

CPS Leaders Training for Thrissur District at Maithri on 6th to 8th September 2012

Majority of the participants were from Mundathikode Grama Panchayat in Wadakanchery Block in Thrissur District along with a sprinkling of participants from Palakkad District. The Green Army and Peingandoor Cooperative Bank formed about dozen CPSs so far. Maithri facilitated the formation of these CPSs through various inputs. So there was a demand to organize the training of these CPSs in Maithri itself irrespective of the distance.

The participants led by Anup Kishore, Director of Green Army came by three vehicles from Thrissur to Little Tree Training center of Maithri in Muthalamada. They reached the venue by 10 AM.

After a brief introduction and tea the first session started. Various value added products were introduced in this session with discussion about the prevailing market prices, production technologies, markets, impact on the farmer etc. The conclusion was Kerala and India is far behind in these ventures and without venturing in to this the situation is going to be worse for the coconut farmer.

In the next session the economic and agricultural history of Kerala was explored. The factors which made Malabar coast a destination for all foreign merchants were discussed. The origins of wealth of the country and where is vanished etc. also discussed in detail.

The status of coconut farmer and causes behind the poor situation was discussed with the development of strategies to counter the downward trend was discussed in the next session. By about 2 PM the morning sessions were concluded by contextualizing the CPS formation.

The post lunch session discussed the copra procurement and copra dryers in detail. The present initiative of the Peingandoor Bank to construct a modern dryer with a capacity of 1 lakh nuts per day was discussed. The current constraints of MSP procurement and the ways to overcome this are also explored in this session.

In the second post lunch session the hybridization project and the need for popularizing hybrid saplings, its science, advantages etc. were discussed. The session was concluded by 4.30 PM.

Five groups were formed to develop local specific actionable points based on the discussions of the morning. But they were devised to hold it after 5.30 PM and asked to have an exposure to the nearby nursery and dryer under construction. Hybridization team explained the featured of hybrid saplings and helped the participants to identify hybrid saplings. The various features of dryer under construction also are discussed in detail.

The group discussions were concluded by 7 PM and a session to discuss the suggestions was organized over a tea. Since all of the participants were from the same locality the actionable points were more or less same except the locality. They can be summarized as below.

1. Setting up of FoCT labour bank in the lines of Green Army. Ensuring harvestings in every 45 days and monthly salary with social security to all labour bank members.
2. Need for more FoCTs from each locality.
3. Identification of a suitable plot and setting up a smaller dryer with a shorter gestation period to initiate the procurement under MSP.

4. Initiating the MSP with the support of federations in Palakkad.
5. Initiating TC stalls in and around Medical College and Thrissur town.
6. Initiating regular harvesting of TCs using the labour bank members.
7. Evaluation the non performing/defunct coconut based industries in Athani with an objective of taking over under the proposed federation.
8. Initiating an accurate data collection of palms and irrigation assets of each farmer on a CPS basis.
9. A comprehensive plan to start planting of hybridized plants in this year itself.
10. Exploring the possibilities of hybridization and nursery under the proposed federation.

These proposals were discussed threadbare in the context of local specific situations and the session was concluded by 9 PM.

After the supper, the last session of the day was held on organizational plan. Requirements of registration as per charitable societies act, for registration at CDB, formation of federation etc. were discussed in detail. The specifics of who will be coordinating what and where etc. were also finalized. The session was concluded by 11 PM.

Day 2.

The first session of the day was started at 8.30 AM. As per the request from the participants it was devoted to planning regarding the expected draught. The discussion went around traditional measures like earth bund strengthening, centripetal terracing and husk burial around coconut trees, diversion of runoffs to existing ponds etc. so as to ensure the minimum surface runoff. The next possible measure is to apply live and dead mulch to the soil around a coconut tree. Considering the current 25% shortfall in the monsoon for the Thrissur District, participants expressed a fear that many coconut trees may dry up in the next summer as in the case of 2003-4 draught. A suggestion came to develop CPS wise plans for drip irrigation. It was decided to have a look in to this by the proposed federation with the support of the Peingandoor Bank and LSGIs. A brief about the relevance of traditional practices like Poli Koottal and centripetal terracing was discussed along with an outline about the role played by the coconut plantations in our environment.

After the breakfast the participants went to visit the leased dryer of Muthalamada federation at Perumatty. They also visited the poly houses and precision farming plots in the same compound. After a midmorning tea the team went for a visit to traditional copra dryer in the Alayamapalayam and a solar dryer being installed in the vicinity. After the interaction with the owners and operators of these initiatives the team went for the lunch.

