‘Stake Holder’s meet on Arecanut Tissue Culture’

A stake holder’s meet on arecanut tissue culture was held on 9 November 2017 with a participation of over 40 delegates that include representatives from the company SPIC, Coimbatore; Director of Research, University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga; Director, ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Bangalore; CAMPCO, Mangalore; MAMCOS, Mangalore; TUMCOS, davenkare and Raichur; KVK-Project Coordinators from Mangalore, Sirsi, Uttara Kanada, Uduppi, Shivamogga, and Davengere; Dr. Narayana Swamy, Professor from UAHS, Shivamogga, progressive farmers and scientists from ICAR-CPCRI. The meeting was chaired by Dr. P. Chowdappa, Director, ICAR-CPCRI. He briefed about the objective of the meeting and stressed upon the need for replanting of senile arecanut palms and opined that the best option could be planting of dwarf arecanut hybrids.

Dr. K.S. Ananda, Head, ICAR-CPCRI(RS) Vittal made a presentation on development of dwarf arecanut hybrids and its advantages. Arecanut tissue culture protocol developed at ICAR-CPCRI using inflorescence explants was explained by Dr. Anitha Karun, Head, Crop Improvement Divison. Thereafter the participants discussed various aspects of technology commercialization including projected demand for planting material. discussions with the invited stakeholders.

Dr. Srinath Dixit, Director, ICAR-ATARI offered support by KVKs to undertake FLDs of dwarf coconut hybrids. Dr. M.K. Naik, Director of Research congratulated the ICAR-CPCRI team for developing the dwarf arecanut hybrids and mentioned about demand for dwarf arecanut in Shivmoga district.

Sri Konkodi Padmanabha, former President CAMPCO emphasized the fact that arecanut was a remunerative crop for the past several years. He wanted the opinion of the house on the cost of tissue cultured arecanut plantlets, and its economic life span.

Dr. Sreenivas Achari expressed his hope that farmers would whole heartedly take up cultivation of dwarf arecanut hybrids since there will always be a huge demand for arecanut.
Dr. Kesava Bhat raised concerns on the emergence of spindle bug in dwarf hybrid as a pest in Karnataka.

Dr. S. Narayanan, Director, SPIC gave a brief overview of activities of the company and gave an assurance of the commitment made by SPIC to ICAR-CPCRI on taking up commercial production of arecanut dwarf hybrids by tissue culture technology. He also suggested that a Regional Hardening Facility could be set up at the appropriate time when plantlets become ready.

Dr. P. Chowdappa in his concluding remarks stressed the need for considering the requirements of stakeholders and their acceptance before embarking on the commercial venture for multiplication of arecanut dwarf hybrids through tissue culture with M/s SPIC.