



Enhancing Income of Coconut Growers through Effective Technology Integration - The need of the hour: V. Usha Rani IAS

'Enhancing income of coconut growers through effective technology integration is the need of the hour. Coconut growers who currently face difficulties due to price fluctuation of coconut in the market need to be supported for better utilisation of technologies to realise higher productivity and income.' Said Smt. V. Usha Rani IAS, Chairperson, Coconut Development Board. She was delivering the valedictory address of the Refresher Training Programme conducted for the officers of Coconut Development Board at ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod. A substantial number of technologies have been developed by CPCRI and other research organisations for higher productivity and income from coconut farming which include improved varieties including hybrids, agro-techniques for nutrient management, water management and irrigation, multiple cropping and integrated farming, management of pests and diseases and value addition through product diversification. However, due to various factors coconut farmers are unable to effectively utilize the technologies and hence the extent of adoption of technologies is not at a satisfactory level in farmers' field. Hence, coconut farmers need to be supported for better technology integration in their coconut orchards. Farmer oriented technology transfer initiatives are needed since coconut in our country is predominantly a small holder's crop. Group approach is to be facilitated among the small and marginal coconut growers for achieving the economy of scale. It is also necessary to strengthen the functional linkages between



Release of Training Manual



Certificate distribution

research institutions, development and extension agencies and Farmer Producer Organisations and other stakeholders in coconut sector. Action plan will be formulated and implemented to better equip the Demonstration-cum-Seed Production Farms (DSP Farms) of CDB located in various parts of the country to demonstrate technologies developed by CPCRI for enhancing income from coconut farming. Scientific crop management technologies and small scale processing of coconut will be demonstrated in the DSP farms with the technical support from CPCRI. Steps will be taken to strengthen the coconut seedling production programme in DSP Farms.



More seedlings of coconut hybrid varieties will be produced by effectively utilising the mother palms available in the DSP farms and by following the hybridization technique recommended by CPCRI. Regular visit of scientists from CPCRI to DSP farms for recommendations on scientific crop management practices and pest and disease management to improve the functioning of farms will be ensured through appropriate memorandum of understanding. Smt. Usha Rani, IAS distributed certificates to the participants of the Refresher Training Programme. During the valedictory address Chairperson, CDB called upon the officers of CDB who are managing the DSP farms need to make more efforts to scientifically manage the farms so that coconut farmers and other stakeholders visiting the farms will be motivated to adopt the technologies demonstrated in the DSP farms in their coconut gardens. In a way, the DSP farms need to function as field units of research institutions like CPCRI showcasing relevant technologies pertaining to scientific coconut farming, she added. She also visited various experimental plots at CPCRI and held detailed discussion with the scientists about the progress of ongoing research projects at the Institute with the financial support of CDB and also about the thematic areas of coconut research for support from CDB in future. Chairperson, Coconut Development Board also released the Training Manual on 'Enhancing productivity in Coconut: Quality planting material and agro-techniques' in the valedictory function of refresher training programme. She appreciated the efforts of all Scientists of CPCRI for their hard work and dedication in research and extension in coconut sector. Refresher Training Programme on 'Hybridization Technique in Coconut'. A refresher training programme on 'Hybridization



Technique in Coconut' for 20 selected officers of CDB was conducted at ICAR-CPCRI Kasaragod from 11th to 15th June 2019. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. H. P. Maheswarappa, Project Coordinator, All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Palms. Dr. K. Muralidharan, Director-in Charge ICAR-CPCRI presided over the inaugural function. Dr. Thamban C., Principal Scientist and Co-ordinator of Refresher Training Programme welcomed the gathering, Dr. K.Samsudeen, Principal Scientist, presented the outline of the training programme and Ms. Ranjini T.N., Scientist proposed vote of thanks.



The five day training programme covered thematic areas pertaining to genetic resources and improved varieties of coconut, floral biology and hybridization technique in coconut, hybridization technique in coconut, concept and practice of participatory decentralised planting material production, nursery practices, agro-techniques for coconut and coconut based farming systems and integrated pest and disease management in coconut. Besides visit to CPCRI Research Centre, Kidu was conducted as part of the training programme to gain exposure on the maintenance of coconut genetic resources and commercial production of coconut hybrids. An

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exclusive session for group discussion to formulate action plan for strengthening DSP farms to enhance planting material production was also included in the refresher training programme.

Smt. V. Usha Rani IAS, Chairperson, Coconut Development Board was the chief guest in the valedictory function of refresher training programme held on 15th June 2019. In her valedictory address Smt. Usha Rani IAS emphasised the need to better equip the Demonstration-cum-Seed Production Farms (DSP farms) under CDB located in various parts of the country to effectively demonstrate technologies developed by CPCRI for enhancing income from coconut farming. Chairperson, Coconut Development Board released the Training Manual on 'Enhancing productivity in coconut: Quality planting material and agro-techniques' in the valedictory function of refresher training programme and also distributed certificates to the participants.

Dr. K. Muralidharan, Director-in-Charge, ICAR-CPCRI presided over the valedictory function. Dr.



Thamban, C., Principal Scientist and Co-ordinator presented the report on the Refresher Training Programme and Dr. K.Samsudeen, Principal Scientist proposed vote of thanks.

(Report prepared by Dr. Thamban C., Principal Scientist (Agrl. Extension), ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod)
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