

AGM of All India Co-ordinated Research Project



The 28th Annual Group Meeting of All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Palms was organized at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore during 6th and 7th, June 2019. The inaugural function was presided over by Dr. N. Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Dr. W.S. Dhillon, Assistant Director General (Horticultural Sciences), ICAR, New Delhi was the Chief Guest. Dr. P. Rethinam, Former Executive Director, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Jakarta, Dr.K.Muralidharan, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod and Dr.R.K.Mathur, Director, ICAR-IIPR, Pedavegi were the guests of honour. Dr. K. S. Subramanian, Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering. The Project Co-ordinator of AICRP (Palms), Dr.H.P. Maheswarappa in his report briefed the mission and achievement of AICRP on five crops - coconut, oil palm, palmyrah, arecanut and cocoa distributed across 30 centres of 14 states and one union territory covering 13 State Agricultural Universities, four ICAR Institutes and two central universities.

Dr.W.S.Dhillon, Assistant Director General (HS -I), ICAR, New Delhi spoke on the overall growth of horticultural sector and its significant contribution to GDP and nutritional security of the nation. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, in his presidential address underlined the need for the development of composite mother gardens for the production of quality seedlings and called on palm scientists to develop drought mitigation strategies considering

the weather extremities. Fertigation strategies hold great promise in increasing palm productivity and invited palm researchers to take concerted efforts on developing hydraulic harvesters and value addition technologies. Dr.P.Rethinam, Former Director, Asian and Coconut Pacific Community, Jakarta highlighted the importance of IOT in agriculture and horticulture sectors and hinted the necessity of geotagging of oilpalm and tailoring irrigation in palms by employing water sensors. He appreciated Coconut Development Board for making farmers' clusters towards marketing of palm products. Dr. L. Pugalendhi, Dean (Hort.), TNAU, Coimbatore proposed the vote of thanks.

About 80 scientists from different AICRP centres and ICAR institutes participated in the meet. The inaugural session was followed by technical sessions on variety release proposal, genetic resources and crop improvement, crop production, crop protection and post harvest technology.

15 publications viz, books, technical bulletins, extension folders (in different languages) were released during the meeting. In the technical sessions, proposal for release of three oil palm tenera hybrids for different regions and one coconut variety was recommended. Region specific nutrient management in coconut based cropping system and protection technologies were recommended for transfer to extension agencies.

(Source : ICAR - AICRP on Palms, CPCRI, Kasaragod)