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KAU NEWS

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CALL FOR EMPHASIS ON FIELD TRAINING IN CURRICULUM

MINISTER HIGHLIGHTS RELEVANCE OF DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Animal Husbandry, C. Divakaran called for more field activity oriented curriculum in Agriculture and allied branches of study. Laying the foundation stone for the Advanced Centre for Dairy and Food Technology (ACDFT), he also proposed a consortium of institutions offering courses and research facilities in inter related subjects as better co-ordination is bound to yield better results.

The minister stressed the need for developing each branch of science and reminded that those who lag behind the fast pace of knowledge accumulation and development will lose way. It is with the bonafide objective of sustaining such development that the Government has decided to establish a Veterinary University in the state.

The new centre as well as the new college of Dairy science in memory of Sri.K.R.Narayanan to be set up at Kolahala-



Rajaji Mathew Thomas, MLA; C. Divakaran, Minister; K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor; C. Raveendranath, MLA and C.B. Manomohan, Registrar

ACDFT is a multi institutional complex consisting of College of Dairy & Food technology, Food Incubation Centre, Common Facility centre, Food processing training centre, State of the art Milk processing plant and Model food processing units. The centre will ensure experimental learning and hands on training for Degree, PG and Doctoral programmes. It envisages integration of academic programmes with research in Dairy & Food technology.

medu will pave way for more development in dairy sector. Government has taken significant steps for the sustainable development of dairy sector. Decision to bring french breed of cows producing 50 litres of milk per day is such a vital step, the minister said.

KAU Vice-Chancellor K. R. Viswambharan, who presided over the function, delineated the steps taken by the University for the advancement of dairy sector in general and planning the components of ACDFT in particular. The Vice-Chancellor agreed with the minister on the importance of field training in professional education.

Rajaji Mathew Thomas MLA and Prof.C. Raveendranath MLA, Members of KAU Executive Committee offered felicitations. Dr.C.B.Manomohan, Registrar, KAU welcomed the gathering. Dr.P.C.Saseendran, Dean (Veterinary faculty) explained the project and Dr. Rajendrakumar, Associate Dean, CDST offered vote of thanks.

INNOVATIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

KAU has launched new academic programmes in subjects with contemporary relevance. Five year integrated PG programme in Climatic Change Adaptation is a course designed in collaboration with ISRO, ICRISAT & University of Western Australia. "It is the first of the kind in the world and is moulded to produce a new brand of scientists to combat the challenges of global warming and climatic changes" said K.R.Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, KAU, after his visit to University of Weastern Australia for discussions on curriculum content of the course.

Another innovative programme approved by KAU G C is the One Year PG Diploma in solid waste management, another first of its kind. "This course will be offered to professionals who wish to acquire practical know how in management of solid waste, which is a major problem confronting the society at large", said the Vice-Chancellor.

CoF SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS INAUGURATED

Right of indigenous tribes should be taken care of while implementing forest conservation and development projects, said Dr.C.S.T. Nair, Executive Vice-President, Kerala State Council for Science and Technology Education (KCSTE). He was inaugurating the silver jubilee celebrations of College of Forestry (CoF), KAU.

Despite advancement in many fields the country still lack a proper conflict management strategy - he pointed out. While congratulating CoF students for achieving high academic standards, Dr.Nair also urged them to strive for acquiring practical knowledge, which will only ensure success in testing situations.

K.R.Viswambharan,Vice-chancellor in his presidential address highlighted the academic achievements of the University in general and CoF in particular. While congratulating the students, Vice-Chancellor also urged them to strive for more recognition.

R.K.Dogra, ADG, ICFRE in his keynote said that Forestry education has to remain vibrant to prepare the students to take up the challenge and succeed. ICFRE is very happy to note the high rating CoF has achieved. He suggested that CoF has to grow



Dr.C.S.T Nair, Vice-Chancellor and Associate Dean at the inaugural ceremony

further and attain the status of the best forestry institute in Asia.

T. Madhava Menon, Former Vice-Chancellor, KAU, presented a paper on *Forests - Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*. He reminded that sustaining successful forestry is impossible without taking tribal population into confidence.

Dr. S.M.A. Aslam, First Special Officer of CoF laid the foundation stone for Ladies' Hostel. All former heads of the college were honoured and their portraits unveiled.

Dr.B. Mohankumar, Associate Dean welcomed the gathering and Dr.P.K. Ashokan, Director(Academic) proposed vote of thanks.

SUSTHIRASAMRUDHI - A POTENTIAL PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

KAU launched an innovative programme called Susthira Samrudhi aimed at enhancement of agricultural productivity and resultant economic resurgence in rural areas of the state.

In a workshop held at University auditorium representatives of Local Self Governments (LSG) interacted with KAU scientists and formulated projects in paddy farming, coconut cultivation, waste management, pisciculture, banana cultivation, vegetable seed production, mechanization of agricultural operations and aspects of animal husbandry.

Vice-chancellor K.R. Viswambharan explained that the programme has been launched in view of the pressing need for enhancing food grain productivity and empowerment of small and marginal farmers. KAU will form a help desk to extend prompt and proper aid to local bodies and render all possible help to farming community to sustain the momentum.

Prof. C. Raveendranath MLA, Rajaji Mathew Thomas MLA and P.V. Raveendran, members of the Executive Committee, KAU piloted the deliberations.

Return to nature : VC

K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor said that returning to the nature is the best option to ensure a peaceful living. He was inaugurating world environmental day celebrations at College of Forestry, Vellanikkara. The Vice-Chancellor planted three saplings of different species to set the ball rolling in all campuses of the University. 201 saplings were planted in College of Forestry campus alone. Dr. Mohan Kumar, Associate Dean and other faculty members participated.

In the CoA campus at Pilicode as well as RARS adjoining it, Asoka tree saplings were planted by peoples representatives. Pallipram Balan MLA inaugurated the programme at CoA Padannakkad while K. Kunjiraman MLA planted sapling at RARS. Dr. M. Govindan, Associate Dean i/c, CoA and Dr. Jayprakash Naik, Associate Director, RARS and all staff members were present.

Awards For Academic Excellence distributed

KAU Vice-Chancellor, K.R. Viswambharan cited neglect of Agriculture and Agricultural Science as the root cause of all environmental problems confronting the society. The Vice-chancellor was delivering key note address in a function organised by the University to distribute Sardar Patel institutional award endowment prizes to the university toppers in the seven branches of study under KAU.

The Vice-Chancellor also urged the award winners, whom he described as the best students of best Agri Varsity in India, to enhance and sustain thirst for knowledge and equip themselves to fight the new challenges like climatic change and global warming.

Later he distributed prizes to 21 students, one each from seven branches of study for the years 2007, 2008 & 2009. Each award winner received a Gold medal, certificate and cash award.

Dr. Joby. V. Paul, Registrar welcomed the gathering and Dr. K. Sudhakara, Associate Dean i/c, (Forestry college) proposed vote of thanks. Dr. P.K. Asokan (Director, Academic) presented the report. The Heads of institutions felicitated the award winners.



The Award Winners

2007 - Siju Susan Jacob (BVSc), Ajmy H. (BSc. Ag), Ashique Ali U. (BSc. Forestry), Remya Paul (BSc. C&B), Viji C.S. (BFSc), Anisha Prabhakaran (Dairy Science) and Athira P (Agrl. Engg).

2008 - Sumithra T. G. (BVSc), Vinitha Valsalan (BSc. Ag), Neethu Lakshmi (BSc. Forestry), Nimmy R (BSc. C&B), Jayasankar M (BFSc), Ria Celine Paul (Dairy Science) and Divya E (Agrl. Engg)

2009 - Radhika Syam (BVSc), Jisky Raphael (BSc. Ag), Yasoda Bai R. (BSc. Forestry), Anupama Balakrishnan (BSc. C&B), Dhanya. V (BFSc), Aparna Sudhakaran V (Dairy Science) and Susha Lekshmi S.U. (Agrl. Engg)

TOUCHSCREEN INFORMATION KIOSKS INAUGURATED

Advanced information pertaining to Agricultural and Animal Husbandry practices have been made available at finger tips, thanks to the touch screen information kiosks developed by scientists of KAU.

Rajaji Mathew Thomas MLA dedicated the touch screen kiosks to the farmers of Kerala at a simple function held at College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Mannuthy on 19th June 2010.

K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-chancellor explained the features of the kiosks. The kiosks were designed and developed by Dr. T.S. Rajiv, Asst. Professor, utilising the funds provided by Rajaji Mathew Thomas MLA

Prof. C. Raveendranath MLA, P. V. Raveendran and Dr. K. Aravindakshan, members of KAU Executive Committee, Dr. C. B. Manomohanam, ADE and peoples representatives participated.

NEW FODDER VARIETY DEVELOPED



Scientists at Cattle Breeding Farm (CBF), Thumbaruzhi developed a new variety of fodder ensuring high percentage of protein. It contains 17% protein

whereas the protein content in traditional varieties is limited to 11%.

Dr. Francis Xavier, Head, CBF explains that the new variety is liked by even small animals. It grows well in all types of soils and survives climatic variations as well. Its productivity index is also higher than traditional varieties of fodder.

KAU HONOURS PADMA BHUSHAN AWARDEES

Ashtavaidyan E.T. Narayanan Mooss and Dr. P. K. Warriar, doyens of Ayurveda and padma bhushan award winners were honoured by KAU in a solemn function at the medicinal plant orchard of the University.

While E. T. Narayanan Mooss accepted the appreciation in person Dr. P. K. Warriar could not turn up due to indisposition. Dr. P.M. Warriar, his representative, accepted the honour on his behalf.

K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, said that KAU's gesture is the proof of commitment to preserve basic values of life and honour two of the greatest practitioners of Ayurveda, an invaluable inheritance.

Ashta Vaidyan Narayanan Mooss in his brief speech stressed on the contemporary relevance of Ayurveda. He thanked the University for the warmth bestowed on him and the efforts to preserve Ayurveda. Dr. P.M. Warriar also thanked KAU on behalf of Dr. P.K. Warriar.

NEW RICE VARIETIES FOR SALINE TRACTS



Two new rice varieties ideal for saline rice fields have been developed by KAU.

These varieties have been developed by Dr. T. Vanaja, Assoc. Professor, CoA, Padannakkad, through a combined strategy of traditional Breeding techniques, innovative Organic Breeding tools, and Participatory Plant Breeding in the problem area of farmers. Christened 'Ezhome -1' and 'Ezhome - 2', these high yielding and non-lodging organic red rice varieties, meant for the saline prone rice fields have awn-less, non-shattering grains and favourable cooking qualities better than local cultivars. The average yields of 'Ezhome-1' and 'Ezhome - 2' are 3.5 tones/ ha and 3.2 tones/ha respectively which is 70 % and 60% more than that of local cultivars. These varieties differ in duration, and are having distinct morphological, qualitative traits, and different mode of salinity tolerance mechanism imparting varietal diversity to the unique ecosystem of Kaipad. The new varieties are expected to transform the vast kaipad area into an arable and highly productive farming land, leading to increase the production and export of organic red rice from Kerala.

For further details ref - <http://www.nature.com/nindia/2009/090430/full/nindia.2009.116.html>/<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ezhome>

Banana varieties

Yangambi km 5(AAA), a selection from introduced germplasm is a dessert banana variety with satisfactory yield and small fruits with sweet and mildly acidic taste. It is medium tall in stature and characterized by shiny light green pseudostem and large black blotches at the petiole base. Average bunch weight is 13 kg with 9 hands and 150 fruits. It is highly resistant to Sigatoka leaf spot. The tolerance of the variety to other major pests and diseases makes it ideal for homesteads.

Big Ebanga (AAB), a unique plantain variety selected from introduced germplasm, with good bunch yield and suited for annual cropping. It comes under the false horn plantain sub group characterized by a degenerating male bud, because of which budding after bunch emergence is not needed. It resembles Nendran in plant and growth characteristics. Bunch weight on an average is 14 kg with 7 hands and 45 fruits. Big Ebanga is adapted to all Nendran growing regions and tolerate shade and hence suited for intercropping in coconut gardens.

