

Online Training Programme Series

on

Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) Mass Multiplication

An online training series on virtual platform through Google meet was organized by ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam, for farmer groups of Chunakkara, Vallikkunnam and Bharanikkavu gramapanchayaths in the KERANANMA project and of Pathiyoor panchayath in Farmer FIRST Program (FFP). The online training commenced on 12.6.2020 with the objectives of introducing to the entrepreneurial opportunities in bio inoculants technologies and to encourage women SHGs to establish AMF mass production unit as an agripreneurship venture.

The training series consisted of sessions on various theoretical and practical demonstrations. First session was on AMF classification, their mode of host plant interaction and crop benefits and production protocols. Series 2 of this training program that included method demonstration (online) on 'AMF mass multiplication' was conducted on 24.8.2020. In this session step by step process of AMF mass multiplication by root culturing technique with sorghum as host plants aided by online video streaming. Series 3 was conducted online on 22.10.2020 that focused on harvest, packaging and storage of AMF bio-inoculants formulation and application methods of AMF to agricultural and horticultural crops, especially tubers and vegetables. This was followed by discussion session wherein the participants presented a brief report of activities taken up as part of demonstration trial. Series 4 conducted on 12.01.2021, marked the concluding session of this training programme with a lecture on quality standards of AMF bio-inoculants, product licensing, pricing and marketing. The training sessions were handled under the able leadership of Dr. K.S. Meenakumari, Professor, Department of Agricultural Microbiology, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram supported by Dr. Chitra N, KAU, Vellayani. Topic on market analysis and marketing strategies and agripreneurial opportunities was covered by Dr. P.Anithakumari, Principal Scientist (Agrl. Extension) ICAR CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam. Results on quality analysis on AMF bioinoculant produced during the demonstration trial that paralleled with this training were presented by Dr. K.S. Meenakumari. In the feedback session participants expressed their confidence in taking up AMF production as an agripreneurial venture. Questions and Clarifications raised during each session by the participants were answered and solved by the resource persons Dr. K.S. Meenakumari, and the session events were moderated by Dr. S. Indhuja, Scientist and Ms. Kalpanamol, Project Staff, KERANANMA project, ICAR-CPCRI. The entire training series was coordinated by Dr. S. Indhuja, Scientist (Sr.Sc.), ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam.



Soil Sterilization



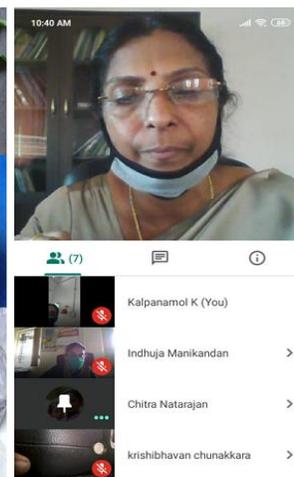
Sorghum seed quality testing and sowing with AMF inoculum



Growth stages of sorghum



Harvest and packing of AMF bioinoculant



Others in the meeting (3)