



Use Technology for advancement : CM

Efficient use of advanced technology alone can enhance productivity and profitability of farming, said Chief Minister Oommen chandy.

Inaugurating Agrifesta 2014, the South Indian Agricultural fair held at Kerala Agricultural University main campus from February 28 to March 6, the Chief Minister called for dissemination of technology to resurrect Kerala's farming sector.

'Turning your back to technological advancements can prove costly. The Government has decided to back up Hi-tech agriculture because it helps to increase agricultural production, especially that of vegetables, from small holdings. KAU has developed a lot of technologies and varieties. The agri expos like this are relevant since they spread awareness on modern technologies' he said.

Minister for Agriculture K. P. Mohanan in his presidential address highlighted the contributions of Kerala Agricultural University and academic excellence it has achieved. KAU has done a lot, but the challenge is to derive energy from your achievements and strive to better them. The talent and efficiency at KAU's disposal is so vast and diverse and hence



Chief Minister Oommen Chandy inaugurates South Indian Agricultural fair at KAU Main Campus

much more can be achieved', he said.

Organising Committee chairman M. P. Vincent MLA welcomed the gathering. Thrissur Mayor Rajan J. Pallan, Thomas Unniyadan MLA, KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, KUFOS Vice-Chancellor Dr. B. Madhusoodanakurup, Thrissur District Panchayat President C. C. Sreekumar, former KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. K. R. Viswambharan, Director of Extension Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Faculty Deans Dr. Sverup John, Dr. Sivaswamy and Dr. K. Sudhakara, Principal Agricultural officer K. G. Omana, members of General Council and General Convenor Dr. A. M. Ranjith spoke.

Budget moots F1 Hybrids, Agri Mall, Neera Parlours

Intensification of research in thrust areas, strengthening extension modules, modernizing administration and programmes for students' welfare are the focal points in KAU budget 2014-15.

The budget presented by Thomas Unniyadan MLA in the General Council held on March 29 has an outlay of Rs.480.20 crores.

The main programmes envisaged under the budget are a multi facility agricultural mall and farmer outreach centre at Mannuthy, School of agri entrepreneurship, research initiative to develop F1 hybrids in rice and vegetables as well as dwarf coconut varieties, Neera parlours at strategic locations, need based support to LSGIs for preparation, implementation and evaluation of development projects, agro tourism linkages with government agencies, and up gradation of selected laboratories to accredited status.

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Ambalavayal Flowershow to be a national event



Agriculture Minister K. P. Mohanan has said that the State level flower show organized by KAU at the RARS, Ambalavayal will be made a national event. After visiting the show, the Minister said the National Rose Society has explored the possibilities of hosting the 2015 National Rose show at the Ambalavayal RARS and all steps would be taken to host the mega event.

The minister said that 100 hectares of land under the possession of the RARS would be set up as a model for organic cultivation as part of the move to make Kerala an organic state. P. Rajendran, Associate Director of Research, RARS and I. C. Balakrishnan, MLA, accompanied the Minister.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurated the Flowershow on February 1.

The programme aimed at sensitising farmers to the vast commercial potential of floriculture in the district. Nearly 1,600 varieties of rose plants, including 850 varieties imported from Holland and France recently, 5,000 varieties of dahlia, and varieties of flowering plants such as jerbera, gladiolus, heliconia and anthurium were show cased in the event. More than two lakh people visited the exhibition spread over a fortnight.

Academic Council Job Oriented Courses mooted

KAU Academic Council has decided to launch job oriented diploma courses and training programmes with a view to strengthen human resource for agri entrepreneurship.

The 122nd meeting of the council held under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran also decided to offer more diploma and certificate courses in distance education mode to help working professionals and rural youth to gain and update knowledge in modern farming practices and integrated crop management systems.

In his introductory remarks, Vice-Chancellor said that the national level meeting of State Agricultural University Vice-Chancellors has mooted several proposals to make agricultural education attractive and raise the standard of education in SAUs.

The new academic hand book and prospectus for 2014-15 admission were approved by the council. The fee for fast track system to obtain Degree certificates have been reduced and a marginal fee hike in Courses with effect from next academic year has been recommended.

The council was attended by Registrar, Director of Academic, Directors of Research and Extension and other officers of the University as well as elected representatives of teachers and students and scientists nominated by the Chancellor.

Award for Poster presentation

Dr. Sajeena. A, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology), ARS Thiruvalla received the second best poster award during the International Conclave on Sugar Crops and Sugar Fest conducted during February, 2014 at Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow.

Micro Irrigation Model at Vellanikkara



A Model for micro irrigated flower garden jointly installed by Department of Pomology & Floriculture and Department of Agricultural Engineering, College of Horticulture was inaugurated by KAU Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan on 22.01.2014. The demonstration unit on Micro irrigation system was installed as part of State Planning Board Project on Nodal Water technology Centre of the Department of Agri. Engineering. KAU Registrar Dr. E. K. Mathew, CoH/ Associate Dean, Dr. P. K. Valsalakumari Project Investigator, Dr. K. P. Visalakshi, and Dr. P. K. Sureshkumar spoke on the occasion. A specification chart for the Micro Irrigation System is also exhibited for the awareness of the stakeholders visiting the campus.

KAU-KUDUMBASREE TIE UP REAPS RICH HARVEST

Creating a healthy model for promoting women entrepreneurship worth emulating, KAU - Kudumbasree tie up at Vellanikkara has made a successful beginning of a sustainable partnership.

The successful culmination of entrusting vegetable cultivation on hitherto unutilized road medians, road sides and back yards of offices and hostels with Kudumbasree units encourages such partnerships.

The programme initiated as part of RKVY project on Boosting vegetable production in Kerala through technology innovation and mission mode activities for food and nutritional security was part of Harithasree project under Olericulture department of CoH. The initiative was implemented through a profit sharing tie up with Kudumbasree units, Aiswarya and Samrudhi albeit ensuring minimum wages.



Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Dr. P.K. Valsalakumary, Dr. T.E. George & others at harvesting ceremony

The harvesting was inaugurated by Director of Extension Dr. P. V. Balachandran in a function presided by Dr. P. K. Valsalakumary, Associate Dean, College of Horticulture.

Dr. T. E. George, ADR (Vegetable Mission), scientists in the department of Olericulture and Kudumbasree members participated.

Linkage between R & D institutions and NGOs vital : Policy Workshop

The Consultation Workshop to the Planning Commission held at CoH, Vellanikkara, stressed the indispensability of a government initiative to harness the diverse interventions of various agencies operating in the primary sector.

The workshop explored the possibilities of establishing linkages between Research and Development institutions in agriculture and allied fields and Non Governmental Organizations in line with the broad framework of the twelfth plan approach developed by the Government of Kerala.

The workshop resolved that NGOs should not be treated as individual private entrepreneurs while granting subsidies and other benefits. Instead they have to be treated as community practitioners and key stakeholders in evolving technology oriented growth models, intervention models, etc. The need to raise the ceiling for financial assistance and realistically revise the scale of finance for agricultural crops was stressed.

Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director, academic, Dr. E. V. Nybe, CoH Associate Dean Dr. P. K. Valsalakumary, General Council member Dr. Jiju P. Alex and others participated.

Recognition for PhD Thesis

Dr. Sarada, S., Assistant Professor of Horticulture, CoH, Vellanikkara earned a rare recognition by way of getting her doctoral thesis published by M/s LAP-LAMBART Academic Publishing GmbH & Co. KG., Germany, the leading academic publishing house in Germany and associate member of American Book Sellers Association (www.bookweb.org) and Book Sellers Association of UK & Ireland (www.booksellers.org.uk). The book titled **Evaluation of *Indigofera tinctoria* L. for yield and glycoside content under open and shaded conditions** is co-authored by her guide Dr. B.R. Reghunath, Professor & Head, Department of Plant Biotechnology.

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Balanced Budget aimed at modernisation



Thomas Unniyadan MLA presents KAU budget 2014 - 15 in General Council

The budget pegs the receipt under Non Plan at Rs.208.82 crores while the expenditure estimated under the head is 245.3 crores. The receipt and expenditure under plan head is pegged at Rs.63.08 crores and 45.38 respectively. The allocation under ICAR sponsored and other externally aided projects is Rs. 42.33 crores and that under internal resources is Rs. 16.44 crores.

Thomas Unniyadan described the proposed budget as balanced and non deficit but cautioned

against the accumulation of debts owing to non-receipt of special aid to compensate huge liability on account of pending pensioner benefits. 'We are trying our best to solve the issue and one silver lining. I see is the enhanced share of externally aided funds and internal receipts in the budget. Both these figures have registered a threefold increase over the past five years.' He said.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran presided over the meeting. Dr. Rajendran, Associate Director who remodeled Ambalavayal and Anakkayam units as model farms as well as thirty one award winning scientists were honoured by the Council.

The meeting was assured that there are no excess posts in the University and hence the question of shifting of posts to other Universities does not arise. A resolution rejecting the proposal to implement Model Act in the University was approved by the Council. The meeting was attended by all elected and nominated members as well as University Officers.

Award for PhD Scholars

Jyothi Sara Jacob, PhD Scholar (Agricultural Entomology) CoH, Vellanikkara bagged Best Poster Presentation Award in the National Symposium on Emerging Trends in Eco-friendly Insect Pest management held at TNAU during January 2014. She got the award for the poster on *Parasitoids of American serpentine leaf miner, Liriomyza trifolii* Burgess from Kerala co-created by Dr.Maicykutty P.Mathew., Professor.

The presentation on *Eco-friendly management of Diaphania indica Saunders in bitter gourd* by **Neena Lenin**, PhD Scholar, (Agricultural Entomology), CoH, Vellanikkara and Dr. Hebsy bai bagged the Best Oral Presentation Award in the National Symposium on Emerging Trends in Eco-friendly Insect Pest management held at TNAU during January 2014.

