

# Experts mull ways to boost coconut farming

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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A workshop-cum-training on Plant Health Management of Coconut trees was organised at ICAR -Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod on Wednesday. Selected farmers from all the panchayats in the district and extension personnel of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare participated in the workshop-cum-training.

Tizamma Thomas, principal agricultural officer, Kasaragod, inaugurated the programme and K B Hebbar, director-in-charge of CPCRI, presided over the inaugural function.

A A Jaleel, Mogral-Puthur panchayat president released the publication on 'Incidence and intensity of pests and diseases of coconut in North Kerala'. Stella Jacob, project director, Agricultural Tech-

nology Management Agency (ATMA), Kasaragod, C Thamban, principal scientist CP-CRI, and K P Chandran, principal scientist, CPCRI spoke.

Leena S, chief technical officer, Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Tizamma Thomas who are retiring from service were felicitated in the function.

C Thamban presented the topic on 'Status of pest and disease incidence in coconut in northern Kerala and crop loss incurred' and P S Prathibha, scientist, CPCRI spoke on the topic 'Integrated pest and disease management in coconut-prophylactic measures at the onset of monsoon'.

After the presentations, group discussion on 'Strategies for scaling up the adoption of recommended technologies by coconut growers through appropriate interventions of State Department Of Agriculture/ATMA/Local Self Governments' was held.

