



CM Lauds KAU's Research Contributions

Inauguration of Neera Plant, PG Block, Hostel & Farm office at Padannakkad

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy appreciated KAU's research achievements in general and the initiative to produce Neera based health drink in particular.

Inaugurating the Neera plant established at College of Agriculture (CoA), Padannakkad the Chief Minister said that Neera production is bound to enhance the profitability of coconut farmers in the state and KAU's contribution in this regard will always be remembered as a milestone in the long list of farmer friendly technologies developed by the University. He congratulated the Vice-Chancellor and scientists of KAU for their untiring efforts.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated the new farm office, PG Block and Ladies Hostel annex attached to CoA. The new facilities enhance infrastructural support for agricultural education and research in North Malabar.

Minister for Agriculture K. P. Mohanan, presided over the function. In his presidential address, the Minister said that a centre of excellence in Organic agriculture will be established at Nileswaram. The centre will develop and popularize organic farming strategies and lead the activities to make Kasargod the first fully organic district in the state, he said.

KAU Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran said that the new plant, first of its kind in the state, can produce 100 litres of Neera per hour. He highlighted the fact that KAU is the first institution to develop a foolproof technology for Neera production and produce the first ever Neera drink in the state which was released by the Chief Minister in November 2013. Consequent to this many institutions pursued the path of Neera development. We are proud of this path breaking initiative', he said.



Chief Minister, accompanied by Agricultural Minister, Vice-Chancellor and Officers of KAU viewing the new Neera Plant at Padannakkad.

The function held at CoA was attended by MLAs P. B. Abdul Razak, E. Chandrasekharan and K. Kunjiraman; District Collector Muhammad Sageer; Kanjangad Municipal Chair person K. Divya; KAU General Council member Dr. Jose Joseph, Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan; Director of Extension Dr. P. V. Balachandran; CoA Associate Dean Dr. M. Govindan; Associate Directors Dr. Jayaprakash Naik and Abdul Kareem as well as peoples' representatives of the district.

Minister bats for Student friendly Campuses Opening Farmers' Hostel at Vellanikkara

Minister for Agriculture K. P. Mohanan has said that his priority as KAU Pro-Chancellor is to safeguard the interests of students and farmers.

Addressing the audience after inaugurating the Farmers' Hostel in KAU main campus, the minister said that the importance and relevance of implementing ICAR model act has been seized of, but a well thought out frame work suitable to Kerala scenario has to be evolved. A meeting of all stake holders will soon be convened to discuss the issue, he said.

'Universities in general should be student friendly and Agricultural University should also be farmer friendly. I am happy to inaugurate such a hostel with excellent facilities for farmers', Minister said.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran presided over the function and M. P. Vincent



Agricultural Minister inaugurates the new farmers' hostel at Vellanikkara

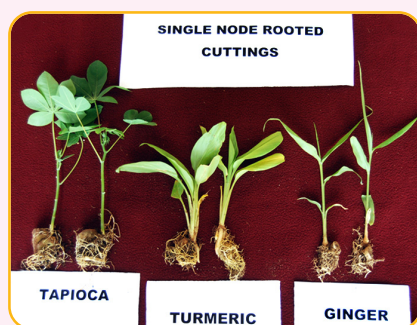
MLA was the chief guest. General Council members and officers of the University participated. The farmers' Hostel constructed at a cost of 1.8 crores is funded by ICAR. It can provide accommodation for 100 farmers in addition to facilities for in house trainings, farmers' workshops and seminars.

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Research Buzz – news from labs & fields

Tuber plantlets through Micro technique



ARS, Mannuthy has come out with production and supply of ready to plant plantlets of Ginger and Turmeric and rooted single node cuttings of Tapioca (Cassava). This remedies the non-availability of quality planting materials of these crops, especially for the newly developed varieties. The micro technique mass multiplication method helps to derive more plantlets from rhizomes, considerably reduce the quantity of rhizomes required for planting unit area and also lead to uniform maturing of the crop.

In the mass multiplication method, 400-600 plants are obtained from one Kg of seed material. In case of Tapioca, 50-60 rooted cuttings can be prepared from a 3m long cassava stem which is 5-6 times more than the output of traditional method. In this method single node pieces of rhizomes are soaked in a mixture of insecticide and fungicide (2g mancozeb + 2 ml quinalphos per one litre water) solution for 10-15 minutes and planted in portrays filled with good quality coir pith compost. Mass multiplication of Cassava is achieved by using stem cuttings having single buds and planting these cuttings in portrays with 5cm cavity size. The trays are kept in propagating structures clad with UV stabilized polythene sheet. Irrigation is required only when the media is dry. Germination is visible within two weeks and good mass of roots are observed within a period of three weeks. The plantlets get ready for planting within a month. Mass multiplied plantlets can be kept in portrays for a maximum of 6-8 weeks with sufficient fertigation. Farmers can pre book single node plantlets from ARS.

