

Baba P.S. Bedi Chairman

THE KARNATAKA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATON

NEWS LETTER - 3

Dear Member,

I wish you all a very happy Dashara and a prosperous Diwali!

It gives me great pleasure to further update on the activities and events at the KPA since my newsletter of 20th June, 2016.

This is my concluding newsletter and I would like to express my profound gratitude to all members and the team that comprises the KPA for their commitment to the success of this illustrious organisation; to our donors and supporters for their unwavering support; to the government bureaux for their partnership in making an impact on the quality of life of the plantation people; our research partners for their readiness to collaborate for the progress of research and knowledge in the plantation sector; and finally to the encouragement of each one our family and friends, without whom the commitment required of this role would not have been possible!

As we celebrated the many firsts in the plantation landscape driven by the KPA over the last year, we also laid out a bold vision for the future of the plantation sector. Whilst we recognize that the challenges today are complex and immense, they compel us to double down and strive harder for a healthier future for the plantation sector – especially so for those less privileged than us.

As I turn in on the home stretch, I cast my gaze to the past, present and the future and the only assertion that is definitive is that our world, and in particular our plantation world is changing at an extraordinary pace. How we navigate the challenges and will we be the masters or the concierges depends on whether we face the future united as leaders, followers or spectators.

My answer is my learning in the last one year as Chairman of the KPA; to strive each day to contribute in whatever way possible to preserve our plantation ecology, to create better lives for those we are responsible for and ourselves in the midst of this unfathomable change.

I write to you today secure in the knowledge that I can count on your support for this decisive next phase in our journey at the KPA.

I take this opportunity as a gentle reminder of the Annual General Meeting scheduled for the 14th and 15th of October. It is my privilege to invite members and their spouses/partners for the AGM hosted by the KPA. We are happy to report that the tremendous appreciation and support generated through this event has been overwhelming! The member's contribution in strengthening the plantation ecosystem is invaluable and I look forward to meeting and engaging with you on areas of common interest and continued partnership.

I really do hope that all members accept this invitation and I also appreciate if you could confirm your attendance no later than the 10th of October by Whatsapp, email or by calling-in at the KPA office.

1) Research Day of TATA Coffee Ltd.:

Tata Coffee Ltd. organised a 'Research Day' at Pollibetta, Kodagu District on 20th June 2016, where innovations and new ideas on the study to advance research in improving coffee quality and volume of coffee in Karnataka was discussed.

There were presentations by Dr. Venugopal, Retd. Scientist of Spices Board and Dr. Surya Prakash Rao, CCRI.

Useful Links:

http://www.tatacoffee.com/corporate/r&d.htm

2) Meeting with Additional Secretary of Commerce & Industry:

The Secretary General of UPASI, Mr. Ullas Menon, Upasi legal advisor Mr. Sankarnaryan and I met the Additional Secretary of Commerce & Industry Mr. Binoy Kumar, IAS., and Director of Plantations Mrs. Anitha Karn, IFS, in Delhi on 28th June, 2016.

The following Memorandums pertinent to the Plantation Industry were submitted:

- i. Coffee Bill 2016
- ii. Coffee Effluent Treatment
- iii. Integrated Coffee Development Plan
- iiii. Additional Soil and Leaf laboratories in Sakleshpur and Coorg
- v. Research on Clonal Propagation and Tissue Culture
- vi. Arabica Plantations and White Stem Borer
- vii. Tea
- viii. Import of Sri Lankan Pepper
- ix. Change Coffee Board Export Nomenclature to avail MEIS Incentive.
- x. Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme:
- xi. Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 (FTP)

Useful Links:

http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Draft-Coffee-Bill-2016.jpg

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/559928/coffee-plantations-headed-towards-doom.html

http://www.newskarnataka.com/madikeri/coffee-growers-say-no-to-coffee-bill-2016

3) Memorandum on Compulsory Application of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema:

The KPA sent a Memorandum on compulsory application of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema (VIMA) Yojane – 2016 for farmers, who have borrowed from financial institutions to the Honourable Prime Minister of India and the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Delhi, copied to concerned Principal Secretaries, Commissioners, GoK and the managers of concerned banks.

We received a reply from the office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Dated 24th August, 2016. The office of the Prime Minister informed that the scheme is in the interests of farmers who have taken a loan, suggesting that the loanee farmers are insured in the event they suffer any shortfall in yield due to any peril (natural or otherwise).

The insurance amount would be released, further set off against the loan amount and the farmer would be eligible for a fresh loan the following season.

Useful Links:

http://agricoop.nic.in/Admin_Agricoop/Uploaded_File/OprationalGuidelines182201 6.pdf

http://agri-insurance.gov.in/Login.aspx

http://www.narendramodi.in/pradhan-mantri-fasal-bima-yojana-a-boost-for-farmers-pm-399165

4) Visit of Mr. Chamaraj Prasad:

Mr. Chamaraj Prasad, M/s Atharva Plantation Solutions, promoter of bio-enzyme developed by Dr. Anu Appaiah, Senior Scientist for CFTRI, Mysuru met the KPA member owners of the estates where Dr. Anu Appaiah had conducted these trials.

The team gathered the appraisal, feedback and opinion on the use of bio-enzymes and later Mr. Chamaraj visited the plantations for a field study between 18th to 20th July, 2016.

Useful links:

http://www.esciencecentral.org/ebooks/enzymes/pdf/enzymes-agricultural-sciences.pdf

Useful links:

http://www.iei-asia.org/IEIBLR-Clean-Coffee.pdf

http://www.indiacoffee.org/Schemes/Component3_TradtnlArea.pdf

http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.pp.25.060174.001031?journ alCode=arplant.1

http://www.indianspices.com/marketing/import

http://www.simpletaxindia.net/2015/06/incentives-scheme-under-foreign-

trade.html#axzz4LM7NdR9h

http://dgft.gov.in/exim/2000/highlight2015.pdf

5) Meeting with Former Minister for Food & Civil Supplies, Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao:

I met with Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao, former Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Working President, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee on 28th July, 2016 to invite him as Chief Guest to inaugurate the KPA 58th Annual Conference in October.

Useful Links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dinesh_Gundu_Rao

6) ICAR interactive Meeting with UPASI Spices Committee:

The Chairman UPASI Spices Committee Mr. C.M. Pemmaiah, Mr Nishant R. Gurjer, members of UPASI Spices Committee and I attended the Interactive Session of ICAR-IISR Scientists, on "Latest Scientific Advancements in Cultural Operations in Spice Crops" at Calicut on 10th August, 2016.

The presentations made by the scientists of the ICAR-IISR were instructive and informative.

Useful Links:

http://www.spices.res.in/pdf/spicesnews/spicesnewsApr-Jun2016.pdf http://www.spices.res.in/pdf/RH/RH2015-16.pdf

7) KPA Sports Club Shooting Tournament:

The KPA Sports Club had conducted a Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition for its members on 17th August, 2016 at the Chikmagalur District Rifle & Shotgun Association, Chikmagalur. Ten members participated in the competition.

The following were the champions!

Winner: Mr. Shricharan Jayaram Runners up: Mr. K.A. Chengappa



8) AGM of the Codagu Planters' Association:

I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Codagu Planters' Association on 20th August, 2016 at Madikeri where Mr. Prathap Simha, Member of Parliament was the Chief Guest and Mr. K.R. Keshava was the Guest of Honour at the Conference.

9) KPA Study Tour to Vietnam:

The Scientific Committee of the KPA organized a tour to Vietnam from 24th August to 31stAugust 2016. I was assisted by Mr. Sunil Rasquinha, Mr. Andrew Peris and Mr. Errol Rebello in leading the delegation of twenty-two people from the KPA.

We visited Robusta Coffee and Pepper farms at Ba Ria and DakLak provinces, Coffee and Pepper Mills, Western Highland Agri and Forestