



CISSA FPO NEWSLETTER

centre for innovation in science & social action

VOLUME: 2, No: 1

2023 January 5

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PREFACE

The bygone year - 2022 - was when our country tried with all its might to resurrect itself from the far-reaching implications of the Covid pandemic. That the country emerged unscathed from the recessionary pressures stems from its inherent resilience and will power. India earned the respect of the world by strengthening its resource base to manage Covid effectively, right from the manufacture of good quality gloves to vaccines. It must be noted that at the start of the pandemic in 2020, India was lacking in basic infrastructure to fight the unprecedented situation.

Even when the world countries were very near to a recession, India stood strong. The Indian citizens never faced a shortfall of food materials during the pandemic. Our Government distributed as much as 35 kilos of grains and pulses free of cost to 81 crore people. However, it is saddening that there hasn't been any discernible change in the lives of the farmer who works hard to cultivate these food materials.

Kerala's declining arable land and food productivity remains a lingering grave problem. As per the 2021 figures of the State Government, Kerala's arable land was 25,71,100 hectares. The area of uncultivable lands was 96,496 hectares and the land which cannot be used at all was 10,281 hectares. This land should also be equipped for agriculture. This is where farmer producer companies can $% \left(x\right) =\left(x\right) \left(x\right)$ contribute effectively. FPOs must prepare work plans after a careful study of the ground situation. New technologies in agriculture such as aquaponics, vertical and hi-tech should be put to use. Modern agrarian technologies have enough scope and relevance, when one looks at the extent of arable land in Kerala. A perception shift for agriculture, from $hobby\,to\,commerce, is\,very\,important.$

Projects that encourage value-addition of agricultural products should come up in a big way, transitioning from the prevalent trend of using one commodity for one purpose. A situation must be created where such need-felt training programmes are conducted at FPOs themselves. All these form part of our learning process at CISSA.

With the intent of supporting farmers, CISSA is promoting FPOs in the four districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha. Plans are also on to enhance the network of FPOs under CISSA during the year 2023. We are hoping that our efforts will provide a good model of FPO functioning for other such organisations in the country.

Wishing you all a very happy new year! Dr Suresh Kumar C General Secretary, CISSA

Farmer Producer Companies make farmers excellent producers:

Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai



Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai launching the logo of Sabarigiri FPC in the presence of Former Mizoram Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan.

companies is to make farmers excellent producers and to bring maximum income for them. Such companies can play a cardinal role in converting commodities to value-added products and to reach them to the consumers directly, said Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai speaking after the logo launch of Sabarigiri FPC.

The Government of India has implemented many schemes for farmer welfare, and farmer producer companies set up at the block level have an important role in the successful implementation of these schemes, the Governor added. Doubling the income of farmers

The main aim of farmer producer technologies, guidelines to farmers for effective utilisation of agricultural schemes, training and demonstration for mechanised agriculture - farmer producer companies can provide all these, said Sreedharan Pillai. He also hoped that the Sabarigiri Farmer Producer Company would emerge as a support centre for all farmers in Pathanamthitta district.

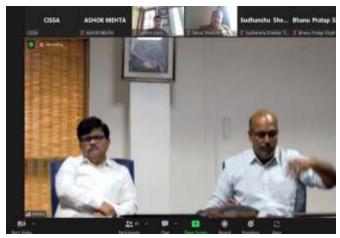
Former Mizoram Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan who delivered the keynote address at the function said that FPCs should enhance their work in such a way that Kerala farmers are able to make a significant contribution, at a time when our from agriculture, necessary country is gearing up to become a training programmes, major contributor of food for the introduction of modern rest of the world. As many as

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10,000 FPCs are beginning to function at the block level with financial support from the Government of India with the objective of doubling farmers' income. Aggregating farmers producers and converting them into value-added products is the intention of this Government of India scheme. The FPCs should become the key support system for farmers and their welfare, and become the principal marketplaces for farmers' produce, Rajasekharan added.

Sabarigiri FPC Chairman Elanthoor Haridas presided over. The Directors of the FPC Prasad Anandabhavan, Aj kumar Cherukole, MS Anil Kumar, Sreekumar Prakkanam, Nisha Kumar and CEO Deepika spoke on the occasion

SFAC's National Online Meet



The Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium organised an online meet to discuss the problems faced by the CBBOs in different states. The FPO Director Sudheesh Kumar K represented CISSA CBBO at the Meet. He spoke about the major activities of FPOs under CISSA, their successes and important projects floated by them. The CBBOs highlighted the delay in conducting management courses and training programmes by SFAC's implementing agencies. SFAC representatives responded by saying that immediate steps would be taken to remedy the problem through the Public Finance Management System. The Meet also highlighted the success stories of CBBOs functioning in different states.

Mannu App: CISSA FPO Director K. SUDHEESH KUMAR AWARDED

The Department of Soil Survey & Soil Conservation has received the State E-Governance Award for developing the app called Mannu. The Former Assistant Director of the Department K Sudheesh Kumar received the award from the Minister V Sivankutty at a function held at Tagore Gardens, Thiruvananthapuram on 3 December 2023. The Corporation Mayor Arya Rajendran and Dr Sebastian Paul were present at the event. Sudheesh Kumar is presently serving as FPO Director at Thiruvananthapuram-based not-for-profit CISSA.

The 'Mannu' mobile application provides information about the nutrient levels of soil and the appropriate fertilisers to be applied, in one's fingertips. The app can be downloaded from Google Play Store. The app also provides inputs about a particular region's soil quality through the GPS tracker in mobile phones.



The desired language can be selected after opening the application. The link 'Find the soil nutrient level' helps the farmer to identify the nutrients in his or her locality's soil. On 'selecting a crop' and clicking 'Fertiliser Recommendations', the app provides information about whether organic or chemical fertilisers are most suited to the particular soil type, and the method of applying the fertilisers. The app aims to reach out the benefits of information technology to the farmers and the agrarian sector

Procurement of second-season paddy: Free registration open

The second-season paddy procurement implemented by Supplyco as part of Paddy Procurement Scheme 2022-23 is open online for farmers from



15 December 2022. Farmers can register online at www.supplycopaddy.in after ensuring that they meet all guidelines of the Government. Other terms and conditions for paddy procurement are available at the website.

Karshaka Mitra Input Centre begins functioning



An agricultural Input and Service Centre under the Karshaka Mitra FPC has begun functioning at Pothencode. The Centre was formally launched by the FPC Chairman V Sasidharan Nair on 2 December 2023. Sasidharan Nair and FPC Director & Ward Member of Andoorkonam Anil Kumar together made the first sale.

The Input Centre has been started with the intention of making available good quality seeds, fertilisers, saplings and other agricultural implements to the farmers at affordable prices. The Director Board Members, CEO Devika James L and local residents were present at the event.

Harithodayam stall attracts attention at Kerala Gramam fair



The stall put up by Harithodayam FPC has attracted the attention of all at the Kerala Gramam fair organised by the Kerala state government. The exhibition cum sale stall was set up to promote the commodities produced by the FPC at the Panchayat-level inauguration held at Karakulam.

Coconut saplings of different breeds, insect traps to prevent pesticide attack on coconut trees, and the company's products such as organic fertilisers, fish amino acid, neem oil emulsion, and the products produced by JLGs under the FPC such as coconut oil and kits for Karthika festival were up for display and sale.

Hon'ble Kerala Agriculture Minister P Prasad visited the

Desingnad FPC opens Agro Supermarket



The Agro Supermarket of Desingnad FPC has begun functioning at Chathanoor in Kollam district. The inauguration of the Supermarket and the first sale was done by Chathanoor Agriculture Officer Manoj Lukose. The Company Chairman SV Anith presided over.

In his inaugural address, Manoj Lukose wished the Desingnad FPC all success and that it will help rejuvenate the agricultural sector and provide all support to the farmers.

Seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, saplings and other agricultural implements needed for cultivation are available at the supermarket. These apart, implements included under the Submission on Agricultural Mechanisation scheme such as Coconut Tree Climbing Machine, Baba Tech's Wheel Barrow, Multi Utility Ladder, and implements promoted by VST Tillers Tractors Ltd. like Power Weeder, Power Tiller and Brush Cutter are available at subsidised rates at the supermarket.

The Directors of the FPC Jayakumar R, B Madhukumar, Rajeev K, Arun GS, Shaji Kumar S, Gopalakrishna Pillai G, Jayakumar R Pillai, Ramachandran Pillai K, Jayan R, and CEO Ragesh were present.

stall. The FPC Chairman KP Krishnakumar welcomed the Minister with a Karthika kit. The Minister showed also great interest in understanding the activities of the Harithodayam FPC.

The first sale of the Karthika kit put together by the FPC was jointly made by the Agriculture Officers of Aruvikkara and Karakulam. The exhibition evinced great appreciation from the visitors. The stall also received many business enquiries and leads.

Food Corporation of India officials visit Sahya Samriddhi FPC



Officials of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) visited the Sahya Samriddhi in —--- district. FCI General Manager Natabar Pal and other officials, Harish Kumar and Vishnu Shankar were part of the visit made to understand and evaluate the functioning of the FPC. The officials visited the FPC office and the Input Shop run by the company. The FPC team including promoter Raji Natajaran, shareholder Suresh, CEO Sreelekshmi S and Accountant Arun accompanied the officials.

Crop Insurance Coverage for all Farmers:

Sahya Samriddhi gears up for advocacy



The Sahya Samriddhi FPC has initiated leadership efforts to ensure that the benefits of climate-based crop insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is made available to farmers in all Panchayats of Anchal block in Kollam district. A decision to this effect was made at the Director-Board meeting of the FPC. It also decided to take up the necessary steps and meet the concerned officials. The FPC team is gearing

up to submit petitions to the Agricultural Insurance Company of India and the District Monitoring Committee chaired by the District Collector.

Currently, only banana growers located in Kulathuppuzha and Punalur Panchayats that have weather information centres are compensated for losses from severe wind. It has been reported that banana plants in the other Panchayats of the Anchal block are also subject to losses from severe wind. It is in this context that the submission for insurance coverage for all farmers in the block is being made.

The Chairman of FPC B Sudheer Kumar presided over the Board Meeting held at the FPC office on 16 December 2022. CISSA FPO Director Ajith Kumar G was the Chief Guest. Director Board Members, CEO Sreelekshmi S and shareholders Aji K Raj, Rajeev and Umesh were present.



A Farmers' Meet under the auspices of Pandalam FPC at Mezhuveli Panchayat of the Pandalam block. FPC Board Member VR Raju presided over.

Farmers' Meet Held

CISSA FPO Director Ajith Kumar G, who was the Chief Guest, spoke about doubling farmers' income by developing value-added products from agricultural produce. He also highlighted the importance of mechanised farming. CISSA FPO Coordinator Harikumar, FPC Directors Ajith, Ramakaran and CEO Abi A were present.

Organic Arrowroot cultivated by Karshaka Mitra FIG harvested



The Karshaka Mitra FIG under the Neyyar FPC has harvested 250 kilos of organically cultivated arrowroot. The produce was sold at the rate of Rs 60 per kilo through the marketing channels of the FPC and the FIG besides the local markets.

The arrowroot crop was cultivated entirely through organic means in 60 cents of leased land by the 16-member Karshaka Mitra team. The President Satheesh Chandran, Secretary Raghuvaran Nair and Treasurer Sivankutty Nair led the cultivation process. Arrowroot cultivation was a profitable activity, said the FPC CEO Saju VS.

Grama Samriddhi - Annual General Meet



The first annual general meet of Grama Samriddhi FPC was held at Bharatheeeya Vidyapeetam Central School, Parassala on 11 December 2022. The FPC Chairman Ramachandran Nair presided over and CISSA General Secretary Suresh Kumar C was the

Chief Guest. The Director Ashwathy V Nath welcomed the participants.

Dr Suresh Kumar gave away the share certificates to the newly enrolled shareholders and also detailed the purpose of FPO formation. The CEO Jyothi VM presented the annual report. There are 413 shareholders currently, the CEO said.

The meeting discussed the efficient management of the soon-to-be opened nursery, market and the development of value added products from vegetables, fruits and tapioca. The Directors of the company and shareholders were present in the meeting.

Director Board Meeting at Chenganoor FPC



The Director Board meeting of Chenganoor FPC was held at its office on 15 December 2022. The Chairman CD Sreekuman Pillai presided over the meeting. The meeting discussed the nursery and stall to be started soon by the FPC.

The FPC Directors and CEO Nisha Balan were present.

Meeting with Rohini Agro Sciences held



The Desingnad FPC had a meeting with Field Officer Ashwini of Rohini Agro Sciences at the FPC office, Chathanoor on 14 December. The FPC Chairman SV Anith Kumar presided over the meeting, which was held to facilitate the availability of Rohini's products like fertilisers and pesticides at subsidised rates through the FPC Input Centre. The FPC Directors and CEO TR Ragesh were present.

Thamarakudy FIG begins banana farming



The inauguration of banana farming at Mylam Panchayat by Thamarakudy FIG of Kallada River Valley FPC was done by the Company's Director Santhosh Babu. The banana farm is set in 40 cents of land.

The Company Director Geetha Devi Amma, CEO Stefani Alex, Thamarakudy FIG President Vijayanathan Pillai, Secretary Resmi and FIG group members were present. The Thamarakudy FIG has 20 members

Director Board Meeting at Pandalam FPC



The Director Board meeting of Pandalam FPC was held at its Kulanda office on 3 December 2022. The meeting discussed the business plan preparation for the FPC and the conduct of Panchayat-level meetings to increase the shareholder strength of the company. The Chairperson Priya Prasad presided over the meeting. The company Director and CEO Aby A were present

Director Board Meeting at Harithodayam FPC



The Director Board meeting of Harithodayam FPC was held at its Karakulam office on 2 December 2022. The FPC Chairman KP Krishna Kumar presided over the meeting. CISSA General Secretary Suresh Kumar C was the Chief Guest.

Director Board Meeting at Desingnad FPC



The Director Board meeting of Desingnad FPC was held at its Chathanoor office on 14 December 2022. The Chairman SV Anith Kumar presided over the meeting. CISSA General Secretary Suresh Kumar C was the Chief Guest.

The meeting discussed the preparations for starting the Input Centre under the FPC.

It also decided to start a Custom Hiring Centre, FIG formation and a campaign to promote crop insurance.

The Head of CISSA Admi nistration KG Satheesh, Project Coordinator Arun Kumar S, FPO Coordinator O Harikumar, FPC Directors and CEO TR Ragesh were present.

Dr Suresh informed the participants about taking the necessary licenses mandated by the Government for sale of seeds and food products. The meeting discussed the opening of a Mini Agro Bazaar, procurement of crops, functioning of JLGs and the licences that the company has to take from the Panchayat and Krishi Bhavan.

As many as 10 sub committees for the smooth functioning of the FPC were formed and their Convenors and other members were also selected at the meeting. CEO Shaju B and Director Board members were present.

Punjab National Bank Manager visits Chengannur FPC



The Chengannur Branch Manager of Punjab National Bank Malini Thampy visited the Chengannur FPC office. She interacted with the FPC Directors Sreejith S, CEO Nisha Balan and Accountant Revathi Chandran to understand the functioning of the company.

The Manager also visited the newlyopened nursery and the banana plantation of the FPC that is eyeing to attract the upcoming Onam market. The Manager assured that steps to disburse loans through the Kisan Credit Card to the FPC's shareholders will be taken up soon.

Mavellikkara FIG Meeting



The meeting of Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) in Thekkekkara, Chettikulangara, Chennithala and Mannar panchayats was held under the leadership of Mavellikara FPO and in the presence of the company Chairman N Vijayakumar.

The CISSA FPO Director Ajith Kumar G detailed the scope and relevance of FIGs, their functioning and follow-up activities in these meetings. He also explained the development of farm business plans under the leadership of FIGs and cropping practices, besides responding to queries from the participants.

The meetings selected the office-bearers including the President, Secretary and Treasurer of various FIGs. A checklist was developed to enable the smooth functioning of the FPC's future activities at the meeting along with discussing future plans. The responsibility for ensuring the conduct of future meetings was entrusted to the selected

Block-level meeting of FPCs held



The block-level meeting of the farmer producer companies to be formed in Nedumangad, Vellanad and Vamanapuram was held on 28 December 2022. The CISSA General Secretary Suresh Kumar C inaugurated the Nedumangad taluk meeting held at the Local Bodies Employees Cooperative Society.

Dr Suresh explained about the scope and relevance of farmer producer companies and the running of the company. CISSA FPO Director Ajith Kumar G talked about how agriculture can be made profitable and the benefits that farmers can get from farming.

The Project Coordinator Arun Kumar S, FPO Coordinator O Harikumar and CISSA representatives Krishna Murali, Akash Krishna, Nikhila Jayan N and AFPC promoters were present.

Formation Meeting of New FPCs

The promoters in Vellanad and Mukhathala blocks where new FPCs are to be formed under CISSA CBBO met recently.

The CISSA General Secretary Suresh Kumar C presided over the meeting held at Vellanad block on 17 December 2022. The meeting discussed the name of the FPCs to be formed and their registration formalities. CISSA representatives Krishna Murali S and Project Coordinator Arun Kumar S were present.

The FPC Director Sunith Das presided over the meeting held at Kalluvettamkuzhi of Mukhathala block held on



21 December 2022. The meeting discussed the procedures to be followed for company formation and the list of shareholders to be handed over to SFAC. The meeting selected S Anil Kumar as company Chairperson, along with other Directors. CISSA representative Akhil A and Project Coordinator O Hari Kumar participated...

Participation in <u>Farm Mechanisation</u> Training

Many representatives of FPCs working under CISSA CBBO participated in the three-day long farm mechanisation camp at Vellayani-based Research Testing and Training Centre (RTTC), an organisation under the state Agriculture Department.

The Chairman of Desingnad FPC SV Anith, CEO Ragesh, Vellayani FPC CEO Noble Manas, Accountant Padmakumar S, Vellayani FPC Director Lalu RS and CEO



Krishna Murali were present.

The Assistant Engineers of RTTC Naveen and Binu handled a session on working mechanisms of various agricultural tools and implements, their repairs and maintenance. As many as 25 trainees from various districts

participated in the training programme. RTTC gave away certificates to all participants.

DMI Inspection in FPCs



Officials of the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) entrusted by the Central Government inspected FPCs in connection with efforts to form and promote 10,000 FPOs in the country. The Deputy Agricultural Marketing Advisor (Incharge) Dr Anil Kumar R and Marketing Officer L Rajasekharan of DMI's Kochi Regional Office inspected various FPCs from 1 to 5 December 2022. CISSA FPO Directors Dr Ajith Kumar G, Sudheesh Kumar K and Project Coordinator Arun Kumar S were also present during the inspection. The DMI officials evaluated the FPOs' functioning and their compliance to Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) guidelines.

At the Grama Samriddhi FPC in Parassala, the DMI officials interacted with the Chairman Ramachandran Nair S, CEO Jyothi, Directors and farmers. They also visited the FPC's Input Shop and beneficiaries of Muttagramam project, and pushcart owners supported by the State Horticulture Mission as part of the field visit



and interacted with them.

The Chairman Biju B Nair, CEO Saju VS, Directors and farmers were present in the meeting at Perungadavila Neyyar FPC. As part of their field visit, the DMI officials visited and evaluated the FPC's Input Shop, coconut



nursery, chips making unit and Agricultural Distribution Centre, along with the farms of many farmers.



