

Package of Practices Workshop Minister bats for Farmer friendly, Need based Research

Agricultural Minister K. P. Mohanan has called for a farmer friendly, need based research approach and close co-ordination between farm scientists, extension workers and farmers.

Speaking after inaugurating the two day state workshop organised by KAU for the revision of Package of Practice recommendations (PoP), the minister appreciated the steps to formulate a separate package for organic farming. 'KAU's research contributions have been significant and laudable. Since we are striving to make the state fully organic in 2016, spreading awareness on Scientific organic farming practices is imperative and the intended package on it would be of great help'. The minister said.

K. P. Mohanan also dedicated the new crop varieties developed by KAU to farming community by handing over them to farmers' representatives.

Dr. P. Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor in his presidential address said that the PoP workshop on environment day is a



Minister K. P. Mohanan inaugurates PoP Workshop

befitting coincidence as nature and agriculture are inseparable.

The inaugural function was attended by Executive Committee member Aji Francis, Director of Agriculture R. Ajith Kumar and KAU Officers.

The two day workshop highlighted pest and disease management using bio-agents and ecofriendly crop production technologies aimed at food safety.

For food crops such as rice and vegetables, workshop recommended low

dosage of green label chemicals like Chlorantranilprole, Fipronil etc., bio control agents like *Bacillus thuringiensis*, *Beauveria basisana* and herbicides like Fenoxaprop, Azimsulfuron, Penoxsulam and Ethoxysulfuron for integrated pest and disease management displacing all hazardous chemical agents.

In addition to KAU, scientists from CPCRI, CTCRI, IISR and CWRDM also presented technologies while officers from department of agriculture and commodity boards participated in the deliberations.

The plenary session chaired by Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension was inaugurated by Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research. Dr. Jose Mathew, Associate Director of Extension and Dr. S. Estelitta, General Convener spoke.

Recommendations

Technologies approved in the workshop include use of *Trichoderma viridae*

Cont'd on page 2

Study Report on Organic farming Presented



Minister for Agriculture with KAU team at the presentation of organic farming study report

Report of the study conducted by KAU on *sustaining Organic farming in Kerala: Farmers' appreciations and apprehensions, current status and way forward* was presented at the Assembly Media centre on July 29.

The report recommends a literacy mission on organic farming through LSGD institutions, model organic farms and market intelligence networks in all Panchayaths, Participatory Guarantee System to ensure quality of produces, A three tier mission

mode system, production bonus for organic farmers and involvement of NGOs and SHGs.

The report based on the feedback from farmers, farmer groups, agri scientists and policy makers also suggested that low cost rain shelters, preservation and integration of indigenous knowledge, technology accompaniment to farmers, adequate storage facilities and more residue analysis labs are essential. The study conducted in different locations of the state during May -July was supported by SHM.

Minister for Agriculture K. P. Mohanan congratulated Dr. Ranjan S Karippai and Dr. Jalaja S. Menon for the timely study and detailed report. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, Director of Agriculture R. Ajith Kumar, SHM MD Dr. K. Prathapan and officers of KAU as well as Department of Agriculture were present.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

- Page 2** PoP recommendations, KAU-KSCDC MoU, Cashew Apple processing, ISHS Symposium, Strawberry farming and Library seminar
- Page 3** Cashew seminar, Pesticide lab at Padannakkad, Kalpadhenu Online, Bird Atlas & Central Zone ZREAC
- Page 4** Message from VC, Admission portal and NPK Sushama awards
- Page 5** GC Meet, Power starters for Tiller, Micro propagation unit at CPBMB
- Page 6** Academic Council, KVK award, Website Launch, Reading week
- Page 7** Kole land centre, Orientation for school students, Retirements and new Officers
- Page 8** KNS Memorial lecture, Felicitation to Govt. Chief Whip and Brain storming session

Cont'd from page 1

PoP Recommendations

for bio control of stem bleeding in coconut; *Beauveria basiana* for ginger shoot borer; lime, cow dung and *Pseudomonas* for Rhizome rot and bacterial wilt of ginger and *Bacillus macerans*, *Pseudomonas* and neem cake for management of nematodes in cardamom. Bio control measures for the management of diseases of common vegetables like Bhindi, Brinjal, Cowpea, Cucurbits etc., using *Trichoderma*, *Pseudomonas* and *Paecilomyces* and practices like Pheromone traps were approved by the workshop.

