

ICAR - CIFT & CISSA Collaborate for Sustainable Growth in Kerala's Fisheries Sector



Shri. George Kurian, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, & Dairying

Adding to the significance of the occasion, the first-ever Fish Farmers Producer Company (FPC) in Kerala, Blue Pearl Fish Farmers Producer Company Limited, was inaugurated during the event. The Hon'ble Minister unveiled the company's logo, marking the beginning of a new chapter in Kerala's fisheries industry.



Muthukulam Agroland FPC



Chittumala FPC



Chirayinkeezhu FPC



Masters FPC

The ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT) in a landmark event held on 1st November 2024, at the Kodungallur Town Hall entered into a significant collaborative agreement with four Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) under the aegis of the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA). This was a pivotal moment in advancing sustainable practices and economic resilience in Kerala's fisheries sector. As part of the event, ICAR-CIFT officially handed over Memorandums of Agreement to Chittumala FPC, Masters FPC, Muthukulam Agroland FPC, and Chirayinkeezhu FPC. Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Shri. George Kurian, presided over the ceremony. ICAR-CIFT Director, Dr. George Ninan. Representatives from the FPCs, stakeholders, and key dignitaries, including Dr. Sureshkumar, General Secretary of CISSA, attended the event.

Dr. Ashalatha, Principal Scientist of ICAR-CIFT, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the MoAs, outlining the objectives. The collaboration focuses on enhancing the fisheries value chain through capacity-building workshops, waste utilization, product development, and hygienic fish handling practices. Dr. George Ninan emphasized that these partnerships aim to fortify local producer organizations and establish long-term growth, ensuring environmental sustainability and economic resilience.

The collaborations, facilitated by CISSA, are expected to be transformative, driving market competitiveness and fostering sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and the livelihoods of those in Kerala's fisheries sector.

FOREWORD

The spirit of collaboration and innovation continues to illuminate the extraordinary journey of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Kerala. This edition of FPO News celebrates transformative initiatives and milestones, shaping a sustainable agricultural future. In a groundbreaking event for the fisheries sector, ICAR-CIFT signed Memorandums of Agreement (MoA) with Chittumala FPC, Masters FPC, Muthukulam Agroland FPC, and Chirayinkeezhu FPC on November 1, 2024, at Kodungalloor Town Hall. Hon'ble Minister Mr. George Kurian and ICAR-CIFT Director Dr. George Ninan graced the occasion. This partnership aims to enhance the fisheries value chain through capacity building, innovative waste utilization, product development, and hygienic fish-handling practices. FPOs have showcased resilience and innovation. Vellayani FPC's precision farming project, "100 Acres Farming," hybrid seed production, and solar fencing solutions exemplify creative strategies to overcome modern agricultural challenges. The launch of CISSA's "Science, Society & Sustainability Dialogues" (S3Ds for SDGs) further bridges scientific advancements with grassroots agricultural practices. The inaugural lecture, "Oceans for Sustainability" by Dr. A. Biju Kumar, highlighted marine ecosystems' vital role in achieving sustainability. Sustainability remains central to progress, with Grama Samrudhi FPO's initiatives like "Swachhata Ki Seva," clean energy adoption, and organic farming driving ecological resilience. A recent policy breakthrough equating FPOs with cooperative societies for fertilizer licenses empowers them to enhance service delivery and establish input stores. As we prepare for the Rabi season with high-yielding crop varieties, bio-fertilizers, and government-backed schemes, let us reaffirm our commitment to empowering farming communities. Together, we can build a sustainable and prosperous agricultural sector.

Dr. Sureshkumar C
General Secretary, CISSA

TRAINERS TRAINING PROGRAM ON THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF BIOCHAR



Government of India announced a programme to train one crore farmers in Prakrithi Krishi (Natural farming) during the next two years which will benefit thousands of FPO's across the country. This initiative of the Govt of India aims to develop an environment friendly system by urging on-farm natural formulations and gradually excluding synthetic chemical inputs. Natural farming aims to reduce dependency on purchased inputs. It is also a cost- effective farming practice helping in rural employment and development.

Kerala soils are generally deficient in essential secondary and micronutrients. Majority soils of the state are rich in iron and aluminium oxides and strongly acidic with a pH of less than 5.5. The average soil pH value of the country lies between 6.5-7.5 which is optimal for most crops.

Being a major player in promoting the agricultural activities, especially natural farming, Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) has embarked upon a novel idea of promoting the use of Biochar using locally available resources of the farms. In this context, a Trainers Training program on the commercial production of Biochar and Azolla cultivation was conducted by CISSA on 04.10.24 at Thiruvananthapuram in collaboration with Sri AMM Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre (MCRC), Chennai who are pioneers in promoting Biochar manure production. The program was attended by Chairman, CEO, Board of Directors of 17 FPO's in the State. Sri V Chakrapani Sr Manager Outreach, MCRC Chennai and Dr Kamalasanan Pillai, Principal Scientist & Head R&D Division- SMIDS gave a detailed presentation on the benefits of Biochar Carbon Rich Manure which was very informative to the participants.

The training program was inaugurated by Dr. CK Peethambaran, Director of Research (Rtd),



Kerala Agriculture University who has done extensive works on increasing the quality of Biochar in the State. He highlighted the importance of Biochar in the present scenario of promoting Natural farming in the State. Dr. A.G. Pandurangan, Former Director, JNTBGRI and an eminent scientist in the field of bio diversity urged the FPO's to undertake production of Biochar in an extensive manner. Shri Sreekumar, Dy. Director (Rtd), Dept of Agriculture, Govt of Kerala (Former Consultant, CISSA) a practising environmentalist in Ghana and a strong spokesman of Natural farming, shared his experience with the participants and his success in producing Biochar overcoming the obstacles. All the talks were very motivating to the participants.

Why Biochar

The use of biochar in agriculture is an old phenomenon. Farmers have been using it unknowingly for enhancing the production of agricultural crops since long. Biochar can be used to sequester carbon on centurial or even millennial time scales. In the natural carbon cycle, plant matter decomposes rapidly after completion of life cycle and emits carbon dioxide back to the atmosphere. The overall natural cycle is carbon neutral. About 85-95% of plant bio- mass carbon after decomposition returned back to the atmosphere, whereas if we make biochar from the same biomass at least 50% of the total carbon is captured permanently. Biochar thus removes circulating carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and stores it in virtually permanent soil carbon pools, making it a carbon-negative process. According to different estimates, 72-127 Mt of crop residues are burnt on-farm in India. Open field burning of crop residues is perceived as an age old practice to boost soil fertility in terms of P and K, but often leads to a loss of other nutrients (e.g. N and S), organic matter and microbial activity required for maintaining better soil health. Burning this crop residues also releases black carbon, a type of fine particulate matter formed from incomplete combustion. These particles are then funnelled by air currents from rural farms to nearby urban areas. Hence conversion of organic waste to produce biochar using the pyrolysis process is one viable option that can enhance natural rates of

carbon sequestration in the soil, reduce farm waste and improve the soil quality.

