

Pooppoli 2016 inauguration CM Declares New Agriculture College at Wayanad

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy said that the role of agricultural development in Nation's progress cannot go unnoticed.

Speaking after inaugurating the global florifest (Pooppoli 2016) organised by KAU at RARS, Ambalavayal, Chief Minister highlighted the contributions of KAU and also announced that a new Agricultural college will start functioning at Ambalavayal from next academic year onwards.

Minister for SC/ST development P. K. Jayalakshmi inaugurated the exhibition being conducted as part of florifest. I. C. Balakrishnan MLA presided over the function in which KAU Executive Committee members M. P. Vincent MLA, P. A. Salam and Aji Francis; District Panchayat President Ushakumari, District Collector V. Kesavendrakumar IAS, Women's Commission Chairperson Rosakutty, Hill Area Development Authority Vice-Chairman M. D. Appachan, KAU functionaries and local body representatives participated. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran welcomed the gathering while RARS head Dr. Rajendran Pangath offered vote of thanks.

2016 edition of flower show also coincides with the first international conference on succulents and other ornamentals organised by International Society for Horticultural Sciences (ISHS) held in India. The conference has helped to bring to light the



Chief Minister Oommen Chandy inaugurates Pooppoli 2016

horticulture potential of Wayanad. Interaction with international experts also helped scientists and research scholars gain in knowledge and experience. The show is arranged with co-operation of other departments, PSUs and District administration.

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GC APPROVES DEFICIT FREE BUDGET

KAU budget for 2016-17 was passed by the General Council.

The 125th Meeting of the council which met at Thiruvananthapuram on March 29 approved the budget estimates presented by the Chairman, Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran.

Dr. Rajendran, in his brief speech said that the 546.63 crore budget envisages non plan grant in aid of Rs. 281.91 crores and plan grant of Rs. 65.50 crores. The receipts under external aided projects is pegged at Rs. 78.27 crores.

The Vice-Chancellor hoped to get more grant in aid under non plan in the light of new pay revision, recruitment of staff and other unavoidable expenditure.

He assured the house that a separate meeting of the Council will be held to discuss detailed budgetary programmes after the election code of conduct is withdrawn.

The meeting was attended by Executive Committee members Dr. Jose Joseph, Aji Francis and Finance Special Secretary E. K. Prakash as well as elected and nominated members of General Council and University officers participated.

Dr. Jiju P. Alex, V. S. Sathyaseelan, N. L. Sivakumar, Vishnu Narayanan, Dr. S. Devanesan, Director of Agriculture Ashok Kumar Thekken, Sasthamangalam Mohan, Soumya Krishnan and Dr. R. Krishna kumar participated in the discussions.

Budget at a Glance

Outlay - Rs. 546.63 crores
Plan Expenditure Rs. 68.11 crores
Non Plan Expenditure Rs. 378.94 crores
External aided projects Rs. 65.50 crores
Revolving Funds Rs. 9.99 crores
Internal receipts Rs. 22.79 crores

Academic Council propose Repository of Research publications



Vice-Chancellor & Academic Director in the Academic Council Meet on December 30

The council also decided to select students for MBA (ABM) based on the score in KMAT (Kerala Management Aptitude Test). Hitherto the University was conducting a separate test for MBA (ABM) admission.

The council decided to equate M.Sc (Wildlife Science) of Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun with that of M.Sc. Forestry (Wildlife Science) of Kerala Agricultural University. Another decision is to include B.Tech. (Food Engineering) also as a qualification for admission to M.Tech. (Ag. Engg.) with specialization in Agricultural Processing and Food Engineering.

Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Registrar, Dr. T. E. George, Director (Acad & PG Studies) and Dr. R. Krishnakumar, Controller of Examinations spoke. Deans, Directors and elected members of the council participated.

The KAU Academic Council has decided to start a repository of Research papers, books and other publications of faculty members. The 126th meeting of the Council held at KAU head quarters under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran also stressed the need to discourage publication of research papers in predatory journals.

Laboratory Complex at Balaramapuram inaugurated



Vice-Chancellor inaugurates the Lab complex at CRS, Balaramapuram

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurated the new training hall – laboratory complex at CRS, Balaramapuram on November 19. Director of Research Dr. Sajan Kurien presided over the function.

The farmers' training programme was inaugurated by Dr. K. Prathapan, Director, SHM. Dr. C. S. Jayachandran Nair delivered the Keynote address. Dr. S. Devanesan welcomed the gathering and Dr. N. V. Radhakrishnan proposed vote of thanks.

Food Security Army Invocation song launched



Vidhyadharan Master inaugurating the function to launch FSA invocation song

Music director P. S. Vidhyadharan Master launched the Food Security Army (FSA) invocation song.

The maestro reminded the audience that thenjaatupaatu, thekkupaatu, koythupaatu etc. not only inspired farm workers but also created a festival mood during farming operations.

Video visualization of the 3 minute long invocation song written by Gokul G., FSA master trainer was carried out by Sandeep M. M., another Master Trainer.

Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha, Director of Extension, KAU presided over the function held at ARS, Mannuthy on October 1. Musician Dr. Sreevalsan J. Menon felicitated the creators of invocation song. Dr. U. Jaikumaran, Professor & Head, ARS and, Dr. K. P. Prameela, Professor spoke.

New Centre for Hi-Tech Horticulture

The new centre for High Tech Horticulture and Precision Farming has started functioning at Vellanikkara. The centre attached to ARS, Mannuthy and located close to International Students Hostel is meant for undertaking research, demonstration and training in High Tech Horticulture.

A new office building, training hall and poly houses for soil and soilless cultivation and large scale production of vegetable transplants and grafted seedlings has been developed in an area of 1.0 acre at the centre and remaining 4.0 acres of land will be utilized for open field precision farming. It will also house the Centre of Excellence in Protected Cultivation and Precision Farming sanctioned by the State Government will now function at this new centre.



Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran at the New Centre for Hi-Tech Horticulture

The seedling production unit at the centre has an installed capacity to produce 15.0 lakh seedlings per year and large scale production of vegetable transplants has already started. Around 2.0 lakh vegetable seedlings of Amranthus, Snake gourd, Cucumber, Ashgourd, Chilli, Tomato and brinjal have been produced in the first lot.

CoA, Vellayani Enters Diamond Jubilee

Minister for Agriculture K. P. Mohanan inaugurated the year long diamond jubilee celebrations of CoA, Vellayani on September 30. Dr. Jameelaprakasam MLA presided over the function.

The minister also inaugurated new Pesticide residue analytical laboratory building, Amphitheatre and Biotechnology laboratory and laid foundation stone for Diamond jubilee auditorium, Alumni gate, new students' hostel and honey quality control lab.

'CoA's contributions for state's agricultural sector is noteworthy. I have always stressed on providing best possible facilities for students, which would reflect in their capacity building. I am happy to inaugurate the new facilities.', Minister said.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in his welcome address proposed to explore agri-eco tourism potential of Vellayani campus. He reminisced that CoA, established in 1955 was the first and foremost institution in Kerala dedicated for agricultural science. He explained various activities planned during the diamond jubilee year.

District Panchayath Vice President Roufous Daniel, Kalliyur Panchayath President Udayakumar, KAU G C member Rajiv Nellikunnel, Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Faculty Dean Dr. L. Rajamony, SHM MD Dr. K. Prathapan, Organizing committee General Convenor Dr. S. Devanesan, Alumni Association president Dr. Abdul khader, University functionaries and college alumni participated.



Agricultural Minister K. P. Mohanan inaugurates Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of CoA, Vellayani

Republic Day Celebrated in KAU



Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran addressing KAU Community on Republic Day 2016

Republic Day celebrations were held in various campuses of KAU. At the University Head Quarters Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran hoisted the national flag and addressed the gathering of teachers, staff, students and labourers.

In his Republic day message the Vice-Chancellor said that KAU intends to implement farmer friendly modes for technology transfer in order to empower rural farming community in the use of advanced technologies to enhance productivity. He called upon the University community to play their roles in all initiatives to ensure food safety and nutritional security of all citizens.

National Seminar On DNA of Brands

The two day national seminar on *DNA of Lasting Brands*, organised by MBA (ABM), KAU on September 15 & 16 was inaugurated by M. P. Ramachandran, Chairman and Managing Director, Jyothi Laboratories Ltd., Mumbai. KAU Registrar i/c Dr. P. V. Balachandran presided.

P. Rajendran, Managing Director, KSFE Ltd. delivered the keynote address. George Thomas, Executive Director, ESAF Microfinance Ltd. released the placement brochure of MBA and Dr. T. N. Jagdeeshkumar, Director of Students Welfare received the first copy. CCBM Associate Dean Dr. A. Sukumaran, MBA course Director, Philip Sabu and Dr. A. M. Jose spoke.

SAARC Regional Meeting South Asian Seed bank Network proposed



Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurates the SAARC Regional Meeting

Regional Consultation meeting of SAARC countries hosted by KAU on December 28-30 resolved to ensure food security in the region and address the shortage caused by natural calamities including climate change.

The meeting organised by SAARC Agricultural centre was inaugurated by Dr. P. Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor. In his address, Dr. Rajendran proposed a network of seed banks among SAARC countries and maintain a common database of production, availability and stock of seeds. 'The anticipated population explosion makes it imperative to step up the production and productivity of all crops. Adequate supply

of quality seeds is the key to enhanced productivity. Therefore the seed quality and seed availability has to be ensured first.', he said.

Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung, senior programme specialist, SAARC Agricultural centre, in his presidential address proposed that India should take the lead in establishing and supporting seed banks in the region.

Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad, Director, seed research, ICAR; Dr. Sajan Kurien, Director of Research, KAU; Dr. S. Devanesan, Dean (Faculty of Agriculture, KAU); R. Ajithkumar, Director, Department of Agriculture and Dr. K. Prathapan, Director, SHM participated.

Meteorological Day Observed

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurated world meteorological day programmes organised at Academy for climate change studies and Research on March 23.

In his inaugural address, the Vice-Chancellor pointed out that Climate Change, once a theoretical concept, has now embraced every walk of life. 'While the common man experience it as rise in temperature, water scarcity and loss in crop productivity, scientists see it as a phenomenon which affect life and health of every living being. Whether hotter, drier or wetter, it makes life different. Enhancing awareness and enabling research on it would only enable effective steps to mitigate it. I proudly recollect that KAU is the first University in India to have started a course on climate change. Let's make it meaningful and enterprising', he said.

Director of Extension Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha presided. Dr. Jos C. Raphel made a presentation on water conservation methods while Dr. Sunil K. Mukundan delivered a lecture on Agriculture and climate change Dr. E. K. Kurien welcomed the gathering and Dr. Alexander George proposed vote of thanks.

GC bats for Organic PoP

The 124th meeting of KAU General Council decided to formulate a comprehensive policy and package of practices for organic farming.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran shared the concern of the house regarding the lack of clear guidance for organic farming. Raising the issue, Rajiv Nellikkunnel drew the attention of the house to the mismatch between moves to make Kerala a fully organic state and the non existence of a scientific package of organic practices. Dr. Jiju P. Alex pointed out that though a comprehensive organic farming package is yet to be developed everyone is pushing the agenda resulting in application of unscientific methods, which is inadvisable. V. S. Sthyaseelan stressed the need for a clear strategy in this regard and proposed a separate workshop for developing a comprehensive organic farming package. Vice-Chancellor pointed out that an adhoc organic farming package is existing and assured the house that a comprehensive package of practices will be developed with the involvement of all concerned.

The Vice-Chancellor also assured that sincere and persistent efforts will be pursued for getting arable land in lieu of the land proposed to be surrendered to Power Grid corporation.

Later the Vice-Chancellor assured the student leaders that the three proposed colleges will be constituent colleges in regular mode and the issue of restructuring CCBM Course will be discussed and resolved in Vice-Chancellors' meeting in April.

