

Small and Medium Enterprises in Coconut Sector

Eighty nine farmers representing 42 Coconut Producer Societies in Alappuzha district participated in the interface programme on 'Small and Medium Enterprises in Coconut Sector' organized at ICAR-CPCRI Regional Station, Kayamkulam on 10 November 2017. Prior to the meeting the registered delegates visited experimental fields. Dr. Chandrika Mohan, Acting Head of Regional Station inaugurated the programme. She briefed about the salient achievements made in coconut research in the country and services offered at the Regional Station.



Dr. P. Anithakumari, Dr. A. Joseph Rajkumar, Dr. A. Abdul Haris, Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas, and Dr. Merin Babu interacted with the farmers and also facilitated the field visits. Dr. K. Muralidharan made a brief presentation on commercialized technologies from CPCRI and also about the services provided at AgriBusiness Incubation Centre.

Scientists from CPCRI, Kasaragod (Dr. Ravi Bhat, Dr. C. Thamban, Dr. Vinayaka Hegde, Dr. Anitha Karun, Dr. M. R. Manikantan, and Dr. K. P. Chandran) interacted with the farmers through videoconferencing.

Dr. Ramani Gopalakrishnan, CEO, Onattukara Coconut Producer Company flagged off the issues facing by the CPSs and CPCs. The following are salient points emerged in the meeting.

- The 'Karshika Vikasan Samithi' under Krishi Bhavans should have representatives from Coconut Producers Societies/Coconut Producers Federations.
- For branding value added products from coconut- linkages between Coconut Producers Company/CPF/CPS should be strengthened. Consortium of Coconut Producers Companies should be formed for marketing and branding value added products from coconut (like Neera etc.)
- Coconut Development Board should continue to support CPSs with appropriate schemes as in the past Plan Period.
- Bulk nuts from research institutes, CDB Farms, KAU Research stations and Dept. Farms are being utilized unscrupulously for seedling production. Efforts should be taken to curtail this practice by all concerned agencies. Enforcement from Coconut Development Board or Dept. of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to be made stringent and such erring coconut nurseries to be penalized/black listed.