Guidelines for organic cultivation in homesteads and practices for cultivation of cool season vegetables like Cabbage, Cauliflower, Big onion etc., in the plains, technology for induction of flowering in Mango, control of *Loranthus* and cultivation practices of Pineapple variety Kew were also approved. New machines for post harvest technologies pertaining to banana, tubers, Jack and coconut were also presented.

Cashew Apple processing

KAU technology attracts French Delegation



French delegation at CRS, Madakkathra

KAU technology for cashew apple processing found new admirers from France. The four member delegation from SENS (Solidarites Entrepriise Nord - sud), a French entrepreneurship development company, which visited

KAU's Cashew Research Station at Madakkathara evinced keen interest in adopting the technologies for cashew apple processing in their units in Africa. 'We have entrepreneurship development programmes in many countries. But the Cashew apple is generally wasted and the KAU processing technologies seems a wonderful avenue to enhance farmers' income.', said Anne Meyer, Charge demission, SENS.

Michel Pernot Du Breuil, another member of the delegation said that the entrepreneurs could be trained at KAU. Mrs. Ghislaine, Pernot Du Breuil and Marx Abidji, other members of the delegation endorsed his view. Director of Extension Dr. P. V. Balachandran, CRS Head Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha and Dr. A. Sobhana explained the various technologies to the delegation.

Workshop on Library Management

The two day National workshop on Open Source Library Management Software – KOHA organised by KAU at the Central Library, Vellanikkara was inaugurated by M. P. Vincent MLA, member, Executive Committee on May 29.

Addressing the delegates from different parts of the country, M.P.Vincent said that libraries have always been an integral part of knowledge dissemination process and advent of technology has made it more vigorous and interactive.

KAU Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran presided. KAU General Council member Dr. Mary Regina, University Librarian Dr. A.T. Francis, Library Association regional secretary K. Rajendran, A Sameer, Abdul Razak and K.J. Jessy spoke.

KAU & KSCDC Sign MoU for Neera Production

KAU and Kerala State Coconut Development Corporation (KSCDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the production and sale of Keramrutham, the KAU brand of Neera.



The memorandum signed by KAU Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran and KSCDC Managing Director Asokkumar Thekkan on May 22 envisages large scale production of Neera based on KAU technology and promotion of its sales through outlets of KSCDC as well as University. The MoU was signed in the presence of KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, KSCDC chairman Sabah Pulpatta, KAU Executive Committee member Aji Francis, Comptroller Dr. Joy Mathew and Assoc. Director of Research Dr. Pathummal Bevi.

International Symposium at Ambalavayal

KAU will host International Symposium on Succulents and Other Ornamentals in January 2016.

International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), the World's leading independent Organization of Horticultural Scientists, has announced the conduct of the symposium at RARS, Ambalavayal during 24 to 27, January 2016.

It is the first International Symposium on Floriculture to be held in India.

The first notification appeared in the ISHS website can be accessed at <http://issorars.org/>

Study on Strawberry Cultivation in Kerala

A study on the performance of strawberry (Fragrance X ananassa Dutch.) conducted by KAU has indicated that the fruit crop can be grown in the high ranges as well as central midlands of Kerala. In both locations planting has to be done in the last



week of September. Open filed cultivation in polyethylene mulch favoured early fruiting, better fruit quality and higher yield. Strawberry fruits obtained High ranges possessed comparatively better colour and appearance.

The yield of 8 t/ha obtained from High ranges was also higher than the 3.3 t/ha yield from Midlands. The national average is 4.5 to 10 t/ha. The experimental study was undertaken by Anu Kurien under Dr. K. Ajith Kumar, Associate Professor, CoH as part of her PG programme.

Stone laid for Pesticide residue Lab At Padannakkad

Minister for agriculture K.P. Mohanan said that the organic Kerala concept will turn in to a reality with the involvement of people, policy makers and scientists. Speaking after laying the foundation stone for new Pesticide residue laboratory and inaugurating the Mangofest 2015 at CoA, Padannakkad, he said Organic farming techniques wil also pave way for effective waste management.

