

Workshop on Neera at Chennai

A workshop on Neera was organized by Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission in collaboration with RO, CDB, Chennai at Ezhilagam, Chennai on 29.10.2015 under the chairmanship of Smt. Shantha Sheela Nair, IAS (Rtd), Vice Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission to review the policy on neera in Tamil Nadu. The policy makers from the Govt of Tamil Nadu who attended the workshop include Shri.Rajesh Lakhani, IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner cum Secretary (Agriculture) ; Shri. S. Krishnan, IAS ,Principal Secretary to Govt, Planning & Development Department; Shri.Harmander Singh IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt., Handloom, Handicrafts, Textiles, Khadi Department; Mrs. Jayashree Muralidharan IAS, Registrar of Co-operative Societies; Shri.Sudalaikannu, IAS , Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu Khadi & Village Industries Board; Shri. Manoharan, IAS, Director, Directorate of Agri. Mkg. & Agri Business; Dr.M.Rajendran,IAS, Director of Agriculture and Dr.C.N. Maheswaran,IAS , Commissioner, Prohibition & Excise ,Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai. Other concerned officers from Govt. of Tamil Nadu were also present. The meeting started at 11.30 AM with the welcome address by Shri. Anil Meshram, IAS, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission followed by a video clipping on neera tapping. Mr. Sasikumar C., Technical Officer briefed on neera tapping and the available technologies on neera processing. Further, Mr.Padmanabhan, Director, Palakkad CPC Ltd., made a presentation on the success story of Palakkad CPC in neera production and its value addition.

Shri. T K Jose IAS, Chairman, Coconut Development Board, Kochi made a presentation on Neera- A Golden Opportunity for Tamil Nadu. He briefed on the rationale and objectives of Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs), on Tamil Nadu prohibition act 1937, on Tamil Nadu Neera and Padani Rules 1939, steps to be taken for making amendments in Neera policy and on the benefits and advantages to farmers and the state if the neera production is initiated in the Tamil Nadu.

The Vice Chairman, State Planning Commission in her concluding remarks suggested that if the farmers are getting such huge benefits through neera tapping, the state may consider amending the policy. It should be under the purview of state Excise policy itself. The Excise commissioner informed that this may be taken up with the state government for further follow up. CEO, Tamil Nadu Khadi & Village Industries Board, Member Secretary and Member (Agriculture and Irrigation) of the State Planning Commission also supported the suggestion.