KAU Veggie Wash for Relief From Pesticide Residue

Pesticide Residue Analytical and Research laboratory (PRRAL), Vellayani has developed a formula for a household product (Veggie Wash) for removing pesticide residues from fruits and vegetables. It has been proved that Pesticide residues can be effectively removed by dipping vegetables and fruits in Veggie Wash for 15 minutes followed by rigorous washing in water. The long felt need for a low cost, easy to use, household product capable of cleansing the fruits and vegetables from pesticide residues has been thus solved. The compound, developed under the State Plan Scheme titled 'Production and Marketing of 'Safe to Eat' vegetables for sale through Govt. outlets', is a great relief for Keralites reeling under the threat of hazardous pesticide residues in many commonly used vegetables. Manufacturers of household products can buy the formula of Veggie Wash, a mixture of natural/plant based products in a specific proportion, along with the detailed business plan. This product can be manufactured with minimum investment and marketed in biodegradable plastic bottles or in 20 g sachets for household use. KAU propose to make spray bottles (500 ml or 1L) with which consumers can just spray the solution directly to vegetables and wash rigorously, to make them pesticide free.



Research Project in PPP Mode Initiated



Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran launched the first ever KAU initiative to industrialise research findings. He said that the project titled *Metabolome*

analysis in ginger and product development using gingerol implemented in collaboration with private sector Arjuna Natural Extracts Ltd is a path breaking initiative to commercialise research findings through institute - industry linkage. Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research said that the BIRAC funded project aimed at industrial level product formulation from high yielding ginger somaclones developed by KAU under PPP mode has a total outlay is 148.10 lakhs. Dr. Benny Antony, Director, Arjuna Natural Extracts Ltd, said that world market is untapped because of the low gingerol content in traditional cultivars and poor gingerol stability issues. The new project will redress these issues, he said.

Dr. M. R. Shylaja, Principal Investigator who foresaw the industrial feasibility of high gingerol content in new ginger varieties developed by her said that this project in turn would be a boon to the ginger farmers as a buy back guarantee at fair price would be ensured. Dr. E. K. Mathew, Registrar; Dr. Joy Mathew, Comptroller; Dr. E. V. Nybe, Academic Director; Dr. P. K. Valsalakumari, Associate Dean and CPBMB Head Dr. P.A. Valsala spoke.

KAU Technology Hub

KAU has established a Technology hub to offer professional guidance and support for potential investors in agri business sector. The technology hub is expected to ensure a feasible industry - institution linkage for fostering of agri-business and providing self employment through proper use of the hither to unexplored potential of agricultural technology. The hub will facilitate incubation, consolidation and dissemination of KAU technologies as well as consultancy services and hand holding for agri entrepreneurs.

The presence of KAU Technology incubation cell at various exhibitions and industrial meets held in different parts of the state including Young Entrepreneurs' Meet (YES) held in September had attracted several entrepreneurs. The Technology hub will provide a permanent set up for showcasing KAU technologies. The Technology hub at CTI, Mannuthy under Directorate of Extension will work in close coordination with Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC). As a beginning it will show case sixty technologies supported with ready to use business plans.



KVK-AIR Tie up for Technology Transfer

KVK, Kannur and Kannur All India Radio has joined hands to update the extension functionaries, farmers and agricultural labourers on new technologies, opportunities and facilities from different sources. A series of technological sessions, trainings, exposure visits, workshops, participatory mode technology transfer, diagnostic visits, Seminars, etc., were arranged for farming community in the Farmer's Month programme jointly organised in August. KAU Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Rajendran, Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension and Dr. C.V. Sairam, Principal Scientist, ICAR Zonal Project Directorate, Bangalore visited and appreciated the unique programme for technology transfer through AIR. Experts from ICAR, KAU, Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries attended various technical sessions. About 1400 farmers attended the programme. The concluding seminar and Kissan Mobile Advisory Services (KMAS) was inaugurated by Balachandran, Assistant Director, AIR, Kannur. KVK Head Dr. Jayaraj and Assistant Professors Dr. Giggin, T. and Dr. Sharon, C. L. were present. The technical sessions will be aired through KISSAN VANI from October 1-31 to benefit entire farming community of the district.

