

Consultation Meeting of Farmers and stake holders of coconut in Tamil Nadu held on 8.2.2016 at Chennai



A delegation of Hon'ble Members of Parliament and leaders of the coconut farmers association, Tamil Nadu called on Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare on 04.08.15 and discussed various problems faced by them. In the meeting it was resolved to convene a meeting of all stakeholders which took place on 8.2.2016 at 3 PM in the Conference Hall of Directorate of Technical Education, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai. This meeting was attended by Shri. C. Mahendran, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Pollachi, Shri. STK. Jakkaiyan, special representative of Government of Tamil Nadu in Delhi, Shri. T.K. Jose IAS, Chairman, Coconut Development Board, Shri. Shakil Ahammed IAS, Joint Secretary and Smt. Anuradha Vemuri, Additional Commissioner (MIDH), Government of India, Dr.S. Vijayakumar IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner cum Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr.M. Rajendran IAS, Commissioner of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu, Chairmen and Board of Directors of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and many progressive farmers from the state.

The meeting started at 3 PM with the welcome address followed by self introduction and then introductory remarks by Joint Secretary. He briefed about the genesis of this meeting and then spoke on the demand for quality seedlings. He said that CDB can think of nursery accreditation also just like NHB. He also felt that rapid multiplication of seedlings is the need of the hour and hence the necessity for Tissue Culture in Coconut. He informed that if reputed SAUs like TNAU can take up such R&D works, it could be funded by the MoA & FW. CDB & MoA & FW should work jointly on this.

This was followed by addresses by the MP & the special representative for Tamil Nadu Government in Delhi.

This was followed by presentation by Chairman, CDB.

Chairman first enlightened the group on the position of the first five districts in TN in descending order of

- Area wise - Coimbatore > Tirupur > Thanjavur > Dindugal > Kanya Kumari
- Production wise - Coimbatore > Thanjavur > Tiruppur > Kanya Kumari > Krishnagiri
- Productivity wise - Krishnagiri > Thanjavur > Coimbatore > Tirupur > Madurai.

When we analyse this carefully, it can be noted that there is no positive correlation between productivity and area under or production – owing to drought & old, senile and unproductive palms.

He listed the major problems being faced by the Coconut sector in Tamil Nadu and suggested remedial measures.

Next he concentrated on the points received from Coconut Growers Association in Tamil Nadu.

The wrap up address was given by the Joint Secretary.

An exhibition was also organized wherein the Pollachi CPC, Udumalpet CPC, Madathukkulam CPC, Dindugal CPC, East coast CPC, Theni CPC from Tamil Nadu; Tirukochi CPC from Kerala; Entrepreneurs benefitted from CDB and CIT, CDB participated in a big way. Wide product range of pure coconut oil, VCO, Packaged tender coconut water, Fruit Blended tender coconut water, Flavored coconut milk, Neera & neera based products, coconut chips, chunks, cookies, coconut jiggery, spices jiggery, Bath soap from coconut oil etc were exhibited.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks.