



## G C Reconstituted

The General Council has been reconstituted following the election and nomination processes in accordance with the Act.

Dr. Jiju P Alex, Dr. Jose Joseph, Dr. T.N. Jagdeesh Kumar and Dr.A. Prema (Teachers' representatives); V.S. Sathyaseelan and Varghese J Ollukkaran (Representatives of Non-teaching Staff); C.H. Muthu and M.A. Yohannaan (representatives of labourers) and Soumya Krishnan and Vishnu Narayanan (Students' representatives) were elected to the General Council in the election held on June 11.

The members nominated by Chancellor are : Dr.S. Devanesan, Dr.P.V. Balachandran, Dr. R. Krishnakumar and Dr. Mary Regina. F (Scientists); Adv. Sony Sebastian, K.A. Sheeba, Rajeev Nellikunnel and Aji Francis ( Farmers); P.A. Salam and Anil Pulickal (Panchayat Presidents) and Francis Kombara (Planter).

The other positions in the council are occupied by Ollur MLA M.P.Vincent, four MLAs to be elected by the state Legislative Assembly (election pending), Dr. Anandaraj representing ICAR, Secretaries to Government and heads of departments, commodity boards and corporations in agricultural and allied sectors.

The first meeting of newly constituted GC is scheduled on July 19.

## Pre Monsoon Interface propose District level Multi Disciplinary Teams



**Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran addressing the Pre Monsoon Interface**

The pre monsoon research extension interface organized by KAU at Directorate of Extension, Mannuthy decided to form district level multi-disciplinary teams to combat pest and disease infestations during monsoon season.

The workshop formulated crop wise management packages. Taking note of the calcium-magnesium imbalance and potassium induced magnesium deficiency as well as deficiency of Boron and other micro nutrients in the state's soil, workshop recommended

action plan to ensure replenishment of soil fertility based on soil analysis. It also proposed a substantial reduction in Phosphorus input in view of the rich content of it in soil and use the savings therefrom to ensure periodic application of lime to ensure neutralization of excess acidity in soil.

KAU Vice-chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in his inaugural address highlighted the need to formulate a special package of practices for monsoon season so that the crops of Kerala are protected against seasonal infestations.

R. Ajith Kumar, Director of Agriculture in his Keynote address said that the interface is pertinent not only in the light of monsoon related issues but in a long term perspective as well. Director of Research Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan said that a revamp of crop calendar is imperative in the light of new issues like climate change. Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension presided over the inaugural function. About 150 delegates including senior officers of the department of Agriculture and scientists from different agricultural research institutions in the state partook in the programme.

## KVK Network to Implement Family Farming Project



A network of KVKs in the State has been formed to implement a comprehensive project on Family Farming to achieve food safety and nutritional security in the state.

The project focused on enhancing production and productivity of safe to eat vegetables and fruits in homestead farming systems and strengthening family chains was finalized at a meeting of all KVKs in the state held at Thrissur KVK on June 20. The draft project was formulated on the basis of discussions in the three day workshop held at Sulthan Bathery during 26-28<sup>th</sup> May.

The participatory project, to be implemented in all the 14 districts in collaboration with NGOs, Community based organization, Department of Agriculture, three tier Panchayats and other relevant stake holders, will be executed through identified small holder groups involved in organic inputs production, market linkages, value additions and capacity building.

The action plan aims at strengthening of integrated homestead models and value addition with selected 120 farming families in each district. Director of Extension Dr. P.V. Balachandran and NABARD Assistant General Manager S. Manikumar led the discussions. Cluster based organic input production and supply and market outlets should be formed to support enhanced production of safe to eat vegetables and fruits, said Dr. P.V. Balachandran. Manikumar proposed inclusion of commercial orientation so as to ensure sustainability of the project.

KVK Thrissur will play the lead role in designing and execution of the state level project conceived as a part of International Year of Family Farming. Intensive trainings to the district level promoters, participant households and definite monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are major components of the project.

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## Research Buzz – news from labs and fields

### GI Tag for Kaipad rice

Kaipad rice of North Kerala has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) status. Malabar Kaipad Farmer's Society of Kannur and College of Agriculture, Padannakkad and Centre for IP Protection of KAU were the key players in this venture.



Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran congratulated the scientists at Centre for IP Protection and CoA, Padannakkad under the University for the persistent efforts in obtaining GI tag for native varieties. This national recognition will enhance the fame, authenticity and marketability of Kaipad rice which will directly benefit the producers, he said.

Saline prone naturally organic rice tract of Kaipad falls under Ezhhome Panchayath of Kannur district and the river banks in Kozhikode and Kasargod Districts. Kaipad is an organically rich integrated organic farming system similar to the famous Pokkali tracts in which Single-crop of rice cultivation is followed by aqua-culture in the coastal brackish water marshes.

KAU was instrumental in obtaining GI tag for some other agricultural products of Kerala such as Njavara rice, Pokkali rice, Wayanad rice varieties of Jeerakasala and Gandhakasala, Palakkadan Matta rice, Central Travancore Jaggery and Vazhakulam pineapple. Aranmula metal mirror, Payyanoor pavithra ring, screw pine craft, Kuthampully sarees, Kasargod sarees etc. are also in the list of registered GI products of Kerala.

The red grained Kaipad rice has excellent cooking qualities. The other uniqueness includes the richness of iron content than the medicinal rice variety 'Njavara'. Calcium content is also on par with that of medicinal rice 'Njavara', and fat content is less than the popularly consumed 'Jyothi' variety.

**Cashew Research Station**, Madakkathra has launched two more products from Cashew Apple Syrup – Halwa and Cookies. The centre

has intensified the processing and value addition including intercrops of cashew garden apart from cashew apple and implementation of cashew frontline technology demonstration programme 20 ha in Thrissur district. A project on Production forecast of cashew in India for the year 2014 has also been started.

**Cropping Systems Research Centre**, Karamana has published background reports for Agro ecological Zone Based Agricultural Development for all the 14 districts of Kerala. The report contains valuable information pertaining to diverse cropping systems prevalent throughout Kerala disease and pest incidence in various crops and researchable issues on an agro ecological zone perspective. A package of practices for terrace cultivation of major vegetables has been standardized and a modified PoP recommendation of organic manure application in amaranthus is formulated.

Experiments at **BRS, Kannara** has proved that Popoulu (AAB) and Kluai Namwa Khom (ABB), two unique introductions available in the gene bank are suitable for commercial cultivation in Kerala.

**Centre for Plant Biotechnology and Molecular Biology**, Vellanikkara has developed DNA fingerprinting of Four Brinjal varieties released by KAU (three superior accessions Surya, Swetha, Haritha, Neelima, SM 116, SM 397) and two wild relatives *Solanum torvum* and *Solanum macrocarpum*. The Centre has also released the high yielding, intervarietal hybrid P6 x P5 had been released as variety P8, which is tolerant to *Phytophthora* foot rot and drought.

**NARP(SR), Vellayani** has developed Protocol for tissue culture of three papaya cultivars from mature explants. The centre has also developed a high yielding leaf curl virus resistant chilli culture, which has been recommended for release. Technology for rapid treatment chemical conversion of waste to manure and indigenous technology for biochar production from tender coconut waste using pyrolysis process are also standardised.

Two high yielding strains of *Pleurotus florida*, *Pleurotus eous*, *Pleurotus ulmarius*, *Calocybe indica* and *Calocybe gambosa* were developed at the **Instructional Farm, CoA, Vellayani**. Instructional Farm also developed two strains of medicinal mushroom, *Ganoderma lucidum* for pharmacological studies and standardized low cost milky mushroom production technology.

### NABL Extends Accreditation Of Pesticide Residue Lab, Vellayani

The Pesticide Residue Research and Analytical Laboratory, under AINP on Pesticide Residue at Vellayani has secured continued accreditation by NABL under ISO 17025 : 2005 up to Feb-2016. The extension of accreditation is based on its satisfactory performance, analytical capabilities and facilities.

With the revised scope, the laboratory can issue certificate on analysis of pesticide residues of water, fruits, vegetables, cereals, pulses, and pepper, cardamom and milk samples with NABL logo. Laboratory accreditation provides formal recognition of the competent labs, thus providing a ready means for customers to find reliable testing and calibration services in tune with their requirements.

