

# Entrepreneurship Development Programme on Value Chain in Coconut

An Entrepreneurship Development Programme for the selected young farmers and entrepreneurs from Lakshadweep islands on Value chain in coconut was conducted at ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The programme sponsored by National Horticulture Board was envisaged to empower the selected young farmers and entrepreneurs from different Lakshadweep Islands to take up enterprises on production and marketing of coconut value added products and other coconut based enterprises for income and employment. Currently coconut sector in Lakshadweep islands mostly revolve around production and marketing of copra only. In the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes the thrust will be for empowering the young farmers from Lakshadweep islands for the formation of Farmer Producer Companies to take up production and marketing various value added coconut products targeting domestic and export markets. Besides, these FPOs can make efforts to tap the potential for marketing coconut value added products as 'Lakshadweep organic' brand. As part of the programme it is proposed to train a total of 100 selected farmers and entrepreneurs in five batches. Apart from the sessions at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, the trainees will be attached to the successful coconut based value addition units managed by entrepreneurs at different localities in Kerala.

The inaugural function of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme for the first batch of participants held ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod was presided over by Dr. Anitha Karun, Actg. Director, ICAR-CPCRI. Dr. K. N. Satheeshan, Associate Director of Research, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Pilicode inaugurated the programme. Mr. S.S. Purty, Horticulture Officer, National Horticulture Board offered felicitations. Dr. C Thamban, Principal Scientist and Course Director welcomed the gathering and presented the outline of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme.



Dr. Shameena Begum, Scientist (Food Processing) proposed vote of thanks. The participants of the first batch of EDP were divided into four groups and were attached to SUBICSHA Coconut Producer Company, Naduvannur, Kozhikode district, Thejaswini Coconut Producer Company, Cherupuzha, Kannur district, Magico coconut chips unit, Madikkai, Kasaragod district and Shree Kalpa Coconut Industries Kumbala, Kasaragod district for hands on training as part of the attachment to the successful coconut based value addition units managed by entrepreneurs.

Dr. Ariz Ahammed IAS, Managing Director, National Horticulture Board interacted with the participants of the programme on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. Dr. K. Muralidharan, Director-in-charge, CPCRI, distributed certificates to the participants in the valedictory function held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Dr. P. Muralidharan, Principal Scientist & Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Alappuzha was the guest of honour in the valedictory function. Dr. K. Samsudeen, Principal Scientist CPCRI, offered felicitations. Dr. Thamban, C., Principal Scientist and Course Director proposed vote of thanks.