



CPCRI

News



Views and News on Advance in Coconut, Arecanut and Cocoa

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INSIDE



World
Coconut
Day
celebrated on
02-09-2011



Parasitoid on
coconut
white grub
identified....



Friends of
coconut tree:
Training on
mechanical
palm
climbing....



Joint Hindi
Workshop held
in connection
with Hindi
Fortnight....

Ministerial delegation from Sri Lanka visits CPCRI

A high level delegation from Sri Lanka including two Cabinet Ministers Hon. Arukattu Patabandige Jagath Pushpakumara, Minister of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development, Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene, Minister of Agriculture, Shri A.A.L. Bandaranayake, Additional Secretary, Ministry for Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development, Dr. H.A.J. Gunatilake, Director, Coconut Research Institute, Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena and Dr. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, ICRAF Liaison Scientist for Sri Lanka visited CPCRI, Kasaragod on 25-7-2011 and Regional Station, Kayamkulam on 26-27 July, 2011. At Kasaragod they interacted with scientists on genetic resources activities in coconut, breeding for resistance and high yield, recent advances in biotechnology and molecular biology and various technologies developed for sustainable production and management of coconut.

They also visited Regional Station, Kayamkulam to acquaint themselves with the research works on root (wilt) disease of coconut being carried out there and to have detailed discussion on different aspects of the disease with emphasis on management of the disease as Sri Lanka is also confounded with a similar disease on coconut (Weligama coconut leaf wilt disease) in recent years. Director, CPCRI and scientists of the Regional Station briefed the team on research and strategies being evolved for managing the disease. The team visited laboratories and experimental fields in the Station.



Ministerial delegation from Sri Lanka during their visit to Kasaragod



Sri Lankan delegation visiting Regional Station, Kayamkulam

Hon'ble Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly visits Kayamkulam

Hon'ble Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly, Shri G. Karthikeyan visited the Regional Station Kayamkulam on 12-08-2011 and was appraised of the research



Shri G. Karthikeyan, Hon'ble Speaker of Kerala State Legislative Assembly during his visit to Regional Station, Kayamkulam

programmes on coconut root (wilt) disease. He visited the field experiments along with Director, CPCRI, Head, Regional Station and other scientists.

World Coconut Day celebrated

The World Coconut Day was celebrated at the Institute on 02-09-2011. At Kasaragod, the celebration was inaugurated by Shri C.P. John, Member, Kerala State Planning Board and Shri K.N. Satheesh, IAS, District Collector delivered the keynote address. Dr. George V. Thomas, Director, CPCRI presided over



Mr. C. P. John inaugurating the world coconut day celebration at CPCRI, Kasaragod

the function. Shri S. Shivaprasad, Principal Agricultural Officer, Kasaragod offered felicitations. The best coconut farmers from Kasaragod district were honoured; besides, competition for coconut recipe preparation, essay writing competition for school children and a quiz programme (facilitated through video conferencing) with focal theme 'Coconut' for the B.Sc. (Ag.) students of five selected agricultural colleges in South India were also organized. Two publications viz., 'Package of Practices of Coconut Cultivation (Malayalam)' and 'Soil and Water Conservation and Water Harvesting in Coconut Gardens - Experiences Under Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme' and a video film on 'CPCRI - For Farmers' Prosperity' were released in the function.

At Regional Station, Kayamkulam, it was celebrated with a special talk on 'Coconut and coconut oil for health' delivered by Shri G. Surendran, Scientist, ISRO. Smt. Gayathri Thamban, Municipal Chairperson, Kayamkulam inaugurated



Shri Moidu receiving the best coconut farmer award at Kasargod



Smt. Gayathri Thamban, Municipal Chairperson inaugurating World Coconut Day at Kayamkulam

the programme. Earlier in the day, an interface programme of scientists with farmers and extension officials of Haripad, Mavelikkara and Muthukulam Blocks was organised.

ICAR Foundation Day celebrated

ICAR Foundation Day was befittingly celebrated at Regional Station, Kayamkulam on 16-07-2011. Dr. P.M. Jacob, Head in his inaugural address highlighted the significant contributions of ICAR for ensuring food security to the nation. An oral/ poster presentation contest was organised for school students in and around Kayamkulam on the theme "Youth and future agriculture" and fourteen schools participated in the oral presentation contest and nine schools participated in poster presentation contest. During the valedictory function, Dr. J. Thomas, Director, Indian Cardamom



ICAR Foundation Day Celebrations at RS, Kayamkulam

Research Institute, Myladumpara was the chief guest and he distributed mementoes, certificates and a hybrid coconut seedling to the victorious students and schools. In his keynote address, Dr. Thomas dwelt on the scope of second green revolution in high-range agriculture with emphasis on king and queen of spices vis-à-vis the current ecological disturbances encountered due to unprecedented human interventions and climate change.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

New products based on coir pith developed

A new technology has been developed for the production of *Trichoderma* formulation using coir pith. This low-cost product has a long shelf life of 10 months and high level of population of *Trichoderma*. Through a simple activation process of the dried cake, luxurious growth of *Trichoderma* covering the entire product could be obtained. Another *Trichoderma* formulation was developed using vermicompost following the above technology with slight modification. A slow pesticide release product was also

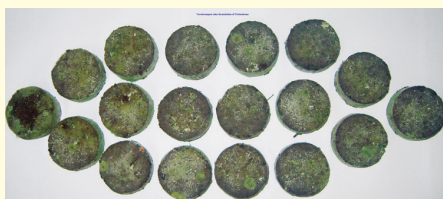
developed using coir pith. Field evaluation of this product for the management of bud rot disease of coconut is in progress. Shelf life of the pesticide incorporated in the slow release product is also being evaluated.



Slow release pesticide



Trichoderma coir pith cake



Vermicompost cake formulation

***Prosema* sp. : a new endolarval parasitoid of coconut white grub**

Prosema sp. nr. *siberita* (Fabricius) (Hymenoptera: Tachinidae) was found to be an endolarval parasitoid of coconut white grub, *Leucopholis coneophora* which completes larval stage inside the white grub. The last instar maggot comes out of the host and pupates in soil for about 12 days. Natural parasitism was observed up to 83%. This is the first report of parasitism by *Prosema* sp.nr. *siberita* on *L. coneophora*.



Infested white grub larva



Adult stage of the parasitoid

Phosphate solubilizing bacteria associated with coconut

Studies on qualitative phosphate solubilization ability of 512 heterotrophic rhizosphere bacteria of coconut palms indicated that 56% of the isolates (284) have the ability to solubilize phosphate in the Pikovskaya's agar medium. *Pseudomonas plecoglossicida* KnSF 227 (244.17 µg/ml) was found to be the best in solubilizing phosphorus in liquid medium, followed by *Enterobacter cloacae* RNF 267 (217.525 µg/ml) and *Pseudomonas putida* HSF 132 (200.065 µg/ml). The strains were identified by conventional biochemical tests and confirmed by BIOLOG Microbial Identification System and further validated by 16S rRNA gene analysis. These native strains having the potential to increase the available phosphorus *in vitro* and products of indole acetic acid, ACC- deaminase and siderophores will be useful as bioinoculants.

Incidence of root (wilt) of coconut reported from Theni and Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu

Dr. George V. Thomas, Director, CPCRI and Dr. P. M. Jacob, Head, CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam along with Dr. N. Srinivasan and Shri Rajan visited Cumbum Valley in Theni district of Tamil Nadu on 3rd September, 2011. Incidence of root (wilt) was noticed in several gardens of Lower Camp, Gudalur and Cumbum. A young coconut plantation with Malayan Orange

Dwarf variety at Lower Camp was found to be affected by root (wilt) and superimposed with leaf rot disease. Similar observations were made in a vast number of gardens having East Coast Tall variety and certain hybrids. The team also interacted with the cultivators on the hybridization programme being undertaken, nursery practices, biopriming of coconut seed nuts with biocontrol agent (*Pseudomonas fluorescens*) and biofertilizers, and on farm vermicomposting technology.

Survey conducted by a team of scientists of CPCRI along with Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor & Head, Floriculture Research Station, Thovalai, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and officials of Tamil Nadu Horticulture Department revealed incidence of root (wilt) disease in coconut plantations in Balamore Estate, Maramalai Region, Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu. Among a total of 900 coconut palms (about 50 years old), mostly West Coast Tall variety, over 90% of the palms have root (wilt) disease symptoms and a greater number of such palms have symptoms of leaf rot disease superimposed. Further, a substantial number of the affected palms were in the advanced stage of disease with severe leaf yellowing. Arecanut palms in the estate also showed yellowing akin to yellow leaf disease. The coconut disease prevalence in the Maramalai region of Kanyakumari District deserves special attention as it is located in an extremely isolated pocket.



Coconut root (wilt) disease superimposed with leaf rot disease in Tamil Nadu

Intercropping of seasonal vegetables under arecanut for NE condition

Four summer vegetables like ridge gourd, chilli, okra, amaranthus were tried under different fertilizer treatments under arecanut in North East condition during 2011. The results showed that among all the vegetables tried under arecanut, okra performed well under fertigation with recommended dose of inorganics +



Vegetable intercropping in arecanut garden

arecanut husk placed in the sub-soil for reducing the loss of nutrients and water.

Coconut nursery at CPCRI Kayamkulam gets NHB accreditation

The National Horticultural Board (NHB) Gurgaon has accredited coconut nursery at CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam with one-star rating for a period of two years with effect from 22-07-2011. This is the first NHB accredited coconut nursery in the root (wilt) disease prevalent tract in Kerala.

PUBLICATIONS

Research articles

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- Jacob, P.M., Thomas, R. J., Nair, R. V., Nihad, K. and Thomas, G.V. 2011. Two new coconut varieties for the root (wilt) disease prevalent tract. *Indian Nalikera J.* **2** (6 & 7): 26-27 (in Malayalam).
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- Murali Gopal, Alka Gupta and George V. Thomas. 2011. Coconut leaf vermicompost production technology. *Cocoinfo International* **18** (1): 39-40.
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- Thamban, C. and Mathew, A.C. 2011. Coconut based food products. *Kerala Karshakan* **57**(5): 6-11 (in Malayalam).
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- George V. Thomas and Thamban, C. 2011. Package of practices of coconut cultivation (in Malayalam). Technical Bulletin No. 69, CPCRI, Kasaragod, 36 p.
- Thamban, C., Mathew, A. C., Dhanapal, R., Subramanian, P. and Muralidharan, K. 2011. Soil and Water Conservation and Water Harvesting in Coconut Gardens - Experiences Under Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme. Technical bulletin No. 70, CPCRI, Kasaragod, 40 p.

Trainings

Name of the Official	Programme	Place and duration
Dr. S. Elain Apshara	Strengthening statistical computing for NARS	GKVK, UAS, Bangalore 8 th to 13 th August, 2011
Dr. D. Jaganathan	'Public Private Partnership for Science and Technology Sector' sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi	Administrative Staff College of India, Bella Vista, Hyderabad 19 th to 30 th September, 2011
Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas and Dr. M. Shareefa	Protection and Management of IPR in Agriculture	Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Thrissur 20 th to 29 th September, 2011

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Awards / Honours

The interest accrued on the term-deposit made from Sardar Patel Outstanding Institution Award is utilised for giving away various awards for the staff of CPCRI to promote excellence in their field. Following awards for the year 2010 were presented on 02-09-2011.

Award

Best Scientific Team

Best Technical Staff

Best Administrative Staff

Best Supporting Staff

Awardee

Dr. R. Chandra Mohanan, Dr. (Mrs.) Rohini Iyer, Dr. K. Subaharan, Dr. M. Gunasekaran, Dr. R. Dhanapal and Dr. C. Thamban

Dr. C.G. Narayanan Namboothiri, Technical Officer T-5, CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam

Shri K.V. Pillai, AAO, CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam

A.T. Harikuttan, Skilled Support Staff, CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam



Ph. D. Award

Dr. Jagadeesh Patil, Scientist (Nematology) was awarded Ph.D. degree from IARI, New Delhi for the thesis entitled “Effect of root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne graminicola* on the nutrient uptake and water use efficiency of rice plant and quality and vigour of rice seed” under the guidance of Dr. H. S. Gaur, Dean and Joint Director of Education IARI, New Dehi.

Dr. Jagadeesh Patil receiving certificate from Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission

SEMINARS/ SYMPOSIA/ CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Name of the Official	Programme	Place and duration
Dr. George V. Thomas, Director	Fifth meeting of the Planning Commission Working Group on Horticulture and Plantation Crops for the XII Five Year Plan	Ahmedabad 19-09-2011
Dr. P.M. Jacob, Head, Dr. R. Chandramohan, Head, Dr. Merin Babu and Dr. V.H. Prathibha, Scientists	International Workshop and Seminar on Phytophthora Diseases of Plantation Crops and their Management	Kottayam 12-09-2011 to 17-09-2011
Dr. Chandrika Mohan and Dr. A. Joseph Rajkumar Sr. Scientists	National Meeting on Agricultural Entomology for the 21 st century: The way forward	National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects, Bangalore 25-08-2011 to 26-08-2011
Dr Chandrika Mohan, Senior Scientist (Entomology)	National Workshop on Conservation of Biodiversity	Malabar Christian College, Calicut 23-09-2011
Dr. R. Chandra Mohanan, HD (Crop Protection)	State Level Interface of KVKs of Kerala and Lakshadweep	KAU Vellanikkara, Thrissur 07-07-2011
Dr. D. Balasimha	National Stakeholders Consultation on Climate Change Platform	CRIDA, Hyderabad 19-09-2011 to 20-09-2011
Dr. P. Anithakumari	Women and scientific micro enterprises in Kerala – WASM-K organised by Shakthi, Swadeshi Science Movement	Ashir Bhavan, Kochi
Dr. C. Thamban	Haritotsavam-2011: Agri-Science Fair	Kerala Agricultural University Thiruvananthapuram 20-09-2011

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

Friends of coconut – an innovative training programme

Krishi Vigyan Kendras at Kasaragod and Kayamkulam have launched an innovative training programme for rural youth on mechanical palm climbing and plant protection – ‘Friends of Coconut Tree’ during August, 2011 on the auspicious occasion of Farmers’ Day. This programme was taken up jointly by KVK and Coconut Development Board, Kochi (CDB) with an objective of developing a professional group of rural youth for carrying out harvesting, management and crop protection activities in coconut sector.



Training on coconut climbing in progress (left) trainees distributed with climbing devices (middle) and the first batch of trainees at Kasaragod (right)

Two training programmes of six days duration were conducted during August, 2011 for a total of 40 participants at Kasaragod and 27 participants at Kayamkulam. All the trainees are brought under the coverage of Kera Suraksha Insurance Scheme for one year on the day of commencement of training itself. Around 55% of the trainees have already adopted it as their profession with earnings ranging from Rs. 300 to Rs. 900 per day. They are also planning to extend and diversify their activities towards hybrid seed nut production, snowball tender nut units, tender nut parlours etc. The six days residential training covers topics like mother palm selection, selection of seed nuts, pest and disease management, nutrient management, intercropping, integrated farming and value addition of coconut in addition to rigorous training on climbing for harvesting and plant protection of coconut. The trainees were also exposed to personality development and financial management aspects.

Through this initiative, KVK is planning to develop a pool of 500 trained professionals on mechanised coconut harvesting and plant protection in one year in each of the two districts. On completion of each training programme,

a Coconut Olympics was conducted and the winners were awarded cash prizes and each participant trainee was provided with a climbing device free-of-cost by CDB.

Training programme for farmers

Under the research project on micro-irrigation sponsored by KSCSTE under operation at CPCRI, Kasaragod, a training programme on ‘Drip irrigation in coconut gardens’ was conducted at Bedadka on 02-07-2011 and at Payyanur on 29-07-2011. The training programme at Bedadka was inaugurated by Mr. Ananthan, Vice President, Bedadka Grama Panchayat. Mrs. Sudha V.K., Assistant Director of Agriculture inaugurated the training programme at Payyanur. Dr. A.C. Mathew and Dr. C. Thamban, Sr. Scientists, handled sessions in the training programmes.



Farmer's training programme at Bedadka

Several capacity development activities including training programmes and technology awareness programmes were undertaken in the Edava Panchayat under NABARD project on ‘Integrated model coconut clusters for improving livelihood security in root (wilt) affected areas’, operational at Regional Station, Kayamkulam.

Three training programmes on vegetable cultivation, community management and nursery management in coconut, were included in which 65 members participated. One training on vegetable seedling production was imparted to 13 small groups involving 47 members and they have initiated production of seedlings in pot trays. Household level trainings were held twice - on plant protection operations and management of Boron deficient palms to all the 157 CBO members. Training was also imparted to 20-25 households on control of red palm weevil, management of pests and diseases of vegetables and ginger.

As an interactive technology awareness programme ‘Coconut Quiz’ was conducted in 17 coconut clusters of Edava panchayath. Training programme for coconut cluster leaders of Edava panchayath organized on 03-09-2011 on

‘Integrated plant protection aspects and soil management in root (wilt) affected areas’. A total of 58 farmer leaders participated in the programme.

Five on- and five off-campus training programmes on different aspects of plantation crops were organized by Research Centre, Kahikuchi during the period benefitting farmers, farm women, SHGs, unemployed youth and elected members from Local Self Government Institutions.

Eight field exposure visits were organized benefiting visiting farmers and farmwomen from different parts of Assam and Bihar. Besides, two new coconut based HDMSCS demonstration gardens have been established at Balijori and Khetri districts of Assam.



Off campus training programme



On campus training programme

Training on farm mechanisation

A training programme on Farm mechanisation was conducted at KVK, Kasaragod under State Food Security Programme, 2010-11 – Wadackancherry model. The programme sponsored by Dept of Agriculture, Manjeshwar Block was inaugurated on 12th July, 2011 by the District Collector of Kasaragod, Shri K. N. Satheesh IAS. The programme was organised for 5 panchayats of Manjeshwar block viz; Meenja, Puthige,

Vorkady, Mangalpady and Kumbla. A total of 100 men were trained in the operation and maintenance of power tiller, paddy reaper and power operated thresher cum winnower. Demonstration of paddy drum seeder and Cono weeder were also conducted.

National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) launched at Muttar panchayath

The “Technology Demonstration” component of this national network project funded by ICAR and coordinated by CRIDA, Hyderabad is being implemented in Muttar village of Veliyanad Block in Kuttanad taluk by KVK, Alleppey. The project was formally launched on 08-07-2011 by Shri Thomas Chandy, MLA, Kuttanad and Adv. U. Prathibha Hari, District Panchayath President, Alappuzha presided over the function. Dr. P. Muralidharan, Programme Co-ordinator, KVK Alleppey presented the details of the project and activities envisioned. Dr. K.D. Kokate, Deputy Director General (Extension), ICAR, New Delhi inaugurated the custom hiring centre. Dr. S. Prabhukumar, Zonal Project Director, Zone VIII, Bangalore inaugurated the technology demonstration on integrated fish and duck farming by handing over ducks to the partners. Mr. V.K. Venugopal, President, Veliyanadu Block Panchayath inaugurated the demonstration unit of mushroom production. Dr. P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension, Kerala Agricultural University released the folder on technology demonstrations envisaged under this project. Around 300 farmers including a large number of women participated in the programme.



Dr. K.D. Kokate delivering inaugural address during launching of NICRA activities at Kuttanad

Farmers’ monthly interface: Farmer – innovators sharing their expertise

The KVK-NABARD partnership Farmers’ Monthly Interface series inaugurated on 26th of April, 2011 continues to find wide appeal among the farming community of Kasaragod. The topic for the month of July, 2011 was “Wall tiles manufacture from the shells of green mussel (Kallummakkaya)” which was led by a farmer-scientist, Shri Kaduthodil K. J. Mathachan from Kasaragod. It is heartening to note that NABARD is planning a pilot project based on this innovative concept which could open up employment opportunity to many a rural youth. Being a successful farmer in fresh water pearl culture, Sri. Mathachan also elaborated on the technical aspects of fresh water pearl culture.

The interface for the month of August, 2011 was on “Low-cost digital incubator” innovated by Shri. P.A. Chandran from Kasaragod. This incubator can be used to hatch eggs of a variety of birds like hen, duck, quail, turkey, simultaneously. Made up of GI sheet, the device costs only



Shri Thomas Chandy, MLA, Kuttanad inaugurating the launching ceremony of NICRA in Muttar



Shri K.J. Mathachan with his art work from Mussel shell

Rs. 10000/-, whereas the cost of the incubators currently available in the market is very high and often unaffordable for small scale farmers.