The function was presided over by E. Chandrasekharan MLA. K. Kunjhiraman MLA released the CoA Magazine. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran was honoured by the minister. CoA Associate Dean Dr. M. Govindan thanked the minister and university authorities for establishing Pesticide residue lab at Padannakkad.

The Mangofest organised by CoA Students' union attracted the attention and appreciation of all visitors as all varieties of mangoes, rare and popular were arranged in the show. Bio control agents and plant nutrients were also on sale.

Kalpadhenu launched Online

KAU journal Kalpadhenu has gone online.

The online edition of Kalpadhenu was launched by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in a simple function held at the University head quarters on June 30. Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Editorial Board members of the journal and university officers participated.

The Vice-Chancellor hoped that the online version would help more quick and effective transfer of technology and information sharing. Access to scientific information should be considered the right of farmers and knowledge becomes meaningful only when it is shared to deserving clientile, he said. Kalpadhenu, trimonthly published by Communication Centre will be hence forth available on the web link <http://kau.in/basic-page/kalpadhenu>

Return to traditional crops and traditional cuisine : Co-operation Minister

Minister for Co-operation, C. N. Balakrishnan has said that regaining agricultural glory will not be possible unless Keralites shed lazy lifestyle and return to traditional crops and traditional cuisine.

He was inaugurating a two day state level seminar on emerging trends in cashew farming organised by KAU and Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development (DCCD) at Madakkathara.

'It is pointed out that Kerala, which enjoyed numerouno position in Cashew production has dropped to fourth position. Cashew factory workers are struggling. Is it because Cashew nut has no market? Cashew is enjoyed worldwide, but we have gone back in production. It is not the lack of research support, but the general neglect of farming that has led us to this state.', C. N. Balakrishnan said.

M. P. Vincent MLA in his presidential address exhorted farming community to adopt and practice advanced technologies. Madakkathara Panchayath President Sujatha Balakrishnan, Vice-president Sundaran Kunnathully, KAU Executive Committee member Dr. Jose Joseph, Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Planning Dr. Sajan Kurien, E. K. Subhash, Dr. M. L. Jyothi, K. A. Sulochana and P. Nikhil spoke. CRS Head Dr. P. B. Pushpalatha welcomed the gathering and Dr. A. Sobhana proposed vote of thanks.

The inaugural session was followed by Technical sessions on Cashew farming.



Minister for Co-operation C. N. Balakrishnan inaugurates the cashew seminar

Kerala to be first state with bird atlas

A workshop of the Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN) held at CoF, Vellanikkara on 13 and 14 June 2015 resolved to create a bird atlas for Kerala, which will be the first among Indian states.

Several bird conservation related issues were discussed at the workshop attended by experts from the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)- UK, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS-India) and 55 Kerala birdwatchers.

The workshop proposed that the ecosystem services approach should be used to evaluate Kerala's beautiful wetlands, and the state should also consider setting a 'conservation toll' for highways that are going through wildlife areas.

Central Zone ZREAC held at Pattambi

The 36th ZREAC of central zone held at RARS, Pattambi on 26th June was inaugurated by Dr. P. Raajendran, Vice-Chancellor in a function presided over by Dr.T.R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research.

Vice Chancellor in his inaugural address suggested that development of production packages suitable for small holdings has become imperative. 'Aim at Soil health management and eco-friendly approaches in agriculture for healthy plants, healthy animals, and healthy food and there by healthy people.', he said.

ZREAC took note of the weed problems in dry sown rice caused by erratic rains. Micronutrient deficiencies in various crops, disease and pest problems in vegetables, spices and coconut were discussed. The urgent need for management recommendations on precision farming, post-harvest handling, use of bio fertilisers, issues of crop damages by wild animals etc. were highlighted.

Dr. Jose Mathew, ADE ; Beena, Additional Director of Agriculture, KSSDA and Dr. Shaji James, Programme Co-ordinator, KVK, Palakkad spoke.

