

IAUA moots Comprehensive Policy to conserve Land, Water and Biodiversity

The National workshop on Family farming for sustainability organised in connection with fifth Regional conference of Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA) at Thrissur mooted an over reaching policy on resources such as land, water, forest, biodiversity and fisheries.

The workshop hosted by KAU stressed the need for an innovative and dynamic extension network involving ICT for quick and efficient technology transfer and emphasis on social engineering.

The recommendations of the workshop includes consolidation of land holdings to facilitate group farming, upgradation of family farming from the status of subsistence farming to high tech farming, inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in curriculum, development of site specific integrated nutrient management systems and mass multiplication of bio control agents.

The workshop also proposed smart subsidies for purchase of machinery, promotion of integrated homestead farming, strengthening of post harvest, value addition chain and marketing channels to raise farm income, planning based on sub zonal agro ecological level, stress on nutritional security and thrust on small farm mechanisation and development of gender friendly tools.

The recommendations on academic front include research to develop appropriate technology for periurban agriculture, model farming units at zonal levels, Centres at state and national level for documentation and revalidation of Indigenous knowledge, Inter



Inauguration of IAUA Meet at Thrissur

University centres for fostering knowledge sharing and quality improvement, and a multi university centre in south India.

Technology advancement inevitable

Inaugurating the event, ICAR Deputy Director General (crop science), Dr. Swapan Kumar Dutta said that prosperity cannot be achieved without technological advancement which invariably depends on progress in higher education and research. Stressing the need for a multidisciplinary approach in agricultural education to help better capacity building, Dr. Dutta said that Indian Agricultural Universities are doing appreciably well despite fund crunch.

But we should think of involving internationally acclaimed experts in teaching and guiding research in order to incite innovative thinking and attract universal attention'. he said. *(cont'd on page 5)*

Colourful Start to Agri Fest & Flower show 2015

Minister for Youth affairs and ST welfare Kumari P.K. Jayalakshmi inaugurated the National Level Agri festival (Agrifesta 2015) and Flower show (Pooppoli 2015) organised by KAU at the RARS, Ambalavayal in a colourful function on January 20.

The event held from January 20 will be an unforgettable fortnight for people of Wayanad as well as visitors, she said.

The inaugural function was presided over by Executive Committee member and Organising Committee chairman I. C. Balakrishnan MLA. M.I. Shanavas M.P. opened the exhibition stalls. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, Registrar Dr. P.V. Balachandran, District Panchayath President N.K. Rasheed, Block Panchayath President A.S.Vijaya, Ambalavayal Grama Panchayath President M.U. George and other people's representatives, RARS Associate Director Dr. Rajendran. P and University functionaries took part in the function as well as the pageantry held prior to it.

The expo, participated by different research organisations, state departments, commodity boards and institution was complemented by an enormous display of flowers extended over ten acres. The rare collection included a two acre rose garden, two acre



Minister P.K. Jayalakshmi inaugurates Agrifesta and Pooppoli 2015 at Ambalavayal

gladiolus garden, three acre dahlia garden with more than 5000 varieties, gerbera garden with 100 colour varieties, sun garden and moon garden. The two hundred odd stalls housed nursery units from different stations of KAU demonstrating vast collection of ornamental plants, fruit trees and planting materials including rare collection of orchids and ornamental cucurbits grown in Ambalavayal.

Workshops and seminars on agri related subjects of contemporary relevance, cultural evenings, Food festival and joy rides in the children's park were other attractions of the event.

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Message From the Vice-chancellor Let us redeem our soils



The 68th UN General Assembly has declared 2015 as International Year of Soils (IYS). The UN has rightly driven home the relevance of soil health for achieving global food and nutritional security and in ecosystem functioning. The main agenda of IYS is to create awareness on the fundamental roles of soils for human welfare, to sensitize

decision-makers towards formulation of effective policies for sustainable management, protection of soil resources and enhance capacities and systems for collection of soil information and monitoring.