Workshop on Human Wildlife Conflicts Measures to ensure co-existence proposed

The two day Consultative Workshop on Human Wildlife Conflicts in the Eastern and Northern Forest Circles of Kerala: Issues and Possible Solutions held at CoF on 15 & 16 March proposed a series of interventions to contain and control conflicts between humans and wildlife.

Apart from scientific practices like rail fencing, repellent against wild bores, alert systems and nylon nets, practical approaches like buffer farming including reintroduction of native fruit trees and fodder in forests was proposed to forbid intrusion of animals in to human habitats.

The workshop was inaugurated by Pramod G. Krishnan IFS, CCF (Wildlife), Palakkad while KAU Director of Extension Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha delivered the valedictory address.

The farmer representatives insisted on validation and documentation of traditional practices and adequate compensation for crop loss and threat to life. Co-ordination between departments like Revenue, Agriculture, Forests, Tourism, Police and Local Self Government institutions was also stressed as a priority. Participatory programmes for waste management in forest areas, awareness campaigns, farmer support programmes and wild life management strategies were proposed by farmer representatives.

Dr. P. S. Geethakutty, Head, Centre for Gender Studies in Agriculture and Farm Entrepreneurs development was the moderator in the plenary session. Former KFRDI Director Dr. P. S. Easa, Former Forest officer M. I. Varghese, Dr. P. O. Nameer and Dr. Mani Chellappan presented papers. Forestry college Dean Dr. K. Vidyasagar, Workshop Co-ordinator Dr. S. Gopakumar and Dr. Abdul Jabbar spoke.



Director of Extension Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha delivering the valedictory address on 16 March

FAST Lab at CoH opened

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran has said that unless the benefit of advanced technology in soil analysis is available to farming community, the advancements in this arena would become meaningless.

He was speaking after inaugurating the new FAST (Frontier Advanced Science and Technology) laboratory attached to Department of Soil science and Agricultural chemistry at CoH, Vellanikkara. The Vice-Chancellor also stressed that every modern equipment acquired in laboratories should be put to maximum use as it would become redundant once another advanced equipment comes out. He also called for sharing of equipment instead of repeatedly procuring same machines.

Dr. Maicykutty P. Mathew, Associate Dean CoH, Dr. A. I. Jose Former Director of Extension, Dr. Koshy Abraham, former Associate Dean, CoH, and Dr. P. K. Sushama, Professor & Head, Dept. of Soil Science & Agril. Chemistry spoke.

A talk on 'Modern concepts in laboratory techniques' was also held in connection with the programme.

World Soil Day celebrations in KAU



C.N. Jayadevan MP inaugurates soil day celebrations at KAU Head Quarters

World Soil Day on December 5 was celebrated in various campuses of KAU. While C. N. Jayadevan MP inaugurated the function chaired by M. P. Vincent MLA at KAU Head Quarters, Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurated the programme organised at CoA, Vellayani. Soil day was observed in other research stations and KVKs as well.

Speaking after inaugurating a seminar on soil and man organised by Communication Centre at KAU central auditorium, C. N. Jayadevan MP said that India cannot progress without enhancement of agricultural productivity, which heavily depended on soil health. We have to re-invent the natural methods to nourish the soil by which alone enhanced productivity can be achieved, he said.

KAU Director of Extension Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha welcomed the gathering and Communication centre head Dr. S. Estelitta proposed vote of thanks. KAU Executive Committee member Aji Francis, RAIDCO Director P. R. Jayakumar, Dr. T. N. Jagdeeshkumar,



Vice-Chancellor inaugurates soil day celebrations at CoA, Vellayani

Dr. T. E. George, Dr. V. S. Devadas, Dr. Alexander George, Dr. K. Aravindakshan, Dr. P. Sureshkumar, Dr. P. S. John and Dr. P. K. Sushama spoke. An exhibition on soil nourishment agents and methodologies was also arranged.

Inaugurating the soil day celebrations at Vellayani, Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran stressed the need to prevent soil degradation and protect the soil to avoid the ecological disasters. The Vice-Chancellor distributed soil health cards to selected farmers of Vizhinjam, Venganoor, Karavaram, Kazhakuttam, Navaikulam and Aruvikkara as well as the certificates for the winners of the essay competition conducted in connection with commemoration of International Year of Soils 2015 and World Soil Day.

Faculty Dean Dr. S. Devanesan presided over the function. Dr. C. S. Jayachandran Nair, Associate Director of Research, Vellayani welcomed the gathering and Dr. Sumam George, Professor (SS & AC) proposed vote of thanks.

Awards & Recognitions



Dr. V. M. Abdul Hakkim, Head, ARS, Anakkayam was conferred with Outstanding Achievement award during the international conference on Advancing Frontiers in Biotechnology for Sustainable Agriculture and Health organised by Department of MCE in collaboration with DST during February 25-26 at Allahabad.

Dr. Santhoshkumar T., Assistant Professor, RARS Pilicode has won the Best Paper Award in the technical session on Traditional Science in the 25th Swadeshi Science Congress held at Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady during 16-18 December, 2015.



Dr. Smitha M. S., Assistant Professor, CRS, Madakkathara won the first prize for poster presentation in National Seminar on Strategies for development of cashew held on 19th and 20th February 2016 at Regional Fruit Research Station, Vengurla, Maharashtra. Her poster was about Alternate management strategies for the cashew stem and root borer, *Plocaederus ferrugineus* l.

Workshop on Indigenous Knowledge in Organic Pest and Disease Management

The workshop on indigenous knowledge in organic pest and disease management of vegetables organised by Thrissur KVK at Thrissur called for retrieval, consolidation, preservation and popularisation of traditional know how in farming.

The workshop recommended that even while embracing advanced technology for added advantage in productivity enhancement, indigenous knowledge evolved through practices of generations should not be allowed to become extinct.

KAU Executive Committee member M. P. Vincent MLA, in his inaugural address highlighted the role of public involvement in production of safe to eat food. Scientific analysis and recommendations of indigenous knowledge would enhance the efficacy of such practices, he said. Corporation councillor Annam John presided over the inaugural function. District Panchayath President C. C. Sreekumar was the guest of honour.