MoA WITH SRILANKA MOOTED



Guests from Sri Lanka with Vice-Chancellor

KAU Vice-Chancellor K.R. Viswambharan mooted mutual agreement between KAU and Sri Lanka in training of farmers and exchange of students. He was addressing a group of people's representatives and officials from the island nation who visited KAU on 14th June 2010. The thirty two member team was led by the chairman of Srilankan provincial council, H.M.M.Fanjisto, Leader of opposition D.D.K.Gamake and UNDP representative Rajendrakumar Ganesarajan.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the agro-climatic conditions of Sri Lanka and Kerala being identical and major crops common, the feasibility of conducting common programmes for farmers and students as well as sharing the traditional know how is brighter. He further elaborated the new courses. KAU is introducing in view of the contemporary relevance of global warming, climate change and solid waste management, which are threatening the very existence of our ecosystem.

The Sri Lankan leaders expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended to the group by KAU. They specially thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the warmth and cordiality in arranging the visit at a very short notice. The leaders unanimously agreed with the suggestion of Vice-Chancellor for mutual collaboration and declared that the steps to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with KAU will be expediated.

Rajaji Mathew Thomas MLA elaborated the achievements of KAU in academic and research fields. He also suggested that Sri Lanka may sponsor students for the new courses KAU has launched. Dr.C.B.Manomohan, Registrar, Dr.D.Alexander, Director of Research and heads of colleges in the main campus also took part in the deliberations. Later the Sri Lankan team visited identified locations and labs at Vellanikkara.

Forestry Service Examination SEVEN STAR GLORY FOR KAU



Deepa K.S, Neenu Somarajan, Bijo Joy, Neethu lakshmi, Yasoda Bai, Hari krishnanan, Anjana Tirki

Seven students of College of Forestry, including five girls have brought glory to KAU by securing high ranks in the Indian Forest Service (IFS) examination 2009.

KS Deepa (19th rank), Neenu Somarajan(26th rank), Bijo Joy (27th rank), Neethu lakshmi (29th rank), Yasoda Bai (42nd rank), Hari Krishnan (45th rank) and Anjana Tirki (72nd rank) are the winners.

With this one more feather have been added to the crown of academic excellence of KAU. In the previous year five students from College of Forestry had entered IFS.

KAU TO PARTAKE IN PEECHI BEAUTIFICATION DRIVE

K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor inaugurated a workshop on finalising Peechi beautification programme held under the auspicious of Destination Management Council (DMC). The Vice-Chancellor pledged the support of KAU scientists and students for the proposed plan to establish a bio-diversity park at the site adjoining picturesque Peechi dam site. The bio-diversity park would include a butterfly park, medicinal plant orchard, rope way, a collection of different varieties of trees and a garden with rare species of plants. KAU students will take up the responsibility to maintain the park and other agencies involved viz. KFRI, KERI & Dept of Irrigation will ensure necessary components. Rajaji Mathew Thomas MLA, who is also the Chairman, DMC presided. Scientists of KAU, KFRI, Officials of Forest Dept, KERI & Dept of Irrigation and KAU students participated.

Awarded PhD.

R. Ayisha, CoA, Vella - yani, has been awarded PhD in Plant Pathology for her thesis on *Characterisation and management of viral diseases of black pepper*. She completed the work under the guidance of Dr. Joseph P.J, Professor, CoA, Vellayani.



Academic Performance:

KAU BAGS NATIONAL LEVEL AWARD AGAIN



Vice-Chancellor receives the award from Sarad Pawar

PACKAGE OF PRACTICES - CROPS REVISED

Packages of practices for various crops were revised in a state level workshop organized by KAU. The revised edition will be officially released.

K.R.Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor, inaugurated the workshop held at KAU Central Auditorium in collaboration with ICAR, Dept of Agriculture, SHM & VFPC. Along with scientists from KAU, officials from the collaborative institutions and farmers participated.

Thirty five new varieties were also released on the day. They include two varieties of rice, seven of coconut, two strains each of cowpea, banana and ginger, four varieties of pepper, two varieties of cashew and turmeric and one each of chilli, drumstick and elephant foot yam. An indigenously designed garden transplanter was demonstrated as well.

Dr. K.Karunakaran (Former Director of Research) and Dr. C.C.Abraham (Former head, CoH) piloted the deliberations in a technical session on rice. Cropping pattern and fertilizer application for sugarcane, coconut and arecanut were discussed in another session chaired by Dr. D.Alexander (Director of Research). Dr. Sverup John and Dr. Achamma Oommen were moderators in the session on pulses, oil seeds and tuber crops while Dr.E.V.Nybe led the session on vegetative propagation, integrated nutrient management and eco friendly plant protection.

Dr. M.K.Sheela (Director of Extension), Dr. C.B.Manomohan (Assoc. Director of Extension), Dr. R.V.Nair (Head, CPCRI) and Dr. S. Estellitta (Head, Communication Centre & Convenor) co-ordinated the workshop.

KAU won the ICAR Performance Award for 2009-10, third year in a row.

Vice-chancellor, K.R.Viswambharan, received the award from Sharad Pawar, Hon. Union Minister of Agriculture, consumer affairs and public distribution. Prof. K.V. Thomas, Hon. Union Minister of State and Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR were also present.

The award is given to the university, the students from which, win the most number of Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) at national level. KAU students outsmarted students from 45 other Agricultural Universities in the country. KAU achieved this distinction during 2007-08 and 2008-09 as well.

NEW DIRECTORS AND DEANS APPOINTED

Dr. P.V. Balachandran has taken over as Director of Extension. Former Head of RARS, Pattambi, he was serving as Director, State Paddy Mission. Dr. Balachandran is a noted Agronomist, who had won Common Wealth fellowship for Post Doctoral studies in University of Bristol, UK. He has authored over fifty publications and developed and popularised organic farming practices of rice in Kerala.



Dr. T.R. Gopala Krishnan has been appointed as Director of Research. Winner of the first Young Scientist Award instituted by the State Govt., Dr. Gopalakrishnan has also won several national level recognitions including prestigious Krishi Vigyan Award (1996). He has developed eleven popular vegetable varieties. A reputed horticulturist, Dr. Gopala Krishnan was Special Officer, Seed authority, KAU. He is a former Managing Director of VFPC also.

Dr. Sverup John has taken over as Dean (Faculty of Agriculture). He was the head of Onattukara Regional Research Station. A plant breeder who has specialised in oil seeds & pulses, Dr. Sverup John has developed several varieties of rice, sesame and cowpea, which has been widely accepted for higher yield and pest resistance.



Dr. M. Sivaswamy is the new Dean for faculty of Agricultural Engineering. He was Professor in the Dept. of Farm Power Machinery and Energy, KCAE & T, Tavanur. Dr. Sivaswamy has made several advancements in mechanisation of Agricultural operations.

Dr. C.B. Manomohan takes over as Registrar

Dr. C.B. Manomohan has taken over as Registrar, KAU on 11-06-2010. He succeeds Dr. Joby. V. Paul, who was holding the charge of Registrar from 2007. A professor in Veterinary



Dr. Joby V. Paul handing over charge to Dr. C.B. Manomohan

Pathology, Dr. Manomohan was hitherto serving as Associate Director of Extension. He is a former member of KAU Executive Committee as well.

Dr. Joby V. Paul, who laid down the office of Registrar, KAU was given a fitting farewell by KAU community at the Head quarters conference hall. Sri. K.R. Viswambharan, Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the meeting. The Vice-Chancellor also presented a memento to Dr. Joby V. Paul, on behalf of KAU.

General Council Meeting

108th meeting of KAU General Council will be held at 9 am on Saturday, 24th July 2010 at KAU Head Quarters Conference hall, informs Registrar.

KAU PAVILION WINS PRIZE

The KAU pavilion was adjudged as the best major pavilion in Thrissur pooram exhibition 2010. The KAU pavilion is an effective tool in transfer of technology and familiarising public with research activities of the university. Dr. Estellitta, Professor, Communication Centre & Convenor, exhibition received the award from Therambil Ramakrishnan, MLA.

