

National Seminar on ‘FPOs and Sustainable Coconut Development in Chattisgarh’ held on 10.10.2015 at Raipur, Chattisgarh

“Provision for Rupees 1 Crore will be made in the forthcoming budget”-announces the Agriculture Minister, Chattisgarh.

“A provision of Rupees One Crore will be made in the horticulture budget of the next financial year for coconut cultivation in the state”, announced Shri Brij Mohan Agrawal, Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Chattisgarh. The Minister was inaugurating the National Seminar on ‘Farmer Producer Organisations and Sustainable Coconut Development in Chattisgarh’ organised jointly by Coconut Development Board, Dept. of Horticulture, Govt. of Chattisgarh and Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur. Minister said on the occasion that the importance of coconut is known in our country from ancient times. It is a matter of delight that average coconut production in Chattisgarh is higher than the other coconut producing states. Coconut cultivation can be adopted here as plantation model also. However awareness on coconut cultivation should be created among people to achieve this. Imparting training on coconut cultivation to the coconut farmers is the need of the hour. Farmers should be attracted towards coconut cultivation.

He further said that the demand for coconut would never decrease. Demand for coconut water is also increasing in the point of view of health attributes. It is necessary to impart training on coconut cultivation to the school children from interior parts of Bastar. The Minister told that if the Board would formulate suitable scheme for Chattisgarh, the state will be made self sufficient in coconut cultivation within the coming 10 years. He called upon the people of Chattisgarh to adopt coconut cultivation so that the God can be pleased and the farmer’s economic status may be improved.

Minister also demanded the Board to undertake district wise survey for formulating development plan to promote coconut cultivation in the state. He also announced establishing coconut garden in one acre of land in IGKV.

Shri Mohan Markam, MLA, Kondagaon presided over the function. He told that the climate of Bastar division is suitable for coconut cultivation and he stressed on more extension of coconut cultivation in Bastar. He said that it will create more employment opportunity for youths.

While delivering special address in the programme Shri Pramod Dubey, Worshipful Mayor of Raipur said that more than 76000 acres of vacant land is available in Raipur Municipal Corporation area and 10 acres of land will be made available for establishing coconut garden which can be a source of income for Municipal Corporation.

While delivering special address Dr. S.K.Patil, Vice-Chancellor, IGKV said that as the climate in Bastar division is suitable for coconut cultivation there is more potential to increase the area under coconut. The university has developed a coconut variety named Kera Bastar and it is cultivated in parts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The average production of this variety is more than 100 nuts per palm. He further told that a new variety is under development in the university and the average production of this variety would be around 200-300 nuts per palm. The variety is found successful in the field and it will be released for cultivation in near future.

In the keynote address Shri.Sugata Ghose, Chief Coconut Development Officer, Coconut Development Board said that however the area under coconut in Chattisgarh is only 1500 hectares there is immense potential for coconut cultivation in the state. Hence the area under coconut should be increased. He stressed on the formation of Farmer Producer Organisations in the state.Board is promoting three level FPOs ie, Coconut Producers Societies in the grassroot level, Coconut Producer Federations in the middle level and Coconut Producer Companies in the higher level. This system can be started in Chattisgarh also likewise in other coconut producing states.He said that the formation of FPOs will facilitate reduction in cost of cultivation as well as higher prices for the produce because of the aggregation of inputs and outputs. Farmers will get

better prices for their produce. Value addition of coconut can be done easily through FPOs and financial assistance for setting up units can easily be availed from financial institutions. Board is providing financial subsidy limited to 25% of the cost not exceeding Rs.50 lakhs to the FPOs for setting up coconut product manufacturing units.

He further said that among various coconut products coconut neera is a novel product having enormous potential in Chattisgarh. The nutritious drink neera should be given wide publicity in the state. Board is imparting FOCT and neera technician trainings which will enhance employment opportunities in the state.

Minister released the Board's Hindi publication 'Coconut Cultivation in Chattisgarh' on this occasion. Dr.G.R.Singh, Director, Coconut Development Board welcomed the gathering and Shri.R.S.Sengar, Asst.Director, Cococnut Development Board proposed vote of thanks. Inaugural session was followed by Technical Sessions in which presentations on various aspects of coconut industry were made by the experts. More than 300 farmers from Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha,Bihar, West Bengal and Assam participated in the seminar. Officials from Department of Horticulture, Govt.of Chattisgarh, Indira Gandhi Agriculture University, Raipur and Coconut Development Board attended the function.



श्री बृजमोहन अग्रवाल, माननीय कृषि मंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़ परंपरागत दीप प्रज्ज्वलित करके कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन करते हुए



श्री बृजमोहन अग्रवाल, कृषि मंत्री उद्घाटन भाषण देते हुए



श्री मोहन मरकाम, माननीय विधायक, कोंडागांव अध्यक्षीय भाषण देते हुए



श्री प्रमोद दुबे, आदरणीय महापौर, रायपुर सभा को संबोधित करते हुए



श्री बृजमोहन अग्रवाल, कृषि मंत्री बोर्ड का प्रकाशन छत्तीसगढ़ में नारियल की खेती विमोचित करते हुए



श्री बृजमोहन अग्रवाल, कृषि मंत्री और श्री प्रमोद दुबे, आदरणीय महापौर बोर्ड के स्टाल में