Field Camp for Tribal Farmers

A capacity building programme for tribal farmers was organised by AICRP on STCR centre of KAU at Perumatty Grama Panchayath hall on September 10. The field day and capacity building programme was inaugurated by Suresh Babu, President, Perumatty Grama Panchayath in a function presided over by Dr. Pradip Dey, Project Coordinator, AICRP on STCR. Dr. I. Johnkutty, Assoc. Director of Research delivered the key note address. Perumatty Grama Panchayath Vice President Sheeba Radhakrishnan released the training manual. Dr. Betty Bastin welcomed the gathering and Dr. V. I. Beena proposed vote of thanks. Lead farmers and people's representatives participated. The programme organised under Tribal sub project of AICRP was intended to create awareness among the tribal farmers about the STCR methodology of fertilizer application and importance of fertilizer application based on crop requirement and soil availability.

Ambalavayal Hosts State Jack fest Bio Control Lab, Weekly market opened

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy inaugurated the first State Jack fest organized at RARS, Ambalavayal on August 19. Minister P. K. Jayalakshmi inaugurated the newly introduced weekly market and new bio control lab. KAU General Council member I. C. Balakrishnan presided over the function. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran delivered Key note address and honoured CeL Director Dr. P. Ahmed, Karshaka Jyothi awardee Palliyara Raman and Karshaka Prathibha awardee Sooraj. Jack fest was organized to showcase, experience and explore processing opportunities and consequent employment prospects offered by Jackfruit, an unadulterated natural food which is abundantly produced but the mostly wasted. A feast of Jackfruit delicacies added flavour to the function. Cine artist Mammukkoya cut a Jack fruit shaped cake and spoke on the important role the fruit played in food security of the rural societies in Kerala. District Collector Kesavendra Kumar IAS; Associate Director of Research Dr. V. S. Devadas; Associate Director of Extension Dr. Jose Mathew; LSGI represen-



Chief Minister inaugurates the Jack fest organized at RARS Ambalavayal

tatives; NGO leaders and farmers participated. RARS Head Dr. Rajendran welcomed the gathering and KVK Head Dr. Radhamma Pillai proposed vote of thanks.

The weekly market is introduced to help the farmers to sell their produces under watchful eyes of RARS avoiding cartels. RARS produces will also be sold along with that of Farmers. The arrangement ensures permanent marketing facility for quality farm produces on one hand and assured price for farmers on the other.

Save Pineapple Farming: Minister National workshop at Vellanikkara



Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan inaugurates the National workshop on Pineapple farming

Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan called for a sustained and conscientious effort to dispel the unfounded fears caused by unreasonable propaganda on chemical residues in pineapple. The Minister was inaugurating a national seminar on Pineapple farming jointly organised by KAU, Pineapple Mission and Department of Agriculture at Vellanikkara on August 25. 'It has been scientifically proved that Pineapple doesn't contain any harmful residues and the growth promoting reagents are not toxic. The false propaganda to the contrary should be desisted and defeated. State Government is committed to increase pineapple cultivated area to 15000 ha and all possible help will be extended to pineapple growers', Minister

said. M.P. Vincent MLA in his presidential address stressed the need to support pineapple cultivation. Joseph Vazhakkannan MLA called for a strong intervention by scientists to save the lone fruit exported by Kerala. He also proposed a floor price for pineapple and low interest loans for pineapple farming. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran was vehement in his support for moves to save and promote pineapple cultivation. 'Please leave the pineapple alone. Not only that it contains no toxic residues, but it is a better and safer source of antioxidants and vitamins than many high profile fruits brought from other states and bought at exorbitant prices', he said. KAU General Council members Aji Francis, Varghese Ollukkarann, Dr. Mary Regina, C. H. Muthu and Yohannan; Director of Extension Dr. P.V. Balachandran; Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan; Director of Agriculture R. Ajithkumar; SHM Director Dr. K. Prathapan and Pineapple Mission Special Officer Sunil kumar participated. The inaugural function was followed by technical sessions on different aspects of pineapple farming. 300 farmers from different parts of the state attended the seminar. An exhibition of Pineapple products was also arranged. Recommendations of the workshop will be discussed in detail at a high level meeting later.

Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Let's Strive for House hold Nutritional Security

Food insecurity and starvation are no longer a threat to Indian population, thanks to the multi-sectorial strategies and multi-pronged programmes implemented by the Government since the Sixties. Successive Governments had made successful interventions in ensuring self-sufficiency in food grain production. The role agricultural science played in making this a reality is vital though not adequately appreciated. Yet we are made to realise that self-sufficiency in Food grain production alone does not guarantee nutritional security to our citizens.

Food safety and nutritional security are the present challenges before agricultural scientists in general and India in particular. In the light of post green revolution fatigue and non-improving productivity level, a paradigm shift from Self-sufficiency in food grains to satisfying nutritional needs, from stress on production strategies to reducing post-harvest losses through value addition protocols and from state level food security to individual nutrition has become imperative.

