

World Soil Day celebrated in Farmer FIRST Program on 5.12.17

The world soil day was celebrated with several programs at ICAR CPCRI, FFP- Pathiyoor Grama Panchayath involving the participants of Farmers FIRST Program. Soil quiz program was organized for high school and higher secondary school students from six high schools/higher secondary schools of the FFP area, in which six teams of three members each. NRPMHSS, Kayamkulam and Panchayath HS, Pathiyoor stood first and second position in the quiz program. The students were sensitized on the soil testing procedures in the Soil Science laboratory and were given exposure visit to various experimental plots of the institute.



The World soil day function at FFP - Pathiyoor Panchayath was inaugurated by Mr. V.Prabhakaran, President, Pathiyoor panchayath and Mr. K. Sukumaran, Standing Committee (Development) Chairman presided over the function. Dr. V. Krishnakumar, Head, ICAR CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam addressed the gathering and offered lead talk on the importance of soil on human civilization and sustenance. All panchayath members, Coconut Producers' Society (CPS) office bearers, farmers and farm women and students participated in the function. Dr. P.Anithakumari, Principal Scientist 7 PI (FFP) welcomed the gathering. A total of 108 participants attended the program.

Dr. Jeena Mathew and Dr. Abdul Haris, Principal Scientist handled technical sessions and led the technical discussions with the participants. Dr. Merin Babu and Dr. Anes K.M interacted with farmers and answered the queries. As part of the FFP, grid based soil sample collection done as a campaign in six wards of Pathiyoor (Ward 1, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19) based on which soil health cards were prepared and distributed to 60 farmers by Hon MLA, Kayamkulam; Smt. Prathibha Hari. Hon. MLA lauded the participatory initiatives and model programs of Farmer FIRST Program involving farmers of Animal husbandry, Coconut and cropping systems, Fisheries, Paddy and also in value addition activities. She exuded confidence that this FFP will be pointer and model for integrating research and society for resource based choices of technology utilization and putting research in the fields of farmers and a fillip to women farmers. The merit certificates and trophy for the winners of the 'Soil Quiz' program also were distributed in the function and an extension literature on 'Soil health management for sustained coconut productivity' released.