




*“Humility and knowledge in poor clothes excel pride and ignorance in costly attire”*

In this issue	Orientation Training	Session on ICT and EDP
<b>Orientation to the students of KAU</b>	Orientation to the students of Kerala Agri University was conducted at Seminar Hall of College of Horticulture on July 7,2011. About 149 students attended the Orientation Class.	A session on the role of ICT in career planning and EDP in agriculture was conducted at Seminar Hall of College of Horticulture on 26 August, 2011. 29 persons attended the session.
<b>Session on ICT and EDP</b>		
<b>Cyber extension to agriculture assistants</b>		
<b>Orientation training to Agricultural Officers</b>	<b>Cyber extension to Agriculture Assistants.</b>	<b>Orientation training to Agricultural Officers</b>
<b>Kissan Kerala – A Helping hand.</b>	A session on Cyber extension was given to agriculture assistants on 13 September 2011. The venue for the session was at Seminar Hall of College of Horticulture. 25 persons attended the session.	Orientation training to Agricultural Officers was conducted at Seminar Hall of College of Horticulture on 24 September, 2011. 16 persons attended the Orientation training.
<b>Government to export two million tonnes wheat</b>	<b>Kissan Kerala – A Helping hand.</b>	
<b>Cardmom regaining trade value</b>	Indian Institute of Information Technology and management, Kerala has played a keen role in put forwarding this farmer friendly support system, The acronym of KISSAN is Karshaka Information Systems, Services and Networking. This portal provides interpersonal communication. The Gmail ID of this portal is <a href="mailto:www.kissankerala.net">www.kissankerala.net</a> . This programme is telecasted weekly in TV as Kissan Krishi Deepam. Advisory services are provided through telephone, SMS and television means. KISSAN is another website which video collection records related to agriculture. The combined efforts of Govt agencies under Vetenary Dept, Fisheries Dept has worked to formulate this portal	
<b>Weed overgrowth poses health hazard</b>		
<b>Giant snails threaten to conquer more areas in Kerala</b>	Farmers can clear their doubts through phone as well. People can contact in the no: given below 0471 – 2700965. At the other end their doubts are cleared by a team of experts. Information regarding all other crops except rubber, cardamom, coffee,tea is easily available. We can register in this no: 9496113311,so that we get free SMS advisory services	

## Government to export two million tonnes wheat

Due to shortage of storage space, the government ie the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has decided to export two million tonnes of wheat from the Central Pool stocks at a base price of USD 228 (approximately Rs.12,400) per tonne. The exports will be done by central agencies like the



State Trading Corporation (STC), MMTC and PEC and have to be completed by March 31, 2013. The Food and agriculture department has allocated additional five million tonnes of foodgrain to BPL population and also allowed sale under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) of three million tonnes of wheat.

**Courtesy: msn. NEWS**

## Cardmom regaining trade value



Cardamom, the queen of spices, was inching to regain its lost position in international trade fetching more value and volume and contributing to the upswing in spices exports cross the two billion dollar mark.

During the financial year 2011-2012, cardamom export registered phenomenal growth of 296 per cent in volume and 175 per cent in values as the Indian spice export for the year 2011-2012 showed an increase of nine per cent in volume and 43 per cent in rupee terms than the previous year.

The spices exported from the country for the year was 575,270 MT valued Rs 9783.42 crore (USD 2037.76 million), registering a rise of 36 per cent in dollar terms.

**Courtesy: newKerala.com**

## Weed overgrowth poses health hazards

*Parthenium hysterophorus*, a poisonous and allergic weed, has invaded large tracts of land on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border, posing a threat to humans and livestock. It is found to cause several diseases such as eczema, asthma and dermatitis. The large tracts invaded by the weed are close to the Tamil Nadu border. The local people believe that the plant infested the areas through cow dung and cattle grass brought from Tamil Nadu.

*Parthenium*, which reached the country through seeds imported from the U.S., has already spread over 35 million hectares of land in India. It is also known as 'congress grass' or 'carrot grass' in local parlance. It is an aggressive weed whose pollens float in the air, causing health risk. The only method to control its spread is by uprooting it, as cutting or slashing enhances its regeneration.



**Courtesy: THE HINDU**

## Giant snails threaten to conquer more areas in Kerala

Giant African Snails (*Achatina fulica Bowtich*) are likely to infest at least 41 locations in four districts in the State, according to a scientific prediction by the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Peechi, Thrissur. Their presence has already been reported from 10 districts. Experts have predicted 70 to 100 per cent possibility of the snails establishing themselves in these districts. The presence of the pest has already been reported from Alapuzha, Ernakulam, Kozhikode, Kannur,



Kasaragod, Mahe, Malappuram, Palakkad, Pathanamthitta and Thiruvananthapuram districts. Konni in Pathanamthitta was one of the worst hit areas of which Palakkad has been identified as the most vulnerable district with the study predicting attack in 22 locations. Experts have recommended the use of calcium arsenate and Metaldehyde in areas of high infestation. However, salt application is not advised as it alters

**Courtesy: THE HINDU**