



In this issue	Training programme on IT Extension	Sensitisation Workshop	
<b>Training programme by Centre for e-learning</b>	<p>A training programme was conducted by centre for e-learning on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Training to AO's and ADAs (assistant directors of dept of agriculture), Deputy Director, assistant director of agriculture, Soil chemists on IT based extension techniques. It was a two day training programme held at Malappuram. Venue of the programme was at KCAET Tavannur. About 20 persons attended the function.</p>	<p>This workshop was conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> february. 18 persons attended. Dr FMH Khallel, Dr.Zakir hussain, Dr E V Nybe, Dr T N Jagadish Kumar(PROFSSOR of of KVK), Dr.santhosh kumar(COF), Dr Hassena Bhasker(Assosiate professor of COH Vellanikara), Dr.Sudeer G.</p>	
<b>Sensitisation WorksShop</b>			
<b>Protected Cultivation</b>	<h3>Protected Cultivation</h3>		
<b>Kerala Agricultural University to Popularize Meliponiculture</b>		<p>Everyday population is increasing and due to modernization in agriculture, the infrastructure work is increasing and day to day land is becoming lesser. But the land value is increasing. Water resources are diminishing at a higher rate. After detailed study of inter-relationship among soil, water, crop, land terrain and related agro climatic conditions, design a suitable and economically viable system is recommended to the grower to ensure that the plants do not suffer from water stress and over watering at different climatic conditions.</p>	
<b>State level project to be launched to protect sacred grooves</b>		<p>Now a days Protected cultivation is having huge importance. Some of the important structures used for protected cultivation are green houses, poly tunnels, ventillation houses, net houses etc. Crops of much Economic importance are grown in these structures.</p>	
<b>New technology could boost rice output by 5 million tones</b>		<p><b>Green House</b> Green houses are climate controlled. Green Houses have a variety of applications, the majority being, off-season growing of vegetables, floriculture, planting material acclimatization, fruit crop growing for export market and plant breeding</p>	
		<p><b>Poly Tunnels</b> Poly Tunnels are basically naturally ventilated climate controlled. Poly Tunnels have a variety of applications, the majority being, growing of vegetables, floriculture, and planting material acclimatization, fruit crop growing for export market</p>	
	<p><b>Net House</b> Net houses are basically naturally ventilated climate controlled. Jain Net houses have a variety of applications, the majority being, growing of vegetables, floriculture, fruit crop growing for export market.</p>		

## Kerala Agricultural University to Popularize Meliponiculture

The Kerala Agricultural University scientists have been investigating the biology and rearing of the common stingless bee, *Trigona iridipennis*. A recent meeting of the Board of Studies, Faculty of Agriculture of the University recommended meliponiculture (rearing of stingless bees, Meliponini) in homesteads of Kerala using 1500 cc capacity bamboo 'hives'. Under a project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research the University developed a bamboo box to rear these bees and has now taken up popularizing the rearing of these bees .



*Trigona iridipennis.*

A workshop for farmers was held during February 24-25, 2011 in Kochi to disseminate the meliponiculture technology developed by the University, which would coincide with the inauguration of the project to popularize meliponiculture to be held at Kanakakkunnu. The University is taking up this work under the project 'popularisation of meliponiculture in kerala', granted them under RKVY

### State level projects to protect sacred grooves

A State-level project to protect sacred grooves was launched on February 2. The project, which aims at protecting and conserving ecologically and culturally significant sacred groves across the State and at the district-level as well, was launched at the Municipal Town Hall here by Forest Minister Benoy Viswom in the presence of Coir and Cooperation Minister G. Sudhakaran and Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac.

12 groves selected from across the State would get financial assistance in the first phase of the project, which will be implemented under the aegis of the State Forests and Wildlife Department.



Five of these would get Rs.1 lakh each, out of which Rs.20,000 would be given as the first instalment on February 2.

The remaining seven groves would be given Rs.10,000 each, out of which Rs.7,000 each would be given on the day the project is launched.

At the district-level, 108 groves out of the identified total of 16,800 would get financial assistance in the first phase. These would be protected with help from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

### New technology could boost rice output by 5 million tones

SRI may help in yield increase of 15% to 40%. SRI focuses on transplanting single seedlings instead of multiple seedlings in a clump. Seedlings are 8 to 10 days old at a spacing of 30/30 centimeters.



SRI is an integrated package of agronomic approaches to exploit the genetic potential of rice plants; create a better growing environment (both above and below ground); enhance soil health; and reduce inputs cost substantially. Phenomenal saving in seed (90% saving) and water upto 40%. Through adoption of System of Rice Intensification (SRI), the country's rice production.