

“Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance”

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Agri infotech portal launched

A website on agriculture www.celkau.in was launched by the Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) on 30th octber 2012. Deputy Collector and Additional District Magistrate, Thrissur P. K. Jayasree formally launched the agri-infotech portal. Centre for e-learning (CEL) of the KAU has developed the portal.



The new portal will have fertulator (calculation of the rate of fertilizer for field application) crop doctor and crop medicine prescriber. The 'Fertulator' will provide accurate information on quantity, quality and dilution ratio of insecticides, fungicides, antibiotics, and weedicides required for a unit crop area. This innovation will serve as an effective link between farmers and new technologies.

The function was presided over by T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research, KAU. Standing Committee Chairman (Development), Thrissur District Panchayat, Anil Akkara; CEL Director P. Ahmed; KAU General Council members Jiju.P.Alex and Avinash Reji Thomas; Principal Agricultural officer Jessy.P.Jacob and KAU Comptroller Joy Mathew participated.

Bonsai cultivation

Bonsai cultivation and care involves the long-term cultivation of small trees in containers, called bonsai. Specialized tools and techniques are used to protect the health and vigor of the subject tree. The term bonsai is generally used in English as an umbrella term for all miniature trees in containers or pots. Bonsai can be created from nearly any perennial woody-stemmed tree or shrub species which produces true branches and remains small through pot confinement with crown and root pruning. Some species are popular as bonsai material because they have characteristics, such as small leaves or needles, that make them appropriate for the compact visual scope of bonsai. Bonsai cultivation techniques are different from other tree cultivation techniques in allowing mature (though miniature) trees to grow in small containers, to survive with extremely restricted root and canopy structures, and to support comprehensive, repeated styling manipulations.

New onion variety released

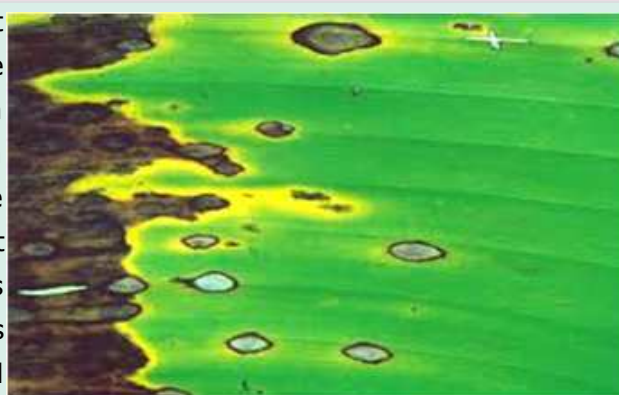
A high yielding onion variety has been released by The National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation Nasik. The name is NHRDF-RED-2. Average yield is 30 to 40 tonnes per hectare. It grows well in mild climate the crop matures in 100-120 days after transplanting and keeping quality is good. The seeds are sown in raised nursery beds. The bed surface should be leveled. The best time for seed sowing is October November. 20-25 tonnes of farmyard manure is sufficient for 1 hectare. It should be applied one month before transplanting or sowing. The variety is highly accepted by the farmers because of its higher yield, better adaptability and storage performance. The variety is suited mainly for north India and some parts of south India like Andhra Pradesh.



Courtesy :The Hindu

Control of sigatoka disease of banana

Sigatoka leaf spot is a serious disease of banana that destroys large areas of plantations resulting in severe reduction in fruit yield. The commercial cultivars nendran and robusta are highly susceptible to this infestation whereas in rasthali and palayankodan varieties the disease severity is less. Economic losses of 50-100 per cent have been incurred due to the incidence of this disease. Symptoms of Sigatoka disease first appear as small dark brown spots or lines on the underside of third or fourth opened leaf



SIGATOKA LEAF SPOT

The spots become sunken surrounded by a yellow halo. Gradually these spots or streaks expand and become brown or black and make a characteristic black patch on the leaves. The infection gives a scorched appearance to the foliage. Infection on younger leaves is more severe causing them to dry up more quickly. Appreciable fruit loss occurs as there is drastic reduction of leaf surface area for photosynthesis. Infected banana plants produce fruits of inferior quality as the banana fingers produced do not develop properly and remain small and thin. Management mainly involves chemical control using fungicides like copper oxychloride, mancozeb, chlorothalonil or carbendazim at the prescribed dosage. Fungicide spraying on the foliage and pseudostem should be commenced with the initial appearance and repeated at two weeks' interval. Use of the different fungicides in rotation will reduce the risk of resistance development in the pathogen to the systemic chemicals.

Courtesy :The Hindu

Borlaug award for two IARI scientists

Coromandel International Ltd has conferred the 'Borlaug Award' for 2012 on two Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) scientists. The award has been given to K.V. Prabhu and Ashok Kumar Singh for their contribution to basmati rice research and development. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a gold medal and a citation. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, will present the award to the winners.