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Union Budget 2024-25: A Boost for Agricultural Transformation



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for 2024-2025, with a pronounced focus on the agricultural sector. In the budget, the minister emphasised the release of climate-resilient crop varieties, the promotion of natural farming, the strengthening of FPOs, and several other pro-farmer initiatives. These measures support the Prime Minister's vision of doubling farmers' income. Today, India is not only self-sufficient in meeting its food demand but is also a net exporter of agricultural products. However, the country faces a deficit in pulses and oilseeds and another critical area requiring immediate attention is the impact of climate change on cropping patterns across different parts of the country.

High-Yielding, Climate-Resilient Crop Varieties

A cornerstone of the budget is the release of 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient varieties of 32 crops. This initiative is designed to enhance productivity and food security, addressing the challenges posed by climate change and ensuring a robust agricultural output. The introduction of these varieties is expected to significantly boost crop yields and ensure the stability of food supplies.

Promotion of Natural Farming

One of the most ambitious targets set by the budget is the initiation of 1 crore farmers into natural farming over the next two years. This initiative is supported by certification and branding efforts, aimed at ensuring that farmers transitioning to natural farming methods can secure better market access for their produce. Natural farming, which avoids synthetic chemicals in favor of organic inputs, promises to improve soil health, increase biodiversity, and sustain long-term ecological balance. The establishment of 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centers will supply essential inputs required for natural farming, enhancing productivity and sustainability. In Kerala, the concept of natural farming has yet to gain widespread traction. CISSA, through its network of FPOs, can educate farmers about natural farming practices. By organising these farmers into groups, they can produce products in quantities large enough to attract interest from major buyers. The FPOs, with their network of shops, can also directly market these products, adding value through processing and branding under a single common brand. This approach would provide an additional source of income for the farmers.

FOREWORD

A concerning issue has emerged in Kerala's agricultural landscape: a low uptake of Central Government schemes designed to bolster the livelihoods of farmers. A recent glaring example is brought to the news reports that despite beneficial incentives offered under the National Livestock Mission's entrepreneurship development program for dairy, goat, poultry, and pig farming, with subsidies reaching lakhs of rupees individuals who have started availing of these opportunities are very less in number

Similarly, the Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS), which provides financial protection against crop losses due to adverse weather conditions, has seen minimal adoption. This is particularly disheartening given the scheme's advantage of swift claim settlements.

A primary reason for this underutilization is a lack of awareness among farmers about the availability and benefits of these Government support programs. The success of the Sahasradalam program, starting 1000 enterprises in one district by CISSA, which focused on educating farmers about the range of schemes available, including those offered under the PMFME, PMEGP, AIF, Mudra Loan, KCC Loan, and the One Family One Enterprise, Scheme, is striking

By highlighting the potential for income growth and financial security, FPOs should aim to stimulate greater participation in these schemes. This strategic approach is expected to not only boost the adoption of Government support programs but also contribute to the overall development and resilience of Kerala's agricultural sector.

By recognizing the importance of addressing the root causes of low scheme uptake, FPOs should be committed to ensure that Kerala's farmers have the knowledge, resources, and support needed to maximize the benefits of Government schemes. By bridging the gap between farmers and Government support programs, we can create a more equitable and prosperous agricultural landscape.

Dr. Sureshkumar C
General Secretary, CISSA

Strengthening Pulses and Oilseeds Production

The budget also focuses on achieving self-sufficiency in pulses and oilseeds, particularly crops like mustard, groundnut, sesame, soybean, and sunflower. This mission seeks to reduce import dependency, stabilize market prices, and create a secure and profitable

environment for farmers. Enhanced production, storage, and marketing strategies will support this goal, ensuring a steady supply of these essential crops.

Boosting Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs)

To empower farmers with better market access, technology, and collective bargaining power, the Government registered 10,000 FPOs. This initiative aims to enhance farmer incomes and reduce wastage in vegetable supply chains by promoting FPOs, cooperatives, and start-ups to manage these supply chains more efficiently. A notable budget increase of 30% for FPOs, from ₹450 crore to ₹581.67 crore, reflects the Government's commitment to strengthening these organizations.

