



Kerala Farmers Dominate Plant Genome Awards

Kerala Farmers dominated the National Plant Genome Saviour Awards by winning seven out of fourteen rewards/recognition for 2013 announced by PPV & FR Authority, Government of India. The seven farmers involved in conservation of traditional crop varieties were nominated for awards by KAU.

K. V. Kannan (Kannur), Benny Mathew (Agali, Palakkad), Melethil Beerankutty and Muhammed Moopan (Malappuram), have been selected for Plant Genome Saviour farmer's Reward of Rs. 1.5 lakhs, Memento and citation while K. Raman (Cheruvayal, Wayanad), P. Krishnan (Palakkad) and K. Narendran (Kollam) received Plant Genome Saviour Recognition of Rs. One lakh, Memento and citation at a function held in Delhi.

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Chancellor asks Universities to Enhance Quality, Tap job potential

The second meeting of Chancellor's Council held at KAU on August 5 stressed on improving academic quality of courses in the universities.

The Chancellor also directed the universities, professional universities in particular, to tie up with global companies for ensuring job opportunities for students.

'We have decided to hold a separate meeting to discuss steps to enhance academic quality. Universities have been told to publish the action taken to eradicate violence, use of tobacco and sexual abuse in campuses. Conduct of examinations in self-financing institutions will be streamlined. More thrust should be given to research. More on line courses to spread the knowledge bank is another priority.' Justice Sathasivam said.



Chancellor and Pro-Chancellors briefing the media after the meeting of the council

Minister for Education Prof. C. Raveendranath said that the examination schedule from class X to Graduate level will be published in advance and no more self-financing courses will be sanctioned in aided colleges. Hundred percent utilisation of UGC funds will be ensured, he added. Minister for Agriculture V. S. Sunilkumar said that the functioning of professional universities will be streamlined and vacancies in various levels will be filled up.

The meeting chaired by the Chancellor was attended by the ministers who are Pro-Chancellors, Vice-chancellors of all thirteen universities in the state as well as secretary (Higher Education) and secretary to the Governor.

Centenary of Coconut Research in India



Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurating the centenary celebrations of RARS, Pilicode by Planting a Hybrid Coconut seedling at Secretariat Compound, Thiruvananthapuram

The centenary celebrations of Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Pilicode, India's first coconut research station was

inaugurated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan by planting Hybrid coconut seedling in Secretariat compound, Thiruvananthapuram.

Minister for Agriculture V. S. Sunilkumar and Minister for Revenue E. Chandrasekharan also planted coconut seedlings on the occasion. Seedlings were also planted at all district headquarters and all village offices in the state simultaneously.

The function at Secretariat was attended by Chief Secretary S. M. Vijayan and KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, University Officers, farmers and agri students.

RARS Pilicode was established in 1916 by the erstwhile Madras Government where coconut research in India began in right earnest. The first ever coconut hybrid viz. WCT x CDG, popularly known as T x D was evolved here in 1936. The station is the breeding ground for seven more hybrid varieties.

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Awards & Recognitions

RARS, Pattambi, RRS, Moncompu and the centre for medicinal and aromatic plants, Vellanikkara won the Best AICRIP Centre Award for 2016 in Crop Improvement, Crop Protection and aromatic and medicinal plants and beetelvine respectively.



Dr. S. Leena Kumari receiving the award for best AICRIP centre on crop protection

Moncompu and Dr. P. Raji and Dr. K. Karthikeyan, Plant Protection scientists from RARS, Pattambi received the awards from Dr. S. K. Patil, Vice Chancellor, IGKVV, in the 51st Annual Rice Group Meeting held from 2-5 April 2016 at Indira Gandhi Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya (IGKVV), Raipur, Dr. Kanakamany M. T. and team received the



Scientists from RARS, Pattambi receiving the award for best AICRIP centre on crop production



Dr. Kanakamony M. T. receiving the award

Dr. Sajeena A., Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology), CSRC, Karamana has secured second best poster award in the 6th International Conference on Plant, Pathogens and People-challenges in Plant Pathology to benefit human kind organized by Indian Phyto Pathological Society during 23rd to 27th February, 2016 at NASC complex, New Delhi.