### Pre Package Workshop enlists new technologies

KAU has begun preparations to revise the Package of Practices recommendations, the most authentic and scientific document governing the agricultural production technology in the state.

The Pre-Package workshop held at KAU HQ on 23 April was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in a function presided over by the Director of Research, Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for periodic update in PoP as the farming sector is facing new challenges and new trends are evolving. Popularising scientific farming practices alone can ensure sustainable agriculture, he said.

Sixty eight proposals on new technologies to be included in the forthcoming edition of PoP were critically examined by the expert group headed by Dr. Jim Thomas, Associate Director of Research.

The forum endorsed the replacement of older plant protection chemical molecules with safer alternatives. Improvement of rice based cropping systems and homesteads, vegetables and fruit production technology, seed technology, eco-friendly and organic approaches to crop production and inventories in farm mechanization were the main topics discussed in detail.

## Care for the planet, not the rituals : Salim Kumar

Film star Salim Kumar has said that every one interested in saving future generations should realise the urgency to save the planet.

The national award winner was inaugurating Environment day celebrations organized by Centre for Environmental Economics of KAU at College of Horticulture.

'Raise your voice, not the sea level, is the theme of this year's World environment day. If the sea level rises some of our habitats, including mine, may disappear. But instead of thinking of our future, we are running after money and pleasures. Average Malayali is averse to hard work and adamant on procuring deadly diseases in the form of poison filled vegetables and food grains from other states, he said.

An attractive and informative documentary on Pokkali farming, produced by the actor, was screened at the occasion.

Salim kumar also took a dig at ritualistic planting programmes on Environment day.

'Even if half of the trees planted in last ten years survived, Kerala would have



**Cini star Salimkumar shares his thoughts with Students at CoH, Vellanikkara**

become a dense forest by now. Instead our tree population has only decreased. All should realize that planting a tree is an easy ritual while sustaining it is a difficult responsibility which no one volunteers to shoulder', Salim kumar said.

Dr. C. T. Abraham presided over the function. CEEE head Dr. P. Indira Devi offered welcome and Economics Department head Dr. Jessy K. Thomas proposed vote of thanks.

## Intensive afforestation Programmes initiated



**Replanting in KAU Botanical garden being inaugurated**

Director of Research Dr. T.R. Gopalakrishnan inaugurated the University level afforestation programmes by starting replanting operations at Botanical Garden, Vellanikkara on June 5.

Director of Extension Dr. P.V. Balachandran highlighted the relevance of the Environment day theme 'Raise your voice, not the sea level.'

Afforestation programme was taken up in all Campuses as directed by the Vice-Chancellor. The programme envisages planting of 25,000 economically important trees in various campuses of the University .

Dr. V.K. Raju, Assoc. Director of Research; Dr. K. Vidyasagar, Dean i/c, CoF; Dr. C.T. Abraham, Associate Dean i/c, CoH and Dr. A. Sukumaran, Associate Dean, CCBM spoke. Students and staff of CoF, CCBM and CoH actively participated in the programme.

## Popularising native flowers ; KVK model

The indigenous flower varieties such as Clerodendron, Marygold, Gomphrena, and Balsum are returning to adorn traditional flower decorations thanks to an innovative training programme, *Ponnonaththinoru Pookkooda*, initiated by Thrissur KVK. The programme has prompted many housewives and students to take up cultivation of native flowers; thereby reducing the dependence of flowers brought from neighbouring states.

The attempt by Thrissur KVK is worth emulating in all parts of the state, said Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension. 'I am amazed by the tremendous response to this idea as well. Reinventing the beauty of native flowers in the homesteads also creates an inclination to homestead farming, which in turn contributes to a healthy lifestyle', he said.

## Uphold Accountability of Research: VC



**Director of Research, Vice-Chancellor and Director of Extension at the workshop**

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran has called upon the agricultural scientists to uphold accountability of research and address real issues confronting the states' agricultural sector.

Dr. Rajendran was inaugurating a workshop organized by Directorate of Extension and state PPM cell to sensitise the scientists on preparation and implementation of research projects under RKVY.

