

Annual report of Agricultural Sciences Forum of Kodagu for the year 2018-19

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset I wish to place on record that our forum has successfully completed twenty years. Currently the forum consists of 236 members, of which 21 are patrons.

I take this opportunity to present before you the annual report of the forum for the year 2018-19.

During 2018-19, seven executive committee meetings were held.

- The first combined EC meeting was held on 25-07-2018 at College of Forestry, Ponnampet to discuss about the commercial venture of ASFK and the sub-committee was formed to look into the feasibility of the commercial venture.
- The second EC meeting was held on 04-09-2018 at College of Forestry, Ponnampet. The main agenda was to discuss about the relief activities for the rain damaged areas. A sub committee was formed to make multidisciplinary study on the rain damaged areas and plan activities for these areas. The committee consisting of EC members and resource persons from among the ASFK members and College of Forestry, Ponnampet visited the rain devastated areas on 14-08-2018. This was followed by several visits and a detailed report was prepared. This report was later presented to the EC members and then a copy was submitted to the Hon. Deputy Commissioner of Kodagu. A press meeting was also conducted at the Press Club, Madikeri to highlight the important findings of the study. As per the study, the major reason for such damage due to heavy rains was a mild earth quake followed by heavy rain fall and also mismanagement of water release in Harangi dam.
- Third EC meeting was held on 22-10-2018 at College of Forestry, Ponnampet. The main agenda was to discuss on the distribution of the amount contributed by the Menasinakai Foundation, Dharwad towards relief activities in Kodagu for the rain devastated areas. This amount brought in to the organization by Mr. M A Kuttanna, Past President of ASFK. It was decided to provide scholarships to the students studying in Cauvery College, Gonicoppal and Coorg Institute of Technology, Halligattu.
- The foundation day was organized on 20-11-2018 at Palm Valley Resort, Pollibetta Road, Gonikkoal. **Dr. K.J. Joseph, Ph. D**, Ministry of Commerce Chair, Centre for Developmental Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala was the chief guest for the programme.
- The fourth EC meeting was held on 14-12-2018 at AHRS, Madikeri. It was decided to organize a two days seminar on Marketing of Coffee. It was also decided to develop a Coffee Racking machine designed by Dr. Jangadi, UAHS, Shivamogga.
- The Fifth EC meeting was held on 27-04-2019 at College of Forestry, Ponnampet. The main agenda of the programme was to discuss about a seminar on Clonal propagation in Coffee.
- The Sixth EC meeting was held on 28-05-2019 at Anugraha, Lions Seva Bhavan, Polibetta, to finalize the event on Clonal Propagation in Coffee.
- The Seventh EC meeting was held on 27-06-2019 at Sixth Element –The Harvester, Rangasamudra, Somwarpet Taluk to finalise the audited accounts statement and also decide about the issues to be discussed at the AGM 2019. It was decided to put the

following a) transferring of interest earned from FD to SB account for meeting the day to day financial requirements requirements of the organization. b) to propose a annual contribution of Rs. 500 each from members to meet the AGM and Foundation expenses.

A seminar on Clonal Propagation in Coffee:

A one day seminar on Clonal Propagation of Coffee was organized on 18th June 2019 at Lions Seva Bhavan, Pollibetta. Around 40 planters consisting of heads from CPA, KPA, TATA Coffee, UPASI, College of Forestry, Ponnampet, Coffee Board and planters participated in the seminar. The programme consisted of talk by .

1. Dr. Ramakrishna Hegde, Professor and Head, Dept. of Silviculture and Agroforestry, College of Forestry, Ponnampet talked about the basics of Clonal propagation.
2. Dr. Suryaprakash Rao, Joint Director (Research), CCRS, Balahonnur spoke on the activities pertaining to the clonal propagation by Coffee Board.
3. Dr. P Kurien Raphael, Member KPA (Scientific committee) and Head R &D, TATA Coffee spoke about the clonal propagation initiatives by TATA Coffee Ltd.
4. Dr. Shivalingaiah, Research Assistant, Plant Breeding and Genetics CCRS, Chettalli demonstration the process of Clonal multiplication in coffee.

As a final outcome, it was decided to take up a long-term research oriented project on Clonal Propagation in coffee to release best clones for the benefit of farming community. It was also highlighted that during the selection of clones a higher heterogeneity has to be maintained. It was decided that organizations like ASFK, CPA, KPA, TATA Coffee, UPASI, Coffee Board and College of Forestry, Ponnampet will be involve and ASFK will lead and act as a facilitator of the programme/ interactions till a definite project mode is formulated.

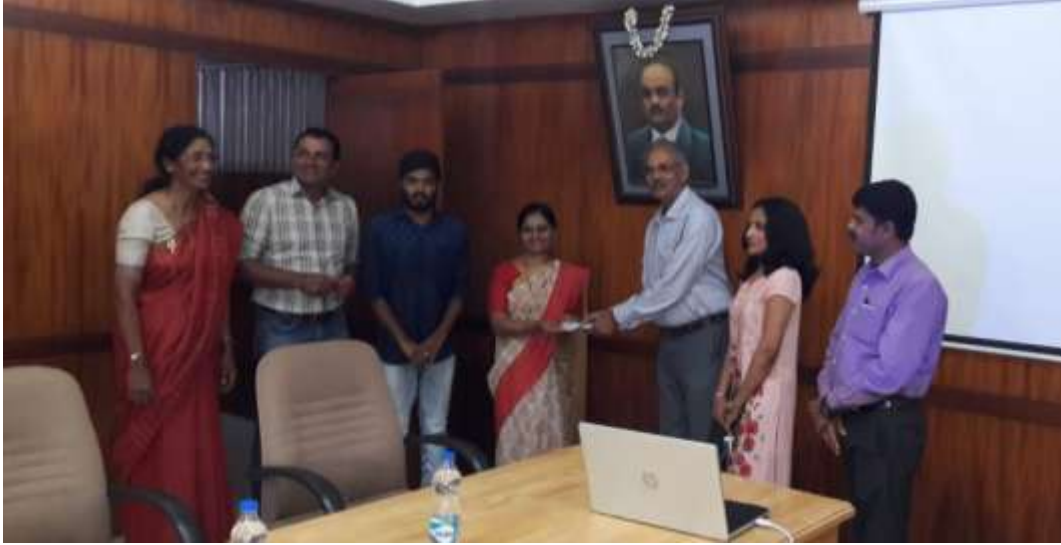
ASFK Gold medal:

The forum has been awarding a Gold medal to the topper in B.Sc.(Forestry) degree programme at College of Forestry, Ponnampet since 2000. The gold medal for the year 2017-18 was sponsored by the Dr. Kumada Kushalappa, ASFK member currently working with Pioneer Seeds in Canada. Mr. Chandan Shetty was the student who received the gold medal.

Finally, I thank the President and all the EC members for giving me the opportunity to present this report before you all.



Interaction during the clonal propagation seminar



Distribution of Educational Scholarship to the students from rain affected area