KVK & VVK Join Hands to Promote Homestead Agroforestry



W. S. Suting IFS address conclave of KAU, ICFRE Scientists

Thrissur Krishi Vigyan Kendra under KAU and Van Vigyan Kendra under ICFRE have joined hands to launch collaborative projects to strengthen agro forestry options in homesteads.

The first interaction in this regard between KVK officials, officers of IFGTB and Van Vigyan Kendra held at the KVK was inaugurated by W. S. Suting IFS, Additional Principal chief conservator of Forests.

The two institutions has planned a joint venture to promote agro forestry in rural homesteads as an additional option for income generation as well as natural resource mobilization.

Dr. Ranjan S Karippai, KVK head and Dr. N. Krishnakumar IFS, Director, IFTGB led the discussions. Dr. Kannan C. Warriar and Dr. John Prasanth Jacob, Scientists at IFTGB; Dr. Mary Regina, Dr. Rehmath Nicaragua and Dr. Prameela, Scientists at KVK participated.

KAU LAUNCH FACE BOOK PAGE & CULTURAL FORUM

Vice-Chancellor Dr.P.Rajendran launched the Facebook page of KAU ([facebook.com/KeralaAgriUniversity](https://www.facebook.com/KeralaAgriUniversity)) at a function held at the KAU Headquarters on Saturday. The occasion was marked with the inauguration of KAU cultural forum, Symphony, the members of which staged an attractive musical and mimic programme after the inaugural function.

The Vice-chancellor said that the Facebook page will facilitate adequate understanding of KAU's activities and

also a possibility of attracting youth, major client of the Face book, towards modern agriculture in general and family farming in particular. 'The page will be updated on an everyday basis with news, photographs, videos and ads pertaining to research developments, academic initiatives and extension programmes of the University. A renovation of University website and introduction of a twitter account is on the anvil. We not only wish our news to reach the target audience, but appreciate a prompt feedback as well.' he said.

FSA encompass Cooperative sector

Thrissur District Collector M. S. Jaya said that Food Security Army is a novel concept translating technology in to action.

The Collector was speaking after distributing certificates to the first batch of FSA trainees from Co-operative sector sponsored by Pariyaram Service Co-operative Bank. Training for the first batch which began on 2013 December 16 kicked off the activities to establish 60 agro service centres in the state under the cooperative sector.

Director of Extension Dr. P. V. Balachandran presided over the valedictory function. Dr. U. Jaikumaran,



District Collector M. S. Jaya distributes certificates to first batch of FSA trainees from Cooperative sector

Prof & Head, ARS, Mannuthy and Chief, FSA; Dr. Shyla Joseph, Asst. Professor; K. J. Urumees, President, Pariyaram SCB; K. M. Chacko, Director, Pariyaram SCB and representatives of Trainees spoke.

'Family farming should lead to Second Green Revolution'

M. P. Vincent MLA has called for a Kerala Model Green Revolution through family farming revival to ensure food safety of state's population.

Inaugurating a package of activities launched by Thrissur KVK in connection with the International Year of Family Farming, the MLA said that the new homestead farming models introduced by KAU should be popularized to make every home self-sufficient in vegetable production and extricate the society from dreadful diseases.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in his special address highlighted the virtues of family farming models once prevalent in Kerala. 'Each rural home was once self-sufficient in vegetables, fruits and nutritive ingredients like milk and eggs. But now we spend about 12000 crores on purchase of food items and what we get in turn is a host of diseases caused by pesticide residues. We have to return to homestead farming to assure a disease free, healthy future generation,' Vice - Chancellor said.

C. C. Sreekumar, President, Thrissur District Panchayath, presided and Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension delivered key note address. Dr. Ranjan S. Karippai proposed welcome and Dr. Rahmath Niza offered vote of thanks. The workshop was attended by about 300 participants.



M. P. Vincent MLA inaugurating Seminar on Family farming at Thrissur KVK

Training on WTO & FTA Challenges

A two day awareness programme on WTO and Free Trade Agreements - challenges, issues and opportunities in Agricultural sector held at CoH was inaugurated by Dr. Jose Mathew, Associate Director of Extension.

The programme was organised by Department of Agricultural Economics, CoH in association with WTO cell, Government of Kerala, CWS-IIFT, New Delhi and PPV & FR authority, Government of India. Dr. P. K. Valsalakumary, Associate Dean, Dr. Jessy Thomas, Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, Dr. Dipal Roy Choudhary, Joint Registrar, PPV & FR Authority, Dr. Sachin Kumar Sharma, CWS, IIFT and B. Harikumar, Officer on Special duty, WTO Cell participated.

International Workshop on Research Writing

KAU hosted a four day international workshop on Research Writing in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics jointly organized by Centre for Excellence in Environmental Economics (CEEE) and South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE).

The workshop aimed to familiarize South Asian researchers with the concepts and techniques of proposal writing and the capacity building for research in the areas of environmental management policy and climate change.

Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research; Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension; Dr. Anuradha Kafle, SANDEE; Dr. P. Indiradevi, Director, CEEE and Dr. Jessy Thomas spoke in the inaugural session.

Enamaul Haq (Bangladesh), Heman D Lohano (Bhutan), Pranab Mukhopadhyay and R. Balasubrahmanian (India) led the workshop.