The award was for the paper entitled *Fermented extract of Setaria barbata, a common weed and fermented egg lemon juice extract – novel bio pesticides for ecofriendly disease management and crop growth*, authored by Sajeena A., P. Sukumari, Jacob John and Kamala Nayar.



These annual awards are in recognition of outstanding contributions of AICRP centres in the respective disciplines. While Dr. Leena Kumari S., Professor & Head, RRS,

award during annual review work shop held at Solan, Himachal Pradesh, in September 2016. The AICRP on Medicinal Plants at maintains a herbal garden with 400 species of medicinal plants and a value addition units.

Krishi Vigyan Award for Dr. K. P. Sudheer

Dr. K. P. Sudheer, Professor, KCAE&T, Tavanur received the prestigious **Krishi Vigyan award** for the best Agricultural scientist for the year 2015. He was selected for the award on the basis of his research achievements and development activities in the field of value addition and entrepreneurship development in food processing sector.



Dr. Sudheer, presently heading the Centre of Excellence in Post-harvest Technology has developed many innovative process protocols and food processing machineries for the emerging food processing sector. Vacuum frying technology suitable for chips making industry, Ready to eat foods, retort pouch packaging technology, micro encapsulation technology, Osmo-vacuum drying technology for preservation of fruits are innovative technologies developed by him.

Dr. U. Jaikumaran, Prof. & Head, ARS, Mannuthy received the Best Research Worker (machinery and Equipment development) National award 2014 instituted by Coconut Development Board. The award for Kera Suraksha Coconut Climber designed by Dr. U. Jaikumaran



Dr. U. Jaikumaran receiving the Best Researcher award

and developed by his team was presented by Shri. Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India in a ceremonious function held at Cuttack on 2nd September 2016 in connection with world coconut day celebrations.

Dr. Geetha, P. and **Dr. Mayadevi, M.R.** of Department of soil science and agricultural chemistry, College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara won the award 2016 for the best Ph.D. thesis in Soil Science and Agricultural chemistry in south zone.



Dr. Geetha P., did her Ph.D. on *Nutrient dynamics and transformation in aerobic and flooded systems of rice in lateritic soils of Kerala* under the guidance of Dr. P. Sureshkumar, Professor and Head, Radio tracer Laboratory, CoH, Vellanikkara.



Dr. Mayadevi M. R. completed her Ph.D. on *Efficiency of Vermiconversion and decomposition of farm residues on soil health, yield and quality of banana (Musa spp.)* under the guidance of Dr. P. K. Sushama, former Professor and Head, department of soil science and Agricultural chemistry, CoH, Vellanikkara.

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Plant Genome Saviour awards on August 25



The 2013 Plant Genome awardees with KAU VC at the award ceremony

The awards were distributed by Radhamohan Singh, Union minister for Agriculture in the presence of dignitaries including Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, DG, ICAR and Vice-Chancellors of different SAUs. The minister and DG, ICAR specially congratulated KAU for supporting farmers of the state to sweep the awards.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran congratulated the winners and the

scientists who played the key role in guiding them to glory. 'Winning seven out of fourteen awards at national level is a proud achievement for Kerala and its farming community. I am privileged to be a party to it, thanks to my scientists in IPR cell, RARS, Pattambi and ORARS, Kayamkulam. Let this be a catalyst for our efforts to conserve bio diversity and traditional crops of Kerala,' he said.

Guest lecture & Interactive Session

Dr. Sahadeva Singh, Chief Policy advisor, All India Agricultural Students Association (AIASA) and Senior Consultant, Government of India conducted an interactive session on "Career opportunities & Techno Administrative Reforms in Agriculture and role of AIASA in carrying forward the agenda" at CoA, Vellayani on 19th April 2016. He also delivered a Guest Lecture.