KVK head Dr. Ranjan S. Karippai, Associate Director of Research Dr. Jim Thomas, Associate Dean Dr. Koshy Abraham, Principal Agricultural Officer P. C. Sreeletha, Deputy Director of Agriculture V. S. Roy, Dr. Rehmath Niza, Dr. Mary Regina, Dr. Jalaja S. Menon and Dr. Prameela participated in the deliberations.



Inaugural address by M.P. Vincent MLA

Message from Vice-Chancellor

Why not a Separate Budget for Agriculture

Our Union Government presents a general budget and a separate budget for the Railways. Railway is bestowed with special attention as it is the main artery of transportation of goods and people across India. Railways have been accorded top priority as it is a portfolio connected with the Indian masses. It is pertinent to note that India will remain a predominantly agricultural country during most of the time of the 21st century, particularly with reference to livelihood opportunities. So the demand for a separate and independent budget for Indian agriculture is very topical.

Agriculture continues to remain the backbone of Indian economy. In spite of our advancements in the technological and industrial sector, agriculture and allied activities continues to provide livelihood opportunities to around 58 per cent of our total workforce. With 60% of the land being arable, India is the second largest country in terms of total arable land. Annually, Indian agriculture produces 264 tonnes of food grains and contributes to ten percent of the total exports. No doubt, growth of this sector is an essential prerequisite for our overall economic growth.

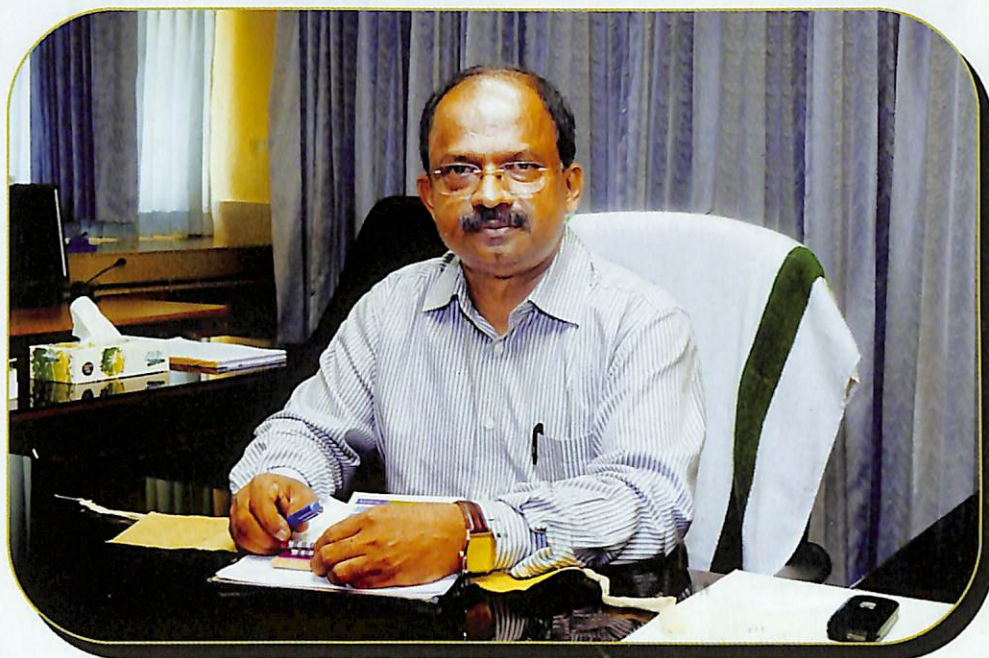
Despite all these facts, agriculture is not receiving due support in economic terms. Our goal of food self sufficiency can only work if agriculture gets the necessary attention it deserves. Public policy support is crucial for ensuring this. Though declarations and promises to earmark considerable amounts for agricultural development and farmer welfare programmes are galore in each year's general budget, the outlays don't become outcomes, due to the lack of proper attention, monitoring and evaluation. A better management is indispensable for turning the outlays into outcomes, so that the interest of real farmer is protected and promoted.

Agriculture cannot be seen separately from food and nutritional security. India's food grain production has touched an all-time high, but the upcoming challenges in the form of climate vagaries, drop in land area, increasing population and the lack of interest shown by Indian youth to take up agriculture are bound to create problems. Enhancing productivity of crops and resurrecting the image of farmer to attract youth are indispensable steps.

Production strategy with respect to food grains, cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetables needs to be streamlined and constantly monitored. Regularisation of input supply, stress on human resources development, capacity building of rural youth through technology awareness, entrepreneurship development and industrial linkage etc. are vital in sustainable agricultural development. In a country which suffers post-harvest losses worth Rs. 2 lakh crores, post-harvest processing assumes great importance.

Synchronizing these activities need a single minded approach. Such an approach would become meaningful and effective if the activities for agricultural development are properly planned, adequately supported, promptly monitored and aptly modified according to an evolving scenario. A separate budget will definitely be catalytic to agriculture, especially if involvement of professionals in the field is ensured while chalking out development programmes. Indian agriculture must move from the concept of food security for the masses to the concept of nutrition security at the level of every child, woman and man.

Let this be a topic for discussion at appropriate levels.



World Water day Let's realise the Value of Water : VC



Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurates Water day celebrations at Mannuthy

and more rain fall than neighbouring states never thought of water scarcity. But the present day picture, a very gloomy one, compels us to repent on the lavishness with which we spent this resource and the reluctance with which we approached water conservation programmes. Let's evolve a realistic approach to water usage, water conservation and reuse of water., he said.

The Vice-Chancellor also released a software DVD on drip irrigation protocols. Executive Committee member Dr. Jose Joseph released a book on Agricultural water management research in Kerala. Aji Francis, EC member released the booklets on drip irrigation and ideal pumpsets for irrigation. Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha, Director of Extension presided over the function.