Message From the Vice-Chancellor

Agriculture for the Future



The Green plants' wonderful ability to trap solar energy to feed living beings needs to be strengthened and sustained to ensure food security of the planet.

The Indian agriculture harbours about 56% of the population and its present share in national GDP is 17% as against 30% in 1990. The agricultural economy which grew at an annual rate of 3.7% in 2007-2012, is projected to achieve an annual growth rate of 4% in 2012-2017 with the growth rate of national GDP set to reach 8%. The agricultural production in 2013 was an all time high of 264 million tonnes but with the population set to touch 165 crores in 2050, food and water requirements needs to be up scaled by 40%. At the same time the per capita land availability of Indians will get reduced to 0.09 ha in place of 0.13 ha recorded in 2011.

In 1970-71, agriculture was the growth engine of Kerala economy as it contributed almost 50% of state income. It came down to 17% in 2005 and further declined to 9% in 2014. Per capita land availability in Kerala is estimated to decline to 10 cents from the current 26 cents and with the large scale conversion of agricultural lands and ever increasing labour charges, agricultural production is further endangered. The one and only obvious choice is increase in productivity, without compromising on farm biodiversity and quality of natural resources. Conservation agriculture, a land use practice which can sustain itself without degrading land and environment, will become more relevant in the coming years, particularly in small homesteads of Kerala.

Sufficiency and efficiency of manpower is a very important factor in sustainable agriculture. The paradigm shift towards education and service sector created a big gap between demand and availability of manpower in agriculture. Yet the oft decried shortage of manpower in farming sector also offers an opportunity to create an army of trained youth induced with interest, involvement and scientific knowhow in agricultural operations. Superficial skills of migrant workers being sketchy and insufficient in the context of our agronomic practices and

emerging scenario, technology oriented training to our youth and women should be a priority to boost productivity.

Having conceived Food safety as an integral part of food security in the wake of various developments and awareness campaigns, backyard farming and kitchen gardening has now become a fad in the society. Economically viable and environmentally sound farming practices will help to empower the society towards food and nutritional security. Harnessing advancements in IT and launching more MOOCs to provide more opportunities is another sure step to ensure such empowerment.

Minimising post-harvest losses is another area which deserves our attention. Improved efforts in value addition, product diversification and branding of farm produces, especially that of traditional fruits like Jack, Mango and Banana and re-introduction of ethnic vegetables offer a variety of choices for the urban and rural population. New health foods for juveniles and diabetic patients can also emerge from such an approach.

The research and educational activities also have to be reformed to adapt to the challenges confronting agriculture. Shedding complacency and evolving out of the Box ideas is a must to achieve improved efficiency, performance and service delivery. The efficacy and quality of practical training given to students needs to be revisited. Internship and industrial attachment programmes needs to be reorganised with renewed purpose and direction. Inbreeding has to be eradicated by prompting students to acquire different degrees from different universities. We have to explore the possibilities of using nanotechnology, IT, BT, GM technology etc., to enhance productivity and sustainability of crops. Such a paradigm shift should be reflected in curriculum as well.

As Kerala agriculture is gearing up to become Organic by 2016, weather based crop modeling and soil based farming technology has to be top priorities. Varieties suitable for climate resilient agriculture, realistic measures for conservation of soil and water resources and solar powered farm implements are some important steps towards this objective. A holistic approach is also imperative for sustainable agriculture, which would not materialise without the integration of different components such as plants, animals, poultry and fish. The future of agriculture rests on such an indispensable integration.

New Admission Portal

KAU has launched a Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran launched the new admission portal at a function held at University headquarters on July 6 in connection with Digital India campaign week.

Since sharing knowledge and access to services is the primary objective of Digital India programme, an institution like KAU has a key role to play and I am happy that it is being realised.', he said.

The portal (www.admissions.kau.in) was designed and developed by KAU's Center for e-Governance in association with National Informatics.

Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Registrar presided. District Informatics officer Suresh Menon, Vinod Xavier, Systems Manager i/c and Dr. Joy Mathew, Comptroller also spoke.

Dr. N. P. K. Sushama memorial awards Presented

Dr. N. P. Kumari Sushama memorial awards and Agrifesta endowment Gold medals were presented by former Director of Extension Dr. A. G. G. Menon in a function held at CoA, Vellayani on 14th July.

Kumari Reshma (Best student), Dr. K. Umamaheswaran (Best teacher), Dr. M. Meerabhai (Head of Best Department) and Silpa and Mathew T. (Best Extension students) received the Dr. N. P. Kumari Sushama memorial awards.

While Aravind T. received the Agrifesta endowment Gold medal, Hima Parvathy and Devi Balakrishnan received the awards for best Entomology students instituted by Prof. Rajan Assari. Jayalakshmi V. R., Jayakrishnan J. T., Renya P. R. and Madhu K. Venu received the awards for best presentations in M.Sc (Integrated Bio Technology) Seminars.

Dr. C. Gokulapalan offered welcome and Dr. Biju Joseph proposed vote of thanks in the function presided over by Dr. L. Rajamony, Dean i/c.

Transfer of land to Power Grid General Council seeks Compensation Package

KAU General Council meeting held on 25th July resolved to seek a comprehensive compensation package for transfer of university land to build a Bi pole station at Vellanikkara.

Dr. Jiju P. Alex, V. S. Sathyaseelan and several others pointed out that unconditional surrendering of land used for research purposes is against bonafide interests of the university. Executive Committee member M. P. Vincent MLA assured the house that land will not be transferred without adequate and acceptable compensation. Following this his proposal to hold further discussions to evolve an acceptable package was accepted by the council.

The council mooted a sub committee with Francis Kombara as chairman and Adv. Sony Sebastian and the labour representatives C. H. Muthu and M. A. Yohannan as members to oversee the welfare of farm labourers. An accident insurance scheme for labourers was also proposed.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran assured Dr. A. Prema that recruitment and Career Advancement Promotion of academic staff will be expedited. He also informed the house that revival of Manjeswaram station of KAU is being actively pursued. Vice-Chancellor agreed to approach the Government for rectification of anomalies in pay revision. The council approved the award of degree to students who successfully completed courses, Annual report and annual



EC members P. A. Salam, M. P. Vincent MLA, Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran and Registrar i/c T. B. Latha at GC meeting

accounts of the University for 2014-15. A resolution appreciating head and staff of Ambalavayal station for successful conduct of Pooppoli and Agrifesta 2015 was also passed by the council.

The meeting chaired by Vice-Chancellor was attended by Executive Committee members P. A. Salam, Aji Francis, Dr. Jose Joseph and E. K. Prakash as well as GC members Dr. T. N. Jagdeeshkumar, Dr. S. Devanesan, Vishnu Narayanan, Soumya Krishnan, Varghese Ollukkarar, Rajiv Nellikkunneel and Anil Pulikkal. Registrar i/c T. B. Latha, Comptroller Dr. Joy Mathew, Directors of Research, Academic, Extension, Physical Plant and Planning and Deans of faculties were also present.

Commercial micro propagation unit at CPBMB instated



Vice-Chancellor inaugurates Micro propagation unit at CPBMB

The commercial micro propagation unit attached to KAU Centre for Plant Biotechnology and Molecular Biology (CPBMB) was inaugurated on May 4.

The unit inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran is expected to ensure large scale availability of

quality TC planting material as per National Certification System for Tissue Culture Plants (NCS-TCP) and capacity building of entrepreneurs in commercial micro propagation. The inaugural function was presided over by Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research.

CPBMB is the 'Lead Centre' validating and perfecting the protocols for commercial exploitation shared among the participating centres. The centre is providing training to entrepreneurs and giving technical advice to the participating centres and is co-ordinating the production schedule. The network project is also giving technical support to BMFC, Kazhakootam under Department of Agriculture for validation of protocols and trouble shooting.

Power starter to make Power Tillers Gender friendly

A gender friendly self-starter mechanism for power tillers has been developed at ARS, Mannuthy so as to avoid the cumbersome cranking procedure traditionally used to start tillers.

The new starting system enables smooth key in starting of tillers just like a car. Working on a 12 V, 70 AH battery and charging system, it is connected to the control panel which also includes ignition switch, indicator switch, headlight switch and ammeter.

'Hitherto operation of tillers remained elusive to womenfolk because of the difficulty in operation of cranking system.' Said Dr. P. Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor after launching the new system on July 1. 'This is an important landmark in our efforts in pursuit of gender friendly farm machinery. Next in line is a remote operated tiller. These machines are bound to revive farming. We also intend to transfer the technology to major tiller manufacturers like KAMCO so that it can become a standard part of their products.' Vice-chancellor explained.

ARS Head Dr. U. Jaikumar said that the new starting assembly is developed at a moderate cost of Rs. 20,000/-, but the cost can be further brought down if multiple units are developed on a commercial basis.

Academic Council nod for Syllabus recast, New Department



Vice-Chancellor address the Academic council

Academic Council meeting held on July 10 decided to recast syllabus of various courses offered under the three faculties.

The 125th meeting of the council held at KAU headquarters also cleared the Government proposal to reserve one seat for B.Sc (Hons) Agriculture to students with proven ability in agriculture in order to promote awareness of agricultural education and encourage youngsters take up this stream of science.

'The seat, reserved for students who won state award and should have cleared the entrance examination, will be over and above the sanctioned strength. The applications for this seat will be scrutinized by a high level committee.', said Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor.

The council decided to establish a department of seed technology and finalized the staff pattern for the same. It also approved the proposals to start a PhD programme in Microbiology in Vellayani and Vellanikkara campuses, reduce the fee for supplementary examinations and permit integrated MSc Biotechnology students to undertake research work in streams other than plant biotechnology.

The meeting chaired by Vice-Chancellor was attended by Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Academic Director Dr. T. E. George, Directors of Research, Extension and Planning, Deans of faculties, Associate Deans, heads of institutions, elected representatives of teachers and students as well as nominated members.

Palakkad KVK bags ICAR Award

Palakkad KVK under KAU has been adjudged as the best KVK in southern India. The ICAR recognition comes in the wake of different activities undertaken by the Kendra during 2009-2014. The award consisting of Rs. Four lakhs and citation was received by Dr. M. C. Narayanan Kutty, Head, KVK and Dr. P. V. Balachandran, DE i/c during the national meet of KVKs held at Patna on July 25.

The initiatives of KVK in farm mechanisation, ecofriendly farming practices, energy conservation, progressive measures in tribal areas, Popularisation of bio control agents etc. were the factors appreciated by judging committee. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran congratulated the KVK scientists for their achievement.

New Website Launched



Thomas Unniyadan MLA launches The new KAU Website

Government Chief Whip Thomas Unniyadan MLA launched the new KAU Website in a function presided over by Vice-chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran on June 2. M. P. Vincent MLA was the chief guest.

The new unified website system designed by KAU Centre for Information Technology and Instrumentation brings the websites of University and its constituent institutions under the common address www.kau.in

The new web system uses RWD technologies harnessing the powerful features of the popular free and open source and content management system Drupal-7. It provides easy reading and navigation experience across a wide range of devices. It also facilitates easy sharing of links to Social Media platforms, translation of contents to 60 languages as well as accessibility to differently abled persons.

Language the greatest invention: Writer

Writer Madampu Kunjukuttan has said that language is the greatest ever human invention without which neither the need nor the effect of other discoveries would not have been communicated.

Inaugurating the valedictory function of reading week celebrations organised at CoH by KAU, Madampu pointed out that sincere efforts to save Malayalam language is the need of the hour.

'If the mother tongue of more than three crores people with hundred percent literacy is at crossroads, it is definitely not because of lack of celebrations. Celebrations like reading day or reading week will not save the language. Real reading is a daily activity and cannot be confined to occasions. Knowledge and language are mutually complimentary and hence inseparable. Those who seek knowledge should read and reading



Madampu Kunjukuttan

will enrich writing there by strengthening the language.' He said.

Dr. Jose Joseph, member, KAU Executive Committee presided. Dr. Jim Thomas, Associate Director delivered key note address. University librarian Dr. A. T. Francis, CoH Associate dean Dr. Koshy Abraham, Administrative Officer V. N. Narayanan, Academic Library Association representative K. D. Anto, CoH students' Union secretary P. Arunjith, Readers' forum convener Anagha S Nambeesan and V. S. Swapna spoke.