Vice-Chancellor also said that the RKVY guidelines, though apparently very strict,

ensures excellent platform for implementing projects with well defined objectives and well thought out methodology.

Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopala krishnan highlighted the successful implementation of many RKVY projects in KAU and urged the scientists to ensure that research findings help to sustain food security endeavors.

Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension, KAU and Director, State PPM cell said that proper understanding of the guidelines will help to extract more funding and engage in more research work, which will ultimately benefit the whole society and all stakeholders.

Officials of PPM Cell presented the various guidelines, restrictions and modes of funding under RKVY. Scientists from different KAU stations and Officials of department of Agriculture participated.

## Recognition for KAU Scientists

**Dr. Sajan Kurien**, Director (Planning) KAU has been awarded a certificate of excellence in reviewing science literature by Oxford based Elsevier Limited, renowned publishers of Science and Technical journals. The yearly recognition, given to handpicked reviewers, has been presented to Dr. Sajan Kurien for his excellent contributions in peer review, according to the publishing house.

**Dr. P. Indiradevi**, Director, Centre of Excellence in Environmental Economics of KAU has been nominated by ICAR as Research Advisory Committee member of the Council owned Research Complex in Goa. She has also been elected to the executive committee of Indian Society of Ecological Economics.

# Uphold Values of Life : E. Sreedharan



Achievements in life will have no value unless they are built upon the strong edifice of honesty and integrity, said Dr. E. Sreedharan, eminent engineering professional and principal adviser, DMRC.

Delivering the fourth episode of Leadership wisdom talk series organized by College of Cooperation, Banking and Management at KAU Head Quarters, Dr. Sreedharan said that he imbibed values of life from a strong social structure which prevailed in his childhood.

'My generation was fortunate to have a domestic atmosphere inculcating ethical and behavioral values and a schooling system which strengthened such characteristics. If anything we can do to better the present system, it is to reinvent resources to instill values of life in future generations', he said.

Sreedharan underscored punctuality, Integrity, competence and accountability as the four pillars of a successful career. 'Punctuality shows that you care for value of time. A system cannot be punctual unless the people in it are punctual. Integrity, an integral part of successful public life, is both a character and perception built thereon. Competence is the third pillar of professional success the will to acquire knowledge always propels one to the next orbit of professional life. Accountability is the social responsibility to justify the money you spend, the time you spare the expectations you carry', he said.

'Delay in execution of projects invariably lead to cost escalation and that drains public money. Unfortunately Kerala is yet to learn from repeated incidences of delayed projects and consequent wastage of money and manpower. I wish young professionals will realize the importance of time and launch a new chapter of development' Sreedharan said.

KAU Registrar Dr. E.K. Mathew presided over the session. Associate Dean Dr. A. Sukumaran welcomed the gathering and Staff Secretary Dr. P. Shaheena proposed vote of thanks. Philip Sabu, MBA course Director; M.R. Gopalakrishnan, Thrissur Management Association President and Zita Bosco, CCBM Students' Union President spoke.

## Revive Organic Agriculture : Minister



Minister K. P. Mohanan interacting with school students at CoA, Vellayani

Agricultural Minister K. P. Mohanan called upon the younger generation to help the revival of organic agriculture in Kerala so that Food Safety is attained along with Food security. Interacting with the 125 school students who visited CoA, Vellayani as part of their vacation camp organized by Vailoppilly Samskrithi Bhavan, he told them to regain soil health by nurturing it with organic inputs.

The Minister distributed mango grafts to the students. Dr. Sverup John, Dean (Agriculture); Dr. S. Devanesan, ADR; Dr. R. Prakash, Head, Department of Extension; Dr. Arthur Jacob; Dr. V.B. Padmanabhan; Babu Kiriya; Rasheed and Sadasivan Poovathoor participated.

## New Website, Solar System for CoF

The new website and the Solar power system of College of Forestry were launched on May 27. While the website was launched by Dr. K.R. Dhiman, Chairman, ICAR committee on Minimum Standards of Higher Agricultural Education, Solar power system was commissioned by Dr. K.L. Khurana, Principal scientist, ICAR.

The new site (forestry.kau.in) is the one and only Mobile-First institution website in the country and was fully indigenously developed. It runs on an open source CMS platform. An e-learning platform is also being integrated with the website.

