

d. Instructional Farm

Instructional farm of ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra (BSS), maintained in 15.6 hectares is an integral part of the institution. Farm produce highly efficient planting materials, and fertilizers and also demonstrate new agricultural technologies for the farmers. It is a home for increased bio diversity and species rich eco system. Different varieties of cardamom, specialised germplasm of pepper, fruit trees, medicinal plants, ornamental plants, coffee and other spice crops are maintained scientifically in this farm.

e. Demonstration units

ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra (BSS), has several demonstration units such as

- ✦ Animal husbandry unit,
- ✦ Pepper propagation unit,
- ✦ Cardamom Varietal Garden
- ✦ Vermi composting unit,
- ✦ Azolla unit,
- ✦ Medical and ornamental plants unit,
- ✦ Mushroom production unit
- ✦ Rural crafts unit
- ✦ Vam production unit
- ✦ Small cardamom unit
- ✦ Processing unit

f. Production units

i. Mushroom spawn production unit

ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra (BSS), is actively involved in the production and distribution of mushroom spawns. Here they are producing spawn of *Pleurotus florida* and *Hypsizygus ulmarius* var. CO-2. Thousands of spawn packets are produced and marketed in KVK on a monthly basis. Moreover, trainings on spawn production are also frequently organized as per the requirements of the farmer.

ii. Cardamom Varietal Garden

To provide the farmers with high quality planting materials of different cardamom varieties and showcase the varietal differences a dedicated Cardamom Varietal Garden is functioning in the KVK.

iii. Mushroom production unit

Scientific methods of mushroom cultivation was adopted by the KVK with a broad objective to publicise the mushroom cultivation among the farmers. This has opened new avenues of employment opportunities for farm women and youth and alternative sources of income for the farmers. Trainings are also conducted to create a potential bunch of scientific mushroom cultivators.

iv. Vegetable seed production unit

Organically produced vegetable seedlings are made available to the farmers through the sales outlet of the KVK at nominal rates. Seedlings of cool season vegetables are also available in portrays.

v. Horticultural Nursery

To provide the farmers with high standard planting materials of ornamental plants, fruit trees, grafted and budded and layered saplings, a dedicated horticultural nursery is functioning in the KVK. It is also a resource house of various indigenous and exotic Hibiscus varieties.

vi. Rural crafts unit

Rural crafts unit of this KVK has showcased exemplary skills in utilizing and converting agricultural waste into products of immense importance. Ornamental hand crafted products and boqae are made from coconut spathe, cardamom twigs, palm leaf, coconut flowers, dried twigs, leaves, and grass and coconut shells. Ornaments and boqae from paper is also prepared and marketed from this KVK. Farmers are also given skill trainings on the production and marketing of such products.

vii. Home science unit

Besides producing traditional value added products such as jam, jelly, Squash, pickles and wine, the home science unit has also contemplated scientific value addition techniques for under exploited fruits and vegetables. KVK has embarked upon and standardized the state of the art processing of tender cardamom pickle, whole spike pepper pickle, and thulsi herbal extract. Marketing of these products is also done by the institution. White pepper produced and marketed from this KVK is of high demand among the consumers.

Recognitions

Sri. Kuttachen Kakkad, the founder has been bestowed with many laurels and recognition for his dedication and selflessness. In 1994 he has received, the honour of best citizen by International publications and in 1997, he was the recipient of Vijayasree award by International friendship society and best social worker. The millennium achievers award of 2000 is another addition to his remarkable life.

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ICAR-KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA

(BSS),
IDUKKI

Towards a green farming,
towards a green future



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Towards a green farming, towards a green future

Genesis

A Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Bapooji Sevak Samaj had its humble beginning in 1971 at Chakkupallom, 6th mile, Kumily of Idukki district. It is an institution registered under Travancore Cochin literary scientific and charitable society's registration Act XII No. K-333/ 76 of 1955. In 1955, Krishi Vigyan Kendra or Farm Science Centre was started in Santhanpara under the society for the holistic development of farmers of Idukki district and for effective dissemination of information and technology related to innovative farming and Good Agricultural Practices. The society grew and developed under the vision and leadership of Sri. Kuttachen Kakkad, an eminent personality whose whole life has been dedicated to the upliftment of poor and distressed.

