

TODAY'S PAPER

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CPCRI to teach farmers 'best practices' to check 'kole roga' in areca plantations

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The best practices included application of bio-control agents to arecanut trees and spraying bio-control and chemical agents to palms.—
Photo: BYSPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod, will conduct the best “kole roga” (fruit rot) disease management demonstrations in select plantations of arecanut farmers in five districts from June, according to CPCRI director P. Chowdappa.

The best disease management practices would be demonstrated and taught to farmers in a plantation in four or five taluks in Dakshina Kannada. Plantations in Sullia, Puttur, Belthangady and Bantwal taluks in Dakshina Kannada that have a history of the disease would be selected.

As arecanut plantations were fewer in Mangaluru taluk, it would not be taken up there, he told *The Hindu* .

In addition, demonstration plots would be selected in Thirthahalli taluk of Shimoga district; Sringeri taluk of Chikkamagaluru district; Sirsi taluk of Uttara Kannada and select plantations in Udupi district.

He said that the best practices included application of bio-control agents to arecanut trees and spraying bio-control and chemical agents to palms.

Mr. Chowdappa said that a committee comprising both farmers and CPCRI scientists would be formed to monitor the demonstrations.

Earlier, the CPCRI conducted an interactive meeting with arecanut growers at its regional station, Vitla, on Thursday. The main topic of discussion was the best practices to be adopted for controlling “kole roga”.

Farmers who participated in the meeting told the scientists that as new brands of solutions, claiming to be organic in nature, have hit the market, farmers were in confusion whether to apply the traditional copper sulphate-lime mixture or to spray the new brands to control the fruit rot disease.

Mr. Chowdappa said that the CPCRI would use the new brands for demonstrative purpose in its plantations in Kidu, near Kukke Subrahmanya, and Vitla. It is to ascertain whether they are effective in controlling the disease.

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