

Minister Announces Seed Bank in KAU Malayalam PoP, Krishipanchamgam released

Minister for Agricultural Development and Farmers' Welfare V. S. Sunil Kumar released the Malayalam Version of PoP, Krishipanchamgam and opened a Kissan Eco shop at the Directorate of Extension, KAU on May 28.

Speaking after inaugurating a function, the minister said that a Seed Bank will be established for the conservation of germ-plasms of different crop varieties.

'It will be a joint venture of KAU and Department of Agriculture. Since academic and research elements have a major say in its functioning, it will be established in the University. The government has allocated three crores for the purpose. We have also decided to create Special Agricultural Zones (SAZ) for different crops. The SAZ for banana is in Thrissur', Sunil Kumar said.

'Malayalam PoP and Krishipanchamgam will definitely help to popularise scientific farming practices and ensure a healthy amalgamation of traditional and modern practices.', Minister said. He also released the Hindi version of KAU brochure, a video song on KAU as well as Organic food supplements such as mushroom powder and Coconut inflorescence juice.



Minister V. S. Sunil Kumar releasing the Malayalam PoP

The function presided over by K. Rajan MLA was attended by Dean (Agriculture) Dr. A. Anil Kumar, Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta, Controller of Examinations Dr. R. Krishnakumar, CoH Assoc. Dean Dr. George Thomas, Asst. Director of Agriculture Muhammad Ismail, Assoc. Director of Extension Dr. Alexander George and Assoc. Director of Research Dr. T. Pradeep Kumar. Communication centre head Dr. Binoo P. Bonny welcomed the gathering and KVK head Dr. A. Prema proposed vote of thanks.

General Council Reconstituted

KAU GC has been reconstituted. This follows the expiry of term of previous council. The reconstituted council will serve for three years from June 18, 2017.

The elected members are Dr. A. Anil Kumar, Dr. B. Suma, Dr. Thomas George and Dr. Zakkir Husain (constituency of teachers), P. K. Sreekumar and K. D. Babu (non teaching staff), Abin George and Vasim Fajl C. (students) and C. H. Muthu and Bipin Chacko (labourers).

Remaining seats, other than Ex officio members, will be filled through nominations (eleven seats) election from among MLAs (four seats) and one elected representative each from the senates of University of Kerala, University of Calicut & Cochin University of Science And Technology.

New Crop Varieties ready for release

Twenty three new High yielding crop varieties have been recommended for release by KAU evaluation committee based on their performances in on field trials and farmers' fields.

The new list of crop varieties include five varieties of rice and Nutmeg, three varieties of ginger and Cardamom and one each of Plumbago, Salad Cucumber, Culinary melon, Vegetable Cowpea, Pepper, Garcinia and Tapioca.

The rice varieties are VTL 10 (RRS, Vyttila) Manuratna (ARS, Mannuthy), Suvarna (RRS, Mancompu) and PTB-

61 & PTB-62 (RARS, Pattambi). While VTL 10, Suvarna and Manuratna are of short duration and meant for Saline systems, Gall midge prone and Kole land respectively, PTB varieties are long duration and non lodging.

Three ginger varieties, SE 8640, SE 8681 & SE HP 9 (CoH, Vellanikkara), one Plumbago variety Swathi (AICRP on M & AP, Vellanikkara), KPCH-1, the seedless salad cucumber hybrid (CoH, Vellanikkara), Vishal, Culinary melon (CoA, Vellayani and Cowpea variety Manjari (RARS, Kumarakom) are in the new list.

Nutmeg variety CoH, Vellanikkara), Panniyur 9 variety of black pepper (PRS, Panniyur), Garcinia variety Nithya from RARS, Kumarakom, three cardamom varieties, PV-1. PV-2 and PV-3 from CRS, Pampadumpara and the Tapioca variety Uthama from ARS, Tiruvalla are the other new varieties in the offing.

Director of Research Dr. P. Indiradevi said that the official release of these varieties will be made after the approval from the state level variety release committee headed by Agricultural Production Commissioner.

INSIDE THE ISSUE

Research News, Awards	2
OWC, General Council, RARS Library Inauguration & Yoga day	3
Message from Vice - Chancellor	4
Organic PoP, KAU to help Liberia & Dr.N.P.Kumari Sushama awards	5
Academic Council, Dr. K NS Memmorial Lecture & Reading week	6
Environment Day, Agri super Shoppe & Retirements	7
Avian fauna in Pattambi, Harithakeralam workshop, Jackfest & Training for MNREGS Officials	8

Predator proof Poultry Cages

Kannur KVK has come up with a Predator proof Poultry cage to encourage backyard poultry rearing in rural, peri urban and urban areas alike.

