# CEL Newsletter

CENTRE FOR E-LEARNING

KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

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*"As our circle of knowledge expands, so does the circumference of darkness surrounding it"*

## In This Issue



## Orientation class to PG Students

A 4 day orientation class was given to PG students of all the colleges under Kerala Agricultural University. The orientation class was conducted on 4 to 7 September,2012. The classes were held by Professors of respective Departments. At the last day of the orientation class, cultural programmes were held.

## New batch for experiential learning

New batch for experiential learning has joined at Centre for E Learning. This is the third batch under this particular department. There are 20 students registered under this course.

## Vegetable residues used for organic farming

Nowadays vegetable residues of papaya, pumpkin etc are used as organic manures.

**Materials used:**

Pumpkin – ½ kg
Ashgourd or cucumber – ½ kg
Papaya – ½ kg
Nendran or palayankodan - ½ kg
Egg – 5 no:s
Jaggery – ½ kg
Powdered Black gram – ½ kg.

**How to prepare**

Fully ripened fruits are cut into small pieces with peel intact. Collect these pieces in a clean bucket.Add the powdered black gram and mix. Thoroughly powder and grind the jaggery in 2 litre water, sieve the impurities and add to the above mixture and stir properly. Add egg's contents on the top of mixture slowly.Close the mouth of the bucket tightly and keep it for 2 weeks. After two weeks, open the bucket and stir the contents thoroughly.

**How to apply**

Dilute the above mixture to about 10 times. Apply to the areas where we are about to grow vegetables Avoid direct sunlight by mulching. Then sow the seeds.

***Courtesy: Karshakasree***

## Heavy rains causing cocoa pod rot

Heavy infestation of pod rot by the fungus *Phytophthora sp.* The fungus sporulate on surface of tender cocoa pods which at the advanced stage cause blackening. The pods blacken at the tip which proceeds upward. At mature stages the fungus infests the body surface but don't affect the cocoa beans.

The fungus infects tender stem and roots of the plant heavily. Infectedregions can be seen as water soaked lesions.

CONTROL MEASURES.

- Compulsory Training and Pruning especially during rainy season
- Collect the diseased and undersized pods from the plantations.
- Apply 1 % BM in cocoa plantations

Pod rot caused by *Phytophthora palmivora*

## Increasing the efficiency of biocontrol agent

*Pseudomonas fluorescens,* seems to be effective against bacterial and fungal diseases. Cow dung slurry have synergistic action on this bio control agent.

Mix 20g cow dung to 1 litre water and keep for settling down. Take the clear supernatant and sieve. Add 20 g *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and spray. Efficiency is increased by using coconut water. We can limit the quantity of powdered formulation.

To make 2% 10 L capacity *Pseudomonas fluorescens* solution, instead 200 g powdered formulation we can take 50 g. Take 100 ml fresh coconut water, 1 L water and 50 g powdered formulation, mix well and keep it for 4 hours. Dilute with 9 L water and spray.

## Traditional rice varieties of Kerala

Nearly 160 varieties of paddy varieties, including 78 traditional ones, were being cultivated in Waynad and 55 of them have become extinct. The study was conducted by Kerala State Biodiversity Board .

Varieties such as 'Anchoodan', 'Chara', 'Cheera' 'Nellu', 'Chuvannaraan', 'Jeerakachanna' and 'Kochandan' have vanished. Low yield and promotion of high breed variety seeds and high-cost in continuing the cultivation were some of the reasons for this phenomenon.

The mandate of the Board was toconserve and promote all types of biodiversitywhether positive or negative.

***Courtesy: Business Line***

## Content generation for crop DSS software

A seminar on Content generation for crop Decision Support System software was conducted in the seminar hall of College of Horticulture.

# Emerging Kerala - Boost to FP Sector

Given that Kerala has for a while now gained the name of being a consumerist society, the southern state's potential to make money out of its agriculture sector may read like an idea that goes against the grain.

However, that is not the case, going by the range of opportunities that the upcoming Emerging Kerala meet throws before entrepreneurs in the primary sector. The September 12-14 international summit at Kochi will announce and display the state government's prospective ventures aimed at making far better use of its natural resources such as foodgrains, fruits, vegetables and herbs.

**Food processing unit**

This unit is coming up in Alappuzha. This facility is at Pallipuram near Cherthala, will boost the read-to-eat food industryFoodprocessing parks are planned in Ernakulam. Under the Kochi-Palakkad -


National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) project, it is planned to promote several food and agro processing parks.

**Food park**

The government is planning to set up a food park in the downstate Thiruvananthpuram district. l. It will be set up in the Publc Private Partnership(PPP). The Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) is setting up a food processing park at Adoor in Central Kerala in 30 acre of land.

**Coconut bio-parks**

The government plans to establish three coconut bio-parks — one each in southern, central and northern Kerala. These parks will produce diverse value-added products of coconut. They envisage functioning through special companies formed under farmer-public-private partnership model.

## New varieties released by KAU

Varieties of bittergourd,cucumber and Tomato are developed by KAU. Dr Narayanan Kutty of ARS Mannuthy has developed 4 bittergourd varieties. These are disease resistant and high yielding.

Dr Pradeep Kumar, Olericulture Department of KAU developed 2 hybrid varieties of Cucumber. 3 varieties of tomato are also developed of which 2 varieties are released by ARS Mannuthy and 1 variety by KAU. These are big in size and are disease resistant.

Dr P Indira, Olericulture Department of KAU developed tomato variety LE 643 – 1 suitable for Poly house and open-field conditions.

## Cogent to set up coconut genomics

The steering committee of the Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT), which has been meeting here for the last three days, has decided to set up an international thematic group on coconut genomics under the leadership of India to sequence coconut genome and develop tools for coconut improvement.

***Courtesy: Times of India***

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