Biochar production protocols in India are yet to be standardized. A low cost portable biochar kiln with proper design and operational process can be considered as an economically viable option for rainfed areas in developing countries for efficient recycling of unused and excess crop residues. There is a different ways to make biochar. It involves heating of biomass with little or no oxygen to drive off volatile gasses. The carbonization process undergoes three steps viz. removal of moisture and some volatiles compounds which are followed by conversion of unreacted residues to volatiles, gasses and biochar, and finally formation of recalcitrant material called biochar through slow chemical rearrangement. Various pyrolysis technologies produce different proportion of biochar and other by-products, such as bio-oil and syngas. The gaseous bio-energy products may be used to generate electricity. Bio-oil may be used directly for low-grade heating applications as well as a diesel substitute after suitable treatment.



Demonstration of production of Biochar Manure during the Trainers Training program held at CISSA

Kerala's First Millet Café Inaugurated in Thiruvananthapuram



Thiruvananthapuram welcomed Kerala Government's first Millet Café, launched by the Harithodayam Farmer Producer Company Ltd on 1st October 2024. This initiative spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture and farmer welfare aims to promote the consumption of small grains, particularly millets, across the State.

The café, inaugurated by Agriculture Minister Sri P. Prasad, marks the beginning of a series of millet-focused restaurants planned statewide. Sri Kadakampally Surendran MLA presided over the event, and renowned film actress Maala Parvathi graced the occasion as a special guest.

Speaking at the inauguration, Minister P. Prasad highlighted the café's goal of offering a range of nutritious millet-based dishes, including biryani and cupcakes, at affordable prices. He emphasized that such initiatives not only cater to health-conscious consumers but also provide diverse dining options. The café sources fresh produce directly from Harithodayam's network of farmers, ensuring quality and supporting local agriculture. In addition to dining, the establishment also sells packaged millet products, spices, and other local goods, promoting sustainable food choices.



Shareholders' Meeting



A shareholders' meeting of Muthukulam Agro Land Farmer Producer Company Limited was held on 7th October 2024, at the Arattupuzha Panchayat. Ms. Ashalatha from the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) graced the occasion, alongside

Dr. Suresh Kumar C., General Secretary of CISSA, who shared valuable insights. Former Manager, Matsyafed Mr. Maniyappan, also shared his expertise with the participants. The proceedings were led by the company's Chairman, Mr. R. Rajesh, and CEO, Mr. Gokul Krishnan.

The meeting highlighted several forward-thinking proposals, including purchasing of deep-sea fishing boats to bolster the local fishing industry. Plans for establishing a pickle and chapati manufacturing unit were also proposed aimed at enhancing income and creating job opportunities.

The shareholders also deliberated on developing poultry and pig farming units, focusing on sustainable agricultural practices. Possibility to build cold storage facilities, addressing the storage and distribution requirements for agricultural and fisheries products were also discussed.

The shareholders expressed optimism about these initiatives, which are expected to drive community growth and economic prosperity.

Review meeting of Fodder FPOs



On 14th October, 2024, a meeting of the five Fodder Farmer Producer Organizations under CISSA was held at CISSA headquarters to review quarterly performance and to strategize activities for the next six months. The session was also attended by officials from the National Dairy Development Board.

The review focused on evaluating the achievements of each FPO, addressing challenges, and formulating measures to strengthen operations. Dr. Sureshkumar C, General Secretary of CISSA, emphasized the importance of regular participation in review meetings with comprehensive updates from all FPOs. NDDDB officials provided valuable insights, emphasizing the need for FPOs to enhance income-generating activities and increase visibility by participating in local festivals, fairs, and exhibitions. The meeting highlighted the need for greater focus on fodder-related initiatives.

A significant announcement during the session was the forthcoming implementation of a Rs: 20 lakh scheme for Fodder FPOs by NDDDB. The scheme, while prioritizing fodder activities, allows flexibility for additional ventures that align with the FPOs' objectives. Guidelines for this initiative are expected to be released soon.



NDDDB officials reiterated the importance of strengthening business activities as outlined in the FPOs' further plans. CEOs were urged to adopt a visionary approach to align their strategies with the company's goals.

In the concluding remarks, Dr. Suresh Kumar highlighted the role of FPOs in enhancing farmers' competitiveness and preparing them for emerging market opportunities through the adoption of advanced technologies. Citing the unmet demand for pesticide-free honey in Kerala, he underscored the importance of eco-friendly farming practices, encouraging FPOs to promote natural formulations and eliminate synthetic chemical inputs.

CISSA and Navdanya Strengthen Partnership for Environmental Sustainability



Reaffirming a collaboration that began in 2008, the CISSA team visited Navdanya, Dehradun to celebrate their shared vision for a sustainable future. The event, curated by Navdanya under the leadership of Dr. Vandana Shiva, was aptly named 'Vasundhara'. It featured a multicultural dialogue for sustainability, drawing representatives from across India and other culturally rich nations such as New Zealand, Australia, Italy, Canada, and Mexico.

A key highlight was the active participation of women organic farmers from various Indian states, showcasing their invaluable contributions to ecological farming practices and furthering the movement towards sustainable agriculture.

A three-member delegation, led by CISSA General Secretary Dr. Sureshkumar C, included Shri S. Harikrishna Pillai, Chairman of Ekatha Farmer Producer Company and Ms. Rema Sundar, expert in Development Communication. The team participated in the vibrant gathering on 16th October 2024, which united global voices to discuss the critical need for sowing the seeds of sustainability for the planet and humanity. Dr. Sureshkumar also gave a talk on Food health and Agriculture.



FPOs Participates in National Seminar on Agricultural and Rural Economy



The Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram hosted a National Seminar on “Agriculture and the Rural Economy” on 21st October 2024, as part of the Prof. K. N. Raj Centennial celebrations. The seminar, held on the CDS campus, included a special interactive session titled “Interactions between Farmers' Representatives and Experts,” which drew significant participation. The interactive session was especially beneficial for representatives from Farmer Producer Organizations, who had the opportunity to discuss key issues and initiatives with the experts. Representatives from Koyikkalnadu FPC, Neyyar FPC, Grama Samrudhi FPC, Vamanapuram FPC, Sahya Samridhi FPC, and Kshoni FPC participated in the seminar. Grama Samrudhi FPC also set up a dedicated stall for their products at the CDS campus for three days.



Discussions covered a wide range of topics, including government schemes such as the Agricultural Market Infrastructure (AMI) scheme and programs under NABKISAN and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). Participants were briefed on the AIF's benefits, including credit guarantees for loans up to Rs: 2 crore and an interest subvention of 3% per annum, limited to Rs: 2 crore per project per location. Importance of various lending institutions, such as Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, NBFCs, and the National Cooperative Development Corporation, were also highlighted.

The session delved into project funding criteria, emphasizing that entities operating projects in multiple locations could avail loans of up to Rs: 2 crore per location. While private entities like farmers, startups, and agri-entrepreneurs can undertake up to

25 projects under the scheme, no such restrictions apply to state agencies, cooperatives, FPO federations, or self-help groups.

Additional government initiatives such as the Prime Minister's Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, which offers a 35% subsidy for micro food processing units, and the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) under MSME, which provides a similar subsidy were also discussed. Local self-government institutions in Kerala were noted for their 30% subsidy on various projects, alongside the Navodhan Scheme, which supports rural entrepreneurs and agri-business ventures.