Shri Chandran demonstrating the Low cost Digital Incubator

The interface of September on “Eco-friendly agriculture” was led by two farmer -scientists, Shri P.V. Divakaran from Kasaragod and Shri N. Vasam from Kannur. Shri P. V. Divakaran introduced “Salinity tolerant hybrid earthworms for effective vermicomposting in coastal areas and saline soils” and Shri N. Vasam detailed his innovation “Biological control of tea mosquito bugs in cashew using red ants”. In the backdrop of the declaration of Kasaragod district as “Organic farming district” both these innovative technologies are noteworthy.

Every interface included sessions on “Farmer-friendly services by NABARD” handled by Shri Gopalan, AGM, NABARD and “Agricultural Credit Facilities” by Shri Ajithkumar Menon, LDM, Syndicate Bank.

On farm testings (OFT) and frontline demonstrations (FLD) under KVK, Alleppey

OFT on ‘Assessment of effect of vegetable special in cowpea, oral pellet vaccine against Ranikhet disease in backyard poultry, assessing the performance of soft wood saw dust as substrate for oyster mushroom cultivation, assessment of different rice hybrids for their performance under scientific management, and assessing the effectiveness of neem soap by IIHR on cowpea’ are in operation.

FLDs on Application of magnesium sulphate in paddy, Introduction of Grama Priya layer breeds for backyard poultry rearing in Alleppey district of Kerala, Demonstration on portable incubator, Soil test based nutrient management in sesamum in Onattukara region, Wilt management in cowpea, Introduction of HYV *Thilarani* for improving productivity of sesamum in Onattukara are in operation.



FLD on paddy cultivation

Krishiyidam – a hit among farmers

Krishiyidam, the television documentary by KVK, Kasaragod in collaboration with Kasaragod Vision Channel is gaining wide popularity among the farming community of Kasaragod. Till date, 20 episodes have been completed successfully. The programme of 30 minutes duration is telecasted every Sunday at 5.30 PM through Kasaragod Vision channel. Besides the farmer’s profile and achievements, each episode comprises of an agricultural technology demonstration by a subject matter expert

too. This gives scope for frontline method demonstrations through the mass media.

Radio Programmes

Dr. V. Krishnakumar, Sr. Scientist attended an interaction at AIR, Thriuvananthapuram on the topic ‘Thenginu valam cheyyumbol’ (Malayalam) broadcast on 18-07-2011. Mrs. G. Lekha, participated on *Karshakavedhi* by AIR Trivandrum, broadcast on 24-07-11. A radio talk by Dr. V. Krishnakumar, Sr. Scientist on ‘Role of youth in agriculture- Strategies and concerns’ was broadcast on 15-09-2011. Dr. C. Thamban, presented a radio talk on ‘Friends of coconut - training of rural youth on coconut climbing’, which was broadcast by AIR, Kannur on 22-09-2011. Dr. Ravi Bhat delivered a radio talk on Nutrient management in Arecanut in Kannada at AIR, Mangalore which was broadcast on 21-09-2011). Dr. P. Muralidharan, attended ‘Organic manures for coconut farming’ (In Malayalam), an interview - AIR Trivandrum, broadcasted on 22-08-11 & 19-09-11 .

Agro-clinic service

KVK, Kasaragod conducted its monthly Agro Clinic at Madikkai panchayat of Kasaragod district on 16th of July, 2011. About 20 farmers participated in the programme. 31 specimens with symptoms of pest and disease attack were brought to the clinic for diagnosis and consultation with the team of experts from KVK. The programme has been highly appreciated by the farming community of the area.

Exhibitions

KVK Alleppey participated in two exhibitions, one Haritholsavam – 2011 at Maradu, Kochi during 3-7 September, 2011 jointly organized by Ministries of Agriculture, Govt. of Kerala and Govt. of India and another Agri-Science Fair (Haritholsavam – 2011) at College of Agriculture, Vellayani during 19-24 September, 2011.

ATIC activities

A total of 732 visitors including farmers, extension personnel and students made use of ATIC facilities during the quarter July-October 2011. Technology inputs and products including planting materials, farm products, farm literature and CD ROMs worth Rs. 4,29,227/- were sold through ATIC.

Other extension activities

Advisory services provided for 38 farmers who visited the Regional Station, Kayamkulam with various problems regarding coconut cultivation. Scientists from the Station also visited 58 farmers' field for diagnosis of field problems.

A total of 67 farmers and students visited the Regional Station, Vittal and had exposure to various research and extension activities. Seedlings of arecanut and grafts of cocoa were supplied to the farmers.

