

RESEARCH-EXTENSION-FARMER INTERFACE PROGRAMME ORGANISED

A Research-Extension-Farmer interface programme on integrated management of diseases of coconut and arecanut was conducted at Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod (CPCRI). The interface programme was organized to discuss about various activities to be taken up for ensuring timely plant protection measures against bud rot disease in coconut and fruit rot (Mahali disease) of arecanut. Mr. Thirumaleswara Bhat, Principal Agricultural Officer, Kasaragod inaugurated the programme. Dr George V. Thomas presided over the inaugural function. Integrated disease management technologies including effective use of fungicides are available for the control of bud rot disease in coconut and fruit rot (Mahali disease) of arecanut. But crop loss can be prevented only if timely field level adoption of the recommended practices with the onset of monsoon is ensured. Besides the application of fungicides, crop sanitation measures and improving the health of palms through balanced application of manures also has to be given adequate attention. Studies have shown that in majority of the locations in Kasaragod district soil fertility status is low and are predominantly acidic. Hence corrective steps to maintain soil health assumes much significance in ensuring the effectiveness of pest and disease control strategies in coconut and arecanut, Dr George V. Thomas told during his presidential address.



Group approach of coconut and arecanut farmers is to be encouraged at grass root level to effectively implement the crop protection measures in time. Individual efforts alone will not be effective in preventing the spread of diseases. Further, skilled climbers are also to be involved in the planning and implementation of schemes for integrated management of diseases in coconut and arecanut because their service is essential to carry out the recommended practices for the control of pests and diseases.

Dr. Vinayaka Hegde, Dr. Thamban C., Dr. V.H.Pratibha and Dr. V.S.Pratibha made presentations in the interface programme on integrated disease management practices in coconut and arecanut. Mr Shajan Thomas, deputy Director of Agriculture offered felicitations. Selected coconut and arecanut farmers and officials of the Department of Agriculture from Kasaragod district attended the interface programme. Dr. Thamban C. welcomed the gathering and Dr. Vinayaka Hegde proposed vote of thanks.