KVK, Palakkad was inaugurated by Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, KAU on February 10.

The model of conservation agriculture developed by KVK was also dedicated to farming community by the Vice-Chancellor. The inaugural function was presided over by Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension, KAU. Francis Kombara, member, KAUGC, Dr. Jose Mathew, Associate Director of Extension and Dr. Shaji James, Head, KVK spoke.

An exhibition highlighting technology and implements required for conservation agriculture was also held along with the technology week. Technical sessions on various topics related to agriculture and live stock management were part of the event.

KVKs to document Farmer innovation

A programme to evaluate and document farmers' innovations in Kerala has been launched through 14 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Kerala.

Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension said that the programme intends to assess various innovative practices followed by farmers in the state, evaluate their feasibility and document practically successful ones. The programme under Government support through plan mode and implemented under the leadership of Dr. C. Bhaskaran, Professor of Extension was launched in the workshop of KVKs held on

February 16 to formulate next years' action plan, he said.

Dr. Balachandran also said that Precision farming, organic vegetable cultivation, shrimp farming in abandoned quarries and drought management figure among the priority programmes scheduled for the Krishi Vigyan Kendras next year. On field testing and refinement of a safe coconut climbing device is being undertaken by KVKs. Food processing is another thrust area, he said.

The workshop was attended by Programme coordinators of all 14 KVKs and Dr. Raidu, Zonal Project Directorate, ICAR.

GI Workshop favours registration of more produces

The state level workshop on Protection of GIs, Opportunities and legal paths conducted at College of Forestry resolved to expedite the process for registration of more produces of Kerala as Geographical Indications. The workshop decided to initiate immediate action to register Nilambur Teak and its products as a GI.

Dr. C. R. Naidu, Assistant Registrar, GI Registry, Chennai inaugurated the workshop. Biju K Nambiar, legal expert and KAU IPR cell convenor Dr. C. R. Els explained the procedure and relevance of GI registration in agricultural sector.

The inaugural session was attended by Dr. K. Sudhakar (Dean-Forestry), Dr. I. Johnkutty (Assoc. Director of Research), Dr. Jose Mathew (Assoc. Director of Extension), Dr. C. T. Abraham (Assoc. Dean, CoH), Dr. A. Sukumaran (Assoc. Dean, CCBM), Farmers' representative T. K. Abdullakutty, Dr. Vidyasagan and Dr. S. Gopakumar.

Seminar on Agri-Marketing

One day seminar on Agriculture Marketing- Call for Paradigm Shift organized by College of Cooperation, Banking & Management (CCBM) of KAU was inaugurated by Prayar Gopalakrishnan, Former Chairman, Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation.

Prayar Gopalakrishnan said that lack of stable market and steady price for agricultural produces is the fundamental cause of distress among farmers. 'If the producers of agricultural products come together and work together to brand and sell their products with assured quality, farming also will become attractive and profitable' he said.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran presided over the inaugural function. Dr. A. Sukumaran, Associate Dean welcomed the gathering. KAU GC members V. S. Sathyaseelan and K. Gireendrababu, Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Students' Union President S. Sathyajith and Dr. K. N. Ushadevi spoke.

CoH hosts STCR Workshop

Southern regional workshop-cum-training on Soil Test Crop Response Correlation Studies (STCR) was hosted by AICRP Vellanikkara centre at KAU's College of Horticulture during March 1-2, 2013. The programme was inaugurated by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in a function attended by Dr. Pradip Dey, Project Coordinator (AICRP on STCR, IISS Bhopal), Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan (Director of Research, KAU), Dr. P. V. Balachandran (Director of Extension, KAU) and Dr. C. T. Abraham (Associate Dean, CoH, Vellanikkara) and Dr. P. K. Sushama, Prof. & Head, Dept of Soil Science. The event involved training in soil testing and STCR methodologies, discussions on STCR fertilizer recommendations and activities of GIS-GPS fertility mapping projects and assessment of activities undertaken by different Soil Testing Labs.

Mobile Agro Machinery Training Programmes gather momentum

The Mobile Agro Machinery Training Units (MAMTU) of Food Security Army piloted by KAU is gaining further grounds not only in Kerala but in other states of India as well. Two new vehicles procured under the RKVY sponsored Food Security Army Service Centre Development Programme to strengthen the MAMTU was flagged off by KAU Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in a function organized at ARS, Mannuthy on Feb. 11.



Dr. E. K. Mathew, Registrar Distributes Certificates to trainees from Kodakara

Following an assessment by its senior officers, Government of Tamil Nadu invited the MAMTU to conduct training for Women self help groups in different locations. Sivaganga, the constituency of Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, being the latest centre. Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have also evinced keen interest in the programme.

Government of Kerala has already sanctioned agro machinery training units and service centres in all 14 districts of the state with an objective of popularizing and promoting farm mechanisation. Already 3400 persons have been trained under this mode and training programmes are scheduled throughout the year.

A 51 member regiment of FSA was trained by MAMTU at Nenmanikkara, Kodakara and Alagappanagar on *Total Agricultural Mechanisation*. Certificates to the trainees were distributed by Dr. E. K. Mathew, Registrar, Kerala Agricultural University in the Passing Out ceremony.

In another session 52 members of Ever Green Army in Parakode Block was trained to facilitate cultivation in the entire fallow land of Parakode Block Panchayath. The training was inaugurated by Dr. Jim Thomas, Professor & Head, Communication Centre, Mannuthy and ARS Head Dr. U. Jaikumaran chaired the function.

