

## Chairman and Members of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices visited CDB

Dr.Ashok Vishandass, Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACAP), Dr. Shailaja Sharma, Member Secretary, CACP and Dr.R.K. Sharma, Joint Director, CACP had visited CDB from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2014 to conduct discussions for recommending the Minimum Support Price for copra for season 2015. The delegation was taken on a field visit to Kodungallur Coconut Producer Company Limited on 18<sup>th</sup> August. They had an interaction with the Directors of the Producer Company and the officials of the member Federations regarding coconut cultivation and the problems faced by coconut farmers. The farmers opined that a MSP of rs. 100/- per kg of copra may be considered by CACP taking into account the increased cost of production and the inflation rates. The delegation also visited the integrated coconut processing unit of the company, Chairman CACP formally inaugurated the expeller unit and the packing unit of coconut oil in the complex. The delegation visited the virgin coconut oil unit of AL Malabar coconut products in Thrissur in the afternoon. They had discussion with the Managing Director and the officials of the Company. They had a visit of the manufacturing unit where virgin coconut oil and defatted desiccated coconut were manufactured. The Company also had packing units for the export of raw coconut. They were also into production of good quality coconut oil and vinegar and beverages from coconut water. The delegation had discussions with the various stakeholders in the coconut sector on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2014. They initially had discussions with the Chairman and Directors of the 12 Coconut producer Companies facilitated by CDB in Kerala. The representatives from the Coconut producer Companies suggested MSP in the range of Re.100-108/- per kg of copra. They also submitted memorandums to the Chairman, CACP regarding their issues in the sector and their suggestions towards recommendation for MSP. This meeting was followed by a meeting with representatives from NAFED, the nodal agency for procurement of copra under Price Support Scheme. The issues faced by NAFED in procurement and the ways and means to make the system efficient was discussed in detail. This was followed by a discussion with representatives of the Farmer Organisations attached to different political parties. One of them suggested that as per the Manifesto of the current Central Government, the MSP declared should be to the tune of Rs.140/- per kg of copra in order to ensure a minimum of 50% of profits over the cost of production. This was followed by a presentation and discussion with the officials of CDB. Chairman, CDB briefed the delegation regarding the prevailing prices of coconut, copra and coconut oil, cost of cultivation and the recommendation of CDB at Rs.7850/- per quintal for milling copra and Rs.8150/- per quintal for ball copra. The delegation were also briefed on the problems and the prospects in the coconut sector.

