

Coconut Board hosted the DAC-ICAR interface

The Coconut Development Board, Kochi hosted the DAC-ICAR two days Interface organized by Dept. of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, ICAR Institutes and State Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture at Hotel Woods Manor, Ernakulam on 16th and 17th June 2014. The Interface was headed by Shri.D.K. Jain IAS, Additional Secretary, DAC, Govt. of India, Dr.S.K. Malhotra, Horticulture Commissioner, Govt. of India, Shri.T.K. Jose IAS, Chairman, Coconut Development Board and Dr.George V. Thomas, Director, CPCRI, Kasargod. Institutional heads of various ICAR institutes and Director of Agri / Horti of State Departments, officials from Coconut Development Board participated in the inter face programme.



Introductory address by, Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Horticulture Commissioner, Govt. of India, Shri. D.K. Jain IAS, Additional Secretary, DAC, Govt. of India and Shri. T.K. Jose IAS, Chairman, Coconut Board are seen.



Inaugural address by, Shri. D.K. Jain IAS, Additional Secretary, DAC, Govt. of India



Interface - a view

In the inaugural session, Shri.D.K. Jain IAS, Additional Secretary (DAC) informed that the objective of brain storming interface is to chalk out the problems / requirements being faced by farmers from concerned states which are not appropriately conveyed to the ICAR Institutes/Dept of Agriculture to adopt suitable technologies and researches to find out solutions in agriculture sector. This is possible only through active co-ordination of DAC, ICAR and State Departments. Our neighbouring country Vietnam is doing far better in agriculture sector. There is a lot of potential in employment generation and export earnings in our country. Despite our very strong team of technical know- how and experts in development side, we could not reach to the level of neighbouring countries. This is really a concern for us, he added. State wise updated statistics in the agriculture sector is essential for formulating strategies in agricultural sector. In the absence of adequate quality data we could not proceed in appropriate way. In this regard Dr.D.K.Jain sought the co-operation mainly from state departments.

Dr.S.K. Malhotra, Horticulture Commissioner in his introductory speech informed that two major issues in horticulture sector are sustainable production and competitiveness in agriculture. The interface is a real platform to chalk out issues in agriculture sector especially in plantation crop /spices crop sector. The interface would really come up with adequate solution. An active coordination of DAC and ICAR is essential in this regard. We need to work together for the progress of Horticulture / Agriculture sector in the country, he added.

Shri.T.K. Jose IAS, welcomed the gathering and Shri. Tamil Selvan, Additional Commissioner (Hort.) proposed vote of thanks.

ICAR Institutes such as CPCRI, CTCRI, DOPR, AICRP Palms and DAC Institutes such as Coconut Board, DCCD, DASD, CIH and State Depts. In Kerala, Tamil Nadu., A.P., Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, J&K, Meghalaya, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand participated in the discussion.

Technical papers viz. Production of planting material for recommended varieties of plantation crops, Production technology of plantation crops, Organic production of plantation crops including Good Agricultural practices, Integrated Pest Management in plantation crops, Integrated Disease management in plantation crops, Production and Availability of Quality planting material production and availability in cashew, Production of planting material for recommended varieties of Spices crops, Production Technology of Spices crops, Organic production of Spices crops including Good Agricultural practices, Integrated Pest & Disease Management in Spices crops, Production technology of Seed Spices, Cardamom production technologies and development activities of Spices Board were presented by scientists /experts from various institutes all over the country.

Action points of the 2 days interface were chalked out and same will be reviewed after six months.