

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE 49<sup>th</sup> RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING 8.3.2017**

- Welcome by Director of Research
- Presentation by Director of Research

### **Suggestions by Research Council members**

- Studies on mechanization in agricultural and horticultural crops has to intensify, considering the labour scarcity during critical periods of operations.
- Studies on the production and utility bio-chair for agriculture and remediation of environmental problems has to be further strengthened by Dept. of Bioenergy and Environmental Sciences.
- Studies on ideal plant type (Idiotype) for mechanization and for high density planting of agricultural and horticultural crops may be given priority.
- Under high density planting of perennial horticultural crops, studies on root system spread and management (pruning) may be given due importance.
- Suggestions to mitigate the less performance of mango orchards under organic farming system in and around Thirunelveli district may be highlighted.
- Young scientists may be involved in the process of creating and capturing ideas through brain storming sessions on the current issues of agriculture, as a process of think and link farmers.
- Data capture of the research happenings of the University must be given due importance to avoid duplications to save time and resources.
- Where ever possible, on farm treatment of seeds with all compatible products may be given as a combo package in one go.
- Standardization of propagation methods for certain sensitive fruits like persimmon has to be done.

- Department of seed certification emphasized the importance of maintaining and improving the germination percentage of all seed materials.
- Importance of integrated approach in the usage of biocontrol agents and chemicals in the management of pests and diseases of crops on need basis was highlighted.
- Evolving disease diagnostic techniques especially with respect to viral and bacterial diseases of commercial crops was emphasized.
- Research strategy may be updated for the management of coconut Ganoderma, considering the past work done in this area.
- Post harvest studies in horticulture crops in coordination with Agrl. Engineering has to be strengthened.
- Emerging areas like soil less cultivation, aerobic cultivation etc. has to be studied for its feasibility under possible conditions.
- Botrytis problem of Nilgiris Lili may be address to protect the crop.
- Sucking pests management under extensive polyhouse cultivation conditions to be addressed.

### **Specific recommendation**

- Bio-chair research on a network project mode may be initiated by Dept. of Bioenergy, Food Technology, Agronomy and Environmental Sciences.