

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON
SMART AGRICULTURE – A KEY TOWARDS GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY
FUNDED BY UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION**

A two-day National Seminar titled 'Smart Agriculture-A key towards Global Food Security' was conducted by the Department of Vocational Studies, Pazhassiraja College on 30.09.2019 and 01.10.2019 which was funded by the University Grants Commission. The concept of 'Smart Agriculture - A key towards Global Food Security ' inevitably connects the intertwined agriculture & food security. Smart agriculture in the present scenario points to the modern technologies and climate resilient agriculture for the long-term goal of food security. This theme also paves an opening towards the food safety regulations and entrepreneurship in AGROFOOD.

The seminar was inaugurated by Sri. Dileep Kumar, President, Panamaram Block Panchayath. He, in his inaugural speech addressed the various agricultural issues faced by the conventional farmers in Wayanad. He also pointed out the problems of pepper farmers especially due to the disease like fusarium wilt and others. The principal Dr. Anil Kumar K presided the function. The principal in his presidential address elaborately addressed the need for imparting skill and technology to eradicate poverty and hunger. He also talked about the various agriculture and hunger related issues prevailing in the country. Dr. S. Babu, Professor & Dean VIT - SAIAL, Tamil Nadu delivered the key note address for the seminar. He presented his views on the changing scenario in agriculture and the need for being both mentally and technologically smart to confront the real limitations which is been being faced. Dr. Dileep M R, Vice Principal & IQAC Co-ordinator, Fr. Varghese Kollamavudy, C E O Pazhassiraja College gave felicitations. Mr Abdul Bari K K, Nodal Officer B. Voc. Programmes gave welcome address and Mr Sachin A S, Assistant Professor B. Voc. Agriculture delivered vote of thanks for the inaugural session.

The first session was handled by Dr. S Babu, Professor & Dean, VIT - SAIAL, Tamil Nadu which was chaired by Dr. Dileep M R. He gave his talk on the topic 'Game changing innovations and challenges in Smart Agriculture'. The resource person in his lecture elaborately dealt the novel ways and applications of modern technologies such as artificial intelligence, IOT, different applications etc.in secondary agriculture and the need of being smart in both conventional and secondary agriculture.

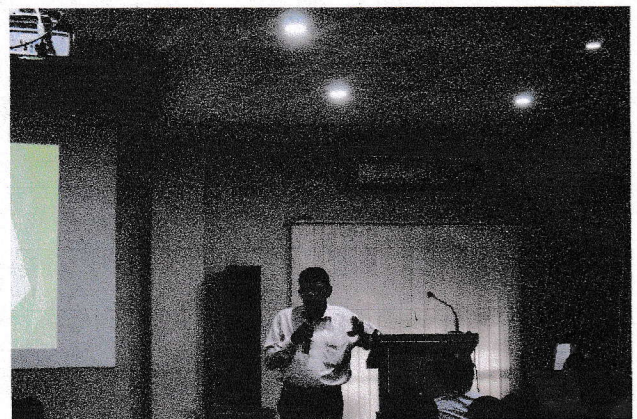
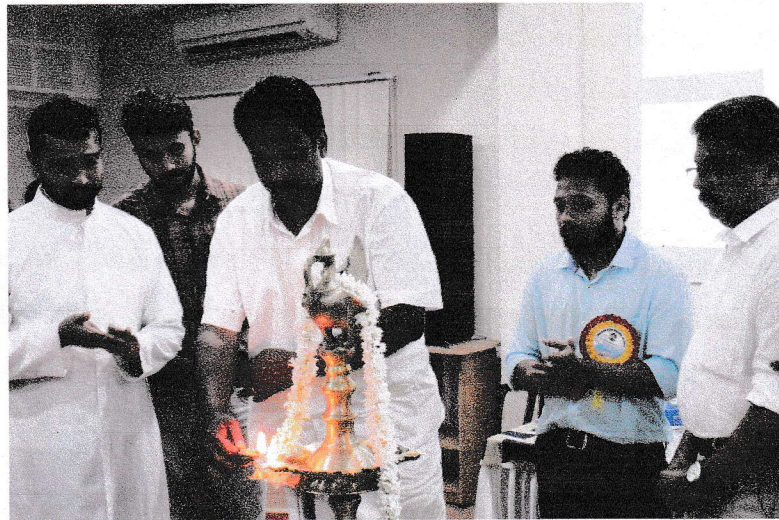
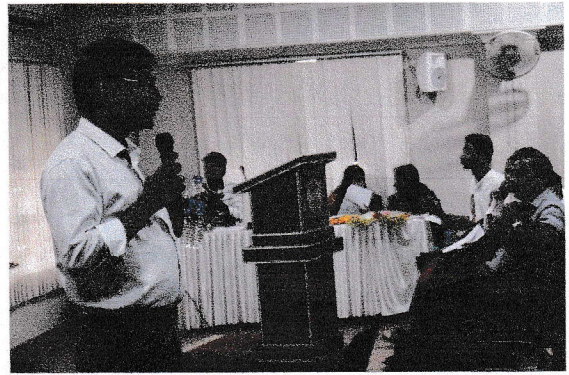
The second session was handled by Dr. K Sekar, Department of Horticulture, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu which was chaired by Dr. Sridevi and he gave a lecture session on the topic 'Precision Horticulture'. He discussed the application of latest technologies including precision farming, satellite agriculture, drone technologies etc. in vegetable, fruit and others.

The third session was handled by Dr. T. Sivakumar, Associate Professor [CRP], Department of seed science & Technology, AC & RI, Madurai, Tamil Nadu which was chaired by Dr. Jomet Sebastian, Assistant professor, Department of Biochemistry. The session was based on the topic 'IOT for enhancing Food productivity' which clearly covered the internet of things, technologies and their working principles.

The fourth session which commenced on the second day of the seminar was handled by Dr. N. Anandavally, Managing Director - Food Safety Solutions International, Cochin. The session was chaired by Dr. Geethu Daniel, Assistant Professor, Dept of Biochemistry. The resource person handled the lecture on the topic 'Food safety Management system and Global regulation'. The speaker clearly emphasized the systematic approach to control food safety hazards within the food production and processing industry.

The fifth and final session was carried out by Mr. T. R. Ananthanarayanan, Managing partner - Foodastha, Cochin which was chaired by Dr. Smitha Chacko, Assistant Professor, Dept of Microbiology. The resource person handled the session on the topic 'Entrepreneurship as way of life'.

The two-day National Seminar came to an end with the valedictory function which was inaugurated by Dr. Anil Kumar K, Principal, Pazhassiraja College. Prize distribution was also carried out for the winners of research deliberations. Dr Dinesh M D, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology delivered the welcome address and Mr Albin Joy, Assistant Professor, B. Voc. Food Science programme delivered the vote of thanks.



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