Kole land productivity Centre inaugurated

Minister for Agriculture K. P. Mohanan has said that diversification of farming activities is imperative to sustain agriculture.

Speaking after inaugurating the KAU Kole land productivity research centre at Muriyad, the minister said that multi cropping patterns should be encouraged so that holistic self-sufficiency is achieved in all localities.

'The Kole lands productivity research centre will be a forum for farmer Participatory research. I am happy that the Panchayath, MLA and farmers in Muriyad have come together to facilitate the establishment of such a research centre. The expertise of KAU scientists will be definitely helpful in propping up the Kole land farming here.', he said.

Minister also said that the organic farming model projected by Kerala is being appreciated and keenly followed by Government of India as well as neighbouring states.

Government Chief Whip Thomas Unniyadan MLA presided over the function. Thrissur MP C. N. Jayadevan, KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, Executive Committee member Aji Francis, Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Comptroller Dr. Joy Mathew, Director of Physical plant Dr. V. R. Ramachandran, Principal Agricultural Officer C. Sreeletha, and members of Panchayath council participated. Director of Research Dr. I. Johnkutty welcomed the gathering and Muriyad Panchayath President Raghavan master proposed vote of thanks.

Agricultural orientation for Secondary students

M. P. Vincent MLA has said that KAU has charted out a programme to support farming operations in schools.



Speaking after inaugurating the Agricultural orientation programme for Secondary students implemented by KAU at a function held at ARS, Mannuthy, he said that fifty schools will be involved in the pilot phase implemented in Thrissur District. 'One thousand students and one hundred teachers will be covered in the pilot phase. The programme is envisaged to instill affinity towards agriculture and drive home the importance of food safety and nutritional security. The project is intended to be pread throughout the state.' He said.

KAU Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran, presided. ARS Head Dr. U. Jaikumar, Dr. K. P. Pameela and Dr. A. Latha spoke.

Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan Retires



KAU Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan retired from service on superannuation on 14 June 2015.

Recipient of many awards including the first young scientist award instituted by State Government in 1989, Krishi Vigyan Award for the best agricultural scientist in Kerala (1996), Dr. Harbhajan Singh Award (1993) and best Research paper award (2001 and 2014 and 2015) at National level, Dr. Gopalakrishnan has more than 35 years of experience in the

field of vegetable research and research administration. He has developed more than 25 improved varieties of tropical vegetables, which are popular among farmers.

Serving KAU since December 1977, Dr. Gopalakrishnan has guided 47 PG students and published more than 50 research papers, 60 research articles, and 6 books. Before becoming the Director of Research in 2010 Dr. Gopalakrishnan served as Chief Executive officer of VFPCCK, ADR (Vegetable Mission), OSD (Seeds), Head, KHDP and Head of the Department of Olericulture in KAU.

Dr. Jose Mathew

Dr. Jose Mathew, ADE & Director of Extension i/c retired from KAU service on superannuation on 17 July 2015. He held the charge of DE from July 3 to his date of retirement.

Dr. Jose Mathew was involved in the implementation of 114 research projects including 40 farmer participatory research programmes. He has published 186 research papers, 23 books, 21 book chapters, 27 technical bulletins and 116 extension articles and attended 94 seminars including 4 international programmes held at Philippines, Australia, Tanzania and Uganda.



Change of Guard in faculties and Directorates

Dr. I. Johnkutty, ADR, has taken over as Director of Research with effect from June 15 following the retirement of Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan.

Dr. L. Rajamony has been placed in charge of Dean, faculty of Agriculture and Dr. M. S. Hajjilal as the Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering.

This follows the completion of term of appointment of Agriculture faculty Dean Dr. Sverup John and Agricultural Engineering faculty Dean Dr. M. Sivaswamy on July 3.

Dr. Sverup John has taken over the post of Project Director and Head, ORARS, Kayamkulam. Dr. M. Sivaswamy continues as professor & Head, Department of Farm power machinery at KCAE & T, Tavanur.