The role of Lead District Managers in facilitating credit access was emphasized, with funding parameters of up to Rs: 2 crore for agri-produce projects and Rs: 1 crore for other produce projects.

The seminar concluded with participants expressing gratitude for the practical insights and knowledge shared, which are expected to empower FPOs in implementing impactful projects for rural development and agricultural advancement.

Meeting of Chengannur FPCL Explores Value-Addition Opportunities for Sugarcane Products

A meeting of Chengannur Farmer Producer Company Ltd was held On 19th October, 2024, at the CISSA office under the leadership of CISSA General Secretary Dr. Sureshkumar C. The meeting was attended by the directors Ajith Kumar, Harikumar, Ashwin, and Rajesh & the Chairman and CEO of Chengannur FPCL participated online.

Key discussions included a proposed exposure visit by company and CISSA representatives to the Sugarcane Research Center in Thiruvalla to explore collaborative opportunities. The focus will be on developing value-added products from sugarcane, including jaggery cubes, jaggery powder, and other innovative offerings. Plans for packaging, labelling, and branding were also discussed, with an emphasis on marketing these products under the company's name.

The board also resolved to initiate steps to establish a nutmeg collection facility. The possibility of producing value-added nutmeg products and introducing hybrid varieties will be explored in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode.

The meeting marked significant progress toward enhancing the company's role in promoting value-added agricultural products and supporting farmer innovation.

Meeting of Mavelikkara FPCL

A meeting of Mavelikkara Farmer Producer Company Ltd was held on 19th October 2024, at the CISSA office presided over by CISSA General Secretary Dr. Sureshkumar C. Director Raj Mohan participated online, contributing valuable insights to the discussions.

The board evaluated the feasibility of establishing a Custom Hiring Center and resolved to initiate steps for its immediate implementation. A decision was also made to begin the collection of Onattukara sesame and commence oil production to leverage its commercial potential.

The company plans to launch value-added products, including Kanthari Chilli pickle, black lime pickle, and sesame oil, under its brand. To explore further collaborative opportunities, the board decided to visit the CPCRI (Central Plantation Crops Research Institute) in Kayamkulam. A detailed report on potential projects will be prepared to guide its implementation.

Pridhwi FPO Charts Future Growth in Meeting with CISSA Officials



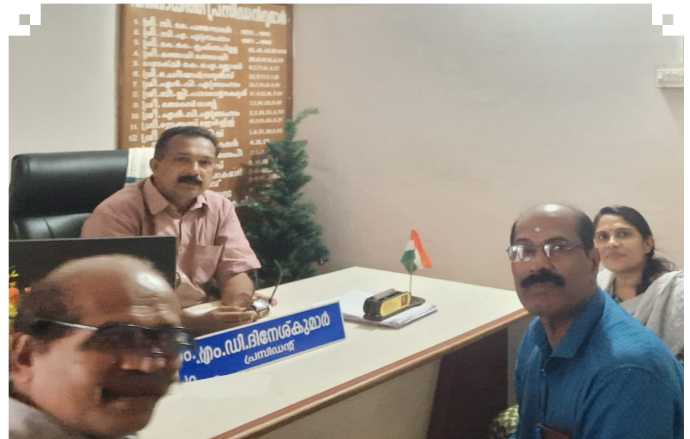
Board meeting of Pridhwi was held On 24th October, 2024, at the Pridhwi FPO office. The Chairman, Board of Directors and CISSA officials participated. The meeting was a follow-up to the review session held on 14th October, which was inaugurated by Pridhwi FPCL Chairman Sri Kallada Ramesh. Addressing the gathering, the Chairman underscored the significance of the meeting for the company's future initiatives and urged active participation from all BOD members to ensure sustained growth. He reiterated the importance of implementing decisions made during an earlier meeting with NDDDB officials, emphasizing the collective responsibility of the directors in achieving the company's objectives.

Dr. C. Suresh Kumar, General Secretary of CISSA, delivered a presentation on the critical role of Farmer Producer Organizations in India's agricultural landscape, highlighting the Government of India's ambitious plan to train one crore farmers in natural farming under the Prakrithi Krishi scheme within two years. The presentation also covered key aspects such as the objectives of FPOs, the role of CEO, and various beneficial schemes of the Government of India, Government of Kerala, and other agencies that could propel the company forward.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from the BOD to actively engage in day-to-day operations and leverage government support to drive Pridhwi FPO's growth and sustainability.



Meeting with Kaviyoor Grama Panchayat President



A Meeting of the Mallappally Farmer Producer Company Ltd. was held on 25th October, 2024, with Mr. M.D. Dinesh Kumar, President of Kaviyoor Grama Panchayat, to discuss share mobilization strategies for the company. The meeting saw active participation from the directors and CEO of Mallappally FPCo. Ltd. The discussion emphasized on plans to mobilize adequate shares from Kaviyoor Panchayat. This partnership is expected to significantly enhance agricultural development and encourage greater farmer engagement in the Panchayat's initiatives.

Ekatha FPCL: Distribution of Banana Saplings



The second phase of the distribution of special variety "Manjeri Kuelan" (dwarf) banana saplings, was organized under the leadership of Ekathe FPCL, on November 8, 2024. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Ajith Kumar, Director of CISSA FPO, who emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable agriculture and supporting farmers with quality planting materials. This initiative aims to encourage the cultivation of high-yielding and locally adaptable banana varieties, contributing to the economic upliftment of farmers in the region.

Farm Visit Campaign by Ekatha Farmer Producer Co. Ltd.



As part of its ongoing efforts to promote agricultural development, Ekatha Farmer Producer Co. Ltd. organized a farm visit to Ambady Dairy Farm in Thiruvannamoor on November 9, 2024, where they explored innovative farming practices and discussed strategies to enhance productivity and sustainability. The event was highly impactful, paving the way for more developmental and inclusive initiatives in the farming sector. Ekatha FPC Chairman Harikrishnan S. Pillai and CEO Jithu Vilas Chandra actively participated in the campaign, reinforcing their commitment to supporting farmers and fostering growth in the agricultural community.

Shri Omana Kumar Chairman of Pambavalley FPCL Honoured for Organic Farming Achievements

പ്രകൃതിക്കുഷി കേരളത്തിൽ വ്യാപകമാക്കും

കർഷകശ്രീ വാർഷികത്തിൽ കൃഷിമന്ത്രി പ്രകാശനം ചെയ്തു

പത്തനംതിട്ട പുത്തൂരിൽ രൂപി കരിച്ച വൈകുണ്ഠി മിഷനിലൂടെ കേരളത്തിൽ പ്രകൃതിക്കുഷി വ്യാപകമാക്കുമെന്നു കൃഷിമന്ത്രി പി. പ്രസാദ്. ആന്ധ്രപ്രദേശിലെ പ്രകൃതിക്കുഷി മുന്നേറ്റ മൂല്യപരമായൊക്കിയ കർഷകശ്രീ വാർഷികപ്പതിപ്പ് ജൈവ കർഷകനായ ഓമനകുമാറിനു നൽകി പ്രകാശനം ചെയ്യുകയായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹം.

ഭാരതീയ പ്രകൃതിക്കുഷി പദ്ധതി രണ്ടു വർഷമായി കേരളത്തിൽ നടപ്പാക്കി വരികയാണ്. ആന്ധ്രയിലെ പ്രകൃതിക്കുഷി മൂ



കർഷകശ്രീ വാർഷികപ്പതിപ്പ് കർഷകനായ ഓമനകുമാർ നൽകി കൃഷിമന്ത്രി പി. പ്രസാദ് പ്രകാശനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. കർഷകശ്രീ അഡിറ്റർ എഡിറ്റർ ജയിംസ് ജോൺസ് സമീപം.

മനോജ് താൻ നേരിട്ട കണ്ട് മനസ്സിലാക്കിയതുണ്ടെന്നും മന്ത്രി പറഞ്ഞു. പാമ്പാലു കൃഷി ആചാര്യന്മാരായ കെ.വി.ദത്തൻ, ലൂൺ.



Shri Omana Kumar P.G., Chairman of Pambavalley Fodder Farmer Producer Company and leading Organic farmer from Thukalassery, Thiruvalla, who has cultivated 100 acres using organic farming practices, was honoured by Malayala Manorama Daily and Karshakasree Magazine for his outstanding contributions to the field of agriculture. The award highlights his commitment to organic farming and his significant impact on the agricultural community.

Chamundeshwari Agro Farm Inaugurated by Desinganadu Farmer Producer Company

Shri R. Jayant, Director of Desinganadu Farmer Producer Company Ltd, inaugurated the Chamundeshwari Agro Farm (FIG) on October 21, 2024, in Ward 19 of Kalvathukkal Panchayat, Chirakkara. Shri Unnikrishnan, a local farmer, leased one acre of barren land to commence banana cultivation, marking a significant step towards sustainable agriculture in the region. Smt. Srivats Srinivasan, Agriculture Assistant Director of Chathannur, inaugurated the farm by planting a banana sapling. The ceremony was presided over by



Ward Member Shri Appukkuttan Pillai and attended by Kalvathukkal Agriculture Officer Smt. Fauzia, Desinganadu FPC Chairman Shri S.V. Anithkumar, CEO Smt. Krishnapriya A.M., and Directors Shri Rajeevkumar K, Shri R. Jayant, and Shri Ravi G. FIG members Smt. Ramya, Smt. Anitha, Smt. Sheelakumari, and Smt. Shanta, were also present. The event highlighted the commitment of reviving fallow lands and promoting organic farming practices.



Farmers Hub-INPUT Center Inaugurated in Chengannur



The Farmers Hub-INPUT Center of Chengannur Farmers Producer Company was officially inaugurated at Perissery, Madathum PT Junction, at Mathil Kizhakethil. Advocate James John, known for his contributions to Ala and Mundankav markets, inaugurated the center.

The event also featured a meeting where CISSA General Secretary Dr. Sureshkumar.C attended as the chief guest, and Chairman Shri Kumar A. presided over the session. The opening ceremony was welcomed by Shri Subhash Kumar, and attended by Directors Shri Anilkumar, Shri Udayakumar, Smt.

Neesha, Shri Santosh Kumar, and Shri Jithu. Panchayat Member Shri Gopalakrishnan and members of the Patashekharasamathi, Shri Prasannakumar.

The event saw the participation of former Director, Chengannur FPC Shri Gopakumar, CISSA representative Shri Ragesh, and other shareholders. The ceremony concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Director Smt. Nisha Sunil.

Kochi Agro Farmers Producer Company Distributes Share Certificates to Farmers



The Kochi Agro Farmers Producer Company, functioning in Ernakulam district hub under the National Dairy Development Board and supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, distributed share certificates to its farmers on 24th November 2024.

The event was held at the Veliathunadu Service Cooperative Bank Hall chaired by Company Chairman Shri Rohit Mohan. Dr. Suresh Kumar C., General Secretary of CISSA, inaugurated the ceremony, highlighting the pivotal role of collective efforts in empowering the agricultural community and fostering sustainable growth.

Prominent attendees included Shri Rajesh from CISSA and Kochi Agro Directors Shri Arun P. Mohan, Shri Jayaraj, Shri Kannan Thuruth, and CEO Shri Amal Mohan.

Board Meeting of Chittumala Farmer Producer Company

The Chittumala Farmer Producer Company held a board of Directors meeting at its office on 21st November 2024. Directors of FPO, key officials, attended the meeting. General Secretary of CISSA, Dr. Sureshkumar.C, deliberated on various strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening the company's operations and furthering its mission to empower local farmers.

The meeting also focused on enhancing the company's



organizational structure, expanding its member base, and introducing new projects to support sustainable agricultural practices within the community.

In line with its expansion plans, the meeting also stressed the need for obtaining more working capital to improve the oil-processing unit.

The decisions at this meeting underscore the company's continued commitment to empowering farmers, expanding its reach, and fostering sustainable agricultural practices that will benefit its members and the broader community.

Muthukulam Agroland Farmer Producer Company Ltd. - Training for Fishermen



The Muthukulam Agroland Farmer Producer Company Ltd. successfully conducted a two-day training session for its fishermen community shareholders from Arattupuzha on 13th and 14th November 2024. The event, organized in partnership with the Central Institute for Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi, provided participants with comprehensive insights and practical skills aimed at advancing their knowledge in the fish value addition sector.

Throughout the two-day session, a wide range of topics were covered, focusing on essential aspects of the fisheries product industry. The training covered topics such as Fish Food Technology, Procurement Processes, and various methods of fish processing. Special sessions were held on preparing fish pickles,

producing organic fish meal, innovative packaging techniques, and an overview of the latest machinery used in the fish processing industry.

The program not only offered valuable theoretical knowledge but also provided hands-on experience, allowing participants to directly engage with new technologies and practices. Participants gained practical exposure to modern fish processing and value addition techniques, equipping them with the tools needed to enhance productivity and efficiency in their work.

The response from the fishermen community was overwhelmingly positive, with participants expressing high satisfaction with the quality of training and relevance to their work. The event proved to be an invaluable opportunity for local fishermen to upskill and stay updated on the latest industry trends.

Post Office Banking Program at Grama Samrudhi Launched



A training program was held by the Post Office Banking Department, Government of India, to introduce the Mini Postal Bank at Grama Samrudhi locations. The initiative aims to enhance accessibility to banking services for the general public, especially in rural areas.

The session, led by Aravind Raj and Ajith KC, the India Post Payment Bank Distribution Head for Kerala Circle, provided an overview of the implementation and operational aspects of the Mini Postal Bank at Grama Samrudhi centers. The program was attended by Chairman Ramachandran S, Directors Padmakumar, Sivakumar, Aswin V, CEO, and Accountant Praveena Kumari ML. and other members of the FPO

The Mini Postal Bank will offer an array of banking services to common people, facilitating deposit and withdrawals from any bank directly through the Grama Samrudhi Postal Bank points. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between the banking sector and rural populations, ensuring access to financial services without traveling long distances.

Additionally, the program highlighted the introduction of the Government Post Office Personal Health Insurance Scheme, which is unfamiliar to many. The scheme is now directly available to the community through the Grama Samrudhi Postal Outlet, making it easier for individuals to avail themselves of this vital service. The entire process will be under the full control of the Postal Department, ensuring a streamlined and secure implementation.

'Science, Society & Sustainability Dialogues'



The inaugural session of the 'Science, Society & Sustainability Dialogues' (S3Ds for SDGs) took place on November 16, 2024, marking the launch of an ambitious initiative by the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA). The event featured an insightful lecture titled 'Oceans for Sustainability,' delivered by Dr. A. Biju Kumar, the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Head of the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries at the University of Kerala.



Dr. Biju Kumar captivated the audience with his profound expertise and passionate discussion on the vital role oceans play in achieving global sustainability. He emphasized the oceans' critical contributions to climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, and the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide, underlining their importance to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The session drew a diverse audience, including scientists, policymakers, environmentalists, and students, making it an inspiring start to the S3Ds series. This series aims to bridge the gaps between science, society, and sustainable development by fostering meaningful dialogues and collaborative actions. During the lecture, Dr. Biju Kumar highlighted pressing issues such as marine pollution, overfishing, and the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems, stressing the urgent need for ocean conservation.



The lecture was widely praised as an ideal launch for this innovative series, combining academic rigor with practical insights. It set a collaborative tone for future sessions, encouraging stakeholders to actively engage in addressing the sustainability challenges of our time.



The second session of the 'Science, Society & Sustainability Dialogues' (S3Ds for SDGs) series was held on November 30, 2024, with a focus on 'Rivers and Wetlands Sustainability.' The event highlighted the crucial role of freshwater ecosystems in maintaining ecological balance and supporting human life, further advancing discussions on sustainable resource management.



The 'Science, Society & Sustainability Dialogues' series is poised to become a vibrant platform for promoting understanding and action in the field of sustainability, aligning seamlessly with global and local environmental objectives.

One-Day Seminar on Organic Farming



Kadapra Mannar Vicemans Club and Ekatha Farmer Producer Company Ltd jointly organized a one-day seminar on organic farming on 9th November, 2024, at the Ekatha office in Kadapra.

The event was inaugurated by Kadapra Panchayat President, Nisha Ashokan. As part of the program, free vegetable plant kits were distributed to all participating farmers by Kadapra Grama Panchayat Vice President, Mini Jose.

The keynote address was delivered by Harikrishnan S.Pillai, Chairman of Ekatha Farmer Producer Company Ltd. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks presented by CEO Jithu Vilas Chandran.

The event witnessed the active participation of board members, shareholders, and farmers from the Pulikeezhu Block Panchayat region, making it a significant step towards promoting sustainable and organic farming practices in the area.

Grama Samrudhi FPO Launches "Swachhata Ki Seva" Program for Clean India



Grama Samrudhi Farmer Producer Company launched the "Swachhata Ki Seva" program, aimed at promoting cleanliness and supporting the Clean India mission, at the Grama Samrudhi Vipani Market and Nursery in Anakunnu on 10th October, 2024.

The program was inaugurated by Mr. Rajasekhar L, Sr. Marketing Officer, Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

The event saw the participation of Grama Samrudhi FPO Chairman Ramachandran, Director Maraya Rajendrakumar, CEO Ashwin, and shareholders

Vijayakumar, Titus, Thankappan Nair, and Vasudevan Nair. CISSA officials Mr. Prashanth, Mr. Arunkumar, and Accountant Praveena Kumari also attended the occasion, supporting the initiative to foster cleanliness and sustainable practices in the community.

Inspection and Interaction with Farmers by officials of DMI



On 10th October, 2024, Mr. Rajasekhar.L, Sr. Marketing Officer, Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India conducted an inspection of Grama Samrudhi Farmer Producer Company. During his visit, he toured all the Grama Samrudhi institutions, evaluating their operations and progress.

Mr. Rajasekhar.L also of interacted with five outstanding farmers, gathering valuable insights into their production, marketing, and value addition activities. The interaction provided a deeper understanding of their contributions to sustainable farming and the impact of their efforts on local agriculture.

Granting Fertiliser Licence – Treating Farmer Producer Company at par with Cooperative Societies - Release of Government Order



Agriculture Department - Treating Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)/ Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs) at par with other cooperative societies while granting fertilizer distribution/ dealership licenses and while distribution/allotment of fertilizer supplies also for the various concessions/ benefits from Agriculture Department- Sanction Accorded - Orders issued.

AGRICULTURE (AGRI) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.1118/2024/AGRI Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 28-11-2024

Read 1. Letter no. L-12011/1/2012-I&P dated 23.03.2012 from Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India

2. D.O Letter No.28011/1/2020-M-II (Pt.2) dated 25.09.2024 from the Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

ORDER

As per letters read as 1st and 2nd paper above, Government of India has directed State Governments to treat Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)/ Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs) at par with other cooperative societies while granting fertilizer (Urea and DAP) distribution/ dealership licenses by the authorities, while distribution/

Even though many of the FPC has applied for Fertiliser Licence, the applications was kept aside citing absence of Govt directions resulting in delayed opening of Input stores of many FPC's. CISSA strongly took up this matter with the concerned authorities and based on a discussion with Agricultural Production Commissioner, Govt of Kerala, the doubts were cleared and a formal Government Order was released which facilitates all FPO's to avail Fertiliser licence

Precision Farming Project Launched by Vellayani Farmers Producer Company



In a significant step towards promoting modern agricultural practices, Vellayani Farmers Producer Company launched a precision farming project on 1st November 2024. The initiative was inaugurated at the farmland of shareholder Smt. Prasanna J.

The ceremonial planting of the first sapling was carried out by Dr. B. Govindan, Chairman of the Bheema Group also an enthusiast farmer. Adv. S. Suresh, Chairman of Vellayani Farmers Producer Company, presided over the event. The program saw the participation of key shareholders, including CISSA representative Mr. Prashanth P.V., Ward Councillors Smt. Manju P.V. and Smt. Jayalakshmi P.S., as well as company directors, the CEO, and the accountant.

The project marks the first phase of the "100 Acres Farming" initiative. of the FPOs Highlighting the potential of precision farming, Adv. S. Suresh emphasized its role in transforming agricultural scenario The company expanded its operations to



Jaya Farm, Mudavoorpara, on 22nd November, 2024, by cultivating 2.5 acres of land. The company plans to sow more than 19 varieties of crops, including both pandal and non-pandal crops, further advancing its commitment to modern agricultural practices.

Board of Directors meeting of Kshoni Farmer Producer Company Ltd



The Board of Directors of Kshoni Farmer Producer Company was convened on 8th November 2024, under the chairmanship of Dr. Sureshkumar C., General Secretary of CISSA, to discuss strategies for improving the company's operations and exploring new ventures. A major focus of the meeting was enhancing the profitability of the company's feed shop. To achieve this, it was decided to engage directly with farmers, understand their needs, and offer bulk supplies, credit facilities, and transportation support. The Directors were instructed to organize panchayat-level meetings to gather feedback from farmers and finalize necessary steps.

During the discussions, Director Sandhya K.S. proposed relocating the feed shop to a more strategic location to improve its profitability. The meeting also explored diversification opportunities for the company, with potential initiatives including mushroom farming, paddy cultivation, sweet potato farming, and poultry farming. These ventures aim to provide additional income streams and strengthen the company's operations.

Another key decision taken during the meet was to establish a Custom Hiring Center to provide agricultural machinery and equipment on a rental basis, ensuring affordable solutions for farmers. Additionally, the Board highlighted the availability of a government-subsidized loan scheme for goat breeding. It was decided to disseminate information about this scheme to farmers interested in goat rearing and encourage their participation.

The meeting emphasized the importance of these initiatives in driving growth and providing better support to the farming community, marking a significant step forward in the company's mission to empower farmers and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

CISSA & ICAR-CTCRI agrees for empowering FPO



Dr. Sureshkumar C, General Secretary of the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action, Dr. C.S. Revindran, Vice President of CISSA, and Mr. Ajithkumar G, FPO Director, visited the ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) in Sreekaryam, Thiruvananthapuram, on 5th November 2024 for discussions on advancing, technology-driven solutions and training programs aimed at improving the productivity and profitability of CISSA's FPO shareholder farmers.

During the meeting with Dr. G. Byju, Director of CTCRI, focused on the role of technological innovation in the agricultural sector. Dr. Byju emphasized the growing global demand for various tuber crops, with sweet potato in particular emerging as a "crop of the future." He further highlighted the development of two new sweet potato varieties, which are now ready for release, promising to increase crop yields and marketability.

In addition, Dr. Byju shared information about a patented processing machinery for arrowroot powder, developed by CTCRI. This new technology opens up promising possibilities for value-added products, offering opportunities for enhanced market value and sustainable growth in the agricultural sector.

The discussions are expected to pave way for a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CTCRI and CISSA, outlining collaborative efforts to provide essential resources, training, and skill-building for farmers. This partnership is set to play a crucial role in advancing agricultural development, equipping farmers with the tools needed to thrive in a competitive and evolving market.

Soil Testing Awareness Program Enlightens Farmers on Sustainable Agriculture



Soil Testing Awareness Program was organized by the Agriculture Department at the Adichanalloor Krishi Bhavan on 7th November 2024. The event featured an informative session led by Mr. Akhil A., CEO of Mukhathala Farmer Producer Company Ltd. (FPCL). Mr. Akhil highlighted the significance of manuring practices tailored to soil health and nutrient availability. He also provided detailed guidance on proper methods for soil sample collection and techniques for identifying crop nutrient deficiencies. Stressing the critical role of soil health in enhancing crop yields and ensuring sustainable farming practices, he urged farmers to adopt scientific approaches to agriculture. The program aimed to empower farmers with essential knowledge and tools to boost productivity while safeguarding soil health for future generations. Participants expressed their appreciation for the initiative, which they believe will positively impact sustainable agriculture practices in the region.

Chairman of Grama Samrudhi FPO Honored at National Convention

S. Ramachandran, Chairman of Grama Samrudhi Farmer Producer Company, was honoured for outstanding performance during the National Convention held at Kanyakumari organized by the Kisan Service Society. The event recognized top-performing FPO leaders from across the country. National President Jose Thayyil and National Secretary Suresh presented the award to Mr. Ramachandran S at the convention. Grama Samrudhi CEO, Aswin V and Accountant Praveen Kumari also attended the event, marking a proud moment for the organization.



BoD Meeting of Masters FPCL Highlights Future-Oriented Agricultural Strategies



The Board of Director's meeting of Masters Farmer Producer Company was held on 9th November 2024 which was presided by the Chairman, convened at the Masters Farmer Producer Company's office. The CEO, Mrs. Divya welcomed the gathering. Dr. Sureshkumar C., General Secretary, CISSA presented a comprehensive evaluation of the company's performance and outlined future priorities.

The board members actively participated by sharing their insights on the company's past achievements and upcoming initiatives. Dr. Suresh Kumar. C further elaborated on agricultural schemes linked to Farmer Producer Organizations. He introduced potential projects to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability, including the distribution of high-quality coconut saplings, tissue-culture banana saplings, promotion of horticultural crops, pepper-based initiatives, dairy and poultry farming.

In the afternoon, an online meeting was held with CIFT representative and scientist Smt. Geethalakshmi. The discussion centered on training and technical support for FPOs as outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement with CIFT. To ensure grassroots engagement, it was decided to organize panchayat-level meetings to assess the needs of farmers and develop a comprehensive training calendar.

Training sessions tailored for farmers, Farmer Interest Groups, and Boards of Directors were also proposed. Responding to the suggestions of the board members, Dr. Suresh Kumar recommended organizing sugarcane farmers in Sooranad North to explore value addition opportunities. He also suggested seeking the support of the sugarcane research centre in Thiruvalla. Additionally, he emphasized the potential of value addition for tapioca, bananas, and turmeric, which

are abundantly available in the region. Establishing a dairy farm in Mynagappally was also proposed. He stressed the importance of promoting high-yield tissue-culture banana saplings, implementing solar fencing for areas affected by wild boar disturbances, and expanding natural farming practices. Honey production and its value-added applications were also discussed as key areas for development. The meeting underscored the importance of livestock rearing under the National Livestock Development Scheme, encouraging farmers to consider goat, cattle, pig, and poultry farming. The session concluded with Director Amal extending a vote of thanks.

Idanadu Farmer Producer Company Board Meeting Focuses on Agricultural Initiatives and Challenges



On 11th November 2024, the Board of Directors of Idanadu Farmer Producer Company was convened under the leadership of CISSA General Secretary Dr. Sureshkumar C. The meeting focused on evaluating past achievements and planning future initiatives to strengthen agricultural operations and extend services to more panchayats.

Discussions highlighted the company's successful market operations in Noorad panchayat and the establishment of an agro-shop offering essential farming supplies. Concerns were raised about the lack of similar initiatives in other panchayats, prompting resolutions to activate Farmer Interest Groups and appoint local coordinators in all six panchayats under the company's jurisdiction.

Key future plans include a six-month training calendar for farmers, the establishment of a subsidized custom hiring center for machinery, and a maintenance hub. The board also resolved to launch Bio-Fertilizer and Bio-Char units and encourage honey production through research center collaborations.

To prevent wild boar crop damage, the company plans to implement solar fencing at a 50% subsidy, replicating the successful model from Chunakara panchayat. The introduction of crop insurance, dairy support measures, and efforts to secure a geographical indication for rubber were also discussed.

Fertilizer Dealer's Meet Held at Alappuzha



A Fertilizer Dealers Meet and POS Distribution Program was organized by IFFCO at Alappuzha Sambhadya Bhavan on 11th November, 2024. Representing Mavelikkara Farmer Producer Company Ltd, Company Chairman N. Vijayakumar and CEO Prejitha attended the event.

The program included a session addressing the limitations of the older POS machines and detailed instructions on utilizing the upgraded versions. Participants gained valuable insights into the new system's enhanced functionality, aimed at improving operational efficiency.

As part of the event, the outdated POS machines were officially replaced with the newly distributed devices, ensuring that dealers are equipped with the latest technology for their transactions. The meeting highlighted the importance of streamlining processes to maintain quality and efficiency in fertilizer distribution.

MFPCL Officials Visits Farm in Chengannur



CEO of Mavelikkara Farmer Producer Company Ltd, Miss Prejitha, visited the farm of Shobhana Kumari, a shareholder of MFPCL, located near Sasta in Chengannur Panchayat.

The farm is known for cultivating a variety of exotic fruits and vegetables. During her visit, Miss Prejitha assured the farmer that MFPCL could provide the necessary fertilizers and other related inputs to support the farm's growth. Smt Shobhana Kumari was also introduced to the Agriculture Development office, facilitating a connection that would help with further support for the farm. Following this visit, officials from the Mavelikkara Assistant Director's office and the Chengannur Krishi Bhavan are expected to visit the farm to assess its needs and extend the required assistance to ensure the farm's continued success.

Board of Directors meeting of Pambavalley Farmer Producer Company Limited.

The board of directors meeting of the Pamba Valley Farmer Producer Company Ltd with the CISSA officials was held on 15th November 2024. The meeting started with a report by Sri Ninan CEO of FPCL. Sri Omanakuttan, Chairman, Pamba Valley FPCL while addressing the Board of the Directors of the company highlighted the obstacles faced during the initial period of the formation of the company. Dr C Suresh Kumar, General Secretary, CISSA gave a detailed presentation of the importance of FPO in the country. The Government of India scheme of training 1 crore farmers in Prakrithi Krishi (Natural farming) in the next two years will benefit thousands of FPO's across the country. Being one of



the companies formed as per the Govt of India's 10k FPO scheme, it is very important that the company achieve the desired turnover as projected in the Business plan and become self-sufficient in their activities. It was also pointed out that Govt of India has allotted 5 FPO's to CISSA overlooking the claim of other states and hence it is very essential to ensure that all the Fodder FPO's are operating successfully and should be a model to other FPO's of the country. The main objectives of FPO, role clarity of CEO, the necessity for the Board members to have an active role in the functioning of FPO, the various schemes of Govt of India/ Govt of Kerala as well as other Govt agencies which are useful to FPO's was elaborated in the meeting. CEO proposed vote of thanks

Meeting on Crop Insurance at Pattanazhi Rubber Private Society



On 19th November, 2024, a meeting on crop insurance was held at Pattanazhi Rubber Private Society (RPS), operating under Sahyadri Rubber Pvt Ltd. The session was conducted by Sreelakshmi, the Field Coordinator for Crop Insurance, who provided a detailed class on the importance of crop insurance, specifically focusing on rubber cultivation. Krishna, CEO of Sahya Samridhi FPC, participated as a micro-agent in the session, highlighting the benefits and processes involved in availing insurance for crops. The meeting also saw the presence of the RPS President & Secretary, along with numerous rubber farmers from the region. There were discussions regarding the relevance of insurance for protecting their crops from unforeseen risks. The event aimed to increase awareness about the importance of



crop insurance and ensure that farmers were well-equipped with the necessary knowledge to safeguard their livelihoods.

Meeting of Sahya Samridhi Farmer Producer Company for Farmer Welfare Activities



The Director Board of Sahya Samridhi Farmer Producer Company convened on 20th November, 2024, under the chairmanship of Dr. Sureshkumar C., General Secretary of CISSA, to discuss strategies for addressing pressing challenges faced by farmers and exploring new initiatives for their benefit.

A major focus of the meeting was on mitigating the menace of wild animals such as wild boars and monkeys, which have been causing significant damage to crops. The Board decided to raise awareness among farmers about the benefits of solar fencing as an effective solution. Steps will be taken to provide information on subsidized solar fencing schemes, ensuring affordability and accessibility for the farming community.

The meeting also resolved to establish a new market in Adoor to enhance the marketing opportunities for farmers' produce. Additionally, the "Sahasradalam Project," which aims to support farmers through financial assistance, was identified as a priority. The Board decided to expedite the follow-up process to ensure timely access to loans and necessary resources for farmers participating in the project.

These resolutions reflect the company's commitment to empowering farmers, safeguarding their livelihoods, and providing them with the tools and support needed to thrive.

Exposure Visit to CTCRI



Chairman of Grama Samrudhi, Ramachandran S, and CEO Ashwin visited the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) on 21st November 2024, as part of efforts to innovate and automate their product lines. The visit was aimed at enhancing the precision and quality of product manufacturing through advanced research and automation technologies developed by the institute.

This visit is expected to help ensure more accurate production processes and maintain high standards of quality, thereby improving the overall efficiency of product development.

Mushroom Cultivation Training for Students



As part of the NSS's self-employment training initiative, a session on mushroom cultivation was conducted for students at Mahatma Higher Secondary School, Chennithala on 20th November, 2024, Smt. Prejitha, CEO of Mavelikara Farmer Producer Company, and Smt. Vandana, Shop Incharge led the session. During the training, the students were

introduced to the basics of mushroom cultivation, and a hands-on demonstration was provided. A mushroom bed was also prepared and handed over to the school allowing the students to implement the skills they had learned. This initiative aimed to equip the students with practical knowledge in sustainable farming practices, fostering entrepreneurship and self-reliance among the youth.

Meeting of Vamanapuram Farmer Producer Company to Discusses Strategic Initiatives



The Director Board meeting of the Vamanapuram Farmer Producer Company was held on 23rd November, 2024, at the company office under the chairmanship of Dr. Suresh Kumar C., General Secretary of CISSA.

Dr. Suresh Kumar conducted a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation evaluating the company's past activities and outlining actionable suggestions for future initiatives. He emphasized addressing the shortcomings in the company's operations and proposed strategies to enhance efficiency and growth. One of the key decisions was to compile a list of individuals interested in starting projects under the Sahasradalam initiative and gather detailed information from them. Additionally, it was decided to distribute sweet potato saplings to farmers and explore the production of sweet potato chips as a new product offering. Collaboration with Centre for Tropical Crops Research Institute was proposed for this purpose.

The meeting also discussed the sale of coconut and arecanut saplings, collection of black pepper, and the promotion of biochar production and natural farming practices. Dr. Suresh Kumar highlighted the importance of supporting beekeeping activities and the need for training in the use of modern machinery.

Alappuzha Farmer Producer Company Ltd Hosts Training and Evaluation Session



A day-long training and evaluation session for the Board of Directors of the Alappuzha Farmer Producer Company Ltd was conducted by CISSA on 27th November, 2024, at Cherthala. Dr. Sureshkumar C., General Secretary of CISSA, who led the program, emphasized the pivotal role of Farmer Producer Organizations in advancing India's agricultural sector.

Dr. Sureshkumar C highlighted the significance of FPOs under the Government of India's 10K FPO scheme and their contribution to the country's vision of achieving "Vikshit Bharat" by 2047. He stressed the need for the Alappuzha FPO to meet its business plan targets and achieve financial self-sufficiency within the 36-month timeline set by the government.

The session covered key topics such as natural farming initiatives, technological advancements like drone usage and vertical farming, and strategies to combat human-animal conflict through cost-effective solar fencing. He also urged the adoption of mechanization and value-added activities like dairy product production, Azolla cultivation, and hydroponic fodder to enhance productivity and income.

Dr. Sureshkumar.C called for active involvement from the Directors, underlining their critical role in driving the FPO's success. He encouraged them to utilize government subsidy schemes and ensure effective dissemination of information to members. Concluding the session, he emphasized the urgency for Alappuzha FPCL to initiate sustainable income-generating activities to secure its future and establish itself as a model FPO in the state.

BoD meeting of Desinganadu Farmer Producer Company



On 29th November 2024, Dr. Sureshkumar.C, General Secretary of CISSA, visited the Desinganadu Farmer Producer Company and held meeting with the Board of Directors. The primary focus of the meeting was on strategies for share mobilization. Dr. Sureshkumar emphasized the importance of expanding the company's shareholder base and assigned specific targets to each director to achieve this objective. In addition, he shared valuable insights and innovative ideas to enhance the company's activities. His suggestions aimed at increasing the organization's reach, improving operational efficiency, and boosting its popularity within the farming community. The meeting was marked by an active exchange of ideas and a collective commitment to drive the company towards greater success.



Fertilizer Application Using Drone in Chittumala Block

Under the initiative of the State Agriculture Department, a comprehensive fertilizer application was carried out over 33 hectares in the Panayam paddy fields under the Panayam Krishi Bhavan in the Chittumala block on 25th and 26th November, 2024. The activity was executed using a drone provided by the Desinganad Farmer Producer Company.

The program was inaugurated by Chittumala Assistant Director of Agriculture, Mrs. Thansi Sheriff. Key representatives from the Panayam Paddy Field Committee, including its President, Mr. Subhash Chandra Pillai, and Secretary, Mr. Sreejith, was present on the occasion.



The initiative marks a significant step towards modernizing agricultural practices and promoting the use of advanced technology in farming.

Grama Samrudhi Farmer Producer Company Explores Innovative Agricultural Practices

In a series of visits to various agricultural establishments, the Chairman of Grama Samrudhi Farmer Producer Company, S. Ramachandran, and CEO Aswin V visited several key facilities to explore advancements in agricultural technologies and sustainable farming practices.

Their first stop was an agro-machinery unit managed by Mr. Senthil, where they were introduced to cutting-edge technologies in agro-machinery and value addition. The discussions focused on innovations in automation processes and value-added products, highlighting the potential to enhance agricultural efficiency.

The team then visited Samishra Karshaka Farmer Producer Company and Herbal Plants and Resorts Limited. During these visits, they engaged with Director Sudarshan and CEO Manu to gain insights into modern farming techniques and their potential to drive sustainable growth in the agricultural sector.

Next on their itinerary was the Njattuvella Matta Rice Farmer Producer Company in Palakkad. Here, the delegation met with Chairman Kerala Dasan, Director Sreenarayanankutty, and CEO Arul to discuss the production and distribution strategies of Quality assured organically produced trade marked palakkad Matta rice, a key agricultural product from the region.



Team Visited Agromachinery unit of Mr. Senthil at Kochi



Team Visited Kavungal Agrotech

Another highlight of the trip was a visit to Kavungal Agro Tech, where the delegation, accompanied by Dr. C. Narayanankutty, former Director of Research of Kerala Agricultural University, and Mr. Kalyana Krishnan, former General Manager of Kerala Grameen Bank, explored the production of hybrid seeds. They also discussed the maintenance and wholesale marketing of these seeds, along with the development of value-added products derived from banana bi-products.



Multi-Oil extraction unit of Mr. Surendran.

The delegation continued their journey to Mannuthy, Thrissur, where they visited a multi-oil extraction unit managed by Mr. Surendran. The facility processes oils from various seeds, including coconut, sesame, mustard, almond, and chickpea, using a single machine. The by-products from oil extraction are repurposed into organic face packs, showcasing a sustainable and eco-friendly approach to production.



BUYN FARM (Buy En Farm) in Mannuthy

Lastly, the team visited BUYN FARM (Buy En Farm) in Mannuthy, a large-scale vegetable seedling production unit. Here, they observed, attended and practiced hand's on training on scientific grafting techniques for brinjal, green chilies, and tomatoes, and discussed methods for managing and producing a wide range of vegetable crops under protected condition by managing temperature fluctuations. These visits provided valuable insights into innovative agricultural practices, sustainable technologies, and business models that aim to drive the future of farming in the region. The Grama Samrudhi Farmer Producer Company continues to strengthen its root commitment in fostering progress in the agricultural sector through collaborations.

Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign



A campaign to raise awareness about crop insurance was organized at Erur Krishi Bhavan on 30th November, 2024, under the leadership of Erur Krishi Bhavan and Sahya Samridhi Farmer Producer Company Ltd. The event saw active participation from numerous local farmers, along with key officials including the Erur Agriculture Officer, the Crop Insurance Field Coordinator, and Sahya Samridhi FPCL CEO and Director, Mr. Mohanan. The campaign provided farmers with valuable information about crop insurance. The participants were given the opportunity to enroll in the program on the spot. This initiative aims to enhance farmers' financial security and ensure better protection against crop-related risks.



Weekly Market Inaugurated by Vellanad Rural Farmer Producer Company



The Vellanad Rural Farmer Producer Company Ltd launched its weekly market at Uzhmalakkal Panchayat on 29th November, 2024. The event was inaugurated by the agriculture Officer of Uzhmalakkal Krishi Bhavan, Mrs. Shaini, who conducted the first sale at the market. The initial sale of seeds and agricultural products was carried out by Mr. Madhu, an organic farmer and shareholder of Vellanad Rural Farmer Producer Company Ltd.

Local farmers from the surrounding areas also participated in the event. The organic produce, including fresh vegetables and local coconuts, was successfully sold, marking a positive start for the weekly market initiative. This effort aims to provide farmers with better marketing opportunities and strengthen the local agricultural economy.

Koyikkalnad Farmer Producer Company Holds Second Annual General Meeting



Koyikkalnad Farmer Producer Company conducted its second Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 5th October 2024, in the company office premises. The meeting was chaired by Rajesh V, who welcomed the gathering along with Director P. Ramachandran Nair. The event was inaugurated by CISSA FPO Director Ajith Kumar, CEO Nikhila Jayan N. presented the

annual report, followed by accountant Gayathri U. S., who presented the balance sheet for the financial year 2023-24. FPO Coordinator Harikumar and Shareholders engaged in discussions. The meeting also witnessed the election of three new directors—Rajeev Kumar, Rajith, and Saritha S.—who joined the existing board members, including P. Ramachandran Nair, Bindu S., Sujith S., Sreekumar S., and Sajikumar S. A special highlight was the felicitation of a young farmer Ranjith from Anad Panchayat, by Ajith Kumar for his contributions to agriculture. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Director Bindu S.

Board of Directors meeting of Mavelikara Farmer Producer Company

The 34th Board of Directors meeting of Mavelikara Farmer Producer Company took place on 20th November, 2024, under the chairmanship of Mr. N. Vijayakumar. The meeting was attended by directors Mr. Rajamohanam, Mr. Gopan Chennithala, Mr. G.K. Biju, Mrs. Radhamani, and CEO Mrs. Prejitha. Mr. Ashwin, representative from CISSA, also participated in the meeting as a special invitee.



During the meeting, several important decisions were taken. It was decided to initiate season-purchasing for the upcoming agricultural season. The board also resolved to apply for a bank loan to support the company's financial needs.

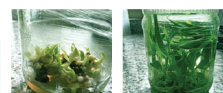
In addition, the board decided to form an advisory board to oversee the launch of the market. These decisions are expected to play a crucial role in the growth and expansion of the Mavelikara Farmer Producer Company, benefiting both the company and its member farmers.



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