The two day meeting of ICAR committee assessed the facilities in terms of infrastructure, laboratory/field facilities, faculty, manpower and other support to the Forestry colleges across the country so as to streamline educational norms, academic discipline and quality output of forestry graduates.

The other members of the Committee are Dr. Ravinder Raina, Dr. S.K. Bharadwaj, Dr. S.K. Chauhan, Dr. B. Mohankumar, Dr. K.L. Khurana and Dr. V. Arunachalam.

## Nutmeg Farmers decide to form Producer Company for sustenance



A workshop of Nutmeg farmers, Processors and exporters organised by Thrissur KVK has set up an adhoc committee to work out the modalities of forming a farmer producer company. Such a company only will ensure sustenance of nutmeg cultivation in the state through a transparent pricing system and systematic quality assurance, the workshop resolved.

The adhoc committee headed by K. Krishnankutty Ex. MLA will have farmer representatives from Ernakulam, Thrissur and Palakkad district as members.

Speakers endorsed the view that exploiting the export opportunities to European countries is the best available option for profitable farming. Since guaranteeing highest quality alone can ensure enhanced export, systematic post-harvest handling of the produce is imperative. It was also proposed that extending knowhow to operate micro enterprises in processing and product diversification of nutmeg would benefit the rural farmers at large.

Earlier K. Krishnankutty, lead farmer and Chairman of Committee to formulate State agricultural policy pointed out that Government should reorient its focus on profitability and viability than productivity to save the agricultural sector. Establishment of Krishi Business Kendras (KBKs), akin to KVKs should be seriously considered to support farmers with price prediction, processing technologies and marketing avenues, he said. Director of Extension Dr. P. V. Balachandran presided over the inaugural session.

Technical sessions were handled by Dr. K.B. Sheela, KAU; Dr. E. Jayasree, IISR; Dr. C.K. George, Ex. Executive Director, Spices Board; O.V.R. Somasundaram; Krishnachandra Chaturvedi, Kuriakose Vinay Thomas and Jose. B.K., Neena, M., PAO, Ernakulam, Dr. Ranjan S Kariappai, Professor & Head, KVK and Workshop Coordinator Jalaja S. Menon spoke.

## Kumarakom RARS gets Research vessel

### For water pollution studies, environmental surveillance



RARS Kumarakom has acquired a research vessel, first of its kind in the state.

The vessel named Gaveshiny has been designed for environmental surveillance and monitoring pollution levels of the Vembanad lake and its estuaries such as Pampa, Achankovil, Meenachil and Manimala emptying into the lake. The boat costing 40 lakhs sanctioned under tenth finance commission was procured as part of the Kuttanad package project - Environmental monitoring centre of Kuttanad.

The ever increasing pollution level has raised multidimensional problems posing severe threat to the biodiversity and fishery resources of Vembanad lake. The diverse fish species, including state fish - Pearl spot, is facing severe threats. The 11.5 meter long, boat fibre built by Dubai based Nautical Lines company

with two hulls has facilities such as two scientist rooms, laboratory and a power generator. Inbuilt laboratory with Echo sounder and various equipment ensure on the spot analysis of water samples enabling evaluation of pollution by pesticides and heavy metals.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran appreciated the efforts of RARS scientists including former Associate Director Dr. S. Padmakumar in realizing this research dream.

## Three more FSA batches pass out

Three batches of FSA (Food Security Army) cadets drawn from Kudumbasree units passed out after successful completion of training on June 12. With this the number of FSA batches trained at ARS has become 169.

Thrissur District Panchayat President C.C. Sreekumar was the chief guest in the parade held at ARS Mannuthy. Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension and

Dr. U. Jaikumaran, FSA Chief were also present.

Sixty nine women, drawn in to three batches, underwent hands on training in operation, service and maintenance of agricultural machinery at Kodakara, Thalikulam and Thekkumkara block panachayaths. The programme was initiated on a tie up between KAU and Kudumbasree Thrissur district mission.

## CoA, Vellayani Hosts IMPCC Meeting

Inter Media Publicity Co-ordination Committee (IMPCC) meeting held on May 2 at College of Agriculture, Vellayani was inaugurated by Dr. Sverup John, Dean (Faculty of Agriculture).