Dr. Sahadeva Singh, addressing students at CoA

The meeting was presided over by Dr. V. B. Padmanabhan, ADE (SZ). Dr. T. I. Manoj, Deputy DSW (Sports and Games) welcomed the gathering and Dr. S. Lekshmi, Professor (Academic) proposed vote of thanks. Students and faculty members participated in the programme held under the auspices of the Directorate of Students' Welfare.

ARS, Mannuthy enters Centenary Year



Minister V. S. Sunilkumar speaking after inaugurating the centenary year celebrations of ARS, Mannuthy

Minister for Agricultural development and Farmers' welfare V. S. Sunilkumar has said that the Government is committed to regain agricultural prosperity of the state and a series of measures are being chalked out to realise this objective.

Speaking after inaugurating the centenary year celebrations of ARS, Mannuthy on June 25, the minister said the government want to enhance paddy

Minister bats for Ecofriendly Development

Minister for Agriculture V. S. Sunil Kumar has said that development should be ecofriendly and indiscreet actions endangering purity of air and water and fertility of soil cannot be accepted as development.

Speaking after inaugurating a two day national conference on bird watching at CoF, Vellanikara on June 12, the minister said that agriculture is a culture fundamental to wellbeing of all living beings and hence real development entails conservation of nature and its resources as well.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran presided over the inaugural function. 'The topography and plant diversity has helped avian population in Kerala. Bird count is a critical parameter of biodiversity,' He said.

Principal CCF Dr. B. S. Courie delivered key note address. Registrar Dr. K. Aravindakshan, Dean Dr. K. Vidyasagan and Dr. P. O. Nameer, workshop co-ordinator spoke.

production as well as vegetable production in the state.

'The area under paddy cultivation will be increased and research to enhance productivity will be strengthened. An area of 2600 ha will be brought under upland farming this year and it will be spread to one lakh hectare within five years,' he said.

KAU Executive Committee member K. Rajan MLA presided over the function. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in his key note address highlighted the various programmes planned during the centenary year. Workshops and training programmes for agricultural development will be held each month, he said.

Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta welcomed the gathering and Registrar Dr. K. Aravindakshan proposed vote of thanks.

KAU Executive Committee member Aji Francis, Councillor Adv. Ramdas, Director of Research Dr. SajanKurien, Director of Physical plant Dr. V. R. Ramachandran, Comptroller T. S. Majeed and ARS head Dr. U. Jaikumaran spoke.

Message from the Vice - chancellor

Farmers' Welfare Fund-Need of the hour

Resurrecting the *glory* of agriculture is a dream of our policy makers, planners and farm scientists. At the national level the union government has announced several programmes and packages to boost farm productivity, farm economy and livelihood. Close on its heels, the state government is also breathing new life through prompt market interventions and demonstrated decisions in the protection of agricultural lands.

However, sustainability of primary sector will become a reality only if announcements are practiced, demonstrated and success stories replicated. Regaining agriculture in our state also demands a paradigm shift in present work culture. There are very few takers for conventional farming due to higher drudgeries involved and lesser profit opportunities. An out-of-the-box thinking and strategies that can be adopted in the farms with a sound backing through farmer welfare programmes is the need of the hour.



Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) is a flagship national programme with excellent opportunities for the youth. The success of ARYA, however, hinges on winning the confidence of the youth *vis-à-vis* financial security and sustainability of the vocation. Our younger generation will appreciate a technology assisted -less drudgery farming environment which ensures year round profit. The efforts on research and development activities in agriculture have to be tailored to these new farming contexts. Such an approach will help the rooting of a new, sustainable farming culture which will be more productive and remunerative and more environment friendly. The young blood in our midst will only be enthused and attracted by such a prospect.

Agriculture intoto has to be transformed in to an agribusiness mode for which substantial funding is required. However, Public sector funding to Agriculture, apparently adequate in certain fronts, will not be sufficient to ensure sustained support to the sector. The viability of our long practiced subsidy regime has failed to ensure financial stability and is now under the scanner. It is time to search for alternate models to extend financial and strategic support to the primary sector.