Though several schemes to ensure improvement in nutritional security and health status of the population are in vogue, spreading awareness about them and extension of such schemes to rural population with the involvement of people is a must for realizing their objectives. The inadequate intake of vegetables and fruits in a country which tops the world in their production is a clear indication of lack of awareness and lack of availability of resources. The rich plant biodiversity of India, particularly that of Kerala, offers a low cost buffet of seasonal fruits and vegetables which could be consumed by all at all times. Ensuring awareness and availability of fruits and vegetables throughout the year to all cross sections of people at affordable prices is the only remedy to such issues. But that cannot and will not happen unless the priorities are redefined and reoriented.

In Kerala Perspective the imbalance between population growth and dwindling area of cultivation is a major hurdle for sustainable farming. Over dependence on vegetables and fruits produced elsewhere without adhering to health protocols is another danger. Though the labour shortage and escalation in labour wages further constrain domestic farming, it would not be impossible to attain an appreciable level of food security and nutritional security if sincere efforts are made to enhance productivity through preservation of soil fertility, usage of modern technology, active involvement of people, especially the rural youth and support of strong public distribution system.

Nutritional security at house hold level is a more pragmatic and easily attainable target and the basic ingredients are awareness and will to work. The International Year of Family Farming is an ideal opportunity to ensure a certain level of self-reliance in vegetable and fruit production which would certainly keep away many dangers. Let us rededicate our efforts to build a healthy and happy society; Let the next generation not regret our inability to provide a healthy background for their welfare.



Centre for IP Protection Inaugurated

Jose Cyriac, Chairman, Kerala State Innovation Council opened the Centre for IP Protection of KAU on July 9. In the function held at CoH, Vellanikkara, he also inaugurated a two day workshop on IP protection through patents organised by the centre. In his address the former Chief Secretary said that correlation between innovation and patent registration should be strengthened to protect the rights of all stake holders. 'Advanced countries have gained an advantage over India and other developing countries in protection of Intellectual property rights. The development of technologies and registration of IP rights together reflect the growth in science and technology sector. At the same time registration of a patent should not curtail the use of that technology and hence popularization of technology is equally relevant', he said. Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research in his presidential address said that hitherto Indian scientists have been focusing on developing new technology and the time has come to focus on registration of IP rights as well. Dr. Jose Mathew, Associate Director of Extension released a book on Protection and Management of IPR in Agriculture authored by KAU scientists and experts in IPR regulations. Dr. P.K. Valsalakumary, Associate Dean, CoH welcomed the gathering and Dr. C. R. Elsy, Coordinator, Centre for IP protection proposed vote of thanks. Officials from Patent registry, Chennai and legal professionals guided the delegates from different organisations in the state.



Jose Cyriac speaking at the inauguration of Centre for IP Protection in KAU

Workshop on Bio security Bill Changes imperative : Experts

A workshop on the proposed National Agricultural Bio Security Bill held at CoH on September 1 observed that modifications in the draft are imperative to realise its objectives. Speakers at the workshop jointly organized by Centre for Excellence in Environmental Economics (CEEE) of KAU and Centre for Law in Agriculture of National University of Legal Studies were unanimous in proposing involvement of academics in formulation of such important legislations. While Dr. K.G. Padmakumar spoke on impacts of the bill on Fisheries sector, Dr. T. P. Sethumadhavan covered Livestock sector; Dr. T.S. Sajeer spoke about forestry sector and Dr. George Thomas presented the views on Agricultural sector. It was pointed out that the draft legislation doesn't cover the quarantine protocols of already introduced invasive species like Genetically Modified Tilapia nor does it stress the need for Pre-introductory data. Special provisions to ensure effective control of zoonotic, parasitic, milk born and meet born diseases should be incorporated and ensuring awareness among all stakeholders should be a priority. The workshop chaired by Dr. P. K. Valsalakumary, Associate Dean, CoH noted that the bill does not address existing issues like involuntarily introduced menaces like Giant African Snail or wrongly introduced species like Acacia mearnsii. Draft bill also does not address major issues like Import of ornamental plants and Products made from GM crops are issues, speakers pointed out. Dr. Jacob Joseph, Director, Centre for Law in Agriculture introduced the bill. The prime objective of the bill is to prevent introduction of quarantine pests in India by regulating import and export of plants, animals and products thereof in accordance with international agreements, he said. Dr. Jessy Thomas, Head, Dept of Agricultural Economics welcomed the gathering and CEEE Director Dr. P. Indiradevi summarised the proceedings.

G C decides to Strengthen Climate change Research



E. K. Prakash, M.P. Vincent MLA, Vice-Chancellor and Registrar at GC Meet held on July 19

KAU General Council meeting held on July 19 decided to strengthen research on climate change adaptation so as to develop strategies for enhancing water use efficiency and drought resistance of crops. An action plan to educate the farmers about the technologies developed in this arena will also be launched. A motion without notice to this effect moved by Dr. Jose Joseph was unanimously adopted by the Council.

A resolution moved by Dr. R. Krishnakumar proposing increase in seats for Agricultural courses in tune with the increasing demand was referred to Academic Council. Replying to a call attention motion by Dr. P.V. Balachandran on the compulsions to fill vacancies of scientists in KVVs, Vice-Chancellor assured that steps in this regard will be initiated as expeditiously as possible. Members expressed concern about the financial situation of the University and

requested the state Government to reconsider the stand on pay revision anomalies.

Reacting to the complaints on conduct of examination and evaluation, the Vice-Chancellor said that KAU up holds a very high tradition of academic excellence and academic dilution will not be allowed. V.S. Sathyaseelan, Dr. Jiju P. Alex, Dr. T. N. Jagdeeshkumar, Dr. A. Prema, C. H. Muthu, Soumya Krishnan, Varghese J. Ollukkar, Aji Francis, Adv. Sony Sebastian, K.A. Sheeba, Rajeev Nellikunnel and Vishnu Narayanan participated in the discussions. The meeting chaired by Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor was attended by Ollur MLA M.P. Vincent, E. K. Prakash (Special Secretary, Finance), Registrar Dr. E. K. Mathew, Comptroller Dr. Joy Mathew and other officers of the University.

CoH hosts National Seminar on Library Management



Dr. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai addressing National Library Seminar on August 29

Dr. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE called for special efforts to preserve and retrieve traditional knowledge using modern library management techniques and restructure library science curriculum in tune with emerging international scenario. Inaugurating a two day National seminar on technology management of Libraries and a technology exhibition organised at CoH, Dr. Rajasekharan Pillai said that by village libraries played a key role in the development of his generation. 'Library movement in Kerala led to refinement of society and restructuring societal fabric. Even while using modern tools of library information

science to revamp library information system care should also be taken to safeguard the security of sensitive data and build user friendly atmosphere in libraries', he said. Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, presided over the inaugural function. Dr. P. K. Valsalakumari, Associate Dean, CoH, State Librarian P.K. Sobhana, University Librarian K.P. Sathyan, Dr. C.T. Abraham, Organising Secretary Dr. A.T. Francis, K. Rajendran, Pradeep and Swapna spoke. 150 delegates from different states participated in the workshop sponsored by KSCSTE and supported by Kerala Library Association and Academic Library Association. A Technology exhibition was also held simultaneously.

ARS initiative to turn Waste in to Wealth

ARS Mannuthy, well known as the hub of farm mechanization activities and the unique Food Security Army (FSA) concept, has come up with another novel concept. The leisure time activities to FSA members called



'wealth from waste has created a model in meaningful utilization of intervals during training sessions. The trainees and trainers engage in activities to create wealth from waste materials that are usually abandoned. The first task taken up is to create wood art work and sculptures from the root stumps of trees which were cut and removed earlier. In the first round FSA has turned nearly 30 such root stumps in to sculptures. The stumps of trees like Jack, Teak and Rose wood - which were cut and removed either for construction purposes or on account of being over matured - are excavated, washed, peeled and worked upon to form different sculptures which can fetch a good price in the international market. Shredding of bio waste like coconut leaves, twigs, logs, etc and converting them into bio-compost and bio-fuel materials are other peace time activities taken up by the FSA. Replicable model for adoption at District level Model Agro Service Centers is being worked out.

Modernisation of KAU Press



Modernisation of KAU Press using State Plan Fund commenced with the installation of Programmable Cutting machine. The switch on ceremony of new machine was performed by Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension. Associate Director of Extension Dr. Jose Mathew, Director of Physical Plant Dr. V. R. Ramachandran and staff of Press participated.

Agri Minister inaugurates Rice breeding Project



Minister K. P. Mohanan at Mangad Padasekharam during the launch of advanced rice breeding centre

Minister of Agriculture, K.P. Mohanan inaugurated the Advanced rice breeding cum seed production centre of College of Agriculture, Padannakkad on July 19 by inaugurating the first activity under project - hands on training programme on organic rice farming in farmers' field.

K. Kunhiraman, MLA presided over the function held at Mangad Padasekharam. The programme was jointly organised by CoA, Padannakkad; Agriculture department, Kasaragode and Udma Gramma Panchayath.

CoA Associate Dean Dr. M. Govindan delivered key note address and Principal Investigator Dr. Vanaja T. presented a report on the planning board sponsored project.

Call to Include agriculture in School Curriculum

Dr. K. K. Ramachandran, Member Secretary, KSCSTE has said that lack of agricultural science content in school curriculum of the state is a lacuna which has to be addressed as early as possible. He was speaking after presenting the Dr. P. K.R. Nair Prize for best Post graduate research work in Agricultural sciences in a function held at College of Forestry of KAU on July 5.



Vijayasree & Samritika

Dr. Ramachandran said that India is indebted to agricultural research for the self-sufficiency in food grain production. 'Food security concept itself was created by the sustained efforts of researchers in agriculture but often they draw more flak for what they have not achieved than accolades for what they have achieved. Closer interaction and coordination with other branches of science would further the prospects of agricultural research,' he said.

The prize for best PhD research was won by CoF student Samritika, hailing from Himachal Pradesh. She undertook research on Belowground Architecture and Carbon Stocks of Silver Oak (*Grevillea robusta* A. Cunn.) Trees under the guidance of Dr. T. K. Kunhamu.

Vijayasree.V of CoA, Vellayani won the prize for best MSc thesis for the study on Efficacy and biosafety of new generation insecticides for the management of fruit borers of cowpea, brinjal and okra carried out under the guidance of Dr. Hebsy Bai. The awardees received a plaque, certificate of merit and cash award.

Dr. P.K. Ramachandran Nair, an alumni of CoA, Vellayani and currently a professor at University of Florida, USA instituted these awards to support and recognize the academic accomplishments of outstanding PG students of CoA, Vellayani and CoF, Vellanikkara.

The function was presided over by Dr. Sverup John, Dean (Faculty of Agriculture). Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension; Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research; Dr. K. Sudhakara, Dean (Faculty of Forestry); Dr. K. Vidyasagar and the award winners spoke.

KAU e-Granth Platform Becomes Operational



Dr. E.V. Nybe speaking after inaugurating KAU e-Granth platform

The e-Granth platform of KAU library and Information System was dedicated to the literary world on August 22. Dr. E.V. Nybe, Director (Academic & PG Studies) dedicated the system and inaugurated a workshop on Library Management softwares in a function presided over by Dr. K. Sudhakara, Dean, Faculty of Forestry. The e-Granth module provides a user-friendly platform for students, researchers and other knowledge seekers. Online Public Access Catalogue module coordinated by Central Library provides instant access to all books and journals available in KAU Library System. The function was attended by General Council member Dr. Mary Regina F, CCBM Associate Dean Dr. A. Sukumaran, University Librarian K.P. Sathyan, Dr. C.T. Abraham, Dr. P. O. Nameer, Dr. A.T. Francis and Nisha.

Finishing School for VHSE Students concludes

The valedictory function of project on Finishing school for VHSE (Agri) certificate holders 2013-14 held at CoA, Vellayani was inaugurated by Dr. Sverup John, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture. In his address Dr. Sverup John said that the project enhances the professional competency and skill capability of the VHSE (Agri) certificate holders in selected enterprises and it would help them to emerge as young entrepreneurs. R. Ajith Kumar, Director, department of Agriculture in his keynote address pointed the need for VHSE (Agri) certificate holders in the fast developing agricultural scenario of Kerala. The agro service centers to be established in every block require the services of these students, he said. Dr. V.B. Padmanabhan, Professor and Head i/c, Department of Extension presided over the function. KAU General council members Dr. S. Devanesan, Dr. R. Krishna Kumar and Academic Council members Dr. Jacob John and Dr. Thomas George offered felicitations. Dr. G. S. Sreedaya welcomed the gathering and Dr. Allan Thomas proposed vote of thanks. Main objective of the project was to enhance the employability of VHSE (Agri) certificate holders. 255 certificate holders were trained in 14 batches at different centers of KAU. Forty eight candidates had successfully completed the apprenticeship programme linked to the project and nearly ninety students are currently undergoing apprenticeship.

New Farming Culture Needed: VC DDK-KAU Farmer Interface at Vellanikkara



Vice-Chancellor addressing audience at the Farmer Interface

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurated a farmers' interface 'Agricultural Excellence through Technological advancement' organised by Doordarsan in collaboration with KAU at Vellanikkara on August 5. In his inaugural address the Vice-Chancellor called for a new farming culture aimed at self sufficiency in safe to eat food production and exhorted farmers to avail the benefits of advanced technology and expertise to enhance productivity and ensure production of safe to eat food. Dr. Rajendran said that agricultural research is focused on enhancing productivity of crops, eliminating drudgery of farming and enabling nature friendly agriculture. Prasar Bharthi Deputy Director General T. Chamiyar in his presidential address said that Doordarsan, since its inception, has been playing a key role in promoting agriculture and a new national channel exclusively for Agriculture is in the pipeline.

Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension; Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research; Dr. C. K. Thomas, Director, Thrissur Doordarsan Kendra and K. Chandran, Joint Director, State Horticulture Mission spoke. The technical session on Hi Tech and precision farming was handled by scientists Dr. Jim Thomas, Dr. C. Narayanankutty, Dr. P. Suseela, Dr. Saly K. Mathew, Dr. Abdul Hakim and Thrissur Athma project Director Mercy Thomas. The second session on mechanized agriculture was handled by Dr. U. Jaikumar, Dr. P. R. Jayan, Dr. A. Latha and Dr. Shaila Joseph. State Agricultural Engineer V. Babu and Peringandoor co-operative bank president Anoop Kishore shared experiences in mechanization of agriculture, while Dr. Ranjan S. Karippai and Dr. Mary Regina acted as moderators. 200 farmers participated in the interface which concluded with a colourful show of folk arts.

CeL Wins International Laurels



Dr. P. Ahamed and Dr. A. Sakeer Husain receiving the World Education Summit Award-2014 at New Delhi

Centre for E-Learning (CeL) of KAU won the prestigious World Education Summit Award-2014 as well as South West India Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) Award.

While the World Education Summit Award-2014 for the best educational ICT initiative in public sector was presented in a colourful function held at New Delhi on 8th August, DEF award was presented in grand ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, Pune on 7th August.

CeL was selected for the World Education Summit Award from among more than 300 nominations. The award was announced by World Education Summit, Premier Platform on Education at global level and the biggest networking event for leaders in education from around the World, co-sponsored by the UNESCO, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutes (Govt. of India) and the Elets Technomedia.

CeL won the South West India Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) Award for the KAU e-Agritech Portal for Farmer Outreach (www.celkau.in) developed by it. The DEF Award was co-sponsored by the United Nation's World Summit and Digital Internet Security.

Fabulous Response to Vegetable Farming Programme



Former Deputy Mayor M. Vijayan receives the first training kit from District Panchayath President

Thrissur District Panchayath President C. C. Sreekumar inaugurated the vegetable farming training programme launched by Thrissur KVK as part of the Onathinorukutta Pachakkari programme.

Sreekumar said that the District Panchayath will collaborate with KAU for the promotion of Family farming programme. Farming activities at public places will be encouraged since they are also part of the family in a larger perspective, he said.

Twenty thousand seedlings and seeds of vegetable seeds along with micronutrient kits and a handbook on vegetable cultivation were distributed in the first batch training on July 19. KVK Head Dr. Ranjan S Karippai said that innovative Onathinorukutta Pachakkari programme was initiated to encourage homestead farming during Onam season. The programme received tremendous response and nearly three lakh seedlings were booked.

Water Situation in Kerala Grave: Study

A study on water use and resources by Centre of Excellence in Environmental Economics of KAU predicts a high degree of water scarcity in the state by 2021. Depicting the demand and supply position of water in Kerala as unsatisfactory, it has projected a gap of 1268 Mm³ (1268 billion litres) between supply and demand in 2021 on the basis of current level of rainfall, storage and available ground water. Current signals of climate change, land-use changes and demographic pressures points to a still wider supply-demand gap, warns the study.

The report was released by Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research, KAU in the valedictory function of training for LSGI representatives on agriculture and environment organized by CEEE.

Rakhi Kaleshkumar, President, Vazhappally Panchayath received the first copy.

According to the study projected demand by the year 2021 is 48,600 Mm³ whereas the available resources can only provide 47332 Mm³ of water. The ground water status of the state is alarming with Kerala in the third position among Indian states where well water levels fell by 71.48% during the last decade, says the study.

Based on the relative vulnerability index, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Malappuram, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kozhikode, Alappuzha and Kannur were grouped as highly vulnerable. Idukki and Wayanad districts were in the relatively safer group and Kottayam, Palakkad, Pathanamthitta and Kasargod are in the medium vulnerability status.

Make Planning Farmer Centric : K.Jayakumar Dr. K.N.S Nair Endowment lecture

K. Jayakumar, Vice-Chancellor, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University called for a need based and farmer centric planning process.

Delivering the ninth Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair memorial lecture organised by Centre for Gender Studies in Agriculture & Farm Entrepreneurship Development at CoH, Vellanikkara, the former Chief Secretary pointed out that administrative response to public issues in general and farmer distress in particular is weighed down by shortcomings in realistic need assessment, need based planning and time bound implementation.