Digital Public Infrastructure in Agriculture

The Union Government, in partnership with states, will implement Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in agriculture, covering farmers and their lands within three years. A digital crop survey for Kharif will be conducted in 400 districts, integrating 6 crore farmers' details into registries for better planning. Additionally, Jan Samarth (National port for credit linked Government schemes) -based Kisan Credit Cards will be issued in five states. For achieving self-sufficiency in pulses and oilseeds, the Government will strengthen their production, storage and marketing.

Support for Aquaculture and Cooperatives

The budget provides financial support for Nucleus Breeding Centres for Shrimp Broodstocks and NABARD-facilitated financing to boost shrimp production, enhancing the aquaculture sector. Additionally, a National Cooperation Policy will strengthen cooperatives, improving governance and expanding reach to benefit more farmers and rural communities.

Financial Allocations and Innovations

The budget allocates ₹1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and ₹2.66 lakh crore for rural development. ₹1 lakh crore financing pool will drive private sector-driven research and innovation. Support for multi-product food irradiation units and food quality labs aims to ensure higher quality standards and better marketability of agricultural products.

Opportunities for FPOs

For the Farmer Producer Organizations FPOs the Union Budget's emphasis on natural farming presents a pivotal opportunity, which has been at the forefront of supporting FPOs, can leverage the budget's provisions to enhance its efforts in promoting sustainable farming methods. This includes providing hands-on training and education on natural farming

techniques, establishing bio-input resource centers in collaboration with local authorities, and ensuring certification and branding support for organic produce.

Annual General Body Meeting of Yadavakulam FPC



The Annual General Body Meeting of Yadhavakulam Farmers Producer Company, a fodder plus FPO was held on July 21, 2024, at Sri Padmam Auditorium in Thiruvananthapuram. Former Union Minister V. Muralidharan inaugurated the event and distributed share certificates. Mrs. Malathi Nataraj from NDDDB graced the occasion with her presence and shared valuable insights on FPOs and their benefits with the shareholders. Chairman Mr. Rajeev Gopal presented the company's annual report, highlighting achievements and outlining future plans, including the target of increasing the shareholder count from 300 to 750. CEO Mr. Ananthu Anoop welcomed the participants.

Yadhavakulam FPO was established for organizing systematic procedures for carrying out fodder, silage, and other animal husbandry activities and ensuring a consistent supply of quality fodder, silage, and dry fodder to dairy industry farmers.

The company proposes to start its business activities in the initial three years through the cultivation of maize fodder, the manufacturing of maize silage, and the trading of silage seeds. The company has leased 8 acres of land at Valliyur in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu and has started trial farming on one acre. Test farming of three high-yield maize varieties to identify the one best suited for the land in terms of quality and yield. The seeding process and installation of drip irrigation have already been completed. Once the ideal seed variety is selected, the company plans to begin large-scale cultivation by August 2024. The marketing efforts will be targeted at Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts

An interactive session with Mr G Chandramouli.



CISSA had the honour of hosting Mr. G Chandramouli, National Leader and Regional Chairman of the Khadi Village Industry Commission, Government of India, for an interactive session on July 30, 2024 with CISSA experts and progressive farmers at their Thiruvananthapuram office. Dr. A. G. Pandurengan, CISSA's Advisor, welcomed Mr. Chandramouli. Dr. Sureshkumar, CISSA's General Secretary, honoured him with a shawl.

Mr. Chandramouli gave an inspirational speech about his journey which started as an engineer and later focussing on the development of the fishermen community in various coastal regions of India.

“Most people are not aware of the new scientific interventions. There are various opportunities like ornamental fish farming, pearl culture, dry fish production and seaweed cultivation, which are crucial for job creation and transforming raw materials into end products with commercial value. Even if an FPO is formed for fishermen, the focus must ultimately be on developing these types of end products. But the first priority is raising awareness and building a strong connection with the Government” Chandramouli opined

Mr Chandramouli enumerated various proven technologies and project success stories of how these practices boost fishermen's income.

“The concept of seaweed cultivation is promising, but it requires non-polluted waters to produce high-quality products. Unfortunately, pollution in our coastal areas has hindered the success of seaweed farming”. Mr. Chandramouli also highlighted the need for strict Government policies to prevent the exploitation of natural resources. Many major cities discharge waste directly into the sea, impacting both the environment and human health.

“Three major issues have emerged: environmental and ecological imbalances, the decline of natural marine resources, and the diminishing livelihoods of coastal communities. We surveyed coastal

communities, particularly fishermen, and found widespread skin problems due to oil pollution. Oil leaks during transportation from countries like the Gulf and Thailand have exacerbated the situation. Unfortunately, international sea laws are often ignored. India has begun addressing these new challenges, focusing on technology and alternative systems that scientists have developed which need to be implemented effectively” stated G Chandramouli.

Besides the fishing community, Mr. Chandramouli's activities also focus on traditional weavers, palm cultivation and apiculture. He pointed out that in apiculture, most are concentrating only on honey. But the scope for byproducts like royal jelly, bee wax, bee venom are vast and a lot more to explore. India has diversified indigenous weaving patterns in different areas.

Mr Chandramouli appreciated the efforts taken by CISSA in reducing the gap between science and field. He also stressed the importance of skill development and training for farmers, entrepreneurs, and professionals

The interaction concluded with a sense of enthusiasm and renewed purpose as participants were left with a clearer understanding of the opportunities and challenges in the fisheries and agricultural sector

Review Meeting of Sahasradhalam



The third Review meeting of the Entrepreneur Development Program Sahasradhalam 2024 was held on June 24, 2024 at the CISSA Office. The key representatives from Farmer Producer Organizations across Thiruvananthapuram participated in the meeting which aimed to evaluate the progress of various initiatives, identify new opportunities, streamline efforts and strategize on enhancing entrepreneurship.

Dr. Sureshkumar C, General Secretary of CISSA, and representatives from Grama Samrudhi, Koyikkalnadu, Vellanad Rural, Neyyar, Vellayani, Vamanapuram, Varkala, and Chirayinkeezhu, participated in the meeting.

The meeting assessed that approximately 60% of the targeted 1,000 enterprises have been achieved till now, with some FPOs nearing their target of 100 enterprises. Decision taken for increasing the number, scope and reach of Naatupeedikas (local shops) to each ward in Thiruvananthapuram corporation, aiming for a minimum of 50 local shops.

Each FPO will be responsible for managing at least five Naatupeedikas, ensuring a consistent supply of products and produce to these outlets. These Naatupeedikas will enable farmers in the Thiruvananthapuram district to sell their products at premium prices, while consumers can purchase high-quality local goods at a fair and profitable rate.

FPOs also decided to focus on increasing crop production through activities such as community farming and to maintain proper documentation, including photos and videos, of all activities.

A significant portion of cultivation costs is attributed to labour in Kerala. To address this issue, FPOs have decided to initiate more custom hiring centers. Additionally, to launch nursery units and organic manure production centers as part of the enterprise initiatives. The discussions and decisions made during this meeting are expected to significantly influence the future direction of FPOs in Thiruvananthapuram district.

Desinganadu FPC Banana Harvest



The harvest of banana cultivated in two acre land by Desinganadu Farmer Producer Company took place on July 10, 2024. Mr. S. Jayaprasanth, BJP District General Secretary and company shareholder, officially inaugurated the event. The event was attended by representatives from the Department of Agriculture, company officials, and the landowner, Mr. Unnikrishna Pillai. Company was able to sell their produce at a reasonably good price and is planning to expand the area of cultivation for next season.

Tarang: A Celebration of Farmer Producer Collectives



TARANG

Celebrating Collectivisation

A three-day FPO Mela, named 'Tarang: Celebrating Collectivisation,' was successfully organized by NABARD, SFAC, and ONDC from July 12 to 14, 2024, at Ayankali Hall in Thiruvananthapuram. With a focus on promoting collectivization and enhancing market reach. The mela featured 43 stalls representing FPCs under NABARD and SFAC. Five CISSA-affiliated FPOs - Gram Samrudhi, Sahiya Samridhi, Koyikkalnadu, Haridhodhyam, and Balaramapuram Handloom producer company, participated, offering a variety of products to consumers. The program was inaugurated by Baiju N. Kurup, Chief General Manager of NABARD. Officials representing SFAC, ONDC, NABARD and various FPO CEOs and chairmen also participated.

Grama Samrudhi FPC



Gramasamrudhi Farmer Producer Company showcased a diverse range of products, varieties of Tapioca based products-Tapioca papad ,Dried tapioca,Tapioca flour along with Honey,Pickles,Vegetable seeds and Eggs at Tarang Mela

Sahiya Samridhi FPC



Sahiya Samridhi Farmer Producer Company showcased varieties of value added products based on honey - Forest Honey,Honey Gooseberry Jam and Box Honey along with Spice Mix and Pepper

Koyikkalnadu FPC



Koyikkalnadu Farmer Producer Company showcased- Jackfruit powder, Dried Jackfruit ,Honey ,Coconut oil, Tamarind, Garcinia, Chilly powder, Coriander powder, Turmeric powder, Dried Tapioca, and 10 varieties of pickles-Cut mango, Tender mango, Kadu manga, Lemon pickle, Ginger pickle, Brinjal pickle, Beetroot pickle, Quail egg pickle, Tuna pickle, Chicken pickle

Harithodhyam FPC



Harithodhyam Farmer Producer Company showcased a range of value-added products- dragon fruit jam, dragon fruit juice, and dried dragon fruits. The company also featured various millet-based products, chili powder, turmeric powder, spices, and jackfruit-based items. The millet payasam served at the stall was a big hit among visitors

Balaramapuram Handlooms Producer Company



Balaramapuram Handloom Producer Company showcased its exquisite collection at the Tarang Mela. The display included a range of traditional handloom sarees adorned with intricate golden lace designs, along with classic handloom dhotis featuring both traditional colors and elegant silver and gold lace borders.

Mallappally Farmer Producer Company Launches 'Healthy Bowl'



Mallappally Panchayat President Bindu Mary Thomas lighting the ceremonial lamp

Mallappally Farmer Producer Company has introduced over 40 food products under the brand name "Healthy Bowl." On July 3, 2024, the company inaugurated its new rotary-extracted coconut oil unit and marketing centre near Anima Hospital on Mallappally, Kottayam Road. The inauguration of the marketing centre was done by CISSA General Secretary Dr. Sureshkumar C. The switch-on of the

rotary coconut oil extractor was done by Mallappally Block Panchayat President Bindu Chandramohan. Mallappally Panchayat President Bindu Mary Thomas lit the ceremonial lamp. The first sale of the products was made by company Chairman Mr Suresh K. Pillai to Mr Madhu Kavarumath, a company member.

The company has started the new venture by taking a loan from State Bank of India through Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). It is expected that effective collaboration between ONDC, Mystore and other FPOs will increase sales.



rotary machine (chuck)



Healthy Bowl products

For better marketing of the company's products, the products have been brought to the market under the brand name 'Healthy Bowl'. Procedure for registering the brand trademark is also underway. Pure coconut oil, virgin coconut oil, coconut milk, coconut powder, coconut chutney, pickles, vinegar from coconut water, millet products, spice powders and many other fruits and vegetable products. It is worth mentioning that the company's products have already been delivered to customers through Mystore. Expect to receive more orders in the following days

Honouring Best Fish Farmer



Geethadevi E, a member of the Mylam unit of Kottarakkara FPC, was declared as the Best Fish Farmer of Kottarakkara Municipal Corporation on National Fish Farmers Day, July 10, 2024. She was recognized for her contributions to the fishing industry and was awarded by Kottarakkara Municipal Corporation Chairman Mr Rameshan Nair

Entrepreneurship Workshops

Pandalam FPC



Pandalam Farmer Producer Company, conducted an entrepreneurship workshop for farmers at Aranmula.. Pathanamthitta District Panchayat Health Education Development Standing Committee Chairman, Mr R. Ajayakumar, inaugurated the event; He highlighted the significant role FPOs offer to counter the challenges posed by big corporates and the difficulties faced by farmers. The event began with an introductory speech by the company's Chairperson, Mrs. Priya Prasad. Mr. Ajith Kumar NC, Director of FPC presented a summary of the company's activities.

Aranmula Agriculture Officer Mrs. Chandana R, Ward Member Verumkal Prasad, Mr. Ajithkumar G (CISSA FPO Director), and Mr. Harikumar O (CISSA FPO Coordinator) also extended their greetings.

Mrs. Swapna Das, Taluk Industries Officer, and Vipin Chandralal, Industrial Development Officer, who handled the training sessions provided insights into the schemes offered by the Government of India and State Industries Department, including subsidies available to support self-employment initiatives. Agriculture Officer Mrs. Chandana R elaborated on assistance and support for farming activities.

Mr. Suresh S, National General Secretary, Kissan Service Society discussed schemes on poultry farming and answered farmers' queries. Bank managers of Union Bank, Canara Bank, Kerala Bank, and Central Bank also participated and explained the schemes available to farmers to support their entrepreneurial efforts.

CISSA General Secretary Dr. Suresh Kumar led an interactive session with the farmers aimed at resolving various issues faced by them and provided information about how the company can intervene to find solutions. Directors Mr. Ramakaran, Mr. Raju VR, Mr. Radhakrishnan, Mr. Varghese Mathew, Mr. Jijin

Lal, and Mr. Madhusudhanan were also in attendance, contributing to the success of the program. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the company's CEO Mr. Ashwant Raj

Vamanapuram FPC



Vamanapuram Farmer Producer Company organized an entrepreneurship workshop on July 31, 2024, at Pazhavila Yoga Center, Parakal. The program was inaugurated by Mulakam Ward Member Mrs. Geetha Kumari.

Mr. Ratheesh V R, Chairman of Vamanapuram FPC, provided insights into the company's activities. Mrs. Aparna, Senior District Resource Person from the Industries Department, conducted a session on entrepreneurship and interacted with the farmers. Representatives from Canara Bank offered guidance on loans and related queries. Mr. Prasanth P V, a former agriculture officer representing CISSA, addressed farmers' concerns and distributed share certificates. Husqvarna Company showcased its agricultural equipment and explained their applications. Welcome address was delivered by Mr. Sasidharan, Board Member of Vamanapuram FPC. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Shiju.

Idanad FPC



Idanad Farmer Producer Company, in collaboration with Departments of Industries, Agriculture, and Animal Welfare, and Nationalized banks, organized an entrepreneurship workshop on July 17, 2024, at the Charummoodu SNDP Auditorium.

The workshop focused on empowering farmers and entrepreneurs by providing information for establishing small enterprises and food processing units. Loans and subsidy options for various sectors, including food processing micro enterprises, group-based farming, poultry and livestock rearing, and other ventures were explained by speakers.

The event was inaugurated by CISSA General Secretary Dr. Sureshkumar C . Mr. Radhakrishnan Unnithan (Chairman) and Mrs.Anjali. S. Mohan (CEO) participated.

Custom Hiring Center by Desinganadu FPC



Desinganadu Farmer Producer Company started Custom Hiring Center to provide agricultural machinery acquired through SMAM scheme to the farmers. Inauguration of the Centre was done by Honourable MLA Mr. G S Jayalal on July 6, 2024 at Chathannoor.

Mr. Rajeev Kumar, Director of Desinganadu FPC, S.V. Anit Kumar, Chairman of Desinganadu FPC, gave the welcome address CISSA General Secretary Dr. Sureshkumar.C explained the project in the said program. Principal Agriculture Officer Mrs. Sindhu Devi P, Assistant Executive Engineer (Agriculture) Mrs. Prabhadevi P S, Assistant Director (Agriculture, Chathannur) Mrs. Srivatsa P Srinivasan, Agriculture Officer (Chathannur) Mr. Manoj Lukos, Chathannoor Panchayat Member R.Santhosh extended their greetings. Ashwin AS, CEO of Desinganad Farmer Producer Company expressed his vote of thanks

e-NAM Stakeholder Training

An eNAM stakeholder online training program was conducted on July 10, 2024 organised by Anayara World Market. The training targeted a diverse audience including farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), traders, and other key stakeholders. The session aimed to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of the eNAM platform and its functionalities.

New Feed Shop by Kshoni FPC



Cherunniyoor Panchayat President Manju C Inaugurating the shop

Kshoni Farmer Producer Company opened a feed shop at Dalavapuram Junction, Varkala on July 3, 2024. Cherunniyoor Panchayat President Mrs. Sasikala L inaugurated the shop. Agriculture Officer Mr. Vimal served as the chief guest. Mrs. Manju C, a recipient of the best farmer award, had the honour of making the first sale. Panchayat members, shareholding farmers, and representatives from CISSA, including Mr. Ashwin Dharan, Mr. Ragesh T R, and Mr. Prasanth P V, attended the ceremony. The feed shop offers cattle feed, goat feed, and poultry feed, with a convenient home delivery system available to cater to customer needs.

Mukhathala FPC Showcases Products at Njattuvela Market



Mukhathala Farmer Producer Company participated in the 'Njattuvela market' organised by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Kerala on July 5, 2024. The company's stall was officially inaugurated by Nedumpana Grama Panchayat President, Mrs. Girijakumari S. The Mukhathala FPC team, including CEO Akhil A and shareholders, actively participated in the event.

Bharat Rice Distribution

Kochi Agro Farm Producer Company



Kochi Agro Farm Producer Company took the initiative to distribute Bharat Rice at Kadungallur Junction. Company CEO Amal Mohan stated that the distribution of this affordably priced rice is a step towards providing relief to consumers affected by rising prices.

Kallada River Valley FPC



On July 25, 2024, Kallada River Valley Farmer Producer Company organised distribution of Bharat Rice, with the inaugural event held at Thamarakudy. P. Unnikrishnan, the company's chairman, officially launched the distribution.

The event was well-attended by local dignitaries including Thamarakudi Ward Member Mrs. Deepa Sreekumar, Pattazhi North Ward Member Arun Kumar, and members of the Thamarakudi Agricultural Market Committee. The company's Board of Directors and CEO Stephanie Alex were also present.

The distribution of Bharat Rice was also carried out at Mylam Junction and Pallikal Junction.

Idanad FPC



Idanad Farmer Producer Company organised distribution of Bharat Rice at Karimulackal Junction, Charummoodu Junction and Padanilam junction on July 29, 2024

Government Launches Saturation Drive to Support FPCs



Recognizing the challenges faced by Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) in obtaining necessary licences, the Central and State Government have initiated a dedicated Saturation Drive. This program aims to expedite the licensing process, provide comprehensive support, and ensure FPCs achieve their full potential.

By streamlining bureaucratic procedures and offering direct assistance from key Government officials, the Saturation Drive empowers FPCs to overcome obstacles and secure essential licences. This concentrated effort is designed to accelerate FPC development and achieve 100% licensing compliance. In response to this initiative, CISSA and the Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) have prioritised licence applications, aiming to complete the process as quickly as possible.

A Comprehensive FPO Saturation Camp Held in Alappuzha



Chengannur FPC chairman receiving the seed license certificate from the hon Minister P Prasad

A major FPO Saturation Camp-cum-Seminar took place in Alappuzha on July 20, 2024. The event was inaugurated by Mr. P Prasad, the Minister for Agriculture, Government of Kerala. The Deputy Collector of Alappuzha district presided over the function. Representatives from 34 FPOs participated in the seminar.

During this drive, the processing of all applied licenses was expedited by the licensing authorities and department officials. Any issues encountered were swiftly addressed by District Collectors, the Assistant State Nodal Officer and the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection authorities. The Hon. Minister also distributed seed licenses and FPO formation certificates to the FPCs.

“Rising production costs, unfair pricing, climate change, and other factors pose significant challenges to small scale producers in the agricultural sectors. In today's competitive economy these producers face limitations in addressing these challenges individually. This is where farmer producer groups become relevant. It is time to market the state's high-quality products and services under the unique Kerala brand and influence the global market” said Hon. Minister. He urged all CEOs to prioritize the application process for mandatory licenses with the relevant department officials. The minister also detailed the State Government's schemes for the upliftment of FPOs

FPO Saturation Drive-Pathanamthitta

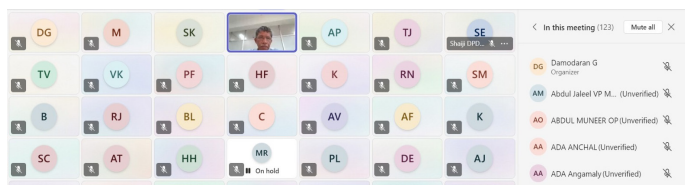
An online meet for FPOs and CBBOs in Pathanamthitta district was organized by NABARD DDM on July 20, 2024. As part of Sahasradharam the session focused on providing comprehensive information about obtaining various licences and registrations, as well as availing Government schemes and bank credit facilities. A total of 75 participants representing CBBOs, and bank officials attended this meeting.

Statewide Awareness Program for FPOs



As part of the FPO saturation drive, an orientation and sensitization program was held on 25 July 2024 at the ATMA meeting hall, Kollam for various stakeholders. 50 participants attended the event. Sessions covered topics including fertiliser, seed and pesticide licence, GST registration, e-NAM, Agmark, FSSAI, and AIF.

An Online Statewide Awareness Program



An online comprehensive statewide awareness program for FPOs was held on July 23, 2024. The program focused on crucial areas such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, FSSAI, Agmark licences, and mandi registrations. The event was chaired by Mrs Beenamol Antony, MD SFAC (Assistant Nodal Officer), Kerala officials of NDDDB, NCDC and Dr Anil kumar Deputy Agriculture Marketing Adviser, DMI participated

NDDDB Review Meeting



NDDDB held a review meeting of fodder plus FPOs at CISSA's office in Thiruvananthapuram on July 23, 2024. The meeting was attended by Mrs. Romy Jacob, Deputy General Manager of NDDDB, Malithi Nataraj, Deputy Director of NDDDB, and the heads of the five major Fodder Plus FPOs from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, and Pathanamthitta. Dr. Sureshkumar C, CISSA's General Secretary, presided over the meeting. The meeting underscored the significance of September, the Onam month, as a crucial period for Kerala's agricultural sector. NDDDB pledged financial support and guidance to FPOs development initiatives. A key directive was to strengthen FPO membership by adding new, active members while removing inactive ones. CISSA committed to achieving 750 shareholders across all FPOs and completing pending equity grants by August 31. To enhance FPO operations, Dr. Sureshkumar emphasised the importance of addressing farmer queries, maintaining thorough documentation, and leveraging social media for promotion. NDDDB representatives, Mrs Malithi Nataraj and Mrs Romy jacob highlighted the significance of specific crops and machinery for FPOs, while also emphasising the need for acquiring essential licences.

Inspection at Grama Samrudhi FPC



Grama Samrudhi FPC team with Mr. Vijay Rawat

Mr. Vijay Rawat from NPMA-SFAC visited Grama Samrudhi FPC in Parassala on July 13, 2024. The inspection included an online audit, document verification, and an on-site visit of a sales outlet. The FPC management, including Chairman Mr. Ramachandran, Director Mr. Gopakumar, CEO Mrs. Jyothi, and Accountant Praveena Kumari, were present during the inspection. Mr. Arunkumar from CISSA accompanied Mr Rawat

Rural Agricultural Work Experience Program



Dr. Peetharamban C K with Students from Vellayani College of Agriculture

As part of Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAW) program, students from the College of Agriculture, Vellayani, completed a three-day immersion with CISSA. RAW is to help the students primarily to understand the rural situations, status of agricultural technologies adopted by farmers, prioritise the farmer's problems and to develop skills & attitude of working with farm families for overall development in rural areas. It is also aimed at providing hands-on training in agro clinic and watershed based planning. The experience at CISSA allowed them to explore the operations of various farmer producer companies and learn how these organisations contribute to doubling farmers' incomes.

Visit To Codissia Agri Index



The CODISSIA Agri Expo, also known as AGRI INT EX 2024, at Coimbatore from July 11, 2024 to July 15, 2024, was an exhibition on a wide range of contemporary agriculture, horticulture, dairy farming, and food processing technologies, showcasing best practices that benefit farmers and plantation owners.

The General Secretary of CISSA, Dr Sureshkumar C along with marketing executives Mr. Aswin Dharan, Mr. Ragesh T R, visited the exhibition. They could interact with various company executives and short list various equipment and machineries which could be useful for farmers of Kerala. Kerala being a state with small farms dominating, needs affordable machineries suitable to meet their needs. Many companies were seen exhibiting drones at competitive prices. Electric vehicles designed for farm use, solar fencing to compact man animal conflicts, machineries for agriculture waste management, compact machineries for coconut oil extraction and many other machineries for various agricultural applications useful for small farmers were identified. The lessons learned and information gathered will be shared with FPCs.

First Prize for Harithodayam FPC



At the Njattuvela Market exhibition held on July 5, 2024, by the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare at Poojappura Saraswati Mandapam, Harithodayam Farmer Producer Company secured first prize for the best stall, was honored by the esteemed Minister P. Prasad.

Kshoni FPC Moves to New Office



Kshoni Farmers Producer Company relocated to its new office premises on July 15, 2024. The new office is conveniently located near the Dalavapuram Junction park. Chairman Sajeew and other company officials were present during the function

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