Dr. Mary Rejina, Dr. P. S. John, Dr. P. K. Sureshkumar, Dr. S. Anitha, Dr. P. Indiradevi, Dr. Abdul Hakkim. Dr. K. P. Visalakshi and Mariyamma George handled classes on in situ water conservation, ground water protection, scientific drip irrigation, irrigation practices in farms and rain water harvesting. An exhibition on water conservation and tools for irrigation was also organised in connection with the world water day.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran has said that the value of water is realised not when it is available in abundance but when it is scarce.

Inaugurating the Nodal Water Technology Centre and a workshop on water literacy organised in connection with world water day, the Vice-Chancellor said that Kerala, which has forty four rivers, thirty lakes and umpteen ponds

CoF hosts Training in GIS Technologies

The five day training programme on Remote sensing and GIS technologies for spatial planning in Agriculture organised at College of Forestry was inaugurated by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran on March 19.

In his inaugural address Vice-Chancellor called for optimum use of GIS technologies for planning developmental activities. 'GIS technologies and remote sensing techniques help in identifying the real need through accurate analysis and synthesis of data, which in turn guide us to best planning solution. The variation and depletion of bio resources can be effectively assessed, realistic planning needs identified and remedial measures planned', said Dr. Rajendran.

Associate Director of Research Dr. Jim Thomas presided. CoF Dean Dr. K. Vidyasagan offered welcome and K. Srinivasan proposed vote of thanks.

At Vellayani

The five day training programme on Remote sensing and GIS for spatial planning in Agriculture conducted at CoA, Vellayani was inaugurated by Dr. S. Devanesan, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture on February 29.

Poet Thirumumb's home Gets a makeover



The renovated residence of the late poet, freedom fighter and social reformer T. Subramanian Thirumumb, which houses the Centre for Studies on Farming Culture at RARS Pilicode was inaugurated on September 24.

Minister for Agriculture K. P. Mohanan inaugurated the centre in a function presided by K. Kunhiraman MLA, Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor delivered the key note address. Director of Research Dr. I. Johnkutty presented the report. P. Karunakaran MP, Nileswar Block Panchayath President T. V. Govindan, Kurumathur Grama Panchayath President M. V. Ramani, Cheruvathur Grama Panchayath President M. Balakrishnan, Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Physical Plant Dr. V. R. Ramachandran and Associate Director Dr. K. Abdul Kareem spoke.

Fungus may aid cancer fight

KAU has joined hands with Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) to establish the anti-cancer properties of a rare genus of medicinal fungus that acts as a bio control agent against agricultural pest.

This fungus was first reported from Kerala by Dr. T. Santhosh Kumar, Assistant Professor, RARS, Pilicode, in 2013 while conducting research on managing the coconut root grub (*Leucopholisconeophora*) affecting trees in northern Kerala. It was later confirmed as a species belonging to the Cordyceps genus known also as caterpillar fungus.

Preliminary studies conducted at the RCC showed that the species is capable of suppressing tumour cells and inhibiting the proliferation of lung cancer (adenocarcinoma) cells.

"We will also explore the possibility of using the species to develop nutraceuticals with immunity-enhancement, anti-aging and anti-fatigue properties," KAU Vice-Chancellor P. Rajendran said.

The major challenge faced in the research is culturing the fungus as it requires the grub or its larva as host. KAU has initiated efforts to identify alternative host species that would enable easier multiplication of the fungus. The scientists are also trying to understand the ecology and distribution of the fungus across Western Ghats.



ISHS Conference highlight Horticulture Potential of Wayanad, Propose measures for sustainable growth of floriculture

The international symposium on succulents and other ornamentals organised at RARS, Ambalavayal highlighted the need to drive the greening of cities and people's lives using ornamentals so as to address the challenges confronting cities, society and individuals.

The three day symposium jointly organised by International Society for Horticulture (ISHS) and Kerala Agricultural University was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. K. V. Peter, Former KAU Vice-Chancellor and Director, World Noni Research Foundation, Chennai in a function presided over by Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha, Director of Extension, KAU.

While Dr. Rajeevan P. K. presented a paper on *Orchid-centric floriculture development in Kerala*, Dr. Sreelatha Unniyampurathu, presented a paper on *Significance of Ex situ conservation of Exacum bicolor Roxb. in Kerala*, Smt. Smitha Revi presented a paper on *Insect pest complex of Rose at RARS, Ambalavayal* and Dr. Alex R. presented paper on *Quality flower production of goldenrod (Solidago canadensis L.) through growth regulation*.

Dr. T. Janakiram, ADG (Horticulture) suggested setting up of Heliconia house, Ginger house, tree house, sun garden, Herbal garden etc. for attracting tourists and also the concept of green offices.



The Conference Venue-view from outside



An inside view of the conference hall

Dr. A. K. Singh, MD, National Horticultural Board, Dr. Sisir Kumar Mitra, Chairman, Tropical and Sub Tropical Fruits section (ISHS) Dr. Janakiraman, ADG, ICAR, Dr. M. Anandaraj, Director, IISR, Kesavendrakumar, District Collector, Narendra, DFO (North Wayanad), Dr. Anilkumar, Director, MSSRF, Wayanad, E. J. Jose, Farmer representative and C. K. Joy (MNREG) participated in the deliberations on final day.

RARS Head Dr. Rajendran Pangath said that the symposium proposed an in situ conservation of orchids in forests, setting up a floriculture village and a network model station involving KAU, IIHR, IISR and MSSRF under ICAR patronage to sustain floriculture and horticulture growth in Wayanad.

Dr. Tim Briercliffe, Secretary General, International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) presented the lead presentation on "Growing the global market for Ornamentals". He pointed out that Ornamentals are not just 'ornamental'; they both can and must play a key role in the future development of our cities and societies.

Prof. Dr. Gert D. Groening, Garden Culture and Open Space Development Institute for History and Theory of Design, Berlin University of the Arts, in his presentation on "Urban Horticulture" pointed out that gardens were created and maintained only in civilisations. He cited the examples from ancient Egypt and influence of Roman urban garden culture.

Wayanad District Collector Kesavendra Kumar IAS proposed the promotion of floriculture in Wayanad which can provide livelihood for the tribal population in the district and plan for developing adventure tourism in Ambalavayal region.



Inaugural session in progress

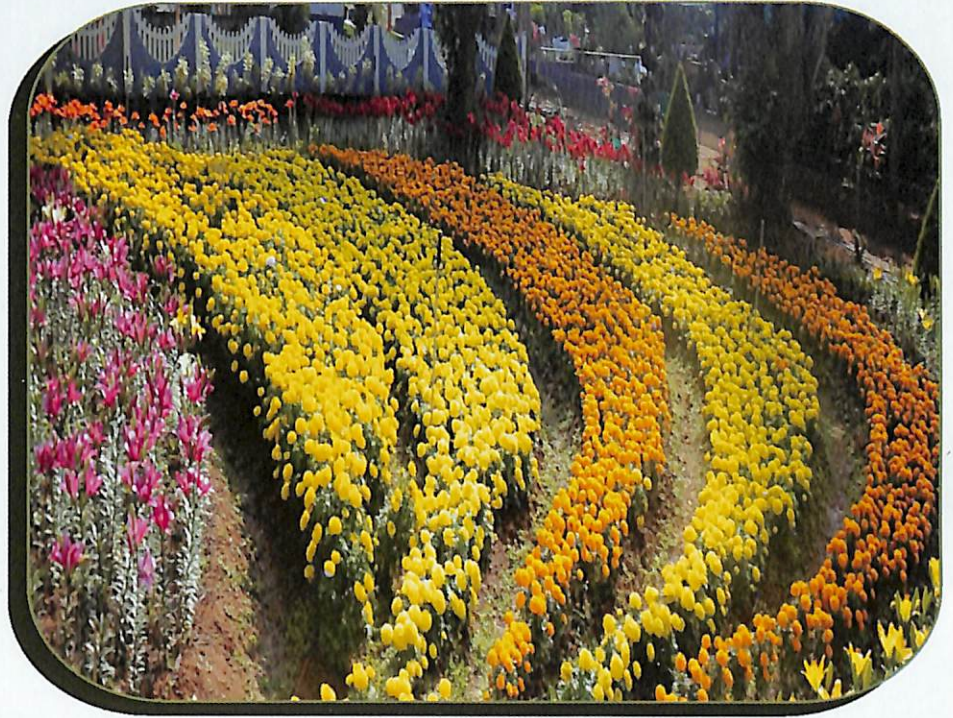
Dr. Sisir Kumar Mitra also suggested that International Rose Show and Orchid Show can be conducted at Wayanad and promised all his support in this regard.

Pooppoli catalyses Agri development avenues

Pooppoli 2016, global flori fest conducted by KAU at RARS, Ambalavayal came to a close on February 4.

The third flower show and agrifest was raised to the international level by incorporating an international symposium on succulents and other ornamentals under the banner of International Society for Horticultural Sciences (ISHS) held from 24 to 27 January.

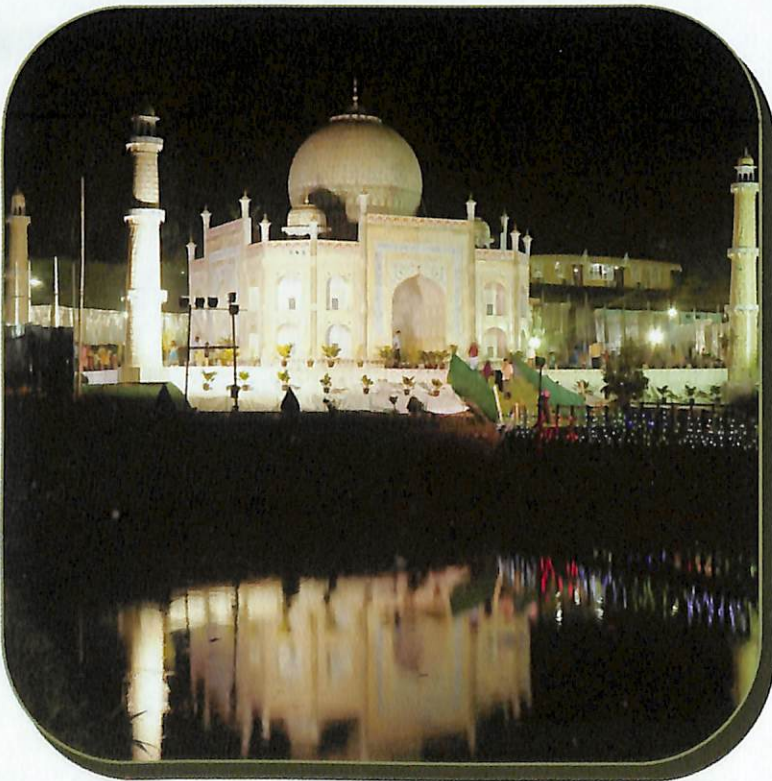
The spectacle showcasing imported attractions in addition to orchids and ornamentals brought from Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh attracted more than twelve lakh people. 'The exhibition showcased modern technologies in floriculture and horticulture facilitating knowledge sharing between entrepreneurs, scientists and international experts. This also brought to light the enormous potential of floriculture and horticulture in Wayanad, which if properly tapped, can



One of the fascinating sights in Pooppoli

RARS Head Dr. Rajendran Pangath said that the total revenue from Pooppoli 2016 is set to exceed that of last year.

'While 2015 witnessed an inflow of 12 lakh people, the number of people who visited this year's show in the first week itself exceeded it. The physical assets created from the show, such as new seminar hall for international symposium, cottages and a



Replica of Tajmahal in Pooppoli ground



Heavy turn out of People was another feature of Pooppoli

change the fortunes of Wayanad farmers. The possibility of growing and earning a fortune from flowers like Dahlia, Gladiolus, Rose and Gerbera as well as fruit plants like Litchi, Raspberry, Strawberry, Rambutan, Avocado etc. is very bright. The new agricultural college at Ambalavayal and allied facilities will spread awareness about agricultural science and importance of evolving farming technologies', said Dr. P. Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor.

1000 sq.m. polyhouse are permanent and reusable. The flowers and ornamentals brought from other states will be retained and multiplied, providing a great opportunity for farmers and horticulturists. The show, overall, has been a grand success and I am grateful to the KAU authorities, Government, ISHS, District administration and RARS family for the support and guidance', he said.

CM Hails KAU Contributions, Promises Support

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy has said that the Government will take all possible steps to protect, promote and propel KAU to further heights.

Speaking after inaugurating various infrastructural facilities at KAU Main campus on 28th September the Chief Minister said that KAU's academic excellence and research accomplishments are a matter of pride for the state.

'This university has attracted national appreciation for academic excellence for five consecutive years and made significant contributions for the development of agricultural and allied sectors. Its stability and progress is indispensable for the state's development and hence the government will explore all possibilities to solve the issues hampering its unhindered growth. We will solve the issues of financial liability and dearth of human resources in a time bound manner,' he said.

Agricultural Minister K. P. Mohanan in his presidential address said that Kerala's organic farming policy is fast becoming a national perspective. 'Union government has endorsed it as a replicable model and more and more states are joining the fold. KAU has a very important role to play in organic farming and its initiatives have been very relevant and noteworthy', he said.



CM inaugurates the new infrastructural facilities in KAU Main Campus

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in his welcome address said that the infrastructural facilities worth 97 crores have been developed in various campuses of the University to enhance students' amenities, research facilities and extension activities.

Government Chief Whip Thomas Unniyadan, C. N. Jayadevan MP, MLAs M. P. Vincent and P. A. Madhavan, District Panchayat member K. V. Dasan, Grama Panchayat president Sujatha Balakrishnan, KAU Executive Committee members P. A. Salam and Aji Francis as well as University officers participated. Registrar i/c Dr. P. V. Balachandran proposed vote of thanks.

National Workshop on Plagiarism & Research Publishing held



M. P. Vincent MLA inaugurates the workshop on Plagiarism and Research publishing held at KAU central Library on January 29

Eradicating plagiarism in academic publishing is inevitable for advancement and accomplishment of excellence, said M. P. Vincent MLA.

Speaking after inaugurating a national workshop on research publishing and plagiarism held at KAU Central Library, he said that plagiarism cripples individual capability to think and create and hence eradicating it is a priority to ensure research excellence supported by quality publications.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, in his presidential address described plagiarism as an act of individual dishonesty and intellectual piracy. 'It has been made mandatory that the guide should check every thesis for plagiarism with the aid of advanced software and furnish a certificate to the effect that such a scrutiny has been conducted. We want to ensure that plagiarism doesn't raise its ugly head in KAU and hence a series of workshops are being organised to train every faculty member in this regard', he said.

Academic Director Dr. T. E. George delivered Key Note Address. University Librarian Dr. A. T. Francis and training Co-ordinator V. P. Ajithakumari spoke. Dr. George Thomas, Sanjo Jose, K. V. Alphonsa, Muhammed Sageer and V. S. Swapna lead different sessions in the workshop.

Farmers told to choose Appropriate technology



C. N. Jayadevan MP inaugurating the Onion farming workshop held at Thrissur KVK

Thrissur MP C. N. Jayadevan has called upon farmers and agricultural enthusiasts to choose the suitable variety and appropriate technology from the pool of findings made available by researchers and traditional practitioners and not get misguided by wrong trends.

Speaking after inaugurating the workshop on Onion farming organised by Thrissur KVK on September 26, he asked the farming community to follow the experts and not the commercial interests. District Panchayat President C. C. Sreekumar presided over the function.

State Agri award winners from Thrissur District were honoured in the function.

KVK Head Dr. Ranjan S. Karippai, welcomed the gathering and Dr. Jalaja S. menon proposed vote of thanks.

Water source, Hi-Tech Centre & Hostel Inaugurated



Minister inaugurates the Hi-Tech research Centre

Minister for Agriculture K. P. Mohanan inaugurated the renovated water source, Men's Hostel and Hi-tech research and training centre at KAU main campus on September 3.

'Our commitment to organic farming emanates from our concern for a healthy society. Safe to eat food is the primary requirement for the health of future generations. KAU's research backup is very relevant in this context.' The cheaper and cute hi tech farming models conceived by the University is very relevant and appreciable.' Minister said. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran presided.

KAU Executive Committee member Aji Francis, Registrar i/c Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Joint Director of Agriculture Anitha Sivaraman and instructional Farm head Dr. V. S. Sujatha spoke.

Farming lessons for SBT Managers

The Agricultural orientation and billeting programme for SBT Managers organised by KAU turned out to be a unique experience for the bankers and farmers alike.

Sixty Managers of the premier bank of Kerala were involved in the training held in two batches. The first batch of twenty five officers had their training and farm stay in Thiruvananthapuram District under TSS, Vellayani while thirty five managers attended the programme conducted at Communication centre, Mannuthy. The programme, implemented through CTI, Mannuthy and coordinated by Dr. Binoo P. Bony in Mannuthy and Dr. Allen Thomas in Vellayani came to a close on September 10.

The first module of schedule was one week training on capacity building in agriculture and allied enterprises held in June-July. The second module was Farm stay programme in which two Bank Managers were hosted in a farmers' house for four days. The officers had a firsthand experience of agricultural operations and different styles of farming.



A bank manager enjoys seedling production at a farmer's backyard

'The Life with the farmer programme was the first of its kind in India where in SBT managers met the real farmer in his den, experienced his life style, mental agony, physical stress and strain, problems and difficulties they confront day by day. The interaction should benefit both, but farmers will be the ultimate beneficiaries.', Said Dr. P. Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor.

'Our managers have really enjoyed the programme, which has not only softened them a lot but also induced a farming mood in them. They have imbibed ideas in home-stead farming and organic farming. Most importantly their feedback seeks such training for all officers of the bank. We thank KAU for the excellent support for this initiative.' said S. Harisankar, General Manager, SBT.

KAU intends to conduct more such programmes for officers of different banks.