A Farmers' Welfare Fund, formed in a revolving fund pattern, seems the most pragmatic way to assure support to the sector. The fund initiated with government share as seed money can be boosted with voluntary contributions from business houses, celebrities, farmer societies, commodity boards, cooperative banks and even farm scientists and public. Every employee in the public sector can donate at least one day's salary to this noble cause. The money thus accumulated can be kept as a permanent fund, the interest accrued on which being used as interest free loans to fund farming, food processing and value addition programmes as well as market support mechanisms. The enthusiastic involvement of celebrities in promotional activities of green agriculture and the publicity and interest it generates in the society can be channelized to grow this fund.

Such a rotational system, wherein money advanced has to be repaid after harvesting, sale of processed products etc. and again advanced at the time of season's preparation will not only guarantee cash availability when in need but also will assure sustainability of support without taxing the exchequer. The limitation of budgetary support and fund crunch as well as recurring nature of expenditure can be easily covered by this fund. Another lacuna of agricultural development programmes is the multiplicity of identical programmes implemented through different agencies. This also can be stopped when such a fund is set up. Our society's awareness on the importance and need of safe to eat farm products is growing. This is an encouraging sign. Therefore I moot the establishment of a Farmers' Welfare Fund at the state level, which would soon become a role model for other states as well.



People's Movement imperative to promote sustainable farming culture : Minister



Minister for Agricultural development and Farmers' welfare V. S. Sunilkumar addressing the workshop on fallow land farming

Minister for Agricultural development and Farmers' welfare V. S. Sunilkumar has called for a people's movement akin to literacy movement to develop sustainable farming culture coupled with technological innovations.

Addressing the delegates after inaugurating a workshop on fallow land and hired land farming organised by Centre for Gender Studies in Agriculture

and Farm Entrepreneurship Development (CGSAFED) of KAU, the minister said that the most valuable ingredient required for farming is willpower and determination.

'The Government is determined to promote fallow land farming and remove hurdles in hired land framing. Majority of fallow land owners possess excess land and the very purpose of keeping land fallow is conversion of land. Govern-

ment has initiated an amendment of wetland act so as to ensure proper use of paddy farms and other land areas. In order to equip farmers with technological support, we plan to ensure common pooling of machinery and popularisation of Food Security Army, which will be made a state level force', he said.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in his presidential address pointed out the irony between projected shortage of arable land and plenty of land owned by NRIs being idled. Legal solution to issues confronting hired land farming should be resolved to safeguard farming enthusiasts, he said. Former bureaucrat Niveditha P. Haran, Director of Agriculture Biju Prabhakar IAS, KAU Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta, Dr. Sajithbabu, Dr. Jiju P. Alex, Dr. A. Prema, Nabard Deputy General Manager P. T. Usha and workshop coordinator Dr. P. S. Geethakutty spoke. Selected LSGI office bearers, farmers and officers of the department of Agriculture participated.

KAU STUDENTS BAG NATIONAL INNOVATION AWARDS



Winners of the Business plan contest With KAU DE Dr. S. Estelitta

KAU students bagged National Innovation Awards for best entrepreneur team in the Business Plan presentation during the Sensitization workshop on entrepreneurship development for south Indian Universities held at College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy on 26th August 2016.

The first place was bagged by the students of Cooperation, Banking & Management of KAU for their business plan on Natural Mosquito Repellent from Turmeric Leaf. KAU's Kelappaji College of Agricultural Engineering won the second prize for the business plan for 'Vacuum fritz'- a project for making healthy, nutritious and environmentally safe vacuum fried banana chips. KAU Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta gave away the awards in the valedictory function presided over by Dr. T. P. Sethumadhavan, Director of Entrepreneurship, KVASU.

The contest was jointly organised by IICAR, NAARM, CIFT, KVASU and KAU.

Cashew Farming will boost rural economy : VC

Rejuvenation of Cashew farming would help the state attain sustainable growth in agricultural income, enable women empowerment and ensure soil conservation, said KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran.

In his inaugural address at a three day state level training programme for cashew farmers at Vellanikkara on August 30, Dr. Rajendran said at least one lakh hectare fallow land in the state can be planted with high yielding cashew varieties, which in turn would enhance domestic production.' Cashew has been a traditional cash crop which not only offered good income for farmers but also employment to rural population, especially women. Enhancing cashew productivity will not only cut the spending on import but also trigger growth in primary sector', said the Vice-Chancellor.

