

Venue

Kasaragod

The conference will be held at CPCRI which is located about 3 km north of Kasaragod city on the National Highway (NH-17) connecting Mangalore. Kasaragod is located in the northern-most part of Kerala state of India, popularly known as "God's own country". The name Keralam in vernacular Malayalam may have derived from a combination of kera ("coconut tree") and alam ("land"). Kerala is a popular tourist destination famous for its enchanting backwaters, Ayurvedic treatments (Indian traditional system of medicine) and tropical greenery and rich wildlife presented by the pristine tropical forests of Western Ghats. Recently, Kerala has been adjudged as one of the 'Must Visit See Destinations in Lifetime' by the National Geographic magazine. Kasaragod is bound by neighbouring state of Karnataka in the North and East,



Arabian Sea in the West and Kannur district of Kerala in the South. The cultivated lands are nestled among forests of Western Ghats which is one of the prominent, well known biodiversity hotspots in the world. The Wynad Wildlife Sanctuary, Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Kudremukh National Park, Badra Wildlife Sanctuary are situated just 120 to 200 km away from Kasaragod and the famous Silent Valley National Park is about 350 km from Kasaragod. Besides, Kasaragod is blessed with lengthy beaches, ancient forts and waterways surrounded by thick coconut groves. CPCRI – the conference venue itself is situated along pristine beach stretch. The climate during the conference period is pleasant with mean maximum and minimum temperature of around 31° C and 20° C, respectively.



Kasaragod is a land with resonant past, myths and legends. The fort at Bekal is the largest and best preserved in Kerala State. Kasaragod is acquiring prominence in the tourist map of India and called as 'The land of Yakshagana and Theyyam' which are dramatic dance sequences from the epics. The rich pageant of Theyyam's impersonating effect raises Kasaragod into a land of fabulous fantasies. Kasaragod displays a variety of patterns and styles in temple architecture like Madhur Mahaganapathy Temple which speaks volumes about the rich cultural heritage of the region. The twelve rivers flowing across its terrain, makes Kasaragod an enchanting beauty of Nature's creation.



Post conference tour

Post conference tour will be arranged to coconut plantations and technology demonstrations and to nearby tourist attractions including Bekal Fort, St. Angelo's Fort, Muzhuppilangadi beach, Valiaparamba back waters, Parassinikadavu temple etc. on 31st October 2010.



How to reach Kasaragod

Air : The nearest airport is at Mangalore, which is about 65 km away from CPCRI.

Rail : Kasaragod town has a railway station, which is linked to several important towns in the state as well as other parts of India.

Road: CPCRI is situated on National Highway-17 about 45 km south of Mangalore, Karnataka and 225 km north of Kozhikode, Kerala.

International Advisory Committee

Dr. Emile Frison, Director General, Bioversity International - Chairman
Mrs. Minnie Mathew, IAS, Chairperson, Coconut Development Board, India
Dr. H.P. Singh, Deputy Director General (Hort.), ICAR
Dr. Arancon Jr. Romulo, Executive Director, APCC, Jakarta
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Organizing Committee

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Dr. Prem Mathur, Bioversity International

Secretary: **Dr. George V. Thomas**, Director, CPCRI, Kasaragod

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Coconut Biodiversity for Prosperity

October 27-30, 2010

Venue

Central Plantation Crops Research Institute
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
Kasaragod, Kerala, INDIA



Organized By



In Partnership with

Bioversity International



Asia-Pacific Coconut Community
Indonesia



Protection of Plant Varieties and
Farmers Rights Authority, India



Coconut Development Board
India



Confederation of
Horticultural Association of India





Biodiversity International, through the International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT) has been developing strategies to help improve the livelihoods of smallholder coconut farmers worldwide. COGENT supported the establishment of five International Coconut Genebanks (ICG) to collect, conserve and utilize coconut diversity on a regional basis. However, this needs to be further enhanced with support from other international / national and regional programmes in the context of several challenges its cultivation is being faced. In recognition of the critical role played by biodiversity, the United Nations General Assembly decided to designate 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. The declaration hopes to bring greater awareness to the importance of biodiversity.