Doordarshan Kendra Director T. Chamiyar presided over the function. Dr. S. Mothilal Nehru, Associate Director of Extension released the video CD on College of Agriculture, Vellayani prepared by students of Experiential Learning course in Agricultural Extension which was received by Dr. S. Devanesan, ADR, NARP (SR), Vellayani. Dr. V. B. Padmanabhan, Professor and Module Leader welcomed the gathering and Dr. G.S. Sreedaya, Assistant Coordinator, RAWPE P proposed vote of thanks.

The meeting was organized as part of the module 'Media Attachment' of RAWPE Programme so as to facilitate students' interaction with IMPCC which co-ordinates the publicity requirements of the various central and state government development departments and undertakings in Kerala and Lakshadweep.

## Colourful Culmination to RAWPE Programmes



**I. C. Balakrishnan MLA inaugurates CoA RAWPE programme at Odappalm Govt. High School**

**Polika '14**, the Village Stay Programme jointly organized by RAWPE students of CoA, Vellayani and Sulthan Bathery Grama Panchayat was inaugurated by KAU Executive committee member I. C. Balakrishnan MLA on 19 May. The programme included agrilicines, training programmes, agri-seminars, agri-exhibition and preparation of a Development Plan for host panchayat. The valedictory session on 28<sup>th</sup> May was inaugurated by District Panchayat President N. K. Rasheed.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran and Dr. P. Rajasekharan, Chief (Agri), State Planning Board also addressed the students.

## KAU Arts fest: CoH Retains Crown



**CoH Students celebrate their victory**

CoH, Vellanikkara retained their hold on championship in the KAU arts festival which concluded at KAU Central auditorium on June 3.

The toppers scored 167 points while College of Agriculture, Vellayani earned 127 points to grab Runner Up trophy and Forestry College, Vellanikkara with 88 points finished third.

Anjali .K.U of KCAE & T, Tavanur was adjudged Kalathilakam and Athul Krishna of ACCER, Vellanikkara retained Kalprathibha title.

Percussion maestro Peruvanam Kuttan Marar inaugurated the event on May 31. Music Director Vidyadharan Master was the chief guest in the valedictory function. KAU Director of Research Dr. T.R. Gopala krishnan, Associate Patron Dr. A. Sukumaran, Staff advisor Dr. A. Prema, General Convenor Dr. Jiju P. Alex, Programme convenor Achyuth J Sankar, Students' Union president P.V. Ashish and General Secretary Prasanth Aravind kumar spoke.

**Gramika '14**, the Village Stay Programme jointly organized by RAWPE students of CoH, Vellanikkara and Nenmanikkara Grama Panchayat concluded with environment day celebrations organized in the panchayat.

Valedictory function held on June 5 was inaugurated by KAU GC member Prof. C. Raveendranath MLA. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran was the chief guest. Grama panchayat president T.S. Baiju, Block panchayat President M.K. Sivaraman and CoH Assoc. Dean Dr. P. K. Valsalakumari spoke.



**Prof. C. Raveendranath MLA inaugurates valedictory function of CoH RAWPE programme at Nenmanikkara panchayat**

## UBC to Tie up With KAU



University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, Canada plans to have long term collaborative programmes with KAU's College of Forestry, said Dr. Suzie Lavallee, Professor, UBC.

Dr. Suzie, along with her students visited the college on 10 June and discussed various aspects of the research and other academic matters at the two universities. She said that she had a detailed interaction with the faculty and students of CoF and is very much impressed with the ambience and academic atmosphere. Dr. K. Sudhakara, Dean, Faculty of Forestry, said that a package for bilateral ties including student and faculty exchange programme between KAU and UBC has been proposed.

## Gender consortium Guidelines proposed

K.B. Valsalakumary, Executive Director, State Kudumbasree mission said that the Consortium of Gender resources is envisaged as a common platform of R & D institutions in the relevant sectors. It should be an interdisciplinary set up to promote collaborative efforts for capacity development, stature enhancement and holistic empowerment of women in agriculture and allied sectors, she said.

