

Arecanut Tissue Culture Technology Commercialized

17th August 2014, Kasaragod.

A MoU on Arecanut tissue culture technology was signed between Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod and M/s Sunglow Biotech, Coimbatore. The MoU was handed over by Dr. N K Krishna Kumar, DDG (Hort. Sci.), ICAR to Mr. T.S. Chelliah, Sunglow Biotech in a function presided over by Dr. George V Thomas, Director, CPCRI.



Arecanut tissue culture protocol using inflorescence explant, standardized at CPCRI, has commercial value for rapid multiplication of elite genotypes such as Yellow leaf Disease (YLD) resistant palms and dwarf hybrids. More than 60 arecanut palms that were propagated using this protocol have been planted in different locations. Their growth and reproduction are similar to seed-borne plants.

In addition, a MoU was signed with M/s DJ Farm, Bangalore for commercialization of coconut embryo culture protocol. Embryo culture protocol of coconut was standardized at CPCRI during 1992-1996 and was successfully used for collection of exotic germplasm since 1997. The protocol has received international acclaim and is being used in different coconut growing countries. A total of 45 accessions have been collected using this protocol from eight countries.

During the function, a promising technology for Collection of fresh and hygienic neera and production of natural coconut sugar was handed over to Mr. Sunny George, Chairman, Thejaswini Coconut Farmers Producer Company Ltd., Cherupuzha Kannur.

As part of BPD Unit CPCRI, **Agribusiness incubation centre** was inaugurated by the honourable DDG (Hort. Sci.) during the occasion. BPD unit could attract over 85 walk-ins interested in coconut-based technologies of which 24 registered as incubatees. Facilities are created under the centre to enable practical experience for the incubatees on processing, packaging, selling, marketing and revenue generation of selected coconut value added products such as virgin coconut oil, coconut chips, desiccated coconut etc.

(Source: CPCRI, Kasaragod)