Agri Info Kiosk & Soil Health Cards Launched at Moncompu

An Agri-Information Kiosk loaded with English and Malayalam version touch screen cyber extension module on rice cultivation was inaugurated and soil health cards were distributed in the public function held at the RRS, Moncompu on 13th February 2013.

While the Kiosk was dedicated to farming community by Alappuzha District Panchayath President Advocate

Prathibha Hari, Soil Health Card and Nutrient Advisory pertaining to 110 padasekharams were distributed by District Collector, P. Venugopal IAS.

The Kiosk developed under the RKVY sponsored Paddy Mission project Enhancing rice production in Kerala and attaining Partial self-sufficiency aims at providing 'Info at the fingertip' through a comprehensive database on various aspects of rice cultivation. It acts as a Variety Selector, Fertilizer Advisor, Irrigation Advisor, Pest Doctor, Pesticide Calculator, Economic Analyzer, Market Analyst, Business Planner and Online Clinic. Installation of similar kiosks are planned at Thrissur, Kannur and Wayanad also.



Advocate Prathibha Hari, District Panchayath President inaugurates the Agri info kiosk at RRS Moncompu

Learn to love farming: Agri Minister



Agri Minister inaugurating a state level seminar on vegetable farming at Thiruvananthapuram

Agricultural Minister K.P. Mohanan said that Keralites can achieve self-sufficiency in vegetable production and enjoy it if they learn to love homestead farming.

The Minister was inaugurating a state level seminar on vegetable cultivation popularization Namukkumoru Pachakkarithottam organised by KAU at Thiruvananthapuram on

March 13. "Vegetable cultivation is being encouraged not only in homesteads, but in compounds of schools and offices as well. This should encourage everyone to spread the message and help to enhance production. More people are coming forward and every support will be assured" Minister said. He also released the pamphlets and brochures on vegetable cultivation and rooftop farming.

Civil supplies Minister Anoop Jacob delivered the Keynote address and K. Muraleedharan MLA presided over the function. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran; General Council Members Dr. Arthur Jacob, Dr. A. Anilkumar & Dr. Krishnakumar; Dean Dr. Sverup John; Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan and Professor (Research Coordination) Dr. L. Rajamony participated.

CoF alumni stars in IAS, IFS list



Arun Mahesh

he is presently working as the DFO, Sambalpur Territorial and Director Environment, Sambalpur District, Odisha.



Arunlal P.G.

Creating another success story three students of CoF came out with flying colours in the 2013 IFS Examination. Arunlal P.G, Jiss K Varkey and Vikas, V. secured 33rd, 40th and 63rd rank in the All India Examination. They join thirty odd Forestry college alumni in Indian Forest Service, who includes the 2012 first rank Keerthy.



Jiss K Varkey



Vikas, V.

VC bats for State Seed Agency



KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran called for a State level Seed Certification Agency for effective implementation of seed production, maintenance of seed quality and seed law enforcement. He was delivering the valedictory address of the five-day National training on *Seed Quality Assurance* held at the Central Training Institute, Mannuthy. Thirty one officers and scientists involved in seed production, research, seed testing and certification from eight states attended the training, which was sponsored by Govt. of India through the National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC), Varanasi.

Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director, of Extension chaired the function. Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research released the compendium and CD. Dr. Rame Gowda, OSD (Seeds), UAS, Bangalore, Dr. Sajan Kurian, Director (Planning), KAU offered felicitations. Dr. Devadas, Course Director and Dr. Rose Mary Francies, Course coordinator spoke.

Forestry Faculty

Dr. Sudhakara takes over as Dean



Dr. K. Sudhakara has taken over as the first Dean of Forestry faculty in KAU. This follows the establishment of Faculty of Forestry and re designation of the post of Associate Dean, College of Forestry as Dean,

Faculty of Forestry, in consonance with the proposal approved by the III of General Council and consequently assented to by the Chancellor.

Dr. Sudhakara who graduated from CoA, Vellayani acquired MSc from GB Panth Agricultural University and PhD from IARI, New Delhi and did post doctoral studies at Mississippi State University, USA and University of Aberdeen, UK.

Michigan Varsity Team Visits KAU, Plans Multi Institutional tie up



Michigan University team in conversation with Vice-Chancellor

Maredia visited research stations and KVK in Vellanikkara Campus and held talks with Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran and senior officers of the university.

The visiting scientists said Michigan University is interested in forging a multi university research agenda in agriculture and bio technology linking various institutions in Africa, Sri Lanka and India. KAU, one of the top ranked farm universities is a priority partner, they said. KAU Director of Extension Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Dr. Jose Mathew, Dr. Ranjan S Karippai, Dr. Jim Thomas and Dr. Estellita took part in the deliberations.

Mutual Cooperation between KAU and University of Michigan has been planned for collaborative projects on feasible subject areas. The understanding evolved during the visit of a team of scientists from the California based university to KAU on February 23.

The team led by Dr. Nancy Suzanne Lang, Ms. Kathryn Grace Reed and Dr. Karim. M.

AERTC inaugurated

Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research inaugurated the Agricultural Engineering Research and Training Centre (AERTC) at KAU Main campus on March 20. The inaugural function, which coincided with the valedictory of training programme on Women friendly & small scale paddy mechanization, was presided over by Dr. C. T. Abraham, Associate Dean, College of Horticulture. Dr. E. K. Mathew, Registrar was the chief guest. Velookkara Panchayath president T. D. Lazer: General Council members Dr. Jiju P Alex and Dr. F. Mary Regina; Dr. K. P. Visalakshy, Prof. & Head, Dept of Agricultural Engineering; Dr. P. S. Geethakutty, Project Coordinator, CGSAFED & Dr. U. Jaikumar, Prof. & Head, ARS, Mannuthy spoke.