FEEDBACK

Therapeutic benefits of virgin coconut oil – A testimony

Virgin coconut oil (VCO) which is rich in medium chain fatty acids is known to inactivate a number of pathogenic organisms. Its antibacterial, antiviral and antiprotozoal activities are well documented. Dr. DS Rawat, a retired ICAR scientist (45 Garh Vihar, P.O.IIP, Mohkampur, Dehradun-248005) has been treating his wife for Alzheimer's disease with virgin coconut oil supplied by CPCRI for the last 8 months. She has been having 1 table spoon of VCO orally twice a day (VCO by fermentation technique and hot process, alternately).

Dr. Rawat writes, his wife has shown remarkable improvement on taking VCO for the treatment of her Alzheimer's disease during the last eight months. A slight gain in body weight could be noticed, her posture improved and her skin has regained its old glow. She is better composed, calmer and responding to what is being told to her. Her fast losing vocabulary has reversed, she sometimes speaks words that she had forgotten for months. She responds when called by name and recognizes family members and relatives but cannot call them by name. Her sleep pattern has also improved, though not regular yet. Her digestion has become satisfactory.

Dr. Rawat is happy that VCO has helped his wife very much. He regrets that he could have come across the case study by Dr. Mary Newport few years earlier when his wife was in the first stage of Alzheimer's disease. Nevertheless, he is happy that he could get good results from VCO and has requested the Institute to supply him more quantity of VCO. The experience of Dr. Rawat stand testimony to the therapeutic benefits of VCO.

CELEBRATIONS

Independence Day

Independence Day was celebrated at CPCRI headquarters, Regional Stations and Research Centres with traditional gaiety.



Director hoisting the National Flag on Independence Day

Hindi Day celebrations

Hindi Day was observed on 16-09-2011 in Headquarters and subsidiary establishments. Two joint Hindi Workshops were conducted at CPCRI, Kasaragod under the TOLIC, Kasaragod. Hindi Fortnight was celebrated at Regional Station, Vittal jointly with TOLIC from 14-09-2011 to 28-09-2011. It was inaugurated at Directorate of Cashew, Puttur on 14-09-2011 by Shri Gurudatt, Hindi Pradhyapak, St. Philomena College and the valedictory function was held at CPCRI, Vittal on 28-09-2011. Smt. Jayalaxmi Kaje, Hindi Pradhyapak was the Chief Guest and Dr. D. Balasimha Head i/c presided over the function. During this period various competitions were arranged for employees and school children.

At Research Centre Kidu, a training programme was organised for the staff in this connection, which was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Shri Duggappa Gowda,



Joint Hindi Workshop held at CPCRI, Kasaragod

Hindi Teacher, High School, Bilinele. The concluding programme was held on 29-09-2011 and was presided over by Dr. K. S. Ananda, Scientist-in-charge with Dr. P.R. Chandrashekhar, Scientist, Hevea Breeding Sub Station, Kadaba as the Chief Guest.

Parthenium awareness week observed at Kayamkulam

Parthenium Awareness Week was observed at Kayamkulam during August 16-22, 2011 and the valedictory function

was held during the study circle meeting on 22-08-2011. In his inaugural address, Dr. P.M. Jacob, Head highlighted the invasive nature of the carrot weed, *Parthenium hysterophorus* and the health hazard posed by the weed on humans. He urged all scientists to sensitize the ill-effects of the weed among farmers and student community. In his special sensitization lecture, Dr. Regi J. Thomas, Senior Scientist (Horticulture) elucidated the origin, distribution, health problems and management of carrot weed.

Onam celebrations

Onam Day celebration was organized by the Recreation Club at CPCRI Kasaragod on 07-09-2011 with various programmes



Onam celebrations by the Recreation Club at RS, Kayamkulam

such as ‘Pookkalam’ competition, ‘Pulikkali’, ‘Tug of war’, ‘Onassadya’, and ‘Uriyati’. Dr. M. Gopalan, Principal, Govt. College, Kasaragod was the chief guest. Regional Station, Kayamkulam

celebrated Onam on 06-09-2011. The main functions of the day were ‘Pookkalam’ competition, ‘Pulikkali’, ‘Vatam vali’, ‘Onassadya’, ‘Thiruvathirakali’ and ‘Uriyati’.

