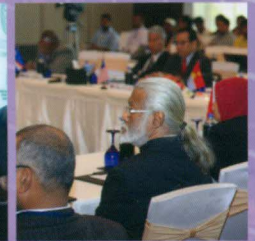




Indian Coconut Journal



Excellence in Coconut Sector honoured



O V R Somasundaram , wife of Dr. K K Haridas (late) and C R Vijayakumar receiving APCC plaques of recognition from Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundariya, Minister of State for Agriculture, Government of India

The 51st Ministerial Meeting/Session of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), held in Kochi from 2nd to 5th February 2015, felicitated three Indians, O.V.R. Somasundaram from Pollachi, Tamil Nadu, Dr. K.K. Haridas (late) from Kerala and C.R. Vijayakumar from Karnataka for their contribution to coconut sector.

O.V.R. Somasundaram

O.V.R. Somasundaram is a leading planter cultivating coconut and other plantation crops like nutmeg, cocoa, pepper under mixed cropping system in his farm at Odaiyakulam village near Pollachi. He is rendering service to the farmers by sourcing them the best progeny planting material of coconut, nutmeg and pepper. A Botany graduate from Madras Christian College, O.V.R. is an experienced nutmeg producer in India with scientific approach and has vast experience in crop production. He also disseminates knowledge and shares experience with fellow farmers and scientific community. One of his major achievements was the controlling measures taken during the outbreak of coconut leaf eating caterpillar, *Turnaca acuta* in Kinnathukadavu area with the help and guidance of TNAU, CPCRI, CDB, Kochi, Dept of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu and farmer friends in the year 1996. Two years later, in 1998, identified for the first time the outbreak of coconut Eriophyid mite in the Pollachi tract with the help of Dr. Mohanasundaram, Retired Entomology of TNAU and on testing of nearly 30 types of pesticides regarding control measures to the District Collector, Coimbatore district. Later TNAU came out with the same pesticide as one of the recommended control measures. Major research institutions like ICAR, CPCRI, Kasargod & Kayamkulam, Coconut Development Board, Indian Institute of Spices Research, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Department of Agriculture and horticulture, Government of Tamil Nadu has recognized

O.V.R.'s farm as a model farm. Students and scientists from Cornell University, Ithaca, USA and other international and national universities regularly visit the farm for experiential learning. Recently, in June 2014, a delegation of nine Nuffield scholars from Australia, Newzeland and United Kingdom visited his farm. Similarly, a team of 15 Australian students from Lat Robe University accompanied by their professor Dr. Peter Sale visited Somasundaram's farm at Odaiyakulam in January 2014. O.V.R. Somasundaram is currently holding the positions of Member, Agriculture Advisory Committee in Doordharshan Kendra, Chennai; Member, Research Advisory Group, Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Coimbatore and Member of the drafting committee of Tamil Nadu Organic Farming Policy. In the past, he had also been served as Member, Board of Management, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore; Member of Regional Research Council, TNAU; Research Council Member, Coconut Development Board, Kochi; Honorary Tree Warden, Indira Gandhi Wild Life Sanctuary; Member, Tamil Nadu Forest Department Advisory Committee; Member, Appeal Committee for Organic Certification, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. He has been awarded 'Best Coconut Grower of Tamil Nadu' in 1991 by CPCRI, Kasargod during the Platinum Jubilee Celebration, 'Velanmai Chemmal Award' in 2005 during the Centenary Celebrations of TNAU, 'Certificate of Recognition' awarded in 2011 during International Conference on Coconut biodiversity for Prosperity by CPRCI for the valuable contributions for successfully integrating innovative technologies for realizing higher income from coconut based cropping system and 'Outstanding Alumnus award' by NGM College Alumni Meet, Pollachi in 2010.

Dr. K.K. Haridas

Dr K.K. Haridas was felicitated by APCC posthumously for his research in coconut, especially on

the "Impact of coconut oil as a cooking medium on cardiovascular risk factors and clinical outcomes in patients with coronary artery disease receiving standard medical care; A randomized case controlled study with polyunsaturated sunflower oil". He was the Principal Investigator of the Research Study sponsored by the Coconut Development Board with Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi. The primary objective of the pilot study was to compare the effects of coconut oil as dietary cooking medium on serum lipids, glycemic indices, antioxidant defense status and vascular endothelial function in patients with established coronary artery disease undergoing standard medical therapy and compare this with patients consuming sunflower oil based dietary regimen. The secondary objectives were: assess the major clinical outcomes-recurrent or worsening angina, exercise intolerance, rehospitalisation, myocardial infarction, death and revascularization during the study period of two years, to assess the abdominal adiposity parameters and liver functions in both study groups. The study revealed that the cardiovascular events, lipid profile, antioxidants ratio were not statistically significant. The conclusion drawn was that both study groups do not show any significant difference in outcome of study parameters analyzed. Dr. Haridas passed away in September 2012 when the study was progressing. This study was the first of its kind in the world which would lead to many clinical studies on coconut oil world over. Dr. Haridas, who was born in Calicut, was residing at Mankompu in Kuttanad Taluk, Alappuzha. He did his MBBS at the Kasturba Medical College, Manipal securing ranks in Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Microbiology, Forensic Medicine and Final MBBS. He did his super speciality training (DM) in Cardiology at the Sri Chithira Thirunal Institute of Medical Science in Trivandrum and also obtained the Diplomate of the National Board of Examination under the Government of India in Cardiology in 1988. He started his career as a tutor and Assistant professor of Cardiology at the Medical Colleges in Trivandrum and Alleppy. In 1990, he did his training in Angioplasty, Atherectomy and Device treatment of various heart diseases from the University of Oregon, Portland USA. From 1990 to 1998 he worked as Consultant and Head of Cardiology at Vijaya Hospital and Madras Medical Mission in Chennai. During this period, he pioneered lot of new interventional procedures for the first time in the country, many of which are routinely done today. He has authored innumerable research publications and chapters in textbooks and has been conducting training courses including the DNB in Cardiology. He has been a post doctoral examiner in many universities. He was honoured with the Fellowship of the Indian college of Cardiology in 2002. In 1998, he was invited to set up a Heart programme at the Amrita Institute of Medical Science at Kochi. During the first

decade of its existence, the heart institute has performed 65,000 catheterization procedures, 10,000 open heart surgeries and has been the benchmark for Cardiovascular care in the country and has earned international acclaim. Dr Haridas had received international reorganization as an invited faculty member and guest speaker to the Euro PCR, the JIM meeting, Singapore Live, Taiwan Live, AKMG meet in USA and many such forums. He had received the EMEX travelling award 2007; he had been an invited proctor for the academia in Switzerland and has performed live operations in many teaching forums and meetings in many countries. He had also been instrumental in the interventional fellowship training programme and the DM programme at AIMS. He was the Advisor and Principal investigator of many international programmes in Cardiology and has received research grants from governmental and non-governmental and international research bodies. Dr Haridas was conferred the high honour of the FRCP by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland at Dublin in 2010. He is one of the seven recipients who were conferred the degree in 2010 year for their contribution in medicine.

C.R.Vijayakumar

C.R.Vijayakumar has started cultivation of coconuts in the year 1960, varieties being TxD, Tiptur Tall and West Coast Tall and also watermelon cultivation in garden lands, varieties being Japanese Yomoto Crème and Kudama Seika. He has done a lot of field trials for IIHR, Hessarghatta on Cucurbits, particularly Pumpkins like Arka Chandan, Arka Suryamukhi, watermelons like Arka Jyothi, Arka monik etc. Under the guidance of Dr. Premnath and Dr.O.P Dutta he has been cultivating grape varieties including Thomson seedless, Anabi Shahi and beauty seedless etc. He is the first person to grow IR-8 Paddy in the country. The seeds were procured from International Rice Research Institute, Lesbenos, Leguna, Philippines and other varieties of paddy, ground nuts [Ashireya Matunde), maize hybrids and maize parent seeds production, brinjals, capsicum etc. He has also done lot of field trials under Dr. G.K. Veeresh for IIHR and UAS including root grubs and control trials on solaneous crops. In the year 1972, he was selected for experimenting in International living in USA for a period of one year under the aegis of Directorate of Extension, Government of India, New Delhi, which was selected by University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. Mr. C.R.Vijayakumar was selected as farmer professor to address the 1st Krishi Mela at New Delhi on water melon cultivation by IIHR in 1974. He is also the panel member for fixation of paddy rates and other crops through the Director of Extension, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore for Government of Karnataka