

*“Ignorance is the curse of God; knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to heaven”.*

#### In This Issue

**Karshikaratnam  
2012:The First Ever Agri  
Reality Show In India**

**Orientation training to  
agricultural assistants  
on cyber extension**

**Training on web  
designing**

**Drip irrigation through  
plastic bottles**

**Metarrhizium against  
Rhinoceros beetle**

**E- Farmer**

#### Karshikaratnam 2012:The First Ever Agri-Reality Show In India

Centre for e-Learning, Department of Agriculture Extension has conducted karshikaratnam-2012, the first ever agriculture reality show in india. Mr.Pallan Joseph was awarded as best farmer of Kerala. Mr.John Joseph was awarded 2nd price and Mr.Shaji and Mr.Dominic shared third price.

The prizes were distributed by sri.Therambil Ramakrishnan, former speaker of state Legislative Assembly.

The programme was organized like this: Applications were invited. More than 70 applications were received. A team of agricultural experts and a video team selected applications after screening. All were assembled in the town hall. An introduction was given by each farmer about him and his farming practice. There was an interactive questionnaire session. After a series of discussions the winners were announced.



**Mr.Pallan Joseph**

#### Orientation Training to Agricultural Assistants on Cyber Extension

The centre for e- learning has given a training to agricultural assistants on cyber extension on 21<sup>st</sup> January. 22 people attended the training programme.Familiarisation to website utilization and introduction to agriculture related software's were the key targets of the training programme.proper utilization of information communication technology and its impact on emerging agriculture sector was also a topic of discussion.

#### Training on web designing

A 4 day class was given to experiential learning students of 2008 batch of college of horticulture by centre for e learning. A detailed session was provided by experts on web designing and its importance. Later students were asked to design new website.

## Drip irrigation through plastic bottles

e-Newsletter of VUAT  
The disposed plastic bottles can now be used for an innovative purpose. Homestead crops can be irrigated through this new technique. Collect the disposed water bottles and prick holes either at the bottom or on the plastic cap. Water can also be mixed with fertilizers and then fertigation can also be carried out.



Hang the bottles vertically or upside down based on the holes pricked. Water will fall drop wise. Once the bottle is emptied it can be refilled. This is a very efficient method for homestead crops.

## E- Farmer

The farmers of remote villages are seeking information through mobile phones and arrange their farm practices. Nowadays very few people are using this practice. But experts predict that the number of mobile farmers will increase within four to five years. Fees should be remitted for services and technical advice through mobile phone. The service providers give information about climate water availability, rain, fluctuation in market price, diseases and its control measures in local languages. M KRISHI (Tata consultancy services), I KISAN (Nagarjuna group), RML (Reuters market lite), Life tool (Nokia) are the major companies in this field.

## Efficient Liquid fertilizers

Plants consume more time for intake of nutrients in the solid form. Liquid fertilizers do not have this effect. Nutrient deficiency in the soil can be managed with the help of fermented liquid fertilizers. These liquid fertilizers have a synergistic effect with plant growth hormones and has minor insecticidal property. A commonly used liquid fertilizer is biogas slurry. This is enhanced with more nutrients compared to cow dung. Since it is a decomposed product plants can easily absorb the nutrients from biogas slurry.

## Metarrhizium against Rhinoceros beetle



*Metarrhizium anisopliae*, the green muscardine fungi is now used as a bio control agent against Rhinoceros beetle, one of the major pests of coconut plantations.

### *Metarrhizium anisopliae*

This beetle will make holes in the crown of the palm by sucking the sap and red palm weevil lays eggs in the holes. The grubs of red palm weevil will destroy the crown. Central plantation research institute, Kayamkulam has isolated *Metarrhizium* and began to use it against Rhinoceros beetle. The grubs of Rhinoceros beetle are growing in cow dung pits and decayed organic matter. We can apply the culture of the fungi to the pits and decayed substance and this will destroy the grubs.

It is an easy and eco-friendly method which doesn't have any side effects. We can pour the fungal culture into small pits made using twigs on cow dung or decayed organic matter.



### Rhinoceros beetle

The women farmer group trained under CPRC is now preparing culture packets in their homes. These packets are bought by krishibavans and distributed among farmers free of cost.

*Metarrhizium* also has the power to destroy termites and other root eating grubs. The use of biocontrol agents like *Metarrhizium* should be promoted.

Courtesy: Karshakasree