OTHER INFORMATION

Mid-term Institute Research Committee Meeting

The mid-term IRC 2011 was held on 22-09-2011 under the chairmanship of Dr. George. V. Thomas, Director, CPCRI, Kasaragod to review the progress of work under various ongoing projects. The mega project leaders presented the achievements of the respective projects. Various recommendations and suggestions were given for progress of the different projects in right direction. Three new projects were approved during the meeting.

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting

The 10th SAC Meeting of KVK was conducted on 12-08-2011. Dr. George V. Thomas, Director, CPCRI presided over the meeting. Dr. D.V.S. Reddy, Principal Scientist, Zonal Project Directorate, Bangalore, Dr. R. M. Pra sad, ADE, KAU, Dr. P.M Jacob, Head CPCRI, RS Kayamkulam, Heads of various line departments, Progressive farmers and representatives from KVKs of Kollam and Pathanamthitta Districts, attended the meeting. A leaflet on “Soil health management practices” and KVK Newsletter (Vol - 9, Issue-2) were released on the occasion.

Institute Joint Staff Council

The newly constituted Institute Joint Staff Council (IJSC) has the following members:



10th SAC Meeting of KVK, Alleppey

Official side		
1	Dr. George V. Thomas, Director, CPCRI, Kasaragod	Chairman
2	Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Head (PB&PHT), CPCRI, Kasaragod	Member
3	Dr. H.P. Maheswarappa, Principal Scientist, CPCRI, Kasaragod	Member
4	Dr. K.S. Ananda, Principal Scientist, CPCRI, RS, Vittal.	Member
5	Dr. V. Krishna Kumar, Senior Scientist, CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam	Member
6	Shri P. Balabrahmaiah, Senior Finance & Accounts Officer, CPCRI, Kasaragod	Member
7	Shri K.P.S. Gautam, Senior Administrative Officer, CPCRI, Kasaragod	Secretary (Official Side)
Staff side		
1	Shri V. Keshava, (T-5) Technical Officer, CPCRI, RS, Vittal	Member
2	Shri C. Ramesh Babu, PA, CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam	Member (CJSC)
3	Shri M.V. Sreedharan, T-3 (Technical Assistant), CPCRI, Kasaragod	Member
4	Shri O. Ramachandran, SSS, CPCRI, Kasaragod	Member
5	Shri M. Murugan, SSS, CPCRI, Kasaragod	Member
6	Shri M. Parameshwara, SSS, CPCRI, RC, Kidu	Member
7	Shri M. Ravindran, Assistant, CPCRI, Kasaragod	Secretary (Staff Side)

PERSONALIA

APPOINTMENT

Name of the official	Designation	Location	w.e.f.
Shri Baburaj S.B.	AFAO	CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam	10-08-2011

TRANSFER

Name of the staff / Designation	From (Place)	To (Place)	w.e.f.
Dr. P. Geetha, Scientist (Agronomy)	CPCRI, Kasaragod	SBI, Coimbatore	23-07-2011
Smt. E. Radha, Technical Officer (T-6)	CPCRI, Kasaragod	IISR, Kozhikode	22-09-2011

PROMOTION

Name of the staff	From (Designation)	To (Designation)	w.e.f.
Shri C. Jayantha	Technical Assistant (T-4)	Technical Officer (T-5)	03-02-2010
Shri M.V. Krishnan	Technical Assistant (T-4)	Technical Officer (T-5)	03-02-2010

RETIREMENT

Name	Designation	Place	Superannuation on
Shri Soorappa Gowda	SSS	CPCRI, RC, Kidu	11-08-2011
Smt. Premavally A.	Private Secretary	CPCRI, Kasaragod	31-08-2011
Shri Choma Kambalabettu	SSS	CPCRI, RS, Vittal	31-08-2011
Shri Cyprian D'Souza	SSS	CPCRI, RS, Vittal	30-09-2011
Smt. S. Rema Bai	Technical Officer (T 7-8)	CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam	30-09-2011



OBITUARY

Shri K. Karthikeyan, SSS, CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam passed away on 25-09-2011. Director and staff deeply mourn the untimely and sad demise and pray that his soul may rest in peace and tranquility



हर कदम, हर डगर
किसानों का हमसफर
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

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