Madakkathara panchayath president P. S. Vinayan, presided. KAU Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta delivered Keynote address. Executive Committee member Aji Francis, General Council members Dr. A. Prema and Dr. Mary Regina, Cashew development agency chairman Dr. A. Iqbal, Welfare standing Committee Chairperson Savithri, Cashew Research Station Head Dr. P. V. Nalini and Dr. A. Sobhana spoke.

Advanced technologies in cashew farming, cashew apple processing and value addition will be discussed in detail in the seminar jointly organised by KAU's Cashew Research Station and Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa development.

KAU to join hands with Local bodies

KAU General Council (GC) decided to associate with Local Self Government institutions (LSGIs) for formulation and implementation of meaningful development projects in primary sector.

A resolution to this effect moved by Dr. Jiju P. Alex was unanimously accepted by the council. 'The LSGIs struggle to get expert guidance in formulation, evaluation, implementation and monitoring of projects even as KAU with presence across the state is rich in expertise and experience in this regard.' said Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor who chaired the meeting.

The 126th meeting of the council held at Vellanikkara on July 30 also resolved to seek financial assistance of the state government to clear the liabilities, pay retirement benefits and ensure smooth implementation of plan projects.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran suggested that a delegation of General Council members may meet the Finance Minister and appraise him of the severity and urgency of the issue.

A resolution to campaign for Good Agricultural Practices involving organic protocols in place of unscientific practices prorogated under the pretext of organic farming was unanimously approved. This, the council observed, is highly essential in view of the wrong notions and erroneous farming practices spread in the name of organic farming.

Executive Committee member K. Rajan MLA told the house that steps for special recruitment to teaching positions, rectification of pay revision anomalies and recruitment of farm laborers will be expedited.

The house resolved that new institutions proposed should not be started only with adequate funding, sanction for posts and concurrence from the government.

The council also approved the award of degree to graduates and post graduates students and Ph.D. scholars who have completed requirements as well as the annual report of the University for 2015-16 and statute amendment proposals for several posts. The meeting attended by Executive Committee members Aji Francis, Dr. Jose Joseph, K. A. Sheeba and Dr. Ravisankar as well as elected and nominated members and officers of the University like Registrar, Deans of Faculties and Directors .

Academic Council nod for Syllabus revision



Vice-chancellor elucidates a point in 125th Academic Council

KAU Academic Council resolved to revise the curriculum of courses in accordance with the recommendations of Fifth Deans' Committee of ICAR.

The 125th Meeting of the council held on August 22 adopted the proposals put forth by the Board of Studies in different faculties on the basis of Deans' Committee report. The examination system is also revamped in consonance with the national pattern.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran told the house that University could adhere to the academic calendar and schedule in conduct of examinations and declaration of results. The Vice-Chancellor also stressed that innovation in developing tools for small farms and homesteads

should be the priority in PG/Ph.D. research in Agricultural Engineering. Protocols for adhering to plagiarism free standards have been approved by the academic council.

The salient features of revised UG syllabus is the introduction of common courses and student READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana) launched by the Prime Minister.

The meeting chaired by the Vice-Chancellor was attended by Registrar Dr. K. Aravindakshan, Academic Director Dr. T. E. George, Controller of Examinations Dr. R. Krishna Kumar, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Extension, Research and Students' Welfare, Heads of academic institutions and representatives of teachers and students.

Pre-Rabi Interface moot proactive steps for crop management

Major crops and vegetable varieties are prone to multidimensional problems during ensuing drought season, speakers at the Pre-Rabi interface organised by Directorate of Extension, KAU pointed out. The interface involving researchers and extension experts was organised to formulate remedial measures for the issues likely to affect crops and plants in view of the anticipated water scarcity and rise in temperature.