Soil is not only the basis of our biological wealth and agriculture, but is also essential for the production of many goods that we use daily for food, shelter and clothing like processed food materials, wood, paper, cotton, cement, paints, iron and steel, bricks, etc. No other pursuit of natural resource has contributed to the welfare and sustenance of the whole mankind as soil does. The most important function soil performs in nature is the mineralization of dead remains and organic tissues of plant and animal origin, bio-wastes, industrial wastes (degradable) leading to the release of plant nutrients/minerals and CO_2 . This evolution of CO_2 forms a vital process of the carbon cycle which is incessantly going on in nature, sustaining the most important fundamental phenomenon namely photosynthesis. Soil with its ion exchange behaviour adsorbs many pollutants reaching the soil thus rendering them harmless through the buffer action. Even the maintenance of the O_2 concentration in the atmosphere through the photolysis of water is mediated through the soil in general. The deleterious effects of hazardous radiations from the radioactive materials of the lithosphere are also annulled to a greater extent by the soil matrix. Many mineral deficiency symptoms manifested in plants and subsequently in animals including man are due to the inherent deficiencies of these

elements in the soil. Hence correction of these deficiencies at the soil level is the best remedy to alleviate nutrient deficiencies in plants, animals and human beings. The sustainable management of our soils, no doubt, is imperative for a healthier *Nature* and in turn, for supporting healthy plants, animals and human beings.



But in *Anthropocene*, modern man's chaotic lifestyle has continuously decimated the soil health which is challenging our quest for food and nutritional security and also our biological wealth. The imbalances in our ecological systems and changes in our climate can invariably traced to our illogical interventions in our soils and other natural resources. The Kerala Agricultural University is always committed to developing packages and practices which respects soil health in both cultivated and natural ecosystems. In the IYS, I would ask my scientists and students to develop soil based agro-technology crop protocols for all our agro-ecological zones. Concurrently, our experts must also give serious attention to OM budgeting at the panchayath level which will help us to reclaim the lost vitality of our soils. KAU scientists must also initiate developing location specific Soil Quality Indices (SQI) which will then act as the region wise ready reckoners of soil health of our state. Detailed investigations on soil pollution, especially heavy metal pollution and mitigating the same through phyto-remedial techniques are another areas where our scientists must focus research. The potential and limitations of engineered nanoparticles (like for eg., nano rock phosphate, other forms of nano fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and plant growth substances) must also catch our research attention in the IYS. Ready to use products of insecticides, fungicides, organic manures and chemical fertilizers should be developed to achieve maximum efficiency and to reduce wastage of nutrients and environmental pollution. This will also reduce substantially the cost of production of agro-products. Concurrently, long term experiments to understand soil nutrient management in relation to climate change must be carried out to understand the impact and possible mitigation strategies. It is high time to renew our interest in rotating crops to increase soil aggregate stability, decreased crusting of soil surfaces and increased granular structure and friable consistency.

Let us pledge to take affirmative actions to redeem the health of our soils and make IYS a meaningful dream.

LIME APPLICATOR FOR KOLE LANDS



Lime application being demonstrated at Ponnammutha Kolepadavu.

The R&D team of KAU's Food Security Army (FSA) has developed a system of protocols to use fertilizer broadcaster as lime applicator. After farm trials at ARS Mannuthy, this was successfully demonstrated at Ponnammutha Kolepadavu on October 20 and found very successful in applying lime at the prescribed rate of 600kg/ha. This machine has come out as a boom to kole land farmers, who were facing acute problems for lime application. Manual workers claim nearly Rs.3-5/ kg of lime application whereas using this machine, the cost can be brought down to Rs.1/kg. This will help to restore the normal practice of lime application in kole lands and rice productivity of more than 10 tonnes/ha. This equipment is operated through the PTO operated tractor and is mounted on three point linkage. Its hopper is conical in shape and can hold nearly 450 kg of lime material.

The lime applicator operated using 24 - 45 hp tractor can spread lime at the prescribed rate (600 kg/ha) to a radial distance of 2.75 km. from the central path.