The post lunch trip was to visit Vel farms in Muthalamada itself. Senthilvel explained the various aspects of selection and cultivation of hybrids. The farm's 1000 hybrids were planted in 1991. The team came back at about 4 PM from the field visit and after a tea sat for the concluding session.

Anup Kishore chaired the session. All participants gave written feedback, whereas few persons spoke about the camp atmosphere, stay, food, sessions, field trip etc. It was concluded by a warm vote of thanks by all of the participants by 5.30 PM.

Dr.Radhakrishnan, Dr Preetha, Joji.M. Thakadi and Vinod Kumar were the main resource persons

Day 3

Because of the local constraints related to local political activities, the first meeting of the participants was organized at 5.00 PM at – Hall in Athani, Thrissur. Vinod Kumar from Maithri, and Anup Kishore spoke in the meeting. There were about 60 participants in the meeting. After the initial discussion the participants suggested to form the CPSs with immediate effect. Venues for meetings at 11 places were finalized along with anchoring persons. A team of trainees were formed to spoke in these meetings. Arrangements for byelaw printing, signing, minute books, registration etc. were detailed and responsibilities fixed.

The subsequent meetings were organized at 11 places by the selected team of trainees.

List of Participants

1	Padhmanabhan.P	Ambalapuram	Mundathikkode	9400672273
2	Unnikrishnan.T.K.	Ambalapuram	Mundathikkode	8547217189
3	Sreekumar.K	Minaloor	Mundathikkode	9895016450
4	Gopinathan.N.K	Peringandoor	Mundathikkode	9496169185
5	Venu.K.R	Peringandoor	Mundathikkode	9746262124
6	Sudheerchandran.P.R	Peringandoor	Mundathikkode	9744350412
7	Unnikrishnan.P	Peringandoor	Mundathikkode	9447036733
8	Ravi.K.V	Peringandoor	Mundathikkode	9745633390
9	Viswanathan	Peringandoor	Mundathikkode	237349
10	Kumaran	Minaloor	Mundathikkode	237496
11	Udayan	Minaloor	Mundathikkode	9447863700
12	Chandrasekharan.P.A	Athani	Mundathikkode	9747863700
13	Saneesh.M.S	Parlikkad	Mundathikkode	9946329658
14	Venugopalan.M	Parlikkad	Mundathikkode	9446229078
15	Ashokan.P.C	Mundathikkode	Mundathikkode	9947035410
16	Rajan.T.R	Mundathikkode	Mundathikkode	9946999087
17	Subramanyan.N.A	Minaloor	Mundathikkode	9946468621
18	Jose.K.V	Rajagiri	Mundathikkode	9447086378
19	Binoy Mohan	Parlikkad	Mundathikkode	9645938686
20	Pushkaran	Minaloor	Mundathikkode	9846327414
21	Sajeev.M.G	Thiruthipparambu	Mundathikkode	9846543526
22	Sujith.P.A	Thiruthipparambu	Mundathikkode	9846760653
23	Joyson.K.P	Mundathikkode	Mundathikkode	9446455296
24	Raveendranath.C	Minaloor	Mundathikkode	9846869787
25	Anoop Kishore	Ambalapuram	Mundathikkode	9446235102
26	Padmanabhan B	Tottara	Pallassana	9848506370
27	Unnikrishnan	Athani	Mundathikkode	9496645790
28	Chandramohan	Athani	Mundathikkode	9446391226
29	Ajith Kishore	Ambalapuram	Mundathikkode	4872208009
30	Joy NA	Thiruthipparambu	Mundathikkode	9142340625
31	Rajesh C V	Chullimada	Erimayur	9544844976
32	Abhilash	Idukkippara	Muthalamada	9447757852
33	Somadas T M	Thoottipadam	Elevanchery	4923266813
34	Raveendran	Athani	Mundathikkode	9446153103
35	Manoj	Athani	Mundathikkode	9446559076
36	Aravindakshan	Thiruthipparambu	Mundathikkode	9447350892

Opening Session



Group Discussion 2



Visit to Nursery



Group Discussion 3



Group Discussion 1



Group Discussion 4



Group Presentation 1



Group Presentation 4



Group Presentation 2



Group Presentation 5



Group Presentation 3



Session on drought management



Visit to copra dryer, Perumatty



Concluding remarks



Visit to copra dryer, Perumatty



Concluding remarks



Visit to solar copra dryer, Muthalamada



Visit to Vel farms, Muthalamada