KAU Vice-chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, in his inaugural address pointed out that the 35-40% Rainfall deficit is likely to open up a plethora of issues *vis a vis*. plant health management and crop production. 'Minimising water use for crops, decreasing crop duration and ensuring crop rotation are some strategies we can adopt. Development and identification of crop varieties with shorter duration, tolerance to drought, pests and diseases as well as location specific varieties would be helpful.' he said.

The main issues related to major crops were discussed in detail. Officers from KVVKs, Department of Agriculture, Central Research Institutes in the state and KAU research units participated.

Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta said that the second phase of the interface would be held on October 7, when pragmatic solutions to the issues raised in the first phase would be presented. Dr. Sajan Kurien, Director of Research concluded the discussions and Dr. Alexander George offered vote of thanks.

Guidance Bureau holds Training for Jobseekers

The employment guidance Bureau in KAU organised a month long training programme for the candidates preparing for examinations conducted by Banking Recruitment Board, Public Service Commission etc.

The training programme conducted at CTI, Mannuthy was inaugurated by KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in a function presided over by Raju David, Deputy Director, Employment services department.

Training not only harness and enrich your knowledge, but instills most valuable inputs like confidence, logic and reasoning, thereby making by you confident of facing examinations and interviews.', said the vice-Chancellor.

KAU Director of Extension Dr. Estelitta, Director of Students' Welfare Dr. Mercy George, Employment Officer Alavudeen and Deputy Chief of guidance bureau M. V. Polachan spoke.

Dr. KNS Nair Memorial Lecture

'Genomics is not to be shunned, but to be used carefully'

Former Kerala University Vice-Chancellor Dr. B. Eqbal said that the genomics is a powerful reality with a profound impact on all aspects of life.

Dr. Eqbal was speaking about the ethical and social implications of genomic revolution, topic for the eleventh Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair memorial lecture organised by CGSFED at Vellanikara on July 23.

'The advancement of genomics has brought unprecedented power to humanity, but with intricacy of ethical dilemmas,' he said. 'Though there are unresolved issues and much scope for introspection, Genomics is under attack for wrong reasons. The public debate and discussions on it is superficial. What we need is expert assisted discussions at grass root level and proper dissemination of correct information. We cannot and should not ban the research blindly. Only if the research goes on, something new can be unearthed. The duty of academic community is to give it a positive direction and use its endless possibilities for the benefit of the mankind, simultaneously

PoP 2016 Edition Released

Package of Practice recommendations-crops (PoP) 2016 edition was released by Minister for Agricultural development and Farmers' welfare V. S. Sunil Kumar on July 5.

Speaking after releasing the PoP in a function held at Directorate of Extension, KAU, the Minister said that a more committed effort is necessary to register appreciable growth rate in agriculture.

'Though we are spending huge amount on agricultural education and research, the results show that the money spent and efforts taken are not reciprocated. The growth rate in agricultural sector reflects wellbeing of a society and hence it has to show a healthy trend,' said the Minister.

Ollur MLA K. Rajan presided over the function. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran in his introductory address said that the fifteenth edition of PoP is enriched with updated technologies refined through a series of efforts.



Minister V. S. Sunilkumar Releasing the 2016 Edition of PoP : Crops

Director of Agriculture Asok Kumar Thekkan received the first copy of new PoP from the Minister. KAU Executive Committee members Dr. Jose Joseph and Aji Francis, Panchayat president P. S. Vinayan, Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta and Director of Research Dr. Sajankurien spoke.

The Minister also inaugurated the Model career center at Central Training Institute and Online thesis portal at Central Library besides visiting various research plots and labs.



Dr. B. Iqbal delivering the XIth Dr. K N S Nair commemorative lecture

fighting the unethical business interests,' said Dr. Eqbal.

Minister for Agriculture V. S. Sunilkumar in his speech said that a realistic assessment of the effects of green revolution has become imperative.

'Even while appreciating the gains of green revolution, the effect it had on our environment and biodiversity needs to be properly assessed. We are witnessing a hue and cry for organic agriculture and the biggest argument in favour of it is the

alleged ill effects of green revolution on our soil fertility and biodiversity. Hence we have to scientifically analyse these factors' he said. The Minister remembered that Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair created a model with his sincerity, simplicity and democratic functioning.