The ten square feet cage was designed by Dr. T. Giggin, Assistant Professor. Slanted floor to facilitate accumulation of eggs at one place, an automatic drinking water provider and an inbuilt tool to facilitate easy administration of medicines are its specialities.

According to Dr. Giggin, the cage can accommodate ten birds and is ideal for rural and urban homesteads alike.



Model of predator proof cage for poultry designed at KVK, Kannur

Jack Fruit Corer Developed

A simple and easy to operate machine, Jack Fruit Corer, has been developed by AICRP scheme on PHPT at KCAE & T, Tavanur to clean and isolate edible pods of Jackfruit within a minute. The.

Jackfruit, the most organic and unadulterated among fruits, is a rich source of vitamins A, B & C, minerals, fibres and nutrients. It is available in abundance and is consumed in a variety of ways in every stage of its maturing, but the drudgery in cleaning the fruit and isolating the edible pods from sticky stem is a deterrent

The machine with an efficiency of 85 to 90% is set to impart impetus for industrial jack fruit processing on account of its simple structure and easy operation.

Awards & Recognitions

Dr. T. Pradeep Kumar, Professor, Department of Olericulture, CoH and Director i/c (Planning), has been chosen as Indian Society of Vegetable Sciences (ISVS) Fellow 2016. The honour is in recognition of his notable achievements in research in the field of vegetable science. The decision was taken by the Executive Committee of ISVS in its meeting held at IIHR, Bengaluru in July.



Dr. Jacob John, Professor & Head, IFSRC, Karamana won the best oral presentation award in the National seminar on Biodiversity conservation and Farming Systems for wetland ecosystems held at Kumarakom on 22 & 23 February 2017.

The award was for the paper on Performance of different Integrated Farming System Models in southern districts in Kerala, co authored by A. V. Meera, B. Sudha, D. Jacob and A. Sajeena, IFSRC, Karamana presented in the technical session on Integrated farming Systems.

Sustainable Intercropping Models Developed at CRS, Balaramapuram

CRS, Balaramapuram has developed successful intercropping models which can be replicated in the coconut gardens.

Inter-row space available between the coconut palms planted at a spacing of 7.5m x 7.5m was treated as one unit. At the four corners of the unit, Nendran banana was planted. The rest of the area was inter-



cropped with rice, vegetables, fodder grasses, tuber crops and spices as different treatments. Specified spacing was adopted for each crop and Nutrients applications (100%) were through the manures available from cattle, goat and poultry units and vermicompost generated on the farm as per organic schedule worked out on Nitrogen equivalent basis. Only organic pesticides and fungicides were used.

It has been found that all crops respond well to organic treatment and no serious attack of pests and diseases were noticed.

Innovative Family Farming Structures

The innovative structures developed by IFSRC, Karamana for family farming has become popular in the state.

The simple structures with inbuilt irrigation tubes makes vegetable farming convenient and drudgery less. The models developed by IFSRC has been adopted by line departments and have become a showpiece in all exhibitions.

Dr. Jacob John, Professor & Head, IFSRC said that attempts are on to incorporate fertigation facility in the structure without compromising its compact nature.



Protect farmers' Rights : Minister

Minister for Agricultural development and farmers' Welfare V. S. Sunil Kumar stressed the need to prevent private parties securing patent right over indigenous crop varieties owned and conserved by farmers.

Addressing a meeting convened at KAU to prepare a blue print for Kerala's participation in forthcoming Organic World Congress (OWC), the Minister said that farmers' right should be protected. He directed KAU, Department of Agriculture and Biodiversity Board to initiate combined action in this regard.

The Minister said that Kerala will be adequately and appropriately represented at OWC. Kerala's commitment to organic farming and progress achieved has to be highlighted in the event., he said.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, Director of Agriculture Biju Prabhakar IAS and OWC Co-ordinator Claude Alvares spoke.

KAU officials and scientists, farmers and officers of the agricultural department participated. An action plan to ensure proper representation of the state in OWC has been drawn up in the meeting.