SEED QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING PROGRAMME

National training programme on Seed Quality assurance sponsored by Government of India through National Seed Research and Training Centre, Varanasi was held at CTI, Mannuthy from 6 to 10 January 2014.

The training meant to update the knowledge and technologies in quality assurance of seed production at national level. Thirty selected officers from seed production and certification centre of different states, State Agricultural Universities and State seed testing labs participated in the knowledge sharing and experience sharing exercise.

Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research, KAU inaugurated the programme. Dr. Rame Gowda, Officer on Special Duty (Seeds), UAS, Bangalore in his key note address urged KAU scientists to pay attention to developing new planting materials of spice crops. Dr. K. Sudhakara, Dean (Forestry), presided. Dr. V. S. Devadas, Associate Director of Research welcomed the gathering and Dr. Rose Mary Francis proposed vote of thanks.

Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension in his valedictory address stressed the importance of seed quality in agriculture. He also gave away the certificates to participants. Dr. P. K. Valsalakumary, Associate Dean, College of Horticulture, released a compendium of training materials. Dr. V. S. Devadas, Associate Director of Research welcomed the gathering and Dr. Dijee Bastin proposed vote of thanks.

ACABC training held at CoA, Vellayani



An intensive training for the agri professionals was conducted at CoA, Vellayani from September to November 2013 under central sector scheme Agri clinic & Agri business center (ACABC).

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, gave away the certificates to those who successfully completed the 60 days training. Dr. L. Rajamony, Dean i/c, presided over the function and R. Ajithkumar, Director of Agriculture delivered the keynote address.

Nodal officer of ACABC programme, Dr. A. K. Sherief presented a report of the training. NABARD had released subsidy to all the bank loans availed by the ACABC professionals. IOB, Regional office, Thiruvananthapuram and Association of agri pren, Kerala, an organization formed by the KAU trained agri professionals, felicitated Akhila mol for her achievement in fisheries sector and other agri based activities. Dr. Arthur Jacob, Dr. Anil Kumar and Dr. Krishnakumar, members of KAU General council felicitated the participants.

Sreevalsan J. Menon Honoured

Kerala Sangeetha Academy Award winner Dr. Sreevalsan J. Menon was honored in a function organized by Thrissur Krishi Vigyan Kendra on Dec 10. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran presented the memento to him in the meeting presided over by Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension.

Dr. Sreevalsan, currently working as Associate Professor (Agricultural Extension) at Communication Centre, Mannuthy had earlier secured awards of Madras Music Academy for his contribution to karnatic music and Oscar nominations for composing music for film songs as well as back ground music.

Kerala Should use its strengths to enhance cut flower export : DDG

Kerala should make use of its strong Overseas connections to enhance export of cut flowers and plants, said Dr. N. K. Krishnakumar, DDG (Hort), Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Inaugurating the national conference on Orchids organized by KAU and TOSI at CoH, Dr. Krishnakumar said that extracting livelihood from nature is inevitable but it should not contravene the admissible limits and harm the ecological balance. 'The ability and adaptability of mankind to coexist with flora and fauna is the key to conservation of nature and its biological treasure. Understanding the edifice of biodiversity is the base of conserving Orchids. Commercialization is must to enhance the profitability of rural farmer but it should come from multiplication through biotechnological methods, not by over exploitation of natural resources. TOSI should also prioritise obtaining registration and IP rights for our varieties', he said.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, in his special address said that development, popularization and commercialization of orchidology can be a worthy option for rural self-employment and women empowerment. 'KAU is involved in research and development of Orchids and



Dr. N.K. Krishnakumar, DDG (Horticulture) inaugurating the national conference on Orchids held at KAU

has developed several varieties. Despite considerable advancements in the branch of study India is still much behind Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia', he said.

TOSI president Dr. A. K. Bhatnagar presided over the inaugural session. Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director Botanical Survey of India (BSI); Dr. T.R. Gopala-Krishnan, Director of Research, KAU; Dr. H. B. Singh, Senior Scientist, Department of Science and Technology and Dr. P. K. Rajeevan, Vice-President, TOSI spoke. Dr. Promila Bhat, Organising Secretary welcomed the gathering and Dr. P. K. Valsalakumary, Coordinator proposed vote of thanks. The Usha Vij award for 2014 was conferred upon Dr. S. C. Mishra (Odisha) and Dr. Anil sood (Punjab).

Consortium of Gender friendly resources mooted

The two day Women in Agriculture Workshop organized by the Gender Studies Centre of KAU proposed a Consortium of Gender Resource in Farming Sector for providing integrated efforts of women inclusive technologies, skill development, policy reforms and women entrepreneurial development in agricultural and allied sectors. KAU, KVASU, KUFOS and Kudumbasree will be the major partners of this platform along with banking, agri-business value chain and marketing agencies.

Inaugurating the workshop, KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran said that the need of the hour is innovative strategies with regard to credit systems and marketing networks 'Concept of agriculture has changed. At present 40 percent of rural household income is generated by women in agriculture and many women self help groups have plotted success stories', he said.

