

# Coconut Farmers and Entrepreneurs' Meet held at Mangalore, Karnataka on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Coconut Development Board organized Coconut Farmers and Entrepreneurs Meet at Fisheries College Auditorium, Kankanady, Mangaluru on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015. Around 250 people from the Coconut Producers Societies/Federations/Companies and entrepreneurs participated in the meet. Shri. Nalin Kumar Kateel, Hon' ble Member of Parliament & Member, CDB inaugurated the meet. Shri. T K Jose IAS, Chairman, CDB in his keynote address said that the total coconut area of three districts of Karnataka viz. Tumkur, Hassan, Chitradurga is more than the coconut area in Srilanka and is exporting more value added products than India. The value added products of the coconut like Coconut Milk, cream etc, are imported by our country from Indonesia, Thailand etc. There is a huge potential for Coconut value addition and export, which is possible through the Coconut Producer Companies. There is license for neera tapping in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and other neighbouring states. The Karnataka Government has yet to amend the Excise Act for tapping Neera. The neera tapping and its value addition will give additional income to the coconut farmers.

Shri. Nalin Kumar Kateel, Hon' ble Member of Parliament & Member, CDB in his inaugural address stressed the need for the coconut park in the district. He also extended his support for the development of Coconut Sector and the establishment of FPOs in the district. Shri. J R Lobo, MLA, Mangalore South, presided over the meet and appreciated the board activities and assured permission for Neera tapping in Karnataka will be taken at appropriate level. Smt. Asha Thimappa Gowda, President, Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayath, Smt. Jacintha Vijay Alfred, worshipful Mayor, Mangaluru City Corporation and Dr. Chowdappa, Director, CPCRI, Kasaragod addressed the

gathering. Shri. Hema Chandra, Deputy Director, CDB, RO, Bengaluru, welcomed the gathering and Shri. Siddarameshwara Swamy, Assistant Marketing Officer, Kochi proposed vote of thanks.

The inaugural session was followed by a technical session chaired by Dr. Chowdappa, Director, CPCRI. Dr. K.B.Hebbar, Head PB & PHT, CPCRI briefed about the value added products of Coconut with special reference to Neera. The training programmes for the value added products conducted by the CPCRI were also briefed. Dr. Ravi Bhat, CPCRI briefed about the Advanced coconut cultivation technology for coastal Karnataka and about the Utilization of coconut waste for the improvement of soil physico chemical properties. Shri. Hema Chandra, Deputy Director, CDB, Regional Office, Bengaluru briefed about the TMOG projects and the impacts of the TMOG. Kum. Geethu, Food Processing Engineer, CIT, Vazhakulam briefed about the Neera processing Technology developed by CDB Institute of Technology. Kum. Simi Thomas, Technical Officer, CDB, Regional Office, Bengaluru briefed about the Coconut Producer Organizations in Karnataka – History, Current status and facilitation by CDB. Shri. K Parameswaran, Regional Business Leader, M/s Alfa Laval, Bengaluru briefed about the separator machineries for mature coconut water, coconut milk, virgin coconut oil, neera etc. Shri. Shivakumar, Assistant Manager, M/s Teakrafts Ltd, Coimbatore briefed about the machineries for desiccated Coconut.

An exhibition was also organized as a part of the programme where in CDB, Keratech, Thrissur, Indous Bio Products, Puttur, Palakkad Coconut Producers Company Ltd, Thejaswini Coconut Producers Company Ltd, Kannur displayed their products.

