

Shri Pravesh Sharma, IAS, Managing Director, SFAC (Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium) visited CDB and held discussion with Shri.T.K Jose IAS, Chairman & Senior Officers of CDB and Coconut Producer Company representatives on 19-5-2015



The Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), promoted by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, has expressed their interest in supporting the Farmer Producer Organizers (FPOs) registered under Coconut Development Board (CDB). Mr. Pravesh Sharma IAS, Managing Director of SFAC has promised all possible help to FPOs under existing schemes of SFAC. He was speaking at a meeting held at the head quarters of CDB under the chairmanship of Mr. T.K. Jose IAS, Chairman, CDB.

He also praised the activities of the FPOs and said they have done an excellent work in running the projects successfully. Mr Sharma also urged that the focus should be given on value addition. He also said that the real purpose is to bring the farmers into the value chain which will make them eligible for 40 to 50 per cent share of consumer price compared to 20 to 25 per cent recurring currently.

Support solicited by the FPOs include collateral free loan upto Rs.500 lakhs and equity grant equal to 25 per cent of equity raised by the farmers or Rs. 50 lakhs whichever is less and raising venture capital assistance from Rs.50 lakhs to Rs.100 lakhs.

Mr. Sugata Ghosh, Chief Coconut Development Officer, CDB, Mr. A.K. Nandi, Secretary, CDB, Mr. Rajeev P. George, Director, CDB and representatives from various FPOs in Kerala also attended the meeting.