K. Rajan MLA, KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, Registrar Dr. K. Aravindakshan, Director of Extension Dr. S. Estelitta, Director of Research Dr. Sajankurien and CGSFED head Dr. P. S. Geethakutty spoke.

Integrate farming and farm science: CM

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan called for a sensible blend of traditional practices and modern technologies in agriculture.

Speaking at a function held at CoA, Vellayani to present the annual awards for meritorious students and best teacher in memory of Dr. N. P. Kumari Sushama and inaugurate UG academic block and Plant disease diagnosis lab, the Chief Minister said that pragmatic steps to bridge the gap between farming and farm science are imperative.

'Use of knowledge is as important in farming as in every walk of life. But it should be productive and aid enhancement of productivity and profitability. Government plans a thirty five point programme for sustainable development of the primary sector and welfare of farmers is the topmost agenda. KAU should catalyse these programmes,' he said.

Minister for Agriculture V. S. Sunilkumar, in his presidential address highlighted the need of close cooperation and coordi-

nation between KAU and Department of Agriculture. M. Vincent MLA, Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, District Panchayath president V. K. Madhu, Kalliyur Grama Panchayat president R. Jayalakshmi, members of General Council, Deans of faculties and Directors of Extension, Research and Physical plant, Family of Late Dr. N. P. Kumari Sushama, Staff and students participated.

While Kumari Aruna S. bagged student topper award, Dr. Salini Pillai won the best teacher recognition. Agronomy was selected as the best department of CoA

and Kumari Athira M. Nair won the extension topper award. Prof. P. A. Rajan Asari endowment award was received by Kumari Akshaja Suresh.



Chief Minister presents Dr. N. P. Kumari Sushama memorial award

KAU to Join Hands with French Academy of Wood Science

KAU and French Academy of Wood Science (Ecole Supérieure de Bois -ESB) will join hands to foster academic and research activities.

This was decided after detailed discussions between a high level ESB delegation and KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran and other officials. The ESB delegation was led by Antoine Lebeau, the International relations and Corporate Training Coordinator and Mr. Marc Irle, a renowned Wood Scientist and a specialist in Wood Recycling.

The Vice-Chancellor said that KAU is happy and proud to enter in to MoU with ESB for collaborative research, exchange of students and training faculty.

The French scientists later took part in a conference on wood recycling at College of Forestry. Scientists from KAU, KFRI and Kannur University as well as students and representatives of wood industry participated. While Marc made an interesting presentation on wood recycling, Antoine introduced the various courses on wood science offered at ESB.

Software to design drip irrigation system developed

The Department of Agricultural Engineering, CoH, Vellanikkara has developed a software for assisting the farmers and amateurs in drip-irrigation system design, irrigation scheduling, pump selection and its cost estimation.

Drip irrigation if properly designed can achieve more than 90% efficiency, but the problem persisting is the sophisticated procedure for design and estimation. The cost of setting up of drip irrigation system varies with different crops, area and location.

The software namely e-DID (electronic tool for Drip Irrigation Design) will provide water requirement, full system design, layout sketch, pipe network and fittings, required pump horse power and finally the total cost of the system by giving the inputs such as the crop, area and district. It is designed for all districts of Kerala based on the maximum Reference Crop

Evapotranspiration (ET_0) and for ten major crops namely vegetables, banana, tapioca, pineapple, areca nut, coconut, pepper, tea, coffee and cowpea and for multiple crops.

The software designed in C# dot net uses only a minimal number of readily-available and intuitive parameters and hence makes it user-friendly. It will be of great use to farmers, amateurs, industrialists, marketing executives, extension specialists and researchers in designing drip irrigation system. The system design was developed by Dr. K. P. Visalakshi, principal investigator, Er. Nimmi Kuruppath, Sri. Anish C. V. and Dr. P. K. Sureshkumar under the project 'Establishment of Nodal Water Technology Centre' funded by Kerala State Planning Board. The team is planning to make it available for free download through KAU website shortly.