Aqua Farmer Awarded
First Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Anthodhyay Krishi Puraskar by Hon’ble Union Agriculture Minister

Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India Shri Radha Mohan Singh felicitated Shri Baburaj, an aqua farmer of Kozhikode district of Kerala, with First Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Anthodhyay Krishi Puraskar 2016 for Zone XI during birth centenary celebration of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya held at ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode on 25 September, 2016.

Addressing the farmers on this occasion, Hon’ble Minister emphasized the need of recognizing the contribution of small and marginal farmers and the landless to agriculture and its allied sectors.

Dr. K. Nirmal Babu, Director, ICAR-IISR Kozhikode and Dr Sreenath Dixit, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru participated in the award ceremony. Several farmers, fishermen, scientists from ICAR institutes and State Department Officials were present.

Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh presented the award consisting of a certificate, citation and a memento along with a cheque of Rs.50000/- to Shri Baburaj.

In this issue

- KVKs of Kerala participated in National Exhibition.....P.2
- Award winning farmers of the Zone.....P.3
- KVK of the quarter-Malappuram.....P.4
- Meetings of the quarter.....P.5
- Action meeting of seed hubs for pulses.....P.6
- KVKs in media.....P.6
- Group meetings on cluster FLDs 2016-17 under NFSM and NMOOP.....P.7
- From Director’s travel note.....P.8
KVKs of Kerala Participated in National Exhibition
Inaugurated by Hon’ble Union Agriculture Minister

More than 40 impressive stalls were arranged with latest technologies, technology inputs, and value-added products by ICAR Institutes; KVKs of Kerala; Kerala Agricultural University; Coconut Development Board; State Department of Agriculture; NABARD; FACT; Input Agencies; and Entrepreneurs. Shri. V.S. Sunil Kumar, Hon’ble Minister of Agricultural Development and Farmers’ Welfare, Govt. of Kerala, Shri. K.C. Venugopal, Hon’ble Member of Parliament, Alappuzha; Shri. Raju Narayana Swamy, Agricultural Production Commissioner & Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Shri. Biju Prabhakar, Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Kerala, Shri. P.R. Muraleedharan, Member, Coconut Development Board, and Dr. P. Chowdappa, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod were present on the occasion along with Directors of various ICAR Institutes in Kerala, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru, and the Director of Extension, KAU.

Shri. Radha Mohan Singh, Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India inaugurated National Exhibition on 29 September, 2016 which was organized as a part of the National Meet on “Prospects of Coconut Sector” and Kisan Mela-2016 held at ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam during 29-30 September, 2016.

Dr. P. Muralidharan, Programme Coordinator explaining about the KVK exhibits to Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
An IFS farmer Awarded Jagjivan Ram Abhinav Kisan Puraskar 2015 by ICAR

Shri Shankaramurthy S. N., belonging to Lingadhahalli, Channagiri Taluk of Davangere district, received Jagjivan Ram Abhinav Kisan Puraskar 2015 on the occasion of 88th ICAR Foundation Day held on 16-07-2016.

Shri Shankaramurthy is the farmer who started turmeric seed production for the first time in the district. He cultivates crops like coconut, maize, lemon, sapota curry leaf and jack fruit. Other enterprises owned by him are arecanut nursery, vermicomposting unit, azolla unit, farm pond, bore well recharge unit etc. His total annual income is Rs. 10 lakh from a total land of 2.5 ha.

Farmers Engaged in Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources Awarded Plant Genome Saviour Reward and Recognition 2013 by PPV & FRA

Farmers of the Zone nominated by KVKs won the Plant Genome Saviour Reward and recognition 2013 instituted by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), India for contribution in conservation and preservation efforts in the Plant Genetic Resources. The award includes a cash prize with citation and memento. Farmers and Programme Co-ordinator of the respective KVK jointly received the award from Shri. Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare during the Ceremony held on 24 August, 2016 at NASC, New Delhi.

Farmers who won the award

Shri. Melethil Beerankutty, Malappuram
Shri. Mohammed Mooppan, Malappuram
Shri. P.Krishnan, Palakkad
Shri. Benny Mathew, Palakkad
Shri. K.B.R.Kannan, Kannur
Shri. K. Narendran, Kollam
Shri. K.Raman, Thrissur (KAU)
Shri. T.Venkadapathi, Puducherry
Shri. Anjaneya, Davanagere
Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Malappuram won ICAR Best KVK Award for Zone VIII for the year 2015. Award was presented on the occasion of ICAR Foundation Day held on 16 July, 2016.

Successful Interventions

- Promotion of mechanisation through 'Krishi sahayi'
- Crop health management
- Production of organic inputs
- Promotion of ICT in agriculture
- Promotion of vegetable cultivation
- Promotion of farmer innovations
- Cultivation of mushrooms
- Value addition to fruits and vegetables

Source
Programme Coordinator
KVK, Malappuram
Phone: 0494-2686329
Fax: 0494-2687640
Email: kvkmpm@rediffmail.com

Convergence
KVK mobilized Rs. 208 lakh funding from external funding agencies during last 5 years through convergence with other development projects/programmes.

Revolving fund grew from Rs. 6 lakh in 2011 to Rs. 53 lakh by 2016 through production and supply of quality technological products.

External fund helped KVK to establish biocontrol lab, agri bio park, seedling production unit, facilities for vegetable seed production, mushroom spawn production unit, custom hiring unit, etc.

Strong linkage of KVK with various agencies like ATMA, Department of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, District Industries Centre, CDB, NABARD, VFPCK, etc., helped in large scale adoption of technologies all over the district.
Meetings of the quarter

Orientation programme for replacement of vehicle
- It was organized by ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru on 02 July 2016 in collaboration with Directorate of Extension, UAS Bangalore.
- A total of 44 KVKs participated to whom provision has been made for replacement of four/two wheeler in BE 2016-17.
- Explained about the procedure of condemnation of vehicle and rules & regulations while purchasing the new vehicle.

Women’s Complaint Committee meeting
Quarterly meeting of the Committee of ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru was held on 15th July 2016.
- Committee members and other women employees of the institute attended the meeting.
- Awareness was created among the employees regarding provisions of the Act and functioning of Women Complaint Committee.

Review and Action Plan Meeting of ARYA
- The Review and Action Plan Meeting for Attracting and Retaining Rural Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) was held on 20th July 2016 at ICAR ATARI Bengaluru.
- Progress made during 2015-16 was reviewed and action plan for 2016 -17 was discussed and finalized.
- It was suggested that special effort may be needed from KVKs to bring convergence into the ARYA project.

Meeting on Group Dynamics of Smallholder Farmers
A meeting on NABARD Project on “Group Dynamics of Smallholder Farmers” was held at ATARI, Bengaluru on 8 August, 2016.
- Dr. S. Ayyappan, NABARD Chair Professor, gave a brief of the proposed project including expected outcome.
- Discussed on the concept note and interacted with Programme Coordinators of selected KVKs.

First Institute Research Committee Meeting
- First IRC meeting of ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru was held on 17August, 2016.Dr.Sreenath Dixit,Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru chaired the meeting.
- Dr.Y.G.Prasad, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad attended the IRC as an external member.
- Research project proposals were presented by three scientists.

IMC Meeting of ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru
6th Institute Management Committee (IMC) meeting of ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru was held on 19 August, 2016.
- Dr.Chahal V.P., Assistant Director General (ADG), Agricultural Extension Division of ICAR, New Delhi and all other members of the committee participated in the meeting.
Held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru in the Conference Hall of ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru on 03.09.2016.

A total of 22 Officials related to respective Seed Hub KVKs and ICAR-ATARI, Hebbal, Bengaluru participated in the meeting.

At the outset, Chairman welcomed to all participants and briefed about the programme of establishment of Seed Hubs for pulses in the country funded under the NFSM through ICAR, New Delhi in general and in Zone VIII in particular. In his remarks, he made a mention that to cope up with the targeted production of pulses in the country, self reliance is more important than import of pulses. In this direction creation of Seed Hubs on pulses is one of the options to enhance pulses production.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Special Officer (Seed), (Former Director, ICAR - Indian Institute of Seed Science), UAS, Bengaluru in his remarks stated that seed component alone could increase the yield around 15%. He hoped to bridge at least 10% of seed requirement of pulses through creation of Seed Hubs on mission mode in the country.

Dr. Maheswaran, Director of Research, TNAU, briefly explained about the University’s endeavor in making available quality seeds to farmers and the available infrastructure for seed production at KVKs identified (Madurai and Villupuram) for establishing seed hubs.

Dr. B.T. Rayudu, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru made a brief presentation about the project on ‘Creation of Seed Hubs for Increasing Indigenous Production of Pulses in India’ providing details of the provisions of the Seed Hub project. He presented information on target of pulse seed production, budget allocation, guidelines for implementing Seed Hub project. This was followed by presentation of Action Plans by Programme Coordinators of Seed Hub KVKs for the years i.e 2016-17 to 2018-19. Seed production targets for each Seed Hub were discussed and finalised.

KVKs in Media

Newspapers covered 548 events related to major activities of KVKs during the Quarter. Further, KVKs gave a total of 155 Radio talks and 74 TV programmes.
Group Meetings on Cluster FLDs 2016-2017
Under NFSM and NMOOP

Review on kharif cluster FLDs

Reviewed the progress of crop-wise kharif cluster FLDs under NFSM and NMOOP through one to one interaction.

The shortfall in kharif targets due to unfavorable weather conditions were addressed and corrected without affecting the overall allocated area, demonstrations and budget.

Action Plan for rabi/summer cluster FLDs

Action plan of cluster FLDs for rabi/summer seasons was discussed among the Group of participants from cluster FLD KVKs.

Accordingly, finalised crop wise cluster FLDs for each KVK for rabi/summer seasons.

However, out of 2015 cluster FLDs (806 ha) on Sunflower sanctioned to Zone VIII, a total of 1075 cluster FLDs (430 ha) have been surrendered by KVKs due to non-availability of variety/hybrid of Sunflower in public sector as well as lack of area under Sunflower crop in some of the KVK districts allotted with cluster FLDs.

Suggested to discuss with the sponsoring agency and explore the possibility of change of crop from Sunflower to Sesame which is having area and demand from farmers.

Group Meeting for Cluster FLD KVKs of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry held on 19.09.2016 at TANU, Coimbatore.

Group Meeting for Cluster FLD KVKs of Karnataka held on 07.09.2016 at UAS, Dharwad.

July - September, 2016
The monsoon took off very well in the Zone and it was good to see every inch of land sown when I travelled from Bangalore to Dharwad by road during the first week of July. In fact, no piece of land was seen without a crop on it on either side of National Highway No.4 between Bangalore and Dharwad. This was indeed a treat to the eyes which gave hope of bountiful harvest after two consecutive years drought. However, from mid-August, the monsoon became weak and the crops started suffering from moisture stress. When I travelled the same track again during the end of August, it was a different scene altogether. Except for some early sown pulses and sunflower, farmers had no hopes of harvesting anything, once again farmers were deprived of a decent harvest despite a good beginning of monsoon.

I also travelled to Kerala where the rainfall was much less during the later part of the season. During all my three visits to Kerala I missed the usual down pour that is usually seen during monsoon season. I must also mention here the two very important events in the Zone during the quarter. One is Award Ceremony for honouring Mr. K. Baburaj of Kadalundi, Kozhikode, the first Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Anthyodhay Krishi Puraskar winner of the Zone for 2016. And the second was the participation of all KVKs of Kerala in the National Coconut Seminar cum Exhibition in Alappuzha District. I am equally happy to mention that in both the events Hon’ble Agriculture Minister, Govt. of India participated and enthused farmers and KVKs.

Sreenath Dixit