

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR New Delhi inaugurating the bio-inoculant laboratory at CPCRI, Kasaragod. Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, DDG (Hort.), Dr. George V. Thomas, Director, CPCRI and Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, Director, CMFRI are seen



Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR New Delhi releasing the bio-inoculant formulation and handing it over to a progressive farmer at CPCRI, Kasaragod. Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, DDG (Hort.), Dr. George V. Thomas, Director, CPCRI and Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, Director, CMFRI are seen



Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR New Delhi releasing the coconut sugar packet and handing it over to a young entrepreneur at CPCRI, Kasaragod. Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, DDG (Hort.), Dr. George V. Thomas, Director are seen



Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, DDG (Hort.) releasing draft genome sequences of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) of coconut, cocoa and arecanut in presence of Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR at CPCRI, Kasaragod



Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR New Delhi watching the coconut inflorescence sap (Kalparasa)

collection protocol at CPCRI, Kasaragod. Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, DDG (Hort.), Dr. George V. Thomas, Director are seen

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Honourable Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, New Delhi inaugurated the Bioinoculant Laboratory Building of CPCRI, Kasaragod on Saturday the 8th March in the presence of Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, Honourable DDG (Horticulture). ICAR, New Delhi. This was followed by field visit where collection of coconut sap, 'Kalparasa', by a unique method developed by CPCRI was demonstrated.

In connection with the building inauguration function, Dr. S. Ayyappan and Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar addressed a meeting attended by staff of CPCRI, progressive coconut arecanut and cocoa farmers, entrepreneurs and women coconut climbers. Dr. George V. Thomas, Director, CPCRI, Kasragod had earlier welcomed the dignitaries. During the meeting Dr. S. Ayyappan distributed to farmers two PGPR based bioinoculants, Kera Probio, a talc formulation of *Bacillus megaterium* effective for raising robust coconut seedling and Cocoa Probio, containing *Pseudomonas putida* effective for raising healthy cocoa seedling, developed at CPCRI which were the output of ICAR funded network project on Application of Microorganisms in Agriculture and Allied Sectors (AMAAS) operated by NBAIM, Mau. Following this, Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar released the draft genome sequences of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria of coconut, cocoa and arecanut, an outcome of public-private partnership between CPCRI and SciGenom Lab Pvt. Ltd. Kochi. The draft genome sequences have been deposited with European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI).

Later, Dr. S. Ayyapan made public 'Kalparasa' the sweet coconut sap collected by CPCRI method and coconut sugar produced from coconut sap. He also released two important publications, i) "Research-farmer-extension interface on coconut and arecanut- an effective strategy for bridging the knowledge gap" that gives an account of the technologies developed for coconut and arecanut, the details of interface programmes conducted in Karnataka, the suggestions and feedback received from farmers and the strategies for strengthening the interface programmes. ii) "Thengu Krishi Reethikkal" in Malayalam gave a detailed account of technologies for enhancing productivity and income from coconut farming.

Several farmers and entrepreneurs who were benefitted by the technologies developed by CPCRI also spoke on this occasion. March 8th being International Women's Day, a women coconut pollinator spoke about her empowerment through coconut climbing and pollinating after getting trained at CPCRI.

The meeting concluded with a proposal of vote of thanks by Mr. Suresh Kumar, Chief Admin. Officer, CPCRI, Kasaragod.