Presiding over a meeting held at KAU HQ to formulate guidelines for the proposed consortium, she said that the three participant Universities linked to primary sector, should launch training schedules including online modules for the women farmers.

An interactive Web portal and refresher course modules for master trainers was suggested as part of the consortium. Dr. P.S. Geethakutty, Head, KAU Centre for Gender Studies presented real issues constraining the women farmers and possible remedial measures.

Dr. V. K. Raju, KAU Assoc. Director of Research; Dr. S. Ramkumar, Director (Entrepreneurship development), KVASU; Dr. Daisy Kaappan, Professor, KUFOS; C.R.Sathyavathi, Joint Director, Fisheries Department; Krishnankutty, GM, Kerala Gramin Bank and Dr. Suma Nair took part in the deliberations.

## Eleven Crore package for Spices Development Special project for Cheruthazham panchayath in Kannur

The two day annual meeting to review nationwide NHM sponsored research programmes held at CoH sanctioned 146 lakh worth research aid to KAU for variety improvement programmes and production of quality planting materials of spices.

The aid is part of national spices development programme with an outlay of eleven crores, which envisages production, popularisation and distribution of high quality planting materials of Pepper, Ginger, Turmeric and Tree spices. The programme will be implemented under the new banner of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

KAU has also been sanctioned a special project for rejuvenation of black pepper plantations in Cheruthazham panchayath of Kannur district which will be implemented by Kannur KVK.

The meeting organised by KAU in collaboration with DAsD, Kozhikode and



Vice-Chancellor Dr.P.Rajendran inaugurating NHM review meeting held at CoH on June 24 & 25

Union Ministry of Agricultural Cooperation was inaugurated by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran on June 24. Dr. Tamilselvan, Additional Commissioner, DAC presided. Dr. T.R. Gopala krishnan, Director of Research; Dr. Homy Cherian, Director, CASD; Dr. P.K. Valsalakumary, Assoc. Dean, CoH; Dr. E.V. Nybe, HoD, Dept of Plantation Crops and Dr. K. Nirmal Babu, Principal Scientist, IISR addressed the scientists.

## Reading week celebrations Role of Books in Character formation highlighted



C. N. Jayadevan M P. inaugurates Reading week celebrations at CoH

The reading week celebrations and Library seminar jointly organized by KAU, Academic Library Association (ALA) and Kerala Library Association (KLA) at CoH on June 19 was inaugurated by C. N. Jayadevan M P.

Film Director Kamal in his Keynote address said that many artistic careers are

built upon healthy reading habits inculcated by library movement. 'Books boost your imagination, where as visual media including cinema limits your imagination within its frames', he said while releasing the book, Library and Web Tools for E-Learning and Teaching written by Dr. A.T. Francis and Dr. Susan Mathew.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in his presidential address said that books inculcate culture along with imparting knowledge. Decline in reading habits has induced unhealthy trends in the society, he said.

Writer RosyThampy led a Seminar on Reading and Use of Library for Personal and Professional Excellence for library users, librarians, farmers and public. KLA Regional Secretary K. Rajendran, ALA State President Dr. A.T. Francis, University Librarian K.P.Sathian and ALA State General Secretary, P.A. Pradeep spoke. Associate Dean Dr. P.K. Valsalakumari offered welcome and V.S. Swapna proposed vote of thanks.

## Book on Indian Mammals Launched in the state

The book 'Indian Mammals - A Field Guide', authored by Vivek Menon, Executive Director of Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and Regional Director - South Asia of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) was launched in Kerala at the College of Forestry on June 16.

The book was launched by renowned wildlife veterinarian Dr. Jacob V. Cheeran and eminent ornithologist Dr. V.S. Vijayan, former Chairman of Kerala State Biodiversity Board.

Covering the rich diversity of mammal species in India, from tigers, elephants, rhinos and whales to primates, rodents and bats, the book is a comprehensive illustrated guide.

Vivek Menon; Forestry Dean Dr. K. Sudhakara; Dr. P.O. Nameer; Pramod G. Krishnan and Phanendrakumar Rao, Conservators of Forests; Forestry scientist Dr. S. Sankar; Dr. K.C. Panicker and Jose Louise, Regional head, WTI spoke.

