

**ICAR - KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA, TNAU
WOOD HOUSE FARM, DODDABETTA
THE NILGIRIS - 643 002**

1st SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MEETING REPORT

KVK, The Nilgiris was established under ICAR with administrative control of TNAU during August 2022. KVK, The Nilgiris has a unique landscape and climatic condition. Horticulture crops and Plantations are the major portion. Variety of crops are grown in the Nilgiris starting from Vegetable crops, fruits, Plantation such as tea, Coffee, Medicinal crops, Spices, Arecanut, Paddy, Banana and Exotic vegetables. Agriculture is the primary sources of income of the people. There is a considerable number of Tribal populations comprising of 6 tribal groups. There is a scope for allied sector like animal husbandry, Fisheries, Poultry, Vermi compost, Mushroom production and Bio fertilizers production.

The 1st Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of ICAR - Krishi Vigyan Kendra, The Nilgiris for discussing the action plan for the year 2023-2024 was held at Woodhouse Farm, Doddabetta on 19.02.2023 between 2.00 and 6.00 PM. The meeting was Presided by Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Dr.Sheik N. Meera, Director, ATARI (Zone-X), Hyderabad graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr.P.P.Murugan, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr.P.Irene Vethamoni, Dean (Horticulture), HC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Dean (Forestry), FC&RI, Mettupalayam and Th.M.Karuppusamy, Joint Director of Horticulture, The Nilgiris have participated and delivered special address. All the SAC members including the representatives from all the line departments viz., Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Animal Husbandry, Department Fisheries, ICAR Institutes, Sheep Breeding Research Station, non-official members, leading farmers and representatives from tribal community were also participated the meeting.

In his introductory address, Dr.P.P.Murugan, DEE explained the importance of conducting SAC meeting and thanked dignitaries for attending the 1st SAC meeting. Dr.S.P.Thamaraiselvi, Programme Coordinator, ICAR-KVK, The Nilgiris welcomed the gathering, briefed about the district profile and presented the first technical report of the KVK.

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, TNAU emphasized the importance of wood house farm, its geographical position and highlighted the importance of KVK at the Nilgiris district. The Director, ATARI briefed about the digital agriculture, QR code and block chain technology. He also insisted on construction of eco friendly structures for administrative building and develop this KVK as a model KVK for all other KVKs in the country. The SAC members elaborated the importance of contour ploughing, soil conservation technology, organic farming, tea board activities,

mushroom cultivation, post harvest technology, conservation of traditional millets of Nilgiris district, potato seed production, multipurpose tree species and farm pond *etc.*

The farmer's representatives of Nilgiris district emphasized the need for mechanization in lieu of labour shortage, importance of tea cultivation in the district, agro tourism, temperate fruit, medicinal herbs cultivation, value addition, post harvest technology and marketing. The need for the promotion of agroforestry system for the hilly terrain and crop diversification were also discussed.

An exhibition was also arranged on the recent varieties, technologies and products especially the tribal products of the Nilgiris region. The major outcome of the deliberations and the thrust areas identified were crop diversification, traditional crops, Millets cultivation, Organic Agriculture, Integrated Farming Systems, Pest and Disease management, Value addition technology and tribal development.

In her concluding remarks, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore highlighted the importance of GI tag for various products of Nilgiris district, conservation and value addition of traditional millets. Finally, the bio inputs were distributed to the progressive farmers and also released books, pamphlets, "NEELAMALAI SAARAL" the first official News Letter of the KVK, The Nilgiris, the consolidated newsletter of all TNAU KVKs of Tamil Nadu and thanked the gathering for attending the 1st SAC meeting of KVK, The Nilgiris.