Dr. P. V. Balachandran, whose term of appointment as Director of Extension was also over on July 3 was placed in full additional charge of KAU Registrar.

Later Dr. P. V. Balachandran has been entrusted with the charge of the Director of Extension from July 17.

Change the approach to farming : T. Madhava Menon

Former KAU Vice-Chancellor and scholar T. Madhava Menon IAS (retd.), stressed the need to recast and harmonise agriculture as practiced, agriculture as administered and agriculture as taught.

Delivering a lecture on *whither Agriculture in Kerala* at Vellayani, as part of Dr. Shyamasundaran Nair memorial lecture series organised by KAU, the indomitable veteran administrator called for a change in perception, planning and implementation of agricultural programmes so that food security and food sufficiency is achieved in each homestead, in turn leading to state level food security.

'What ails our agriculture is over dependence on markets. The objective of farming in Kerala should not be income, but generation of food, adequate in quality and quantity, fresh and wholesome, for food security of the families. Survival, sufficiency and



T. Madhava Menon delivering the Xth Dr. Shyamasundaran Nair Memorial Lecture

surplus should be the order of preference. Farming need not be the main occupation, but each family member should contribute by way of non-paid labour in homestead concurrently attending to his primary occupation for income.', he said.

Stressing that no space is non agricultural, he further suggested that administering agriculture should depart from age old practice of promoting mono

culture, purveying services and keeping files. Agricultural financing also should change and encompass family farming., he said.

Remembering Dr. Shyamasundaran Nair as a highly trained agricultural scientist, an able administrator and a warm personality who liked everyone and liked by everyone, Madhava Menon said that agro climatic zonation of Kerala and proposal for reconstitution of Villages based on micro watersheds proposed by the late expert would have had a great effect in agricultural and economic revolution.

The function held on July 24 was presided over by Dr. L. Rajamony, Dean i/c. Dr. S. Devanesan, Assoc. Director of Research, Dr. R. Prakash, Assoc. Director of Extension, Dr. P.S. Geethakutty, Prof & Head, KAU Centre for Gender Studies and Dr. V. B. Padmanabhan spoke.

Thomas Unniyadan MLA Felicitated



Vice-Chancellor honouring Thomas Unniyadan MLA

Government Chief Whip Thomas Unniyadan MLA has said that he will extend all possible help to bail out Kerala Agricultural University from financial crisis and improve its profile.

Responding to the felicitation by KAU community on his elevation as Government Chief Whip, he said that he believes in co-ordination, co-operation and selfless public service. 'KAU too can be propelled to higher orbits if we all work together.', he said.

The function held on June 2 to honour Government Chief Whip was inaugurated by M. P. Vincent MLA. KAU Vice – Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, who presided over the function, presented a memento and draped a shawl to honour Thomas Unniyadan on behalf of the University.

Executive Committee members I. C. Balakrishnan MLA, K. A. Sheena, P. A. Salam, Dr. M. Anandaraj, E. K. Prakash, Aji Francis and Dr. Jose Joseph; General Council members Varghese Ollukkaran and M. A. Yohannan; organisation leaders K. Gireendrababu, Kunjunny Menon and C. V. Poullose spoke. Registrar Dr. P. V. Balachandran welcomed the gathering and Comptroller Dr. Joy Mathew proposed vote of thanks.

Southern zone Brain storming session



Vice-Chancellor inaugurates southern zone brainstorming session at Thiruvananthapuram

The brainstorming session of KAU scientists in southern region held at Thiruvananthapuram on June 9 was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran.

The Vice-chancellor, in his inaugural address stressed the need of appropriate technologies for emerging trends in homestead farming.

The session was chaired by Dr. T. R. Gopalkrishnan, Director of Research. Director of Agriculture R. Ajithkumar, Dean i/c Dr. C. S. Jayachandran Nair, Dr. V. L. Geethakumary, Dr. Annamma George, Dr. Hajilala, Dr. R. Suresh, Dr. B. R. Raghunath, Dr. Sam T Kurumthottikkal and Dr. Jacob John spoke. Associate Director Dr. S. Devanesan offered welcome and Dr. P. Sukumari proposed vote of thanks.