

## In the field : APCC team impressed with Neera Production and FOCT training

With an aim to study the production and marketing of Neera and the working of the training sessions conducted by the company for the Friends of Coconut Tree (FoCT) programme, the Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) delegates visited Karappuram Coconut Producer Company (KCPC) at Kanjikkuzhy on



4th February, 2015.

The CEO of KCPC, Mr. Mani deliberated the delegates about the functioning, vision and mission and the activities of the company. The delegates, led by Fiji Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Inia Seruiratu and Mr. Hiroshi V Yamamura, Minister for Public Works and Acting Minister for Resources and Development, Marshall Islands, showed keen interest in knowing about the Neera tapping process and the future plans of the



company in marketing their products. The delegates also tasted fresh Neera tapped from the company's coconut farm and expressed different marketing possibilities in their countries.

The team showed immense interest in the FoCT training programme and was fascinated by the coconut climbing machine. The delegates have expressed their interest in the machine and after trying their hands on the same, they said they are happy with the technology. Some of them have even placed orders with Raidco through the Coconut Development Board to take it home and employ it in large-scale projects in their respective countries.

The delegates also visited Kannankara and attended a demonstration by the Neera technicians who



demonstrated Neera tapping technique. The team found it very informative and was excited to see how Neera was procured and transported to the company. The APCC delegates then went for a two-hour-long backwater cruise on the Vembanad Lake. The team also visited the Coir Research Institute and the Coir Museum at Kalavoor.

Romulo N Arancon, CEO of Philippine Coconut Authority, Uron N Salum, Executive Director, Asian & Pacific Coconut Community, Dr. Wayne Myrie, Plant Microbiologist, Jamaica, and other delegates from the APCC member countries were also present during the field trip.

### Post Session Field Visit

A team 10 delegates of the 51 APCC session conducted a post session field visit to CPCRI, Kasaragode, CPCRI Seed Farm, Kidu, Farmers Field in Pollachi, Farms Fresh, Tender Coconut Minimal Processing unit at Pollachi, Dee Bee Farms, coconut hybridization garden at Palani, Deejay Farms, Coconut Hybridization Center at Madurai, Lockhart Tea Estate at Munnar and Amrita Institute of Medical Science, Kochi.



During the visit at CPCRI, the delegates visited various research labs and the Seed Garden at Kidu. The germplasm established by CPCRI with the assistance of COGENT was explained by the Director and his technical team to the delegates.. At Coco Lagoon, Pollachi, the delegates had a firsthand information on the scientific management of coconut garden. The team visited Farm Fresh at Pollachi, tender coconut minimal processing unit. Further at Deebie Farms, the team had demonstration of emasculation, bagging and

pollination for producing hybrid seedlings. The delegates also visited Deejay Farm, Madura another hybrid seedling production center in India and Lockhart Tea Estate, Munnar.

The team along with Shri TK Jose, IAS, Chairman, Coconut Development Board visited Amrita Institute of Medical Science, Kochi, Kerala. Dr Shanti Kumar Nair, Director, Research, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and his team presented a brief on the clinical trials initiated and completed on coconut oil and coconut products. Subsequently a brain storming on how the coconut community can proceed on the research on the health benefits of coconut. The team also visited the biochemistry labs of AIMS, Kochi. The team was so optimistic that the research on coconut oil and coconut products at AIMS could change the myths about coconut oil and coconut products among the consumers.

The delegates were accompanied by Shri. Sugata Ghose, CCDO, Shri Hemachandra, Deputy Director and Shri Pramod P Kurian, Assistant Director Coconut Development Board, Kochi





Asian and Pacific Coconut Community

Jakarta - Indonesia

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**SHRI SANJEEV CHOPRA, IAS.**  
Joint Secretary (NHM) and National Liaison Officer (NLO) for APCC  
Dept. of Agriculture & Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation  
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi 110 001, India

And

**SHRI T. K. JOSE, IAS.**  
Chairman and Alternate NLO for APCC  
Coconut Development Board  
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation  
Kochi 682 011, Kerala, India

Dear Shri Chopra and Shri Jose:

Subject: Expression of Appreciation

Respected Sirs, we greet you from the APCC Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.

On behalf of the Secretariat and the distinguished participants at the 51<sup>st</sup> APCC Session/Ministerial Meeting, we convey our sincere appreciation for the excellent manner of organization of the overall Session with all related activities. We also express our heartfelt gratitude for the grand hospitality, friendship and following extended to one and all at the Session. All the immense amount of work leading up and throughout the Session with additional effort in Post-Session events were undertaken so professionally well we came away very impressed with the strength and quality of the Kochi Session Organizing team.

The content, substance and outcomes of the Session in Kochi have placed APCC on a new pathway going forward with a higher vision. This is a direct result of the input by Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation and the Coconut Development Board of India, we congratulate you all. We will together look forward to the fruits of the Session in the years ahead. We thank you all very much indeed for the grand effort as the host of a highly successful 51<sup>st</sup> APCC Session/Ministerial Meeting in Kochi.

The APCC Secretariat wishes to assure the Coconut Development Board, the Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation and the Government of India of its highest consideration and full cooperation.

Sincerely,

**URON N. SALUM**  
Executive Director, APCC

Copy furnished:

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