Arecanut tissue culture technology commercialized

Arecanut tissue culture technology was commercialised through signing an Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod and M/s Sunglow Biotech, Coimbatore. The MoA was handed over by Dr. N K Krishna Kumar, DDG (Hort. Sci.), ICAR to Mr. T.S. Chelliah, Sunglow Biotech in a function presided by Dr. George V. Thomas, Director, CPCRI.

Shri T.S. Chellaiah, Sunglow Biotech, Coimbatore receiving a copy of the MoA from Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, Hon'ble DDG (HS)

Arecanut tissue culture protocol using inflorescence explant, standardized at CPCRI, has commercial value for rapid multiplication of elite genotypes such as yellow leaf disease (YLD) resistant arecanut palms and arecanut dwarf hybrids. More than 60 arecanut palms that were propagated using this protocol have been planted in different locations. Their growth and reproduction are similar to seed-borne plants.

In addition, a MoA was signed with M/s DJ Farm, Bangalore for commercialization of coconut embryo culture protocol. Embryo culture protocol of coconut was standardized at CPCRI during 1992-1996 and was successfully used for collection of exotic germplasm since 1997. The protocol has received international acclaim and is being used in different coconut growing countries. A total of 45 accessions have been collected using this protocol from 8 countries.

During the function, a promising technology for Collection of fresh and hygienic neera and production of natural coconut sugar was handed over to Mr. Sunny George, Chairman, Thejaswini Coconut Farmers Producer Company Ltd., Cherupuzha, Kannur.

As part of BPD Unit CPCRI, Agribusiness Incubation Centre was inaugurated by the hon'ble DDG (Hort. Sci.) during the occasion. BPD unit could attract over 85 walk-ins interested in coconut-based technologies of which 24 registered as incubatees. Facilities are created under the centre to enable practical experience for the incubatees on processing, packaging, selling, marketing and revenue generation of selected coconut value added products such as virgin coconut oil, coconut chips, desiccated coconut etc.

Plantlet derived from embryo culture in coconut