Dr. B. Ashok IAS, KVASU Vice-Chancellor in his key note address highlighted the phenomenal role of Kudumbasree in inspiring and providing structural strength to women groups 'The success of women even in unorganized sectors triggers thought about empowering them to form a state wide network for production, processing and marketing of quality food products,' he said.

Dr. K. Sudhakara, Dean (Forestry); Dr. M. Sivaswamy, Dean (Agricultural Engineering) and Dr. Pathummal Beevi, Associate Director of Research, Dr. P. S. Geethakutty, Director, CGSAFED and Dr. Suma Nair spoke.

KUFOS Vice-Chancellor Dr. B. Madhusoodana Kurup and Kudumbasree Executive Director Dr. K. B. Valsalakumary led the discussions in the valedictory session. Dr. S. Ramkumar, Director Entrepreneurship of KVASU; Dr. Sudha Nair (Task Force Member, DST); Annamma Simon (Lead Bank Manager); Dr. V. Indira and Anitha Sivaraman (Deputy Director of Agriculture) participated.

Dr. S. Vasudev Award



Dr. K. D. Prathapan, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology, CoA, Vellayani has been selected for the Dr. S. Vasudev Award 2013 by KSCSTE, Government of Kerala. This prestigious award is given for the Best Science Research Project during the year. Dr. Prathapan had won this award in 2007 as well.

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Medal



Dr. Lulu Das, Professor, CoA, Vellayani was awarded the Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Gold Medal Award instituted by Global Economic Progress and Research Organisation (GEPRO). She was selected for the award on the basis of outstanding achievements in agricultural research. The award was presented to her during the National Unity conference organized at Chennai on the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, former president of India and eminent educationist.

Best Veterinarian Award



Dr. Magnus Paul K., Assistant Professor (AH), KVK, Palakkad received Special Appreciation Prize (Best Veterinarian 2013) of Indian Veterinary Association, Kerala. The prize was presented during the Annual Convention of Indian Veterinary Association Kerala, held at Changanassery on 2013 December 28. Dr. Magnus Paul also received the best scientific article endowment award of Indian Society for Study of Animal Reproduction (ISSAR), Kerala Chapter.

Best Paper Award



Dr. E. R. Aneena, Assistant Professor, KVK, Palakkad won Best Paper Award in the Kerala Science congress 2014 held at KVASU Pookkode. Her paper on *Time line analysis of dietary transitions in Hindu communities of central Kerala* based on Ph.D thesis work carried out at Department of Home science, College of Horticulture Vellanikkara under the guidance of Dr. V. Indira was selected for the award in the category of Science and society.

Agrifesta through the lens



Well begun is half done-
Proclamation Procession
held at Thrissur Town was
marked by the whole hearted
involvement of KAU
Community



Giggin's Farm Villa
was one of the star
attractions in the expo



M.P.Vincent MLA
opens the
Exhibition stalls



Visitors enthused by
crop varieties



KUFOS VC Dr.B.M.Kurup,
and KAU VC cherish
a sip of Keramrutham.

Agrifesta through the lens



Chief Minister wields the magic wand to create a mango sapling with the help of Magician Muthukad



Dr.K.Narayana Gowda, VC, UAS, Bengaluru On a visit to the stalls



TNAU VC Dr. K .Ramamurthy, Inaugurates the seminar On Scientific management of pepper



ArchBishop Mar Andrews Thazhath was another keen visitor to the Expo



Agrifesta evinced interest in Foreigners too



The stall of UAS, Bengaluru



valedictory function, enriched by all sections of the society, was the befitting end to a fabulous experience

Agrifesta, an event that turned into a festival

The South Indian Agricultural fair (Agrifesta 2014) organized at KAU main campus from 28 February to 6 March imparted a festival look to the sprawling campus.

The fair proved to be a great success in terms of people participation and organizational efficiency.

The expo with more than 200 stalls exhibiting technology, machineries & implements and value added came to a close on March 6.

The valedictory function held under the chairmanship of organising committee chairman M. P. Vincent MLA was inaugurated by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran.

M. P. Vincent MLA in his presidential address highlighted the success of the exhibition and the impact it created among the farming community, agricultural entrepreneurs and rural youth. KAU is planning to hold exhibitions of such magnitude every year and also organize an international agri expo at Thrissur. Agrifesta owes its success to whole-hearted support of all stake holders, members of KAU community especially students and the media, he said.

Vice - Chancellor in his address chose to thank one and all who contributed to

the successful conduct of the expo. 'Being the first of this kind organized at KAU HQ, the appreciation and positive feedback we got is really encouraging. The satisfaction of the visitors satisfies us. We could send important messages on food security, food safety and use of advanced technology to the farming community', he said.

District Collector M. S. Jaya in her key note address said that imparting knowledge through informal channels is never easy. 'While conventional Universities impart formal education only to students registered with them KAU imparts knowledge to farming community and others connected to agriculture and allied fields in addition to the students and research scholars. KAU also develops crop varieties and farming technologies. The relevance and importance of KAU, which is often not properly understood or appreciated, should be gauged by its multi-faceted image,' she said.