Jayakumar said that persisting with failed schemes and lack of need based revision is the bane of all of plan projects. 'The administration is often satisfied with achieving financial target rather than realizing real objectives. Accountability is not insisted and neither efficiency review nor self introspection ever attempted. Adequate response coupled with sincere planning and prompt implementation can solve many persisting issues', he said.



K. Jayakumar delivering the 9th Dr. K.N.S. Nair memorial lecture

Jayakumar remembered Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair as an efficient administrator with a friendly face, intimate behavior and strong desire to achieve difficult targets.

CoH Associate Dean Dr. P. K. Valsalokumary welcomed the gathering. Extension Director Dr. P. V. Balachandran paid a tribute to Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair and Dr. P. S. Geethakutty, Head, CGSAFED proposed vote of thanks. Research Director Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan presided. Forestry Dean Dr. K. Sudhakara and Comptroller Dr. Joy Mathew also spoke. Academics, students and family members of Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair were present.

Four members of State Legislature Elected to KAU GC

Four Members of the state Legislative Assembly, P. A. Madhavan, Babu M. Palissery, Thomas Unniyadan and I. C. Balakrishnan, have been inducted to General Council of the University. The members elected by the Legislature under Section 10 – Elected Members (1) of KAU Act will hold office up to 17 June 2017 when the three year term of present General Council reconstituted with effect from 18 June 2014 expires.

While P. A. Madhavan (representing Manalur constituency), Thomas Unniyadan (Irinjalakkuda constituency) and I. C. Balakrishnan (Sulthan Bathery constituency) served in the previous GC and the latter two were members of Executive Committee also, Babu M Palissery (Kunnamkulam constituency) makes his debut to the supreme body of the University.

Dr. C. Narayanankutty Gets State Award



Dr. C. Narayanankutty, Professor, ARS, Mannuthy was bestowed with the state award for best agricultural scientist.

Dr. C. Narayanankutty is the Principal breeder of the snake gourd variety *Manusree* and the bacterial wilt resistant tomato variety *Manulakshmi*. He is associated with the development of six other released vegetable varieties. Dr. Narayanankutty was the first to identify and popularise cauliflower and cabbage varieties suitable for cultivation in the plains of Kerala. He was awarded the Israel Government Scholarship for advanced training in high tech vegetable production in 2006. Since then Dr. Narayanankutty has been actively involved in precision farming initiatives in the various parts of the state. The grafting technology developed by him to overcome soil borne diseases in vegetables has attracted international attention. Dr. Narayanankutty is a technical advisor to VFPC and has published more than 50 research papers in journals besides a large number of popular articles, bulletins and other extension publications. He is the recipient of the Best Scientist Award of the Kerala Agricultural University in 2012 as well as several other recognitions for his research contributions.

AVRDC Seeks KAU Technology to fight Bacterial Wilt

The Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre (AVRDC), Taiwan, has approached KAU to extend the grafting technology to produce wilt resistant vegetable seedlings to their project areas. The Taiwan centre approached KAU Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan through its South Asia regional Office at Hyderabad, seeking assistance in this regard.

The World Vegetable Centre has also expressed interested in a joint collaboration with KAU in other areas of vegetable research and avail the expertise of KU scientists in vegetable cultivation. AVRDC wanted to make use of the technology developed by Dr. C. Narayanankutty in its project areas, starting with the centres like Chickmangalore, Raichur, etc. They also sought supply of grafted seedlings to these sites since the season has already begun. Services of Dr. C. Narayanankutty has also been requested to impart training to scientist and lead farmers in their project sites.

The grafting technology standardised at ARS, Mannuthy of Kerala Agricultural University has proved successful in thwarting bacterial wilt and grafted seedlings of tomato, brinjal and chilly hybrids produced at ARS has caught the attention of many and is in high demand. ARS has distributed eight lakh vegetable seedlings this season. The AVRDC move conveying appreciation and seeking collaboration has made us proud, said Dr. U. Jaikumaran, Professor & Head, ARS.

IPR awareness Programme at FSRs

FSRS, Kottarakkara organised an awareness programme for farmers and extension workers on Intellectual Property Rights in agriculture. The one day held on September 20 was inaugurated by Kollam District Panchayat President S. Jayamohan in a function chaired by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran. In his inaugural address S. Jayamohan called for close coordination between agricultural scientists and farming community and proper appreciation for committed researchers in agricultural sector. Associate Director of Research Dr. S. Devanesan offered welcome and FSRs Head Dr. S. Regina proposed vote of thanks. Dr. T. C. James, former head of central Intellectual Property division, Dr. C. R. Elsy, Head, KAU centre for IP and Dr. S. Regina handled the sessions on Intellectual property rights and plant protection.