

3rd review meeting of Tamil Nadu Coconut Producers Companies held at NGM College, Pollachi on 17.10.2015

The third review meeting of Tamil Nadu Coconut Producer Companies was held on 17th October 2015 at Alkondan Auditorium, NGM College, Pollachi. The meeting was chaired by Shri. T.K. Jose, IAS Chairman, Coconut Development Board, Chairmen and Directors of 10 CPCs of Tamilnadu attended the meeting. Representatives of SFAC, NABARD, SBT and officials of state Department of Agriculture and CDB attended the meeting.

Chairman, CDB in his introductory remarks stressed on the need for accelerating the equity mobilization for the effective functioning of the CPCs. The authorized share capitals of the Tamilnadu CPCs are less than Rs.50 lakhs, which has to be increased to Rs.5 crores. Lack of quality seedlings is one of the major constraint faced by the sector in bringing more area under coconut cultivation. The demand supply gap in coconut seedlings is so wide and hence the Farmer Producer Organisations in coconut sector need to urgently concentrate on identifying good mother palms for producing quality coconut seedlings. Further he spoke the need for product diversification and coconut value addition. Products like coconut oil, virgin coconut oil, flavoured coconut milk, coconut milk curd, ice cream, butter and cheese are value added products that have good demand both in the domestic and international markets. He further requested the Tamilnadu SFAC to request their head office, New Delhi to introduce new projects favouring the three tier coconut farmer producer organizations. He also explored the possibility of taking up Board's training programmes like FoCT and neera Technician training programme under the already existing programmes of

NABARD by providing financial assistance. He called upon the CPCs to avail the financial benefits of the various schemes of NABARD implemented through SFAC. The trend of Farmer Producer Organisations coming forward only for availing the subsidies under various schemes of the Board cannot be encouraged at any rate. The ultimate objective of the FPOs is the self sustainability of the small and marginal coconut farmers thereby improving livelihood of the individual coconut farmers and making the sector prospective.

The representatives of SFAC and NABARD who further spoke on the occasion briefed on their various schemes and facilities available for the Farmer Producer Organizations and offered all possible cooperation. DDM, NABARD offered to extend their support in conducting FoCT and Neera Technician training programmes. He also offered to give assistance for the leadership training programme of the CPC. Regional Manger, SBT who further spoke on the occasion offered to extend financial assistance to the CPCs.

Coconut milk in five various flavours developed by CDB Institute of Technology were served to the participants which was well appreciated by all. Deputy Director, RO, Chennai delivered the welcome address and Director, RO, CDB, Chennai proposed vote of thanks.