'Agro Service Centres Should become Activity centres'

The ten days training programme to facilitators of 36 Agro Service Centers spread across Kerala concluded at Agricultural Research Station, Mannuthy on March 23. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran was the chief guest.

The Vice Chancellor advised the facilitators to act as spiritual leaders of agri farming of the state to bring all the cultivable land to cultivation and to have self-reliance in food production, through organic means. 'The Agro Service Centers should provide dedicated and committed services whatever required by the farmer. The Agro Service Centers are the real activity centre to establish and sustain agricultural systems for that Block to provide organic food. The Agro Service Centers should develop business plan to achieve this goal and to create service providers with commitment.', he said.

The function was chaired by ARS Head Dr. U. Jaikumaran, Dr. K. P. Prameela, Professor offered welcome and Dr. A. Latha, Course Director proposed vote of thanks.

Women's Day Observed

Women's Day 2016 was observed in KAU with a series of functions. Centre for Gender Studies in Agriculture and Farm Entrepreneurship Development (CGSAFED) organised a workshop on women's health on March 8, which was followed by a free camp for advanced Cancer detection on March 10.

Dr. Maicykutty P. Mathew inaugurated the programme on March 8. General Council member Dr. A. Prema, Forestry College Dean i/c Dr.K.Vidyasagaran, CGSAFED Head Dr. P. S. Geethakutty and KAU Joint Registrar T. B. Latha participated. Adv. Seena Rajagopal spoke about womanhood and law while Dr. Sabnakrishnan spoke about cancer awareness.

Agri Polytechnics will empower Youth: Agri Minister

Agricultural Minister K. P. Mohanan has said that attracting and orienting new generation towards evolving technologies in agriculture is the key to sustain the primary sector.

Speaking after inaugurating the Agri Polytechnic under KAU at Haripad in a function presided over by Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala, Mohanan said that developing a technologically equipped youth brigade is the need of the hour. 'The new polytechnics will not only open up a new avenue for rural students but also help them pursue higher education in respective fields. The course content will integrate agricultural and allied subjects as well as thorough understanding of agricultural machinery', he said.

Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala in his presidential address said that he is happy to have the first of the four agri polytechnic envisaged in the state budget in his constituency.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in his introductory address said that future of agriculture is technology driven and hence technically equipped man power is inevitable. 'The agri polytechnics assume importance in this context. The course will be a job oriented one on one hand and will also be a Window to higher education on the other', he explained.

Municipal Chairperson Sudha Suseelan offered welcome and special officer Dr. R. Krishnakumar proposed vote of thanks. The function was attended by KAU functionaries and LSG representatives in the district.

SAARC to Offer Scholarships and Joint Academic Programmes

SAARC scholarships for UG and PG Students in KAU and close cooperation between Agricultural universities in the South Asian countries and KAU are on the anvil, said Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung, Senior Programme specialist, SAARC Agricultural centre, Dhaka.

Addressing KAU Officers at the University HQ, Dr. Gurung said that an integrated, interrelated, academic programme wherein the students gain the advantage of studying multiple disciplines is the objective. Dr. Gurung, an alumnus of KAU also appreciated the fact that Kerala could sustain its ecosystems and prevent them from collapsing.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, who was the teacher of Dr. Gurung at CoA, Vellayani, said that he felt proud to receive his student occupying an international position. 'KAU is extremely happy to have one of its alumni in SAARC Agricultural Centre. I remember Tayan as an



Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung listens to Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran

enthusiastic and energetic boy who excelled in sports and games and he appears more enthusiastic now. KAU will extend all possible help to realise his plans', he said.

Dr. P. V. Balachandran welcomed the gathering and Dr. Jim Thomas proposed vote of thanks. Director of Extension Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha, Director of Physical Plant Dr. V. R. Ramachandran, Associate Directors Dr. V. S. Devadas and Dr. Pathummal Beevi, Associate Deans Dr. Koshy Abraham, Dr. K. Vidyasagar Dr. A. Sukumaran and Dr. Lyla Mathew, Professor spoke.

Dr. T. Pradeepkumar bags Krishi Vigyan Award

Dr. Pradeepkumar T., Associate Professor, CoH, Vellanikkara has been selected for the best agricultural scientist (Krishi Vigyan) Award 2015.



The award comes in the wake of innovative research leading to development of two F1 varieties of seedless watermelon (Shonima and Swarna) and high yielding gynococious hybrids of salad cucumber (Heera and Shubhra). These varieties developed by him within a space of three years has become so popular among farmers. These indigenous varieties have arrested the monopoly of multinationals on seedless watermelon and cucumber and enabled rural farmers access to such hybrids at costs much lower than that charged by multinationals.

Dr. Pradeepkumar has undergone overseas training at University of Wisconsin, USA. He has won Dr. Harbhajansingh award in vegetable science and received awards in fourth, fifth and sixth Indian Horticulture Congress for his research accomplishment. He is the Managing Editor of KAU research journal, Journal of Tropical Agriculture.

'ONV Enriched our Life, Language and Culture'

Arikil Nee Undaayirunnenkil, ONV Remembrance Programme organised at KAU Central Library on February 24 was inaugurated by M. P. Surendran, media functionary.



Surendran said that the invaluable contributions of ONV Kurup in enriching the life, language and culture of Kerala will never be disremembered.

Surendran reminisced that literary works of ONV filled people's hearts with real love and feeling of fraternity and upheld concepts of motherhood, mother tongue and love for nature.

The programme was jointly organised by KAU Library, Symphony - the cultural and Literary Organisation of KAU and CoH Readers' Forum.

Dr. Joy Mathew, Comptroller presided over the function. Dr. T. Pradeep Kumar was moderator.

KAU General council member Dr. Jiju P. Alex, University Librarian Dr. A. T. Francis, Symphony President Dr. E. V. Anoop and Pournami Sreekumar, Co-ordinator, CoH Readers' Forum spoke.

Thirty six persons presented poems and songs of ONV Kurup in the programme led by musician Dr. Sreevalsan J. Menon.