Our Profile

The NGO runs under the leadership of a chairman who is further supported by an active team of vice chairman, secretary, joint secretary, treasurer, and two executive members. Presently Smt. Reena Chacko of Kottayam district is the honourable chairman of BSS. To review and evaluate the activities of the BSS and to formulate future programmes, monthly meetings are conducted without fail.

Mandate of KVK

The overall mandate of the KVK is to develop and disseminate location specific technological modules at district level through Technology Assessment, Refinement and Demonstration and to act as Knowledge and Resource Centre for agriculture and its allied activities. The specific activities to carry out this mandate are:

- Conducting on-farm testing to identify the location specificity of agricultural technologies under various farming systems.
- Organizing frontline demonstrations to establish production potential of various crops and enterprises on the farmers' fields.
- Organizing need based training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills in modern agricultural technologies related to technology assessment, refinement and demonstration, and training of extension personnel to orient them in the frontier areas of technology development.

- Creating awareness about improved technologies to larger masses through appropriate extension programmes.
- Production and supply of good quality seeds and planting materials, livestock, poultry and fisheries breeds and products and various bio-products to the farming community.
- Work as resource and knowledge centre of agricultural technology for supporting initiatives of public, private and voluntary sector for improving the agricultural economy of the district.
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Location

Idukki which forms, the 13% of the total area of Kerala, is one of the largest districts of the state, with a total area of 5087 sq. km and a population of about 11.1 lakhs. About 97% of this mesmerizing district is occupied by rough mountains and dense forests. Moreover, 14 mountain ranges, 2000 metres above MSL also exists in this district. Idukki, known as the spice bowl of Kerala, attracts thousands of tourists every year, with its unique landscapes and cropping pattern. It is accessible only through roadways and NH 49 and state roadway 13 pass through this district. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra under BSS, is situated at Santhanpara, a misty hill station in the Kumili Munnar state highway.

Technical Expertise

KVK has a multi-disciplinary dynamic team of experts in agriculture and allied fields

- Agronomy
- Plant Protection
- Soil Science
- Horticulture
- Animal Husbandry
- Agricultural Extension
- Home Science
- Rural Craft
- Computer

Activities

The major activities of KVK is based upon the thrust areas of:

- Improvement in yield efficiency of major crops in the district,
- Mechanisation of agriculture leading to reduction in drudgery
- Scientific agricultural practices

- Trainings on innovative agricultural technologies,
- Introduction of new varieties among the farmers,
- Soil testing,
- Trainings on production of organic fertilizers and beneficial insects,
- Increased employment opportunities of farm women and youth
- Animal husbandry and value addition of fruits and vegetables.

Facilities

a. Soil testing laboratory

Soil testing is a vital pre requisite for understanding the efficiency of soils. On the basis of Integrated Nutrient Management, a well-equipped soil testing laboratory is functioning in the KVK since 2005 for the wellbeing of farmers. On the basis of soil testing conducted, a soil health card is provided to the farmers with detailed information on acidity, organic content, and deficiency of major and minor nutrients. Through the soil science department of the institution, the KVK also conducts, awareness classes on soil health, integrated fertilizer application, and other topics of interest of the farmers and relevance. Customised fertilisers for cardamom, pepper, banana, vegetables and vermicompost, earthworms, and vermi wash are also available for the farmers.

b. Bio agents

The KVK produces and distributes different microorganisms such as *Trichoderma viridae*, *Trichoderma hansiana*, and *Pseudomonas fluorescence*, to the farmers. Under the supervision of Indian Institute of Agriculturally Important Insects, situated in Bangalore, there is also a production unit of Entamo Pathogenic Nematode (EPN) functioning here. EPN has been found to be highly beneficial in controlling root grub of small cardamom. At nominal rates, about 38 organic products are produced and made available to the farmers through an outlet known as Bio Hub. Moreover, as per the needs of farmer, regular trainings and demonstrations are also conducted on varying subjects like pest and disease control, organic farming methods, beekeeping etc.

c. Custom hiring of Farm machineries

With the financial aid provided by the State Planning Board, ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra (BSS), has procured different farm machineries such as power tiller, paddy transplanter, paddy reaper and paddy thresher. Through this, the KVK aims to mechanise the rice cultivation, increase the yield and reduce the drudgery of farmers in the district. In addition, there are machineries such as pepper thresher, white pepper processing machine, garden tiller and brush cutters, required for the day to day activities in the farm. These machines can be used by the farmers on a daily rent basis.