Their next stop for inspection was the Vellayani FPC in the Nemom block. The Chairman Adv S Suresh, CEO Noble Manas, Accountant Padmakumar, Directors and shareholders were present during the interaction. They visited the Karshika Chantha (Agricultural Fair), a model farm in Malayinkeezhu and held discussions with the farmers.

The DMI officials further interacted with the farmers and promoters of Varkala, Vamanapuram, Vellanad and Nedumangad blocks where new FPCs are to be set up.

Post field visits, DMI Marketing Officer Rajasekharan also had discussions with CISSA Vice President Dr S Ravindran, Director of Agriculture Department Dr CK Peethambharan and Head of Administration KG Satheesh.



Panchayat-Level Meeting of Sabarigiri FPC held



The Panchayat-level meeting of Sabarigiri FPCs was held in Omallor and Mullapuzhasheri panchayats. The company chairman Elanthoor Haridas presided over. CISSA FPO Director Sudheesh Kumar K was the Chief Guest.

The Chief Guest explained the scope and relevance of farmer interest groups (FIGs), importance of setting up Panchayat-level FIGs and the start of agriculture under the leadership of FIGs.

The Panchayat President of Mullapuzhasheri Usha Kumari, Vice President Pradeep Kumar T, ward members Sreelekha S, Rosamma Mathai, Sathi Devi CR, Uthaman Purushotthaman, FPO Coordinator O Harikumar, Directors of the company, and CEO Deepika PV were present.

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WEEKLY TRAINING FOR CISSA CBBO



A session on crop insurance was handled by the Vice President, Policy in Insurance Brokers Private Limited James Tom at the session held on 13 December. At a time when climatic variations are being evidently felt in Kerala, crop insurance assumes great significance, he said. The expert reminded the participants to submit applications to climate-based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for the Rabi season and that the last date for submitting applications is 28 February 2023.

In the session on 27 December, the Agriculture Assistant Director of Kerala Agriculture Department Suresh Thampy spoke about plant nursery management. He detailed the processes for running a nursery, right from its registration. He also explained the infrastructural requirements and the tools and implements needed for a nursery.

CISSA FPO Directors Ajith Kumar G, Sudheesh Kumar K, FPC Chairmen, Directors, CEOs and the like participated in the weekly training programmes and subsequent review meetings.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON BANK LOANS

An awareness programme on bank loans available to farmers was held under the auspices of Mavelikkara FPC. The Regional Managing Director, SBI Mavellikara Shalini Sasidharan anchored the session.

She talked about various bank loans that farmers can get such as Mudra loan, loans linked with Kisan Credit Card and loans of Agri Infrastructure Fund Scheme, and



the steps needed to avail these loans.

The Chairman of FPC N Vijayakumar presided over the session held at the FPC office on 5 December. The Directors of the FPC Radhamani, Sivarajan, Rajmohan; CEO Ashwin Dharan and shareholders were present.

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Friends' Network: Training on coconut tree climbing given



The Kadali FPC and Kanjiramkulam Krishi Bhavan jointly organised a training on coconut tree climbing for coconut farmers. The training was given with the financial support of the Coconut Development Board. Selected farmers were given a six-day-long training programme.

The Kanjiramkulam Grama Panchayat President Shylaja Kumar inaugurated the training programme conducted at Kanjiramkulam Krishi Bhavan. Ward member Nirmala Thankaraj presided over. Officials of Coconut Development Board including Technical Officer Meera Chandran, Development Officer Selvar Kumar SS, Kanjiramkulam Agriculture Officer Preetha, Assistant Agriculture Officer Lola, Agriculture Assistant Soumya and CEO of Kadali FPC Rajesh Vadakkumkara spoke.

Master Trainer Vishnu R led the training programme. The Assistant Professor (Agronomy) of Coconut Research Station Dr Kavitha GV, Retd. Farm Superintendent Krishnakumar, Retd. Deputy Agriculture Officer Sathyan, Retd. Agriculture Officer

Poultry farming: One-day training



A day-long training programme on rearing egg-laying hens and associated topics for farmers was organised by the Mavellikkara FPC as part of the Muttagramam project. The sessions were handled by the Managing Director of Samriddhi Hen and Hi-tech Cages Anas KS. He detailed the loans available for poultry farming, feeding methods and medications-feeding practices of the birds. He also demonstrated the cages that have been identified for distribution through the Muttagramam project. As many as 38 shareholder farmers, FPC Chairman N Vijayakumar, Director Board members, CEO Ashwin Dharan and others participated.

Jayaraj and other sector experts handled the sessions. The Nemom Branch Manager Rakhi anchored a session on agricultural services routed by banks.

A coconut tree climbing competition was also organised to mark the completion of the training. The first three contestants were given a cash prize of Rs 500, Rs 300 and Rs 200 respectively. All 20 trainees were given free coconut climbing machines

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana: Awareness Generation and Free Registration



An awareness building session on Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was held under the auspices of Kallada

River Valley FPC on 28 December 2022. Free insurance registration was also done. The FPC Chairman P Unnikrishnan inaugurated the programme.

The session detailed the insurance scheme, premium amounts for various crops, subsidy, claim amount and the modalities of informing the authorities about a loss. The Field Supervisor of Agriculture Insurance Company Akshay RG and the CEO of Sahya Samriddhi FPC Sreelekshmi handled the sessions.



The CEO of Muthukulam FPC Gokul Krishna anchoring a session on the role of FPOs at an event organised by ATMA



Board Meeting of Mullappally FPC



Board Meeting of Pathanamthitta FPC



The General Secretary of Kissan Service Society
Suresh having a discussion on Muttagramam project with the
Director Board members of Mullappally FPC



Board Meeting of Mukhathala FPC



Board Meeting of Pandalam FPC



About the AKA project organized by Chattanur SBI When Desinganadu FPC representatives were invited in the program



The Pavithreswaram Karimbinpuzha FIG meeting of K



CISSA FPO Director Ajith Kumar G in discussions with Pandalam FPC Director Board members



FIG meeting with members of Mannar and Melpadam regions under Mavellikara FPC

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AGRICULTURE IS MY LIFE'



Does policing and agriculture have any relation? On the surface of it, there is no relation. All the same, a policeman can be a good farmer as can be understood from the life of policeman turned farmer Retd.SI Prasannan Nair of Mavellikkara. His wife Radhamony and he have together followed the path of his forefathers and turned agriculture into a success story.

Even though he is a member of a farming family, Prasannan actively took up agriculture only in 1997. Prasannan turned to agriculture when the income from his job was not sufficient to meet ends. He began with betel leaf cultivation in 20 cents of land, Prasannan would head to this land soon after returning from office, Agriculture, thankfully, did not fail him. His first endeavour of betel leaf cultivation turned profitable.

Even though Prasannan has retired from service, he has not tasted retirement yet. His days continue to be very busy, starting from 6 am and going on until even 12 at night. Once his betel leaf cultivation turned profitable, he graduated into other crops. Today, there is hardly any

crop that one may not find in his half-acre land. From vegetables, mushroom, chilli varieties, jasmine to chicken and cow breeds like Kasargod Kullan and Veychoor, and even a bio-fertiliser preparation unit.

The entire responsibility of mushroom cultivation is shouldered by Radhamony, who is also Director Board member of Mavellikara FPC. Many farmers engaged in mushroom cultivation engage with Radhamony to clarify their doubts. She has won the state award for Best Farmer during the years 2005, and won an award from Chettikulangara Krishi Bhavan in 2022. Radhamony won the award for best integrated farmer instituted by Krishnapuram Krishi Vigyan Kendra in 2021.



The couple is gearing up to diversify by starting fish farming on a pond situated within their land and also rear goats. Prasannan and Radhamony are indeed worthy of emulation!



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