IG of Police S. Gopinath and writer Kalpetta Narayanan spoke about Kerala's abundance of agricultural wealth and how agriculture evolved in ancient times. Farmer's indebtedness towards society should be matched by the society's indebtedness to farmers, they said.

KAU Executive Committee member Thomas Unniyadan MLA honoured the



Farmer first - Honouring lead farmers was a prime agenda of the fest

award winning farmers while Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan honoured Associate Director Dr. Rajendran who remodeled Anakkayam and Ambalavayal stations. World famous paddy researcher and former Director of Research R. Gopalakrishnan was also honoured.

Prize for best overall stall was bagged by Department of Olericulture. Dr. Joy Mathew, Dr. P. Ahmed, Dr. V. R. Ramachandran and Dr. Jose Mathew distributed certificates to participants, volunteers and those who proposed logo and name for the event. Dr. P. V. Balachandran welcomed the gathering and Dr. A. M. Ranjith proposed vote of thanks.



The cultural evenings in the Agrifesta thrilled the audiences with invaluable performances of music, magic, mimic, dance and folklore. Here are glimpses



Agri fiesta seminars – an overview

Well organized seminars was another hallmark of Agrifiesta 2014, the South Indian Agricultural fair. Beginning with the seminar on Farm Mechanisation on the first day, every day of the expo was devoted to an important topic.

First seminar was inaugurated by DR. B. Madhusoodanakurup, Vice-Chancellor, KUFOS. Director of Agriculture, R. Ajithkumar presided.

ICT in Agriculture



Seminar on ICT in agriculture in progress

Inaugurating the Seminar on Information Technology in Agriculture on the second day, Dr. K. Narayana Gowda, Vice-Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru pointed out that Modern Information and Communication tools can be effective instruments of technology transfer.

'In the existing extension system only 30% of technologies developed by research percolate down to rural farmers. But if the 1000 crore mobile phones and other

modern communication devices available in the country is used messages and technology transfer becomes easily accessible and easily understandable.' He said.

The second seminar on the day, focused on Bio Technology, was inaugurated by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran.

Scientific management of pepper

Dr. K. Ramaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has said that India should regain agricultural supremacy to retain global attention and attain economic growth.

Inaugurating a seminar on Scientific management of pepper held in connection Dr. Ramaswamy reminded the 400 odd farmers participants that India became an attraction to all world powers only because of its agricultural prosperity and diversity. Agricultural scientists in the country are working hard and developing many technologies. Farmers should volunteer to choose technologies best suited for them', he said.

Dr. P. Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor in his presidential address stressed on the need to enhance productivity of pepper in India as it is much below that of Vietnam, Thailand, etc. Dr. Abraham Varghese, Director, NIAII in his keynote address stressed the need of employing biological control in pepper crop management as

pesticide residue not only affects the consumer but the soil and export as well.

Family farming

Sustaining the much fancied international family farming package is a challenge before the global community, said Professor C. Raveendranath MLA.



Inaugurating a seminar on family farming, Prof. C. Raveendranath said that an unlikely shift in global economic policy and commitment on the part of all stakeholders are imperative to realize the real objectives of family farming proclamation.

'The deterioration of ecosystem has been rampant due to unhealthy competition to exploit natural wealth. Any attempt to recreate the ecosystem is praiseworthy and all should partake in it. But how far we can go without economic and policy back up is the big question', he said.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran termed family farming as the most energy efficient, productive and easy to manage cropping system ensuring self-sufficiency for each household.

The seminars on Hi-Tech Agriculture and use of Microorganisms in Spices also were well attended.

KAU Technology meet, a New avenue for Entrepreneurs

Dr. Amalorpavanathan, Chief General Manager, NABARD inaugurated the KAU technology meet held as part of Agrifiesta on March 1.

Dr. Amalorpavanathan said that food production is the emerging global challenge and India has a key role to play in the scenario.

'Appropriate technology will catapult our food production and enable food export. Technology is also available for preservation and product diversification. Hence this technology meet assumes much importance and relevance than generally perceived', he said.

Kochi Special economic zone CEO Dr. E. Safiina IAS, Indian Institute of Spice Research Director Dr. Anandaraj, KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Extension Dr. P. V. Balachandran and Dr. Jose Mathew spoke. Dr. A. Sukumaran, Associate Dean, College of Cooperation,

Banking & Management was the moderator and Dr. Alexander George the coordinator.

Self fertigation pot stand for flats, Veggie wash to dispense pesticide residue in Vegetables and fruits, an innovative model design for Intensive Integrated Vertical Farming system worth emulating in urban areas, power operated coconut husking machine with a capacity of 450-500 nuts/h, a simple, portable and light weight hand operated effective tool for separating copra from coconut shell, herbicide applicator attached to mechanical paddy transplanter, refreshing health food from the medicinal rice njavara, Red Banana Kool, Cashew Apple Products, Microbial Inoculants for Waste Management in Apartments, Hotels and Canteens, Bio Pesticide for Vegetables, etc figure in the long list of technologies presented in the meet.



Dr. Amalorpavanathan

Galaxy of Visitors Enliven Agrifiesta

Agrifiesta 2014 was enlivened by not only the content, but the galaxy of visitors who thronged the stalls as well.

Apart from the vast number of farmers from different parts of the state and neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, lot of school students and VIP'S visited the fair held in 214 stalls spread over the sprawling campus.

Vice-Chancellors of UAS, TNAU and KUFOS, Members of Kerala Legislative Assembly and University General Council as well as Executive Committee, Archbishop of Thrissur Archdiocese, Heads of R & D institutions in southern states and peoples' representatives visited the fair on different days.

Pooppoli, Ambalavayal flower show, through the lens :



Vice -
Chancellor
inaugurating
the event,
Minister for
Agriculture
enjoying
a ride atop
tuskier and
some
fascinating
visuals



Workshop and Farmer interface at Vellayani

A research-extension workshop and farmer-scientist interface was organized by the Southern Regional Agricultural Research Station at Vellayani.

The workshop held on 18 and 19 February was inaugurated by Director of Agriculture R. Ajithkumar in a function presided over by Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Dr. Sverup John, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture; Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension; Dr. K. Prathapan, Director, SHM; Dr. L. Rajamony and Dr. S. Devanesan spoke

The workshop attended by farmers from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Pathanamthitta Districts held detailed discussions regarding the various technologies developed by the University. It also deliberated upon the effective methods and innovative approaches for technology transfer.

KVK Action Plan

Scientists told to Take Care of Social issues

Multiple social issues are also to be addressed along with technological challenges for the development of agrarian sector in Kerala, said Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Zonal Project Director, ICAR. Speaking at the concluding session of the two day workshop to finalize the action plans of KVKs in Kerala and Lakshadweep held at Thrissur KVK, he said that New strategies and methodologies are to be streamlined to face the challenges of community based participatory programmes.

Addressing the KVK scientists, KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran stressed the need to work for enhancing farmer awareness about food safety and food security.

'KVKs have better stake in technology transfer compared to other agencies since they have research footing. KAU will extend all support to strengthen the KVKs in the state and farmer participatory research and extension activities,' he said.



Dr. Sreenath Dixit addressing the KVK scientists

Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension; Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research; ICAR Principal Scientists Dr. D.V.S.Reddy and Dr. B.T. Rayudu also participated in the plenary session.

The workshop finalized the action plans of 15 KVKs for the next year. Producing quality seeds of rice and vegetables will be one thrust area for the next year for all KVKs, in addition to their various demand driven activities more than 130 on farm trials and 180 front line demonstrations conducted by different KVKs were approved.

Technology Week Celebrated in KVKs

KVK Palakkad



Inaugural session of Palakkad KVK Technology meet

The Technology Week of KVK Palakkad was observed during 9-12 December 2013 with the focal theme 'Agriculture with Awareness of Mother Earth (AWAREME)'. The programme was inaugurated by Shafi Parambil, MLA at the District Panchayat Hall, Palakkad. T.N. Kandamuthan, President, Palakkad District Panchayat presided over the function and Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension delivered the key note address. Krishi Vignana Cheppu-2013, a set of seven booklets, authored by KVK scientists was released on the occasion.

KVK Kannur

The Technical week celebrations of Kannur KVK, Susthiram 2014 was inaugurated by Kurumathoor Grama Panchayat President K.U.Thresiamma.

Block Panchayat President Manu Thomas released a directory of frontline farmers in Kannur District while Dr. K. Sreekumar delivered Key Note address. Panchayat member K. Janaki, Panniyur PRS head Dr. V. P. Neema, Nabard Assistant Manager P. Dinesh, Farmers' representative George Vadakara, KVK Head Dr. P. Jayaraj and Dr. Giffin spoke.

KVK Kottayam



Vice Chancellor speaking at Technology Meet of Kottayam KVK

The Technology week celebrations of Kottayam KVK was inaugurated by Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor on March 12. Director of Extension Dr. P. V. Balachandran presided over the inaugural function. Dr. A.V. Mathew, Associate Director, RARS, Kumarakom and R. Geethamani, PAO, Kottayam participated. Dr. K. J. Joseph, Programme coordinator welcomed the

gathering and K. J. Geetha, Project Director, ATMA proposed vote of thanks.

KVK Kollam



Technology Meet at Kollam KVK being inaugurated

Technology Week of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Subhiksham 2014 was celebrated from March 10-14, with theme Family Farming. Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension presided over the Inaugural Session and KAU Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurated the Technology Week Programme. Dr. Noble Abraham, Programme Co-ordinator welcomed the dignitaries.

Jeena John, PAO, Vettikkavala Grama Panchayat President Sri. Thankachan Panavelly, Dr. Rejina S, Professor and Head, FRS, Sadanandapuram and Sri. Stanly Chacko, Deputy Director of Agriculture participated. Smt. Manu C.R. expressed vote of thanks.

NIC SUITE IN KAU LAUNCHED

KAU has taken a significant and decisive step towards e-governance by launching University suite of NIC. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran launched employee training module under the project at the University Head Quarters on March 26.

Vice-Chancellor said that the project is aimed at enhancing administrative efficiency and ensuring efficient use of human resources. The e-office element in the suite aims to manage electronic file flow from tapal creation to the disposal of the file. The status of a file can be easily traced from anywhere. KAU is the first to launch an integrated set of applications covering all functional areas.

The KAU Suite is bundle of software such as HR Management (Payroll, e-hajar, pay silp on login), portal for college, student, KAU. Academic Management of the suite includes online submission of synopsis & dissertation, student-guide-head-university workflow, etc.

The various e-governance models G2G, G2C, G2E are contained in the Suite. Registrar Dr. E. K. Mathew and K. Madhavan Nair, Director, CITI explained the virtues of e-governance project and NIC Suite.

Work for food sufficient, energy efficient and waste deficient India : Vice Chancellor

Kerala Agrl. University Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran has called for a sustained research effort for a food sufficient, energy efficient and waste deficient India.



Addressing the KAU community after unfurling the national flag at the University head quarters as part of 2014 Republic day celebrations he said the international year of family farming will achieve most success in Kerala because of the state's rich tradition in homestead farming.

'Our homesteads were successful demonstrations of family farming. What we need to do is only to recapture the lost glory. Once we resume farming in homesteads, we'll be able to produce safe and secure food. Let's pledge to make this a grand success', he said.

Officers of the University, staff, students and labourers took part in the Republic day parade led by Scouts and Guides.

Strengthen Research on Nematodes : Dr. S. K. Datta

The Eighteenth Biennial Group Meeting of the AICRP on Plant Parasitic Nematodes with Integrated Approach for their control held on March 3 - 5, 2014 at CoA, Vellayani was inaugurated by Dr. Swapan Kumar Datta, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Datta emphasized on the urgent need to identify genes involved in parasitism in nematodes and resistance in host for developing transgenic plant through RNAi-mediated gene silencing in case of former and expression of transgene in latter, respectively. Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research, KAU in his presidential address expressed deep concern about the spread of new nematode problems in coconut, banana, spices and vegetables in Kerala. Dr. Gopalakrishnan recollected that nematology research in Kerala Agricultural University was initiated in 1965 under Dr. M. R. G. K. Nair.

Dr. P. K. Chakrabarty, ADG (Plant Protection) presented a brief history and background of the AICRP on nematodes. Dr. R. K. Jain, Project Coordinator, AICRP (Nematodes) in his presentation on the salient achievements of the project during the last two years (2011-13) entailed the new and emerging nematode problems in different parts of the country.

Dr. Sverup John, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture offered welcome and Dr. M. S. Sheela, Associate Director and Principal Investigator, AICRP (Nematodes), Vellayani Centre delivered vote of thanks. A publication on Nematode diseases of Kerala by Sheela M.S, Narayana R, Nisha M.S, Santhosh Eapen and Remya S. R. along with a number of bulletins on various issues of Nematology was also released on the occasion.

Seminar on GM Crops calls for Testing Centre in State

GM crops - Prospects and issues organized by CPBMB at Vellanikkara on 17 and 18 March highlighted the need for setting up a GM Testing Centre in the state for identifying the presence of GM products in the market.

The seminar also suggested that that the potential of GM technology should be realized in the fields of crop productivity enhancement, pest and disease management and quality improvement albeit ensuring suitable biosafety measures in food crops. Enhancing Public awareness on GM technology through special drives and alleviating apprehensions in use of GM products have been suggested as measures to ensure public acceptance of GM food crops.

In his inaugural address, Dr. G. M Nair, Dean, School of Biological Sciences, Central University of Kerala said that basic understanding of the system as well as obtaining necessary skills is required to instill confidence in a scientist.

Dr. K. K. Narayanan, Managing Director, Metahelix Life Sciences Limited, Bangaluru delivered Keynote address in the inaugural session presided over by Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension.

The valedictory function was presided over by Dr. Jim Thomas, ADR. Dr. K. Rajmohan, Course Director, Integrated Biotechnology Course, CoA, Vellayani, was honoured for his commentable contributions to the biotechnology research at KAU. Dr. P.K. Valsalakumari, Associate Dean, CoH, Dr. P. A. Valsala, Professor & Head, CPBMB and Dr. Deepu Mathew, Organizing Secretary spoke.

CASHEW DAY CELEBRATIONS



M P Vincent MLA inaugurating Cashewday celebrations organised by CRS Madakkathara

The cashew day celebrations organized by Cashew Research Station, Madakkathara in association with Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa on December 19 was inaugurated by KAU Executive Committee member M.P. Vincent MLA.

The inaugural session was presided over by Nadathara Panchayath president Sajitha Baburaj. Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension delivered the introductory address and released a book on Cashew pests while Dr. Jnanadevan of Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa delivered key note address.

Associate Director of Extension Dr. Jose Mathew and Agricultural Officer Anu Michael spoke. CRS head Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha welcomed the gathering and Dr. Gregory Zacharia proposed vote of thanks.