- **The 19th edition of OWC, the world's largest and most significant organic gathering, will be held in New Delhi during 09 -11 November 2017.**
- **The overarching theme is 'Global Adoption of Organic Principles for Truly Sustainable Agriculture'.**
- **It is structured in four conference tracks ie. Main Track, Farmers' Track, Scientific Track and Marketing Track.**

Convocation to be held in September

KAU convocation is scheduled to be held in September 2017. This was informed by Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor in the meeting of Varsity General Council held at Vellanikkara on July 29.

The 129th meeting of the council cleared the proposal to confer Honorary Causa to Dr. P. K. Ramachandran Nair, Professor at University of Florida for his stellar contributions to the development of science and practice of agro forestry.

The meeting also approved the award of degrees to 263 students who fulfilled the criteria.

K. Rajan MLA told the house that corruption in any form will not be tolerated and anyone indulging in corrupt practices will not have a place in the university. Vice-Chancellor assured the house that enquiry into the alleged irregularities in casual labour appointment at Vellayani and consequent formalities will be completed in ten days. The house formed a committee to review the delegation of powers of officers.

Vice-chancellor also assured the house that procedure for selection and appointment of Deans and Directors will be expedited. The pending cases of pay revision anomalies in respect of non teaching staff will be placed in the next meeting of executive Committee. The procedure for granting study leave for PhD and Post Doctoral Fellowships will be simplified and will be made in a transparent manner. The house approved the proposal to establish a new department of supportive and allied courses in the faculty of forestry. Steps to disburse wage revision arrears to farm labourers will be reviewed as per government norms.

The meeting presided over by Vice-Chancellor was attended among others by Dr. S. Leena Kumary, Registrar, Deans & Directors and other officers. Dr. A. Anil Kumar, P. K. Sreekumar, Dr. B. Suma, Vasim Fajl C., Abin George, K. D. Babu, Dr. Sakeer Hussein, C. H. Muthu, Dr. Thomas George, Adv. M. Rajan and Bibin Chacko participated in the discussions.

RARS Library building Opened



Muhammed Muhsin MLA speaking at RARS Pattambi

Library building at RARS, pattambi was inaugurated by Muhammed Muhsin MLA on July 24. He also gave away the endowment instituted by late Dr. Lalitha Bai to the meritorious DASc student and distributed the revenue share of Earn While you Learn programme to the students.

Registrar Dr. S. Leena Kumari, DPP Dr. V. R. Ramachandran, ADR Dr. Mercy George and RARS Head Dr. M. C. Narayanan Kutty participated.

Yoga Day celebrated in KAU

Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurated the third international Yoga Day Celebrations at Vellanikkara on June 21.

Yoga Practice course for Forestry students, the first instance of introducing yoga as part of curriculum in the state, was also launched on the occasion.

Registrar Dr. S. Leena Kumary presided over the function, Director (Planning) Dr. T. Pradeep Kumar and College of Horticulture Associate Dean Dr. C. George Thomas spoke.

Dr. T. I. Manoj, Director of Students welfare welcomed the gathering and Dr. Berin Pathrose, NSS Programme Officer proposed vote of thanks. Yoga day was celebrated with yoga classes and awareness programmes in other campuses of KAU as well.



Vice-Chancellor inaugurates International Yoga Day celebrations in KAU on June 21

Message from the Vice - chancellor

Turning Waste into Wealth, The best way out



Accumulation of waste has become a menace and biggest health concern confronting our habitat. While the waste-whether it is industrial, house hold or farm waste can be effectively managed through utilizing it, and non utilization of it poses multifold problems for all living beings.

The direct effect of waste accumulation is creation of toxic pollutants and anaerobic decomposition products of biological waste. Indirectly it leads to impeded drainage, water stagnation, contamination of well and ground water, mosquito menace, resurgence of certain pests and multiplication of insects, rats/ rodents, stray dogs etc., weed growth in water bodies, damage to fresh water fish population as well as water based flora and fauna. Waste accumulation also upsets the recycling process of organic carbon in agri eco systems.

The best way to manage waste is to ensure its utilization. Insitu utilization of generated waste and its incorporation in soil alone can lead to sequestration of carbon in soil, making it healthy and fertile. With the advent of modern agriculture technology, emphasis on chemical fertilizers and neglect of organic manure, carbon content in soil have depleted, sporadic

deficiency of secondary and micronutrients have gone up, widespread pests & disease occurrences have increased –all leading to drop in quality of produce and the ecosystem. Depletion of 0.5% to 0.75% organic carbon in soil is equivalent to loss of energy produced from 5-50 tonnes of coal/ ha. Organic matter depletion has also led to substantial decrease in microbial population and soil biota.

The only panacea is to improve soil organic matter status. Higher organic matter content of soils improves water and nutrient holding capacity, structure and other physical properties of the soil. The increased thrust on organic farming replacing inorganic fertilizers fully or partially requires large scale addition of organics, which is easily possible by integration of organic waste utilization with homestead farming.

It is estimated that the quantity of household waste generated touches 20,000 tonnes per day. By utilizing this we can create nearly 100 tonnes of N_2 , 50 tonnes of P_2O_5 and 75 tonnes of K_2O per day. Recycling of household and other biological waste leads to substantial improvement in biological activities in soil and nutrient mineralization. In fact the effect is three fold: recycling of accumulated waste avoids expenditure on combating environmental issues, saves cost involved in unavoidable generation/relocation of alternate organic manure resources for soil enrichment and compensates the loss sustained due to wastage of available resources, in this case waste itself. Furthermore, it manages the uncontrollable entity ie. TIME, as these factors pertain to three different timeframes, the value of which cannot be otherwise compensated.

Utilisation of waste combines these threefold effects at one stroke, at single expense. If accumulated waste is effectively and beneficially managed, economy in ecology management and pollution control is also simultaneously achieved. Gains of binding carbon to soil and resultant benefits like control of greenhouse gases and positive effect on carbon economy and budget are other notable achievements. Thus waste management is a high profile issue, which can be successfully handled with available technologies. What is needed is a will to do it. Where there is a will, there is a way indeed.

Package of Organic Practices Released

An exclusive Package of Practices (PoP) for Organic Farming, first of its kind in India, brought out by KAU was officially released by the Minister for agricultural development and farmers' welfare V. S. Sunil Kumar in the state level meeting held on May 21.

Minister Sunil Kumar said that the organic PoP would help to achieve the desired shift from indiscriminate use of chemicals for plant health management to eco friendly and scientific practices. 'Substituting plant protection chemicals not only forbid health hazards, but help biodiversity conservation and promotion of indigenous practices. The department of agriculture will use this compilation to aid and guide farmers,' he said.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran said that the University is the first SAU in the country to prepare a separate PoP for organic farming. 'We compiled an adhoc package for organic farming in 2008, which was well received by the stakeholders. Based on the feedback, a new PoP with exclusive organic practices has been brought out. This repository will help to realise the goals of food security, safety and nutritional security,' he said.

Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta said that the Organic PoP and Malayalam Version of PoP will be of great value to rural farmers as well as those who endeavor to establish home gardens in urban and peri urban areas.

The Package of Practices (Organic) Crops: 2017, published by Directorate of Extension, KAU is the first of its kind in India. It contains Good Agricultural Practices, tips on Organic Certification and Agro Ecological Engineering besides organic protocols for pest and disease management of various crops.

KAU to aid Liberia in Agri development

KAU will provide consultancy, training and support for agricultural development in Liberia.

The decision was taken following a discussion between Myers Gonwongbay, Director, World Food Programme for Africa and Eastern Europe and Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, KAU held at the university head quarters on May 29.

Myers Gonwongbay said that his country is keen to have trained manpower to push the growth of domestic agricultural sector. 'Almost eighty percent of land in Liberia is cultivable. If we get technical support and training the agricultural production can be doubled, leading to enhancement of income to our population. I have come to KAU because of its proven technologies and established expertise,' he said.

Vice-Chancellor said that the university is ready to host trainings with necessary permission from Government of India. 'Our technologies for crop production, Plant protection, post harvest processing and value addition can be replicated in Liberia as well. Liberian students also can seek admission for KAU courses. We can even send an expert team to assess the ground realities there and propose suitable programmes,' he explained.

Registrar Dr. S. Leenakumari, Director of Research Dr. Sajan Kurien and Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelita participated.

Open new avenues in research: Minister



Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar distributing the Dr. N. P. Kumari Sushama endowment awards at CoA, Vellayani on July 13

The Minister for Agricultural development and Farmers' Welfare V. S. Sunil Kumar gave away the seventh annual awards in memory of former professor Dr. N. P. Kumari Sushama at CoA, Vellayani on July 13.

Speaking after inaugurating the award distribution ceremony, Minister said that Food Security encompass food safety also along with availability of food. 'In order to ensure food safety and nutritional security, we will have to look beyond common crops. For example Millets and Pulses should also find a place in our crop calendar,' he said.

Researchers should aim higher, said the Minister. 'KAU's research is the backbone of agricultural development in the state. Instead of treading the familiar path, researchers should open new research avenues in the evolving scenario. The onus

to provide scientific footing for organic farming lies with the KAU. The developments in other research organisations should be keenly watched and collaborative programmes should be launched. Close coordination between KAU and other ICAR institutions in the state is essential,' he said.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, in his presidential address, remini-sced Dr. N. P. Kumari Sushama as a person who earned affection and respect of all. Dean Dr. A. Anil Kumar welcomed the gathering and Associate Director Dr. K. Umamaheswaran proposed vote of thanks. Kalliyur Gramapanchayath President R. Jayalakshmi, Block Panchayat member J. Girija, KAU Director of Welfare Dr. T. I. Manoj, Dr. C. Bhaskaran and Panchayat member Pravinakumari were present.

While Himaparvathi, Deepa R. Chandran, Anna Jose and Archana A. K. won the student awards, Dr. P. Aparna, Dr. Allen Thomas and Dr. Sajitharani T. received award for teachers. Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry was adjudged the best department, followed by Department of Agronomy.

KAU Certificates to have Photo and UID Number

Academic Council meeting held on May 24 approved the proposal to include photographs and Unique ID/ Aadhaar number in the Degree Certificates issued by KAU.

The 130th meeting chaired by Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran also approved the prospectus for 17-18 admissions to various University courses. The Academic Council expressed concern in other universities starting courses pertaining to Agriculture and allied subjects. This is a unhealthy practice and Agricultural courses without ICAR accreditation will not be valid, members pointed out. Vice-Chancellor shared the concern and said that the sanctity of ICAR system cannot be allowed to get weakened.

The council decided to take up the issue of accreditation of the Integrated



Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and Director (Academic) at the Academic Council meeting

BSc-MSc course in Climate Change adaptation with state government and ICAR. It was also decided to revise the syllabus of five year integrated course in consultation with experts from other research organisations and educational institutions.

Registrar Dr. S. Leenakumary, Director of Academic Dr. T. E. George, Controller

of Examinations Dr. R. Krishnakumar, Dean (Agriculture) Dr. A. Anilkumar, Dean (Agri. Engg.) Dr. Santhi Mary Mathew, Dean (Forestry) Dr. K. Vidyasagar, Director of Research Dr. Sajan Kurien, Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta, DSW Dr. T. I. Manoj Associate Deans and elected representatives of teachers and students participated.

Silent revolution in Primary Sector : Dr. Joy Elamon

A strong network of LSGIs and efficacy of People's Planning programme is triggering a silent revolution in the primary sector of Kerala, according to Dr. Joy Elamon, Director, KILA.

Delivering the 12th Endowment Lecture in Memory of Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair, former KAU Vice-Chancellor and Planning expert, Dr. Joy Elamon brought to light the contents of two books co-authored by Dr. Nair in 1978, which has proved prophetic about the current development scenario. The function organised by CGSFED at CoH on July 24 was presided over by Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran

'The positive change in primary sector, which is being more and more mechanised and handled by young men and women, is not orchestrated by any Government



Dr. Joy Elamon says that a silent but steady revolution in agri sector is on

directive or programme, but by local movements for local development through efficient use of local resources. The shift from farm workers to Farm machinery operators and paid labourers to active participants is what Dr. Shyamasundaran Nair had dreamt of in

late seventies. Agricultural prosperity achieved by some LSGIs can definitely be enthusing models for others and Women SHGs have advanced a lot', he said.

Dr. Joy Elamon said KAU can help LSGIs in project formulation and implementation, guide farmers' groups in mitigating climate change, aid value chain analysis and development and impart management techniques for sustainable development of Farmer Producer Companies and labour banks. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in his presidential address reminisced Dr. Shyamasundaran Nair as a charismatic and ever smiling personality whose contributions to agricultural sector is unforgettable. Dr. K. V. Peter, Dr. George Thomas, Dr. D. Girija, Dr. A. Prema and Dr. P. S. Geethakutty spoke.

Virtues of reading highlighted

The reading week celebrations of KAU and a seminar on protection of environment was inaugurated by writer and Kerala Sahithya Academy secretary Dr. K. P. Mohanan at central library on June 19. In his address, Dr. Mohanan stressed the need and relevance of creative interferences in culture.

'Humanism is related to and complementary to nature. Writers and poets of yester years earned inspiration from nature and shared concerns about nature. Edassery, in a poem authored in 1954, forewarned the waning of Bharathapuzha and Vallathole stressed the pertinence of farmers welfare long back. Reading help people to be cultured, refined and committed to nature.', he said.

K. Rajan MLA presided over the function. KAU Director of Extension Dr. Jiju P. Alex reminisced P. N. Panicker, the doyen of library movement. Madakkathara Panchayat President P. S. Vinayan gave away awards to best library users and winners in reading week competitions.

Dr. Sarah T. George, Director (Academic), Dr. A. T. Francis, Librarian, Sanjo Jose (Kerala College Library Association), student representatives and N. B. Nisha spoke.



Kerala Sahithya Academy secretary Dr. K. P. Mohanan speaking after inaugurating reading week celebrations of KAU

Environment Day : KAU Undertake Extensive Planting

Extensive planting operations and awareness programmes were organized in KAU campuses to mark the environment day.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurated the planting operations in KAU main campus at Vellanikkara, Thrissur on June 5. KAU Executive Committee member K. Rajan MLA inaugurated the Ecopark at university high school and distributed prizes for students who secured full A plus in SSLC examination. Registrar Dr. S. Leena Kumari presided.

A workshop on environment and climate change organised at ACCER was inaugurated by writer C. Radhakrishnan. 'Advancements in science and technology



Vice-Chancellor inaugurates Planting operations on Environment Day

are not meant for indiscreet use or obliterating conventional wisdom.' he said. 'Vagaries in climate indicate imbalance and injury to the universe. To solve this we have to stop injuring nature. Advanced studies in climatology as well as use of advancements like micrometeorological studies is imperative.', Radhakrishnan said.

Director of Research Dr. P. Indiradevi, Director of Extension Dr. Jiju P. Alex, Director of Planning Dr. T. Pradeepkumar, Forestry Dean Dr. K. Vidyasagar, Associate Deans Dr. George Thomas and Dr. P. Shaheena among others participated. Extensive planting operations were taken up in all campuses of KAU.

RETIREMENTS

Dr. S. Estelitta, Director of Extension and Dr. T. E. George, Director (Academic), retired from service on 31 May, 2017.

Dr. S. Estelitta was heading the communication centre, Mannuthy before taking over as Director of Extension. She has been a constant guide to farmers and played a key role in bringing out many publications including package of organic practices, Malayalam version of PoP, Krishipanchamgam etc. and has authored thirty odd publications for farmers. She has won several awards and recognitions for her distinguished service.



Dr. T. E. George was instrumental in bringing out several reforms in the academic sector of KAU. Launching of online admission portal, introducing comprehensive academic software, streamlining admission and evaluation processes and introducing anti-plagiarism software were done during his tenure. Dr. George had served as the Associate Director of Research (Vegetable Mission). He has won Young Scientist Award of the State Government and Indo American Hybrid Seeds Gold Medal.



Agri Super Shoppe turns Smart Minister inaugurates Harithajalakam

Harithajalakam, the renovated sales counter attached to ATIC, Mannuthy was inaugurated by Minister for Agriculture V. S. Sunil Kumar on July 3. Chief guest Artist Namboothiri received first sales.

Minister also launched the intensive subscription drive for Kalpadhenu, the farm science journal of KAU and inaugurated a snackbar attached to Harithajalakam KAU Executive Committee member K. Rajan MLA launched the services and materials web portal of the university in the function presided over by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran.

Minister said that the popularity of KAU products should be explored in full by enhancing production and increasing sales outlets. Attractive packing and marketing strategies should be adopted, thereby helping farmers to derive maximum return, he said. The minister also wanted KAU to establish an exten-



Minister makes first sale at Harithajalakam to Artist Namboothiri

sion centre in the Vattavada-Kanthallur belt so as to spread Good Agricultural Practices among the local farmers.

Vice-Chancellor congratulated officers responsible for strengthening extension wing. Director of Extension Dr. Jiju P. Alex said that the innovative extension programmes are being implemented for the benefit all stakeholders.

The programme was attended by KAU General Council members Dr. A. Anil Kumar, Dr. B. Suma, P. K. Sreekumar, K. D. Babu and Dr. Sakkir Hussain; Registrar Dr. S. Leenakumari; Director of Research Dr. P. Indiradevi and Director of Planning Dr. T. Pradeep Kumar. ATIC head Dr. Sreevalsan J. menon welcomed the gathering and Communication Centre head Dr. Binoo P. Bonny proposed vote of thanks.

Enviably Avian Fauna in Pattambi RARS

A participatory bird count carried out at Pattambi RARS has brought to light the rich avian fauna in the campus.

The exercise was taken up as a part of the All India Campus Bird Count, a sub-event of the Great Backyard Bird Count 2017, organized annually around the world since 2013 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society.

The first bird count in the campus held on Feb. 19, 2017 was registered on the e-bird portal (ebird.org). In three hours, 75 bird species-year-round residents as well as winter migrants- of different colours, sizes, habits and occupying various niches within the habitat were spotted. Apart from birds butterflies of the families Nymphalidae (brush-footed butterflies) and Lycaenidae (blues), colonies of stingless bees, a beautiful bark mimicking gecko, a jackal and a mongoose were also seen.



The second event on April 02, 2017 catered to a group of 55 children belonging to classes V to X who were participants of the Palakkad District level Bala Shastra Congress. The inquisitive children, in an interactive learning session of about 2 hours spotted 26 species of birds. The drop in number of birds and varietal diversity is attributed to factors like warm weather, drying up of water holes, end of crop season as well as migratory season.

Local Planning Key to Success: Dr. T. N. Seema



Dr. T. N. Seema says that efficient use of local resources will ensure success of development programmes

Dr. T. N. Seema, Executive Vice Chairperson, Haritha Keralam Mission has stressed the need of proper coordination of activities undertaken by different departments and convergence of technologies.

In her inaugural address at a workshop on Haritha Keralam project organised by KAU at Thrissur KVK on May 23, Dr. Seema said that proper planning at lower

levels is the key to successful culmination of the programmes envisaged under the mission.

'Planning should be based on local needs and locally available resources. A continuum of house-society-community-state level consciousness will only lead us to desired objectives. Awareness of appropriate technologies is imperative and KAU's contribution is pertinent in this context. For example quality evaluation of bio inputs for farming is a critical issue as public is unable to differentiate between bonafide and spurious products flooding the market. State level knowledge network is another important aogan of the mission. KAU has a definite role to play in these areas', she said.

Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta in her presidential address promised technology back up for successful implementation of programmes for water management, Waste management and organic farming envisaged in Haritha Keralam mission. Dr. P. Indiradevi, Dr. George Thomas, Dr. A. Prema, Dr. P. Jayaraj, Dr. V. G. Sunil, Dr. Shanmughasundaram, Dr. P.O. Nameer, Dr. G. Jayalakshmi, Dr. Safia, Dr. Binoo P. Bonny and Dr. K. T. Suman spoke.

International Workshop on Jackfruit Promotion

International Workshop on Production, Value Addition and Marketing of Jackfruit will be held at RARS, Ambalavayal from 9 to 14, August 2017.

The programme, jointly organised by KAU and State Ministry of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Kerala, is co-sponsored by organizations like ICAR, TF Net, National Horticulture Board, State Horticulture Mission, Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council of Kerala, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Wayanad and ISSAAS (International Society for South East Asian Agricultural Sciences). National and International organizations working for the promotion of jackfruit are other partners.

Experts from various jack producing countries will facilitate knowledge and experience sharing among all stake holders associated with the industry.

Training for MNREGS Coordinators

A training programme on seedling production and nursery management for the district level MNREGS coordinators was organised on July 21.

'Haritha Keralam mission envisages planting of two crore saplings on June 5, 2018. It is in this context that Directorate of Extension has undertaken the responsibility to organise this programme, paving the way for production of required number of seedlings.', said Dr. Jiju P. Alex, Director of Extension. He also stressed the need to promote local varieties of fruit plants, thereby incorporating the element of biodiversity conservation in the programme.

Director of Research Dr. P. Indiradevi, who inaugurated the programme, said that the combination of KAU's technology back up and manpower available under MNREGS can do wonders in realising the objectives of the mission. 'KAU's role is to provide technological support for Haritha Keralam mission. This is the first major step in this direction and potentially the most fruitful one.', she said.

MNREGS programme officer Sajith, Assoc. Director of Extension Dr. Alexander George and Haritha Keralam KAU coordinator Dr. A. Prema spoke.