

Meeting on implementation of CDB schemes held



A joint meeting of the state government officials and CDB officials was held under the chairmanship of Smt. V. Usha Rani, IAS, Chairperson, Coconut Development Board on 4th July 2019 at National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad to discuss on the implementation of CDB schemes during 2019-20.

Chairperson, CDB welcomed the participants and briefed that the purpose of the meeting is for ensuring effective implementation of CDB schemes under which a total allocation of Rs. 211.90 crore has been made for 2019-20.

CDB is giving more importance to area expansion. The area under coconut in the country especially in traditional coconut growing areas has become stagnant and the productivity is diminishing. Hence, the target under area expansion for the year 2019-20 has been increased to about 25,000 ha. To achieve the targets, the Chairperson called for the collaborative efforts of the State Agriculture and Horticulture Departments.

She pointed out that the current annual production level of 35 lakh seedlings is much low compared to the projected demand of 100 lakh seedlings. The allocation for production of seedlings by government and private sector have been substantially increased to more than Rs. 10 crore during 2019-20.

The current level of value addition in coconut sector in the country is very meager compared to the other coconut producing countries. Considering the huge scope for value addition in the country, which will benefit the farmers for sustainable income, an amount of Rs. 40 crore is allocated during 2019-20. Workshops and seminars and campaigns etc. at State and District and Block level will be conducted for the farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Extending the benefits of the scheme adhering to the season for various agricultural operations like preparatory works, planting, fertilizer application, nursery

activities, plant protection operations etc. will also be given importance. The officers were requested to take up action at appropriate levels for improvement of the coconut sector in their respective States for the effective implementation of the Annual Action Plan 2019-20 of the Board.

The Chief Coconut Development Officer, Shri. Saradindu Das, CDB made a presentation on the activities of the Board, scheme provisions, focus areas identified for 2019-20, targets allocated for different States etc. A presentation on the value added coconut products, their benefits and financial assistance extended under TMOc was also made.

Dr. Ch. Padmavathi, Deputy Director (Hort.), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Shri. N.G. Gandhi, Deputy Director (Agri.), Administration of UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Shri. Anant P Hoble, Asst. Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Goa, Shri. R.H. Ladani, Deputy Director (Hort.), Rajkot Division, Govt. of Gujarat, Shri. Alpesh M Datroja, Deputy Director (Hort.), Gir Somnath Division, Govt. of Gujarat, Shri. K. Dhanraj, Joint Director of Horticulture (Plantation Crops and Plant Protection), Govt. of Karnataka, Shri. Suresh V. Bhalerao, Deputy Director (Hort.), Govt. of Maharashtra, Shri. Suvash Chandra Mohanta, Deputy Director (Hort.), Govt. of Odisha, Shri. M. Vedhachalam, Additional Director (Hort.), Govt. of Puducherry, Smt. M. Ponmalar, Deputy Director (Agri.), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Shri. V. Udaya Kumar, Horticulture Officer, Govt. of Telangana, Shri. Venu Madhav, Horticulture Officer, Govt. of Telangana, Smt. T. Bala Sudhahari, Director i/c, CDB, RO, Chennai, Dr. Rajat Kumar Pal, Deputy Director, CDB, SC, Odisha, Shri. Pramod P Kurian, Assistant Director, CDB, SC, Thane, Shri. Jayanath R, Assistant Director, CDB, SC, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, Smt. Jayashree A, Development Officer, CDB, HO and Kumaravel S, Development Officer, CDB, attended the meeting and actively participated in the discussions.