



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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To
The Editor,
Sir,

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I request that the following message may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

**Coconut Development Board is organizing Farmers Meet 2022 at
Tamil Nadu Agriculture University Coimbatore**

Coconut Development Board in association with Tamil Nadu Agriculture University and ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute is organizing a Farmers Meet on 14th October, 2022 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar will be inaugurating the Farmers Meet.

Shri. M. R. K. Paneerselvam, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Tamil Nadu is expected to attend the programme. Shri. Amman K Arjun, Hon'ble MLA, Coimbatore North, Smt. Vanathi Srinivasan, Hon'ble MLA, Coimbatore South, Shri. P. R. Natarajan, Hon'ble MP, Coimbatore, Dr. N. Vijayalakshmi IAS, CEO, Coconut Development Board, Shri. K. Narayanan Master, Vice Chairman, CDB, Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Shri. C. Samayamoorthy IAS, APC, Tamil Nadu will address the farmers. Dr. G. Hemaprabha, Director, Sugarcane Breeding Institute will deliver the welcome address and Dr. B. Hanumanthe Gowda, Chief Coconut Development Officer, CDB will propose a vote of thanks.

The meeting will be followed by Farmers Scientist interaction wherein the farmers will get firsthand information on various problems and prospects related to coconut farming. An exhibition showcasing various innovative value added coconut products and informative literature on coconut along with posters and publications will also be organized along with the Farmers Meet. Around thousand farmers including people's representatives, senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Government of Tamil Nadu will attend the programme.

Coconut Scenario in India

India leads the coconut growing countries in production and productivity and holds third position in area under coconut. The production of coconut in India during 2021-22 was 19247 million nuts which accounts for more than 31% of the global production. The productivity was recorded at 9123 nuts per hectare. Our total area under coconut is 2.10 million ha.

In India coconut based industries are growing in number bringing new products in the markets and also giving employment opportunities to many. CDB has extended support for the establishment of 537 new coconut processing units with a capacity to process 3638 million nuts per year.

India has also made remarkable achievement in the export of coconut products. Export of coconut products excluding coir products during the year 2021-22 touched Rs. 3236.83 crore recording an increase of about 41% over the previous year. Activated carbon, coconut oil, dry coconut, desiccated coconut, fresh coconut and virgin coconut oil are the major coconut products exported from India. Total export including coir reached at Rs. 7577 crores which shows the importance of coconut to Indian economy.

Coconut Scenario in Tamil Nadu

The state of Tamil Nadu occupies a major share of the coconut cultivation in India. Coconut is currently cultivated in an area of 4.44 ha in the state. Production of coconut in the state is 512.82 million nuts with a productivity of 11526 nuts per ha. The state contributes to about 20% of area and 26% of production under coconut in India and stands first in coconut processing unit establishment. Coimbatore ranks the top position in area under coconut with 88467 ha.

A Regional Office and a Demonstration Cum Seed Production Centre of the Board is functioning in the state with the objective to promote coconut cultivation in the state and to support the coconut farmers by implementing the programmes of CDB as well as to provide guidance in scientific cultivation methods and processing and marketing of coconut.

In productivity Tamil Nadu occupies the third position in the country. The farmers of the state has also ventured into processing and value addition of coconut and

its products. Almost 70% of the country's coconut processing units right from milling copra, activated carbon units, virgin coconut oil units, packaged tender coconut water units, spray dried coconut milk powder units, coconut milk units and many other innovative value added coconut product units are from the state of Tamil Nadu.

Tuticorin and Chennai ports deal with a major chunk of the export of coconut products. Export through the ports of Tamil Nadu tops in the exports of coconut based products in the country with a share of 60%. The state is the leading exporter of coconut shell based Activated Carbon Coconuts, Coconut Oil & Coconut Shell Charcoal and ranks second in position in export of Desiccated Coconut. Pollachi region in Coimbatore is emerging as a major hub for the export of coconut and coir products from India and also caters to the requirement of tender coconut in the country.

During the past 8 years, from 2014-15 to 2021-22, board has expended Rs. 290.82 crore for various field oriented schemes, establishment of coconut processing units and insurance schemes. During the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 14.17 crore is earmarked for various field level coconut development programmes.

Public Relations Officer