

## **Awareness Programme on Coconut Pest & Disease Management held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at Turvekere, Karnataka**

One-day awareness programme on Pest & Disease Management and value addition in coconut was conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at Turvekere, Tumkur District in association with the Department of Horticulture & Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Konehalli, Tumkur District. The programme started with the welcome address by Shri Gangadhar, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Turvekere.

Dr.T.I. Mathewkutty, Director, CDB, Bangalore inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp. In his inaugural address he expressed his happiness for organizing such programme and selecting area of coconut district where there is vast scope for productions improvement and for establishing processing units and entrepreneurs/ progressive farmers should come forward to avail the benefit. Also he mentioned that there are ample No., of technologies available from different sources for establishing the coconut processing units and this programme will definitely benefit the entrepreneurs and farmers of this area to get awareness on this aspect. Further he mentioned that now a day the coconut growers are facing lots of problem in selling out their produce. Also he requested the farmers to unite and form the CPS in this area which will benefit the Coconut farming community.

Shri. B.N Prasad, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Tumkur also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of Horticulture Department Schemes and also on problems faced by the coconut farmers of district for which the department has taken all measure to control the pest and disease.

Shri.Vijayakumar Hallikeri, Deputy Director, CDB explained different schemes/ programmes of Board and requested the farmers to come forward and avail the benefits for improving their productivity level in the gardens. He informed that the main objective of organizing such programme is to make aware the farmers about the prevailing local problems and its solutions for improving the coconut gardens and increase their economic status. Also requested the farmers to adopt all package of practices of the university to get more benefit in increasing the production & productivity and controlling pest & diseases. Also he called upon the entrepreneurs and progressive farmers to diversify the activities and to establish more and more processing units & to form Coconut Producers Societies.

Shri. Vishveshwaraian, President, Coconut Growers Association, Turvekere in his presidential address expressed his gratitude to Coconut Development Board for having arranged useful programme and also appreciated the work carried out by the

Board for the benefit of coconut growers. Further requested all the farmers to Cooperate to form the CPS. He further added that the farmer shall take interest to take care of plantation and improve the productivity by following the different field practices. He requested the Board and institutes to extend the information available with them to the farmers by organizing more awareness programmes in all the coconut growing taluks of the district. He also requested the farmers to take the advantage of such programme and adopt the technology and ideas provided by the departments. At last he requested the farmers to start using coconut oil as cooking medium in their house first and start popularizing the product slowly.

There after technical session started and the following subject matter specialists given power point presentations on the following topics:

Dr. K.M.Shreenivasareddy, Subject Matter Specialist, Plant Protection, KVK, Konehally made a presentation on "Pest Management" in coconut and recent agronomic practices to be followed in coconut garden.

Dr. Palanna, Pathologist KVK, Konehally made a presentation on "Recent Advances in Pest management in Coconut Garden.

Dr.Mamatha, Food Nutrition, KVK, Konehally made a presentation on value addition of Coconut & health benefits of coconut oil, tender coconut and other coconut products.

Dr.Nanjappa progressive farmer from Turvekere shared his experience in Coconut Cultivation & also health benefit of Coconut oil.

After the technical session, interaction session was held and the technical queries raised by the farmers were answered. More than 200 progressive farmers, entrepreneurs, and departmental officers from various institutes participated in the programme. The Board displayed the different byproducts of coconuts, handicrafts, charts and posters and collected subscriptions. The participants were very happy to see the exhibits and very eager to know the technology and expressed their willingness to set up such units under the TMOC programme of Board.

The programme concluded with vote of thanks extended by Shri.Siddabasappa, Secretary, Coconut Growers Association, Turvekere. He expressed his gratitude towards the Board for conducting such a programme in Turvekere and this type of programmes will provide immense opportunity for the farmers to come forward to avail the benefits provided by Board.