

Delegates from Thailand based CP Group visited CDB on 16-11-15

A team of 5 delegates from CP (Charoen Pokphand) group, Thailand, headed by Mr. Khunsri Thongyoi: Senior Vice President of CP Crop Integration Business, CP Group, visited Coconut Development Board on Monday during their five day tour in South India. Charoen Pokphand, the largest private company in Thailand which has been active in India for the past 20 years is yet to set foot in the agriculture sector. The purpose of visit is to explore the possibilities of establishing individual coconut producing units or starting joint ventures with the coconut producer companies in South India. They held detailed discussion with Chairman and other senior officials of Coconut Development Board. Shri. T.K. Jose, IAS, Chairman of CDB briefed about the coconut cultivation and industry of India and scope for starting coconut based industries by the CP group in association with Indian partnership. The team met the Chairmen and CEO's of Coconut Producer Companies viz, Thirukochi, Tirur, Kuttiady and Palakkad, registered under Board and noted ways and means of their activities. In the afternoon session of the meet, visitors evaluated their opportunities

with business promoting organizations such as FICCI, CII, Kerala Chamber of Commerce and Inkel. Shri. M.T. Balakrishnan, IAS (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director of Inkel presented the scope and opportunity for starting a coconut processing unit in Kerala before the team. The delegates will visit major coconut plantations facilitated by Palakkad Coconut Producer Company and Suryashobha Milk Powder Manufacturing unit in Thrissur on Tuesday and go on with discussions and factory visits on Wednesday. Thailand, lacking in sufficient raw materials for coconut processing industries, is now pushing hard to bring together its coconut sector. Coconut is one of an important cash crop of 3,32,033 small farmers of Thailand, which contributes to 0.11% of export earnings of the country. The delegation includes Mr. Apichase Wongprasit, Coconut Project General Manager, Mr. Suchat Wachiravittayakorn, Coconut Project Deputy General Manager, Mr. Ascha Chandsongsang, Overseas Business Department Manager and Mr. Sakda Praesurin: Senior Engineer



CP Group Thailand Delegation visited Pollachi, Tamil Nadu on 18.11.2015

The Thailand delegation headed by Mr.Khunsri Thongyoi was received at Hotel Cocolagoon, Pollachi by Smt. T.Bala Sudhahari, Deputy Director, Coconut Development Board, Regional Office, Chennai along with members from Pollachi Chamber of Commerce and FPO leaders from Pollachi on 18.11.2015 morning. Meetings of progressive farmers, FPO leaders, coconut processors, potential entrepreneurs and machine manufacturers with the delegation were held at the Board room in Dr.Mahalingam College of Engineering & Technology, Pollachi from 9.30 AM to 1 PM. The leaders of various Coconut Producer Companies from Coimbatore district also attended. The Thai delegation presented the purpose of visit followed by self introduction by all the participating members. Smt.T.Bala Sudhahari, Dy. Director, CDB, RO, Chennai made a brief presentation about coconut scenario in Tamil Nadu.

After the presentation the delegation held discussion with progressive farmers and FPO's. As a result of the discussion the meeting arrived on a preliminary model for a future association with CP group in Thailand. In the base level the existing Coconut Producers Company functions as individual entity, which join together to form a mother company. This mother company shall enter in to an association with CP group Thailand. CP group shall arrange for modern technology, finance and marketing assistance. CPCs under the mother company provide regular supply of raw material to the processing unit (Joint Venture). This was followed by discussions with the existing processors, machinery suppliers and the potential entrepreneurs. Finally as concluding remarks Mr.Khunsri Thonyyoi, Sr. Vice President of CP group stated that, there exists a good potential for investment in coconut sector in India. He expressed that the possibility for a tender coconut processing unit and coconut milk processing unit as joint venture or direct 100% investment by CP group shall be explored. He further informed that as per the laid down policy of CP group the country where CP group invests, there shall be a mutual benefit for both the local people and the company. Further he also mentioned that quality of the product is very important to CP group. Hence availability of quality raw material is very important.

After the discussion the team visited the Shakthi tender coconut water packing unit of Shri.C.M Kamaraj followed by coconut gardens visit in and around Pollachi. In the farmer's field the palm climbing method was also demonstrated by FoCT climbers by using palm climbing device and also traditional method. They also tasted the fresh tender coconut of DxT and other dwarf varieties. They took the weight of nuts variety wise and were amazed to find that the nuts from some of the varieties grown in Pollachi weigh more than that in their country. The Thai delegation was very much impressed with the scientific way of coconut cultivation in Pollachi. The delegation was accompanied by Shri.Pramod P.Kurian, Assistant Director, CDB Kochi and Shri. Sasikumar C, Technical Officer, CDB Kochi.