In India, coconut is being cultivated for the past over 4000 years. Coconut research is being undertaken by Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), a premier institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Institute had its genesis as Coconut Research Station in 1916. CPCRI is also a nodal agency in India for collecting, evaluating and conserving coconut diversity at national level and has played a key role for developing complementary conservation strategy for better management of coconut diversity and its utilization for enhancing the coconut production in the country. CPCRI is also hosting the International Coconut Genebank for South Asia. The germplasm conserved at ICG and national genebank is being utilized to develop superior selections and hybrids for commercial exploitation. Indian Society for Plantation Crops (ISPC), established in 1971, is a professional forum serving sustainable growth and development of plantation sector in the country is headquartered at CPCRI.

In order to take stock of the present status of research and development on coconut, particularly biodiversity conservation and utilization, and to formulate the strategies and the research priorities, four day International conference with the theme as "COCONUT BIODIVERSITY FOR PROSPERITY" will be organised during 27 to 30 October 2010. The four day conference will provide a platform for all stakeholders in coconut including international scientists, administrators, policy makers, developmental officers and progressive farmers to come together to deliberate on the achievements made so far to identify the gaps and to formulate the future policies and programme. The link between coconut biodiversity and sustainable development, poverty alleviation would be highlighted in the conference to ensure prosperity of coconut communities.

I solicit your participation and interactions for making the International Conference a grand success.

Dr. H.P. Singh

Chairman, Organizing Committee and
Deputy Director General (Horticulture)
Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi

Agro biodiversity, which encompasses the variation within plant and animal species, is the foundation of sustainable agricultural development. Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) are essential resources to meet future food and nutrition security. Farmers and professional breeders depend heavily on agricultural biodiversity, which allow them to develop plant varieties that can resist pest and diseases, can adjust to changing climates and that have higher nutrition value. Therefore, biodiversity is increasingly attracting the attention of the international and national communities. Continuous monitoring, supported by an action plan using novel technologies resulting from scientific research, must be one of the main concerns of all societies to conserve diversity and to ensure that use of renewable natural resources is equitable.



The coconut palm, believed to have first grown in the Western Pacific, is now grown in about 12 million hectares in more than 90 countries, where it has been an important part of the local culture and economy for a very long time. With its myriad uses, coconut is deeply embedded in the people's day-to-day life. It is the "tree of life", an important source of food, drink, shelter and family income supporting their livelihoods and the sustainability of their environment. As a fundamental element in the food system, it provides essential nutrition to people in coconut-growing communities. It stabilizes farming systems, especially in the fragile environments such as small islands states, atolls, and in coastal zones. Despite the enormous potential of the crop, coconut farmers mostly living well below poverty line in the past. Coconut farmers are suffering due to decreasing farm productivity and income and unstable markets for copra due to competition from other vegetable oils. The situation is further aggravated by ageing and senile coconut palms, natural calamities such as drought, typhoons, incidence of pests and diseases, lack of resources to invest in innovations to improve yields and incomes and lack of availability of affordable high-yielding and adapted coconut varieties. Important coconut diversity is under threat of genetic erosion due to decreasing hectareage caused by urbanization, crop shifts and natural and human-made calamities.

Theme Areas



- Biodiversity conservation and utilization
- Biotechnological advancements
- Efficient resource utilization
- Impact of climate change
- Plant health management
- Post harvest management and value addition
- Coconut for health
- Livelihood security through biodiversity utilization



Technical Sessions

Taking on an inter-disciplinary approach, the conference is expected to have the following technical sessions.

- **Global and National Scenario of coconut biodiversity**
- **Conservation and utilization of genetic resources**
- **Biotechnological tools in crop improvement**
- **Bioinformatics applications**
- **Resource management and sustainable production - System approach, soil health management**
- **Production physiology**
- **Climate change – Adaptation and Mitigation**
- **Integrated pest management and emerging pests**
- **Integrated disease management**
- **Post-harvest processing and value addition**
- **Technology transfer and impact**
- **Developmental strategies**
- **Interface with farmers**



Workshop on Topical Issues

Workshop on the following topical issues will be conducted concurrently with the conference to have focused discussion and formulation of policies:

- Coconut wilt and lethal yellowing
- Organic farming in coconut
- Coconut and human health

Call For Papers

All the presentations will be in English and there will be three types of presentations. All individuals are invited and encouraged to submit an abstract for consideration as an ORAL or POSTER presentation at the conference. Authors may indicate their preference for technical session in which they wish to present their work. All accepted abstracts will be published in the book of abstracts to be distributed at the conference provided the registration fee is remitted. The full length papers are required to be submitted by the specified date, which will be published as proceedings of the conference.

Lead papers: Eminent researchers of International repute will be invited to deliver keynote address on topics related to various technical sessions of the conference. The full length address will be published in the proceedings of the conference.

Oral papers: Among the abstracts submitted, three selected papers will be allocated slots for oral presentation under each technical session. Each oral presentation would be allocated about 15 minutes only. All presentations are to be in Microsoft® PowerPoint and the same to be handed over to the conveners of the respective sessions at least one day in advance.

Poster papers: The other contributed papers will be allowed to be presented as poster in the poster sessions concurrent to the concerned sessions on the given time. The authors of the posters are required to be available at the venue near their poster during the poster sessions for presentation to the visiting delegates.



Dates to Remember

- Receipt of Abstracts : 31st May 2010
- Receipt of registration form : 15th June 2010
- Receipt of full paper : 30th July 2010
- Receipt of accommodation form : 30th September 2010
- Conference : 27th to 30th October 2010
- Post conference tour : 31st October 2010



Submission of Abstract

The Organizing Committee of the International Coconut Conference on "Coconut Biodiversity for Prosperity" invites abstracts from the interested participants on their research, development on the specified technical themes. Abstracts are to be submitted electronically as e-mail to coconutconference2010@gmail.com as Microsoft Word file. Authors should specify the session in which they would like to present their papers.

The abstract(s) of the contributed papers should not exceed 300 words and the full length papers should not exceed six pages in 12 size Times New Roman font, single spacing.

Abstracts will be published in the book of abstracts and lead papers only if the presenting author has registered by the due date.

Preparation of Abstract

- Font:** Times New Roman
- Session Title:** Font size 12 regular, to be typed at the top centre of the abstract
- Title of the paper:** Font size 14, Centered with bold capital letters
- Name(s) of the author(s):** Font size 12, regular, centered. Presenting author's name to be typed in bold.
- Affiliation:** Font size 12, regular should include address (es) of the authors / organization clearly mentioned along with Phone, fax and e-mail of the corresponding author.
- Text:** Font size 12, regular with single spacing and justified.

The last date for submission of Abstract is 31st May 2010.

Registration

Only registered delegates will have the privilege to participate in the inaugural session, welcome get together, scientific sessions, conference lunch, tea, cultural evenings etc. The registration fees for various categories are as follows. The acceptance of the registration fee post due date is subject to specific request with valid reasons.

Category	Upto 30 th Sept. 2010	After 30 th Sept. 2010
Members - ISPC	Rs. 3500	Rs. 4000
Non-members	Rs. 4000	Rs. 4500
Students	Rs. 2000	Rs. 2500
Foreign delegates	US \$300	US \$350

Foreign delegates may request for invitation letters for the conference upon the acceptance of their paper. For information on fee on visa and visa application formalities, they are advised to contact the Indian consulate in their respective countries.

The travel arrangements are to be made by the delegates on their own and expenses on visa and travel should be borne by them. Conference will take care of their transportation between the nearest Air Port in India (Mangalore) and the venue, local transport, breakfast, lunch, dinner, refreshments etc.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be arranged in hotels near the conference venue for which request is to be sent in the prescribed proforma within the specified date along with requisite fee. The list of hotels and approximate tariffs will be intimated in the second circular.

To reach by 15th June, 2010

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REGISTRATION FORM

Surname	First Name	Middle Name	Title (Dr./Mr./Ms.)

Profession	Designation	Field of Specialization

Organization:

Address

City	Postal Code	State	Country

Telephone (with Code)	Mobile No.	Fax	E-mail

Title of Abstract / Paper:

Session Title

Category of Participation: Member, ISPC Non-Member Student Foreign Delegate

Mode of Participation: Oral Presentation Poster Presentation Lead Paper Presentation

I am enclosing with a Demand Draft / Multi-city Cheque / e-transfer for Rs. / US\$..... in favour of **Organizing Secretary, ICCBP** No..... Dated..... payable at Kasaragod.

Place:

Date:

Signature of the Participant

Please return this form to: The Organizing Secretary, International Conference on Coconut Biodiversity for Prosperity - 2010, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod – 671124, INDIA, Ph.: 04994-232894, 232895, 232893, Fax: 04994-232322, E-mail: coconutconference2010@gmail.com by **15th June, 2010**.