



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA



(Bapooji Sevak Samaj)

Farm Science Centre, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India.

Pethotty P.O - 685 619, Santhanpara, Idukki (Dt.), Kerala

Volume 5

January 2018

Issue 1



Commemorating
10th Year of Heavenly Abode



Sri. KUTTACHEN KAKKAD
Founder Chairman, KVK

From the Editorial Desk



Concerted efforts by the team members of ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, hosted by Bapooji Sevak Samaj, Santhanpara, has made Transfer of Technology to the farmers of Idukki district seamless and effective. Agriculture contributes about 14% to India's economic output, despite nearly half of the country's population being involved in farm related activities. A poor monsoon had a ripple effect on the rural economy and demand for consumer goods. Healthy growth in agriculture is good news for the fast-moving consumer goods segment, which gets about a third of its sales from rural areas. The unprecedented fluctuations in the market price of many agricultural commodities coupled with demonetization and other strategic changes had wide-spread effects on the agrarian scenario of the district.

Cash Crops like coconut, rubber, tea, coffee, pepper, cardamom, arecanut, ginger, nutmeg, cinnamon etc. and food crops paddy tapioca etc. gives the agricultural sector of Kerala a distinct flavour. The agro climatic conditions in Kerala suits the cultivation of a variety of seasonal and perennial crops. Our KVK could constructively intervene in many of the technological gaps through meticulous & timely planning and executing different interventions like FLDs, OFTs, Field Visits, Diagnostic Visits and the like, thereby augmenting the acceptance among farmers. Tremendous and unconditional support from all the line departments made the journey to the hearts of farmers more fruitful and we are much indebted.

Our gratitude to Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Director and all the staff of ATARI is beyond all boundaries, who have been relentlessly supporting and guiding us in implementing the mandates of KVK in this district. We also thank all the farmer friends of this district and other well wishers who have stood with us in our efforts for the betterment of the agrarian scenario of Idukki district. "Team KVK-Idukki" through their inexorable efforts could succeed in perpetuating the commitments to the farmers. Bapooji Sevak Samaj recognizes these works as highly laudable and wishes all the team members the very best. Through this Newsletter, we proudly showcase our salient interventions and technology backstopping during the last one year for the betterment of the farming community of Idukki district.

Deenamamma Kuriakose
Director in-charge, KVK

Important Events

KARSHAKA SEVA KENDRAM

The Karshaka Seva Kendram (KSK) funded under the Department of Agriculture Development & Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of Kerala, was inaugurated at the ICAR-KVK (BSS) by Adv. V.S. Sunil Kumar, Hon. Agricultural Minister, Govt. of Kerala, in presence of Ms. Ushakumari P.G., Principal Agricultural Officer, Idukki. The objective of KSK is to develop safe and efficient bio-pesticide formulations and mass production techniques of various bio-control agents in Idukki. It also aims at imparting training on low-cost mass production technology of bio-pesticides to farmers and supply of subculture to clusters/planters for their use, which reduces environmental pollution and health hazards at farm level and attracts entrepreneurs.



SANKALP SE SIDDHI



Inauguration of Sankalp Se Siddhi programme was done at ICAR Krishi Vigyan Kendra (BSS), Santhanpara, Idukki, Kerala, on 29-08-2017. The function was presided over by Ms. Geetha Varadharajan, Member, Santhanpara Grama Panchayat. The function was inaugurated by Sri. M.M. Mani, Hon. Electricity Minister, who is also the local MLA, Govt. of Kerala.

Sankalp Se Siddhi (Attainment through Resolve) aims at a New India Movement in a term of five years from 2017-2022, which envisages an India free from poverty, corruption, terrorism, communalism, casteism and uncleanness. It also aspires to unite the entire country by adopting good governance

SWACCH BHARAT PAKHWADA



Swachh Bharat Pakhwada was organized in different parts of the district during 2017-18. The movement was initiated by an awareness seminar at KVK, followed by an oath taking by the participants reiterating their commitment to keep the premises and households clean and practice personal cleanliness and hygiene. Being ambassadors of the campaign, subsequent drives were also taken up in different schools during the fortnight.

BIO-HUB

The Bio-Hub funded under the Kerala State Planning Board, Govt. of Kerala, was initiated with the objective of conservation as well as production of bio-control agents which are safe and cost effective compared to the chemical pesticides. This helps in making availability all such inputs under one roof thereby reducing/eliminating the use of chemical pesticides in small cardamom and other crops. The unit was visited by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, (Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR) in presence of Dr. Sreenath Dixit (Director, ATARI, Bengaluru).



WORLD SOIL DAY

World soil day was celebrated on December 5th 2017 with the theme-"Caring for the planet starts from the ground." at ICAR-KVK, Santhanpara. The function was inaugurated by Mr. Senapathy Sasi, Chairman, Kshemakarya Standing Committee, Santhanpara Grama Panchayat. He also released the new Soil Health Card prepared by KVK and 150 soil health cards were distributed to the farmers. Technical session was handled by Dr. Suresh Kumar, Professor and Head, Radio Tracer Laboratory, KAU, Mannuthy, Thrissur. In the interaction session that followed, 88 farmers and 29 extension functionaries actively participated, clarifying their apprehensions on soil health.



ANIMAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN



Animal Health Campaign was conducted at Santhanpara Grama Panchayat Community Hall on 20th December 2017 and was inaugurated by Mr. P.T. Murugan, Vice President, Santhanpara Grama Panchayat. Technical session was handled by Dr. S. Kaleeswaran,

Veterinary Surgeon, Veterinary Hospital, Santhanpara in which 40 farmers and 35 farm women participated. Twelve animals were brought to the camp for various clinical symptoms and were diagnosed and corrective medicines were prescribed.



CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

World Honey Bee Day 2017 was celebrated at KVK, Idukki on 19th August, 2017, which was attended by 50 small cardamom farmers.



VEGETABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



This project on Micro-nutrient demonstration in vegetables was funded by Department of Agriculture. Seven panchayats (15 farmers) were selected from Nedumkandam Block for the demonstration. Prominent increase in yields were noted after scientific intervention with micro-nutrients.

SOIL HEALTH CAMPAIGN

Soil health campaigns were conducted in different areas of Idukki district. The campaigns were arranged to make the farmers aware of the importance of various soil parameters including macro and micro nutrients and their role in soil health management.



Report on Mahila Kisan Divas - 2017



Mahila Kisan Divas 2017 was observed on 15th October, 2017. Formally inaugurating the divas, Ms. Jisha Dileep, President, Santhanpara Grama Panchayat, stressed the importance of team KVK Idukki in handholding the women farmers of the district and appealed for a more concerted approach so as to reach out to the maximum women folk who are just into agriculture in a group mode. Ms. Vanaja Vijayan was awarded as the Mahila Kisan 2017 on the occasion.

Report on World Food Day – 2017

World Food Day was celebrated on the theme "Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and Rural development" on 17th October 2017 at Kattappana. Challenges and prospects of nutritional status of women and children, diet management etc. were addressed in detail.



TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

ICAR-KVK, Idukki had been in the forefront in the holistic development of farmers in the tribal belt of the district. The farming is now set on the progressive path incorporating scientific interventions and preserving indigenous wholesomeness and know-how. Corrective measures in pest and disease problems in their traditional farming system hitherto unknown in those areas were addressed taking into account of the bio-diversity and ecological balance.



Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting

The Eleventh Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting was held on 30th January, 2017. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Deenamma Kuriakose, Director i/c, Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the presence of Dr. C.V.Sairam, Principal Scientist (Agril Economics), ATARI, Zone-VIII, Bengaluru and Dr. S. Estelitta, Director of Extension, KAU, Mannuthy. The committee involving mandatory members along with representatives from the farming community and line departments critically evaluated the progress of work undertaken by KVK and put forth suggestions for future course of action.



Parthenium Awareness Week



Parthenium Awareness Drive was organized at KVK to make aware of the ill effects of the noxious weed *Parthenium hysterophorus*. The main content responsible is Parthenin, which is dangerously toxic and can cause dermatitis and respiratory malfunction in humans and dermatitis in domestic animals. The participants of the seminar later conducted a weeding process at the KVK campus to collect and destroy any Parthenium which came across the borders through fodder or cow dung and had established over the years.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS...

SUCCESS STORY OF A WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR



Rural Craft unit of KVK imparted six months' vocational training to a batch of 12 trainees on flower and bouquet making and among them was Mrs. Lovely Babu, Kollarackal, Rajakumary. During the training, she was interested in dry flower arrangements and was motivated to start an enterprise. Details on availability of raw materials like varieties of dried grasses, arecanut sheaths, palm leaves, corn husk, different types of cereals etc. and technical guidance for starting the unit were given, backed up by frequent follow-up visits. The unit now runs successfully with an average monthly income of 25,000 to Rs. 30,000.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT OF TRIBAL YOUTH



The Rural Craft Unit of KVK, Idukki has created an environment where women can seek knowledge and information, thereby empowering them to play positive role in their own development and in turn, the development of society. It paves way for enhancing the self-image and self-confidence in tribal women and enables them to recognize their contribution to the economy as producers and workers, earning their part of the bread.

PPV & FRA



PPV&FRA programme was conducted at KVK Idukki highlighting the need for conservation and protecting the rights of farmers on their indigenous varieties. Around 10 farmers have already registered their varieties with the PPV&FRA in Idukki district.

EXPOSURE VISIT

Training cum exposure visit on sustainable livestock and poultry production through Integrated Farming System mode for livelihood improvement was organized covering Indo-Swiss project, Mattupatty and High Range Milk Producer Company, Idukki, during 4-6 January 2017.



Major Technological Interventions

- ◆ **Assessment of suitable Black Pepper Foot rot (Quick wilt) resistant variety for Idukki District.**

IISR-Thevam showed least percentage of quick wilt disease incidence compared to farmer developed varieties and other local ruling varieties.

- ◆ **Assessment of different bio-pesticides and parasites against cardamom stem and capsule borer, *Conogethes punctiferalis***

Bacillus thuringiensis var *Kurstaki* was also found to be effective when combination with *Beauveria bassiana*.

- ◆ **Biological control of cowpea anthracnose disease, *Colletotrichum destructivum***

Treatment with *Hanseniaspora uvarum* (NBAIR Strains). @10ml/litre showed least incidence of anthracnose disease incidence.

- ◆ **Assessment of the effect of zinc and Boron on the yield of bitter gourd in comparison with vegetable top-up**

Foliar spray of micronutrient top up at 30, 45, 60 days after sowing along with recommended dose of NPK gave 20-22% higher yield.

- ◆ **Assessment of varieties of salad cucumber (*Brassica oleracea* var. *italica*) in poly house for high ranges.**

KPCH-1 is a good variety which gets an equal consumer acceptance when compared to Kiyan and has a better keeping quality.

- ◆ **Assessment of different methods of prophylactic management of Udder oedema disease in dairy animals**

Teat dipping by Dipol Solution 20ml in 1 litre of water using Teat Cup suppressed the disease condition and is well adapted for High range conditions.

Diagnostic Visits...



Multi Disciplinary Diagnostic Team visits are being conducted involving scientists from line departments in various parts of the district. Farmer field visits are also being organized on a need based manner to address site specific problems.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES



Need based on-campus and off-campus training programmes are being organized by KVK-Idukki in topics under Horticulture, Plant Protection, Soil Science, Animal Husbandry, Home Science and Rural Craft. Farmers can register and attend these training programmes to get updated on the scientific advancements on various aspects related to agriculture and allied enterprises and KVK also serve as a technical handholding agency for starting new agri-enterprises.

From the Media Corner

RADIO TALKS

- ◆ Scientific Dairy Cattle and Piggery Management - Dr S Jayababu SMS (AH)
- ◆ Scientific Mushroom Cultivation - Dr. Binu John Sam, PC i/c
- ◆ KVKs the Backbone of Indian Farming - Dr. Binu John Sam, PC i/c
- ◆ Integrated Crop Management in Small Cardamom - Sudhakar S, SMS (PP)
- ◆ Integrated Crop Management in Black Pepper - Sudhakar S, SMS (PP)
- ◆ Banned Chemicals & Safe Handling of Pesticides - Sudhakar S, SMS (PP)

TV TALKS

- ◆ Importance of Soil Testing - Ms. Manju Jincy Varghese, SMS (SS)
- ◆ Importance and Awareness of important Livestock Diseases & Poultry for Higher Productivity - Dr. S. Jayababu, SMS (AH)
- ◆ Role of KVKs in Addressing Farmers' Problems - Dr. Binu John Sam, PC i/c
- ◆ Aquaponics - Emerging Trend in Agriculture - Dr. Binu John Sam, PC i/c
- ◆ Water Conservation - Need of the Hour - Dr. Binu John Sam, PC i/c
- ◆ Iron Lady of Udumbanchola - Dr. Binu John Sam, PC i/c, Dr. S. Jayababu, SMS (AH)
- ◆ Terrace Vegetable Gardening in Containers - Dr. Binu John Sam, PC i/c
- ◆ Farm Based Low Cost Mass Production Technology of Bio-Pesticides - Sudhakar S, SMS (PP)
- ◆ Organic Vegetable Cultivation - Sudhakar S, SMS (PP)
- ◆ Organic Nutmeg Cultivation - Sudhakar S, SMS (PP)
- ◆ IPDM in Vegetables - Sudhakar S, SMS (PP)
- ◆ IPDM in Small Cardamom - Sudhakar S, SMS (PP)
- ◆ IPDM in Black Pepper - Sudhakar S, SMS (PP)
- ◆ Banned Chemicals and Alternatives - Sudhakar S, SMS (PP)

Compilation, Design and Layout : Dr. Binu John Sam, Programme Coordinator i/c, ICAR KVK (BSS), Idukki

Edited by : Dr. Binu John Sam & Shaji K. Kakkattu

Printed & Published by: Ms. Reena Chacko, Chairperson, Bapooji Sevak Samaj, Kottayam

Contributors: Dr. S. Jayababu, Manju Jincy Varghese, Sudhakar Soundarajan, Jayisy Joseph, Rachel Skariakutty, Biju Narayanan

Administrative Support: Shaji K. Kakkattu, Daisy Daniel, K.T. Mathew

Logistics & Assistance: P. Nandagopal, K.O. Jose, P. Sabu