

Exposure visit of farmers to Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hessaraghatta, Bengaluru, Karnataka State.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Thiruvannamalai organized an exposure visit to Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bengaluru on 26.10.2017 involving 20 farmers from various blocks in the district. The exposure visit has been organized to provide an opportunity to the farmers to interact with eminent horticulture scientists and see various new technologies, practices carried out by IIHR, Hessaraghatta in cultivation of vegetables and other horticultural crops.

During the visit, Dr.K.Achala paripurana, Senior Scientist, IIHR, Bengaluru invited the farmers, KVK Scientists and narrated about the various activities and research achievements of IIHR. She also took the farmers to various demonstrations units like Vegetable seed production unit, Horticulture nursery, Green house, Floriculture unit, New varieties research plot, Fruit orchard and Agriculture Technology Information Centre and gave information on various technologies.

Dr.M.Pitchaimuthu, Principal Scientist, IIHR, Bengaluru explained about the recent vegetable varieties and hybrids developed by IIHR. Dr.G.Selvakumar, Senior Scientist who developed the Arka microbial consortium explained about the usage and its benefits in vegetable crop production. He also gave information on usage of different bio-control agents like *Trichoderma*, *Pseudomonas etc.*, in horticulture crops.

Dr. Umamaheswari, Scientist, Nematology explained about the nematode management technologies in vegetable crop production.

Shri.N.Rameshraj, Senior Scientist and Head i/c, Shri. V.Suresh, Subject Matter Specialist (Agricultural Extension) and Shri. P.Narayanan, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection) organized the programme and accompanied the farmers. The farmers opined that the visit was very useful and learnt about various advanced technologies for solving the problems in vegetable crop production.



Farmer Scientist interaction in the tomato field at IIHR, Hessaraghatta, Bengaluru.



Farmers with Dr.Achala Paripurna, Principal Scientist at Division of Extension & Training, IIHR, Bengaluru.

Andhrapradesh Farmers' Exposure visit to KVK Thiruvannamalai

A group of 40 farmers headed by Smt. A.Pushpalatha, Horticulture Officer, Chittoor Mandal along with Mr. CH.Ganesh, Horticulture MDEO have visited the KVK, Thiruvannamalai on 12th & 13th December 2017. The farmers have been taken to Mr. M.Vasudevan's organic farm located in Vazhur of Vandavasi block on the first day. Mr.V.Vasudevan had demonstrated the various bio-pesticide formulations like Panchakavya, Dasakavya, Jeevamirtham, Meenamulam etc. He also explained the complete details in growing organic rice. As part of the visit, the farmers have visited one Farmer Producer organization technically guided by the KVK in Maruthadu village of Vandavasi block. Mr. S.Palani, Chief Executive Officer of Organic Farmers Producer Company, Maruthadu village, Vandavasi taluk had explained about the formation, activities, benefits and sustainability of the FPO. And in the evening, the farmers have been taken to Kondayankuppam village to interact with the vegetable growers in the region.

The next day, the farmers have been taken to one of the model watershed project implemented by NABARD in the hill area of Nammiyampattu village in Jamunamarathur block. They have visited different components constructed in the project area, pepper plantation and millet processing unit.

Mr. V.Sriram, DDM, NABARD, Thiruvannamalai, Mr.Jayachandran, CEO, Hand in Hand had participated and explained how the tribal community benefitted from the watershed project.

Mr.N.Rameshraj, Senior Scientist & Head i/c, Mr. V.Suresh, SMS (Agricultural Extension), Mr. P.Rajesh, SMS (Agronomy) and Mr. P.Narayanan, SMS (Plant Protection) co-ordinated and organized the entire exposure visit.

The farmers and the staff members from the State Department of Horticulture, Chittoor, Andhrapradesh were very much impressed with organic farming practices in Vazhur Village, Production technologies of vegetables in Kondayakuppam village and improvement of tribal community livelihood through watershed project in Nammiyampattu village.



Training on Organic farming by a progressive farmer Mr. V.Vasudevan



Visit of farmers to the pepper cultivation in the watershed area