The PTO operates a central spin situated on the bottom opening of the hopper, which scatters lime material dropping from the hopper. The opening slit of the hopper can be adjusted to regulate the application rate of liming material ranging from 500 - 600 kg/ha. The equipment can be hydraulically lifted and vertical height of application can be adjusted to have maximum spread depending on the coarseness of the material. The machine facilitates uniform application of lime in the field.

Young Scientist Award



Dr. Ameena M., Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Vellayani received the Young Scientist Award in the National Conference

on Emerging challenges and opportunities in biotic and abiotic stress management in rice held at Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad on 13-14 December 2014. She also received the Second Best Oral Presentation award in the agronomy session.

Best Paper Awards

Dr. S. Devanesan,

Assoc. Director, Southern Regional Agricultural Research Station, Vellayani won the special prize for best paper in the world Biodiversity Congress held at Colombo in



November 2014. He received the award from Prof. Sarath Kotagama, Biodiversity advisor to Govt. of Sri Lanka. Dr. Devanesan won the award for his presentation highlighting the bio diversity of Apis and 129 flowering plants which offered nectar and pollen to honey bees in Kerala.



Dr. Sajeena A., Asst. Professor (Plant Pathology), ARS, Thiruvalla won the Best poster presentation award in 6th Indian Horticulture Congress - 2014,

organized by TNAU at Coimbatore during November 2014 for her presentation on In vitro studies on the inhibition of *Pythium aphanidermatum* causing stem rot of cowpea using *Trichoderma* and fungicides.

Dr. Sosamma Cherian,

Professor & Head, ARS, Thiruvalla won the third prize for poster presentation in the National Meet on Modernization of Jaggery industry in India and Jaggery Carnival organized by IISR, Lucknow during November, 2014.



'Nature Conservation best shield against climate change'

Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan said that conservation of nature and biodiversity is the best way to reduce the ill effects of global warming and climate change.

Minister was speaking after inaugurating the one day workshop on challenges posed by Global warming and climate change and opening the new Post Graduate Block of CoA, Vellayani on December 4.

During the interaction with farmers and students as part of the workshop, the Minister called for on field production of organic manure so that organic farming becomes a routine process. Making Kerala an organic state is a commitment, he added.

Dr. Jameela Prakasam MLA presided over the workshop organised by Southern Regional Agricultural Research Station, Vellayani with the support of State Horticulture Mission and State Bio-diversity Board. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran was the chief guest. SHM MD



Minister K.P. Mohanan inaugurates the National Workshop held at CoA, Vellayani

Dr. K. Prathapan, : GC members Dr. R. Krishnakumar and N. L. Sivakumar; Director of Physical Plant Dr. V. R. Ramachandran; Associate Director Dr. S. Devanesan; Additional Director of Agriculture P. Sheela and Principal Information Officer B. Hemakumari spoke. Agricultural Faculty Dean Dr. Sverup John offered welcome and programme coordinator Dr. S. Rajasree proposed vote of thanks.

Journal of Tropical Agriculture Launched Online

Online version of the Kerala Agricultural University research journal, "Journal of Tropical Agriculture" was launched by Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Rajendran in a function held at KAU Head quarters on November 1, 2014.

Journal of Tropical Agriculture, started as the Agricultural Research Journal of Kerala in 1961, has evolved into an international platform for leading and upcoming scholarly work in all the disciplines of crop sciences, forestry sciences and natural resources management sciences. Presently it operates as a double blind peer reviewed and open access half yearly journal

abstracted and indexed in over ten abstracting services including.

Director of Research, Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Registrar Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Editor, Dr. T. Pradeep kumar, Associate Editors, Dr. Binoo P. Bonny and Dr. Meera V. Menon and University officials participated in the release function. Research papers were given priority in this issue. Full content of the current issue, which has given thrust to research papers related to the application of GM technology in tropical crops, can be accessed directly from the site www.jtropag.in.

Workshop on Geo Information analysis

Dr. Jim Thomas, ADR (AR & T) inaugurated the one day workshop on Open Source Software in Geographic Information Analysis organised at College of Forestry on 16th December 2014.

Radhakrishnan, T., Course coordinator-Geo informatics, Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Kerala was the main resource person. The PG scholars, PhD students, Research scholars as well as Faculty from COF, COH, ACCER, CCBM, KCAET and KFRI participated in the workshop. Dr. Vijayakumaran Nair, Former Head, Dept. of GIS & RS, KFRI gave the introductory lecture on Geographic Information Analysis.

Dr. K. Sudhakara, Dean (Faculty of Forestry). Dr. K. Vidyasagan, Assoc. Professor & Head, Dept. of Forestry Management & Utilisation distributed the certificates.

Agrifesta and Pooppoli 2015 through Lens



(cont'd from page 1)

'Technology advancement inevitable for prosperity'

Dr. Arvind Kumar, DDG (Education) in his keynote address highlighted the need to create a youth brigade empowered with technical knowledge to meet the challenges in next decade. 'Food security is no longer a threat, but nutritional security is. Manpower use and land resource exploitation for farming has to be revisited to ensure nutritional security', he said.

IAUA President Dr. A.K. Srivasthava in his presidential address pointed out that Family farming system, which played a major role in rural poverty alleviation in India, is now crippled by limited access to land, capital and technology, non-influence in market, weak bargaining power and threat of land grabbing.



Dr. C. Vasudevappa, Dr. A.K. Srivasthava, Dr. P. Rajendran and Dr. P. V. Balachandran at the Plenary session of IAUA Conference



Welcome address by Dr. P. Rajendran

IAUA Executive Secretary Dr. R.P. Singh delivered introductory address. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran offered welcome and Organising Secretary Dr. T. E. George proposed vote of thanks.

The technical session began with a presentation on Fighting Hunger-Plurality in Family farming by Dr. A. R. Pathak, Vice-Chancellor, Junagadh Agricultural University. Dr. Pathak said that the contribution of small farmers who cultivate 44% of land exceeds 50% of total farm output in India. 'India has the second largest arable and maximum irrigated area in the world. Yet hunger, nutritional deficiency, mal-nutrition and starvation factors project a vulnerable face of food insecurity in order to make zero hunger vision a reality, family farming activists have to be placed at the centre of policy based on principles of ecology, economics, equity and employment.', he pointed out.



Presidential address by Dr. A.K. Srivasthava



Special address by Dr. Arvind Kumar

Prof. K. Ramaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, in his paper on peri urban family farming made a strong case for promoting Urban and Peri urban Agriculture (UPA) in family farming mode.

In his presentation on indigenous knowledge in family farming, KAU VC Dr. P. Rajendran delineated various inherent agricultural practices and therapeutic use of plant parts followed by rural farmers, especially in Kerala perspective. Other themes of technical sessions of workshop were food and nutritional security, socio-economic aspects of family farming, Universities' role to help family farming, family farming and inclusive growth and future of family farming.



Vote of thanks by Dr. T. E. George



IAUA members acquaint with FSA at ARS, Mannuthy

The plenary session held on December 20 was presided over by the IAUA president Dr. A. K. Srivasthava. Host Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran and UAS Shimoga Vice-Chancellor Dr. C. Vasudevappa presented the consolidated workshop recommendations. KAU Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran proposed vote of thanks.

CM inaugurates Renovated Indoor stadium

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy inaugurated the Indoor Stadium at CoA, Vellayani renovated for National Games. National Games will propel Kerala sports and athletics to a higher orbit as the world class venues developed as part of it will provide advanced training facilities, said the Chief Minister.



Chief Minister inaugurates the Indoor Stadium at CoA, Vellayani renovated for National games

The function was presided over by Sports Minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan. Jameela Prakasam MLA, Kerala Sports Council President Padmini Thomas, Sports Director Pukazhenth, Agricultural faculty Dean Dr. Sverup John, District Panchayath Vice-President Roufas Daniel, Block

Panchayath President M. Maniyan and Grama Panchayath President Udayakumar spoke.

Republic Day Celebrated

The Sixty Sixth Republic Day of India was suitably celebrated in all campuses of KAU.

While the Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran unfurled the National Flag and addressed the parade held at CoA, Vellayani, Registrar Dr. P.V. Balachandran took salute in the parade held at HQ. Heads of institutions performed the duty in other Colleges and Research Stations of the University.



The Republic day pledge undertaken by University Community vows to involve in intensive activities for fostering and sustaining soil health for sustainable food and nutritional security and promote organic farming practices.

Fa Fa Kit for Homestead Farming

Agricultural Engineering department of CoH, Vellanikkara has come up with a portable structure to help family farming enthusiasts.

Christened Fa Fa kit, the simple structure designed by, is ideal for urban and peri urban residents interested in growing vegetables in their own yard or terrace.

The 2.3 m high structures with rectangular or circular base made of steel is provided with seating for pots and trays to grow plants. Lateral provisions to facilitate drip irrigation and fertigation are also incorporated, helping optimum use of water and

manure. The UV sheet rain cover makes it ideal for all seasons and all kinds of plants including climbers can be grown in this set up.

The FaFa kit can be located in the backyard or terrace depending on the availability or constraints of space in a house or apartment. Each family can grow the vegetables of their choice to control their food and nutritional security. The kit indeed is a helping hand to bring back homestead food security concepts so popular in Kerala homes in yester years.



Family farming structure developed by Agri. Engg. Department of CoH, Vellanikkara

Family friendly machines for Coconut farms

ARS, Mannuthy has developed a modified version of sit and climb coconut climber as well as an improvised tiller to open up basin around palms, thus paving way for Family friendly mechanization of coconut farming.

The machines developed under NABARD funded project on Refinement and Testing of KAU Kera Suraksha Coconut Climber is an improvement of the earlier version of Kera Suraksha Coconut Climber. It is made of stainless steel, lighter, cheaper, quicker and more comfortable than the earlier version. The new machine is fastened to palm using flexible steel rope instead of curved stainless rod used in



Coconut Basin being dug by a tiller

previous model. The fastening can be adjusted according to girth of palm, even while operating the machine, which is an added advantage.

The tiller to open up basin around coconut palm is another improvisation by ARS. Hitherto unavailable, the machinery with its two / three rotations around the palm, and two tracks of operations can open 6 basins of 1.8 m radius around in an hour. This tiller consumes only 1.5 liters of diesel per hour. ARS is also working on remote control of the tillers.

Government committed to Organic Kerala Project : Agricultural Minister

Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan said that the Government is committed to convert Kerala into an organic state. Speaking after receiving the recommendations of state organic farming workshop organised by ATIC, KAU in collaboration with State Horticulture Mission at Thrissur, the minister said that the lessons learnt from Kasargod, as the workshop is aptly named, would provide valuable guidelines for the implementation of state organic policy.

Former Finance Minister Dr. T. M. Thomas Issac said that sustainable organic farming can only be encouraged as a people's movement and not imposed upon as a compulsory government directive. He called upon the agricultural scientists to make available a menu of technologies from which farmers can choose the most appropriate option. V.T. Balram MLA, in his presidential address highlighted the need for a strong political will coupled with people's support to realise the objective of making Kerala an organic state.

KAU Director of Extension Dr. P.V. Balachandran presented the workshop recommendations in the valedictory session. Dr. Ranjan S. Karippai was moderator. Papers were presented by Dr. C.K. Peethambaran, former Director of Research; Dr. Jim Thomas, Assoc. Director of Research; Dr. Ushakumari, Co-ordinator, Organic farming Cell; Dr. C. Thampan, CPCRI; Dr. K.M. Sreekumar, CoA, Padannakkad and Dr. N. Jayaraj, KVK, Kannur. Dr. George Thomas, Professor, CoH; K. Sanalkumar, KVK, Kasargod; Shaju, VFPC; Dr. Jiju P Alex, Assoc. Professor, CoH and Farmers from Kasargod, Thrissur and other parts of the state shared their experiences in organic farming. KAU Director of Research Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Joint Director of Agriculture V.S. Roy, Assoc. Director of Extension Dr. Jose Mathew and ATIC head Dr. P.G. Sadankumar spoke.



Minister K.P. Mohanan receiving the recommendations of state organic farming workshop held at Thrissur

Breakthrough in Waste Management Ecofriendly Garbage disposal technology released

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran released the prototype of automated equipment **Suchitha** for safe and hygienic disposal of household garbage through rapid conversion of degradable waste to value added manure.



Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran releasing the eco-friendly technology for waste management

The technology developed by Department of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, College of Agriculture, Vellayani of KAU which is very fast, efficient and non polluting suits, residential apartments, markets, community halls etc. Since the bioconversion methods currently in operation are time consuming and

leading to environmental pollution and human health problems, the environment friendly and hygienic waste disposal mechanism has resolved a long pending issue.

The function held at CoA, Vellayani on January 26 was presided over by Dr. K. Prathapan, Director, SHM. KAU GC members Dr. R. Krishnakumar, N. L. Sivakumar and Vishnu Narayanan; Dr. Sverup John, Dean (Agriculture); Dr. S. Devanesan, Assoc. Director, Regional Agricultural Station and Dr. V. B. Padmanabhan participated.

The technology was developed by Dr. C.R. Sudharmaidevi, Dr. K.C. Manorama Thampatti and Dr. N. Saifudeen after persistent efforts of six years. Dr. V. Ganesan and Dr. M.S. Hajilal of the Dept. of Agricultural Engineering, KAU and Mr. Ramesh Chandra Varma of the AryaVaidyasala, Kottakkal, **Suchitha** helped to fabricate the machine with 20 kg processing capacity which needs only 1.5 sq.m space and 3 units of electricity for its operation. The final product could be extensively used in crop production as organic manure enriched with essential plant nutrients. Since the whole process is completed within one day, there is no need of dumping of wastes, thus avoiding the tribulations of environmental pollution.

Games fever in KAU Campuses

Run Kerala run Programme organised in connection with National games in Kerala received buoyant support in KAU Campuses across the state.

Staff and Students participated in the run organised in campuses in consonance with the State level programme organised on January 20.

Comptroller Joy Mathew flagged off the run organised at KAU HQ by Director of Students' Welfare Dr. P.N. Jagdeesh Kumar. Students of Colleges in the campus and KAU High school partook in the event.

The run organised at CoA, Vellayani was flagged off by Agriculture Faculty Dean Dr. Sverup John. The programme organised by Dr. T. I. Manoj was participated by students of CoA as well as members and sports enthusiasts from Kalliyur Grama Panchayath.

Run Kerala Run programme was organised at other campuses as well. At KCAE & T, Tavanur NSS unit led by Dr. K.P. Sudhir organised the run. Students and staff participated.



Dr. Sverup John, Dean, Flags off the Run Kerala Run Programme at Vellayani

e-governance programme University Suite launched

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran launched the University suite as part of complete KAU e governance programme on November 17.

In his address, Dr. Rajendran said that the adoption of futuristic technology will sustain success of human efforts by enhancing efficiency of administration.

University suite includes e modules for file flow, academic management and Human resources management as well as pay disbursement and allied matters. KAU had earlier indigenously developed packages for Financial Management, Pension distribution, Legal monitoring and Research administration.

Registrar Dr. P.V. Balachandran presided over the function. Dr. A. Anandaraj, EC member; Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research; Dr. Joy Mathew, Comptroller; Dr. E.V. Nybe, Academic Director; Dr. P. Ahmed, DSW; Dr. V.R. Ramachandran, DPP; Suresh Menon, District Informatics Officer; M. Viswanathan Nair, Systems Manager and T.A. Sebastian, Senior programmer spoke.

Enhance standards of University education : Forests Minister

Enhancing the standards of university education in India to match international standards is a priority, said Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, Minister for Forests and Wildlife.

Speaking after inaugurating the plenary session of three day national seminar on Agroforestry Options to sustain family farming and laying the foundation stone for silver jubilee academic block of KAU's College of Forestry, the minister said that our students are no longer competing with their compatriots but with students enjoying the advantage of advanced systems in foreign countries. 'We should aim to equip our students for the stiff competition at global level and providing latest facilities is imperative for it. Let the Forestry college and KAU become leading lights in this transition', the minister said.



Minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan addressing the plenary session of Workshop held at CoF

KAU General Council member P.A. Madhavan MLA presided over the function Vice-Chancellor Dr.P. Rajendran delivered the keynote address. Dr. B.S. Corrie, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; Dr. B. Mohankumar, Assistant Director General, ICAR; Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Registrar; Dr. K. Sudhakara, Dean (Faculty of Forestry) and Dr. K. Kunjhamu spoke.

Executive Committee Reconstituted

KAU Executive Committee has been reconstituted pursuant to the completion of election process in the special meeting of General Council held at Government Guest House, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday, 17 January in which Dr. Jose Joseph was elected as the representative of teachers (other than Deans) Dr. Jiju P. Alex and Dr. P.N. Jagadeeshkumar were the other contestants for the lone post.

Five non official members of the Committee namely, Thomas Unniyadan MLA, P. A. Salam, Aji Francis (General); I.C Balakrishnan MLA (SC/ST) & Sheeba.K.A (Women) were elected unopposed earlier.

Ollur MLA M.P.Vincent, ICAR representative Dr. Anandaraj and Secretaries to Government in the departments of finance and agriculture are the other members of the Executive Committee.

National Book fest at CoH Call to develop Malayalam e platform

Writer Asokan Charuvil inaugurated the three day's National Book Festival organised at CoH in a function presided over by Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Registrar on 13 November.

In his inaugural address Asokan Charuvil highlighted the need to develop a sustainable e platform for Malayalam literature.



Asokan Charuvil inaugurates the Book fest at CoH

'Reading habits are changing. Just like manuscripts have given way to printed books, digital reading gadgets are taking over now. E books have become an integral part of life and it is imperative that Malayalam also fall in line and a system is evolved to sustain reading', he said.

Asokan Charuvil asked the students to shed the illusion that professionals need not read literary works.

'Reading helps everyone to understand life and Universe better and serve humanity better. A crowd becomes a society only when it realises its functions and duties and for that experiences are required. The multiple personalities and divergent experiences narrated in books helps the reader to comprehend life better. It would help to harness his skills and serve the society better', he said.

KAU General Council Members Dr. T.N. Jagadeeshkumar, Dr. Jiju P. Alex and Dr. A. Prema, University Librarian K.P. Sathian, CoH Students Union Secretary G. Vishnu and Librarian Dr. A.T. Francis spoke. Associate Dean Dr. P.K. Valsalakumari welcomed the gathering and Joint Convener V.S. Swapna delivered vote of thanks.

Minister Inaugurates KAU HS anniversary

Minister for Agriculture K. P. Mohanan inaugurated the anniversary celebrations of KAU High school at Vellanikkara and presented Dr. N. Kaleeswaran memorial endowment awards. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran presided over the function held on January 23.

Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran welcomed the gathering. Madakkathara panchayath president Sujatha Balakrishnan, Executive Committee member Aji Francis, General Council members Dr. P.N. Jagadeeshkumar, Dr. A. Prema and Varghese Ollukkar, Panchayat member E.V. Pushpan, Director of Research Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Comptroller Dr. Joy Mathew, Head Mistress T.J. Maggy, PTA president P. Harijith, representatives of PTA, Staff Council and Alumni association participated.

"Restore bond with nature"

Rural Development Commissioner K.V. Mohankumar has said that the deterioration of bondage between man and nature is the cause of all disasters happening around us.

Speaking on the relationship between mankind and mother earth in a function organised by Thrissur KVK, Mohankumar said that the man's relation with nature was once akin to cow and its calf, but it has slowly deteriorated in to that between an animal and butcher. 'This change in approach and attitude has devalued humane values and led to a catastrophic attack on nature. Mankind is confronting a series of conflicts and disasters on account of its failure to maintain the holy relationship with nature. Future generations will rue the mistakes committed by the present generation. Better we restore the intimate bond with nature. This is where the invaluable contributions of personalities like Sundarlal Bahuguna stands out.', he remarked.

Dr. Ranjan S Karippai, Head, KVK; Dr. K. Sudhakara, Dean (Forestry) and Dr. A. Sukumaran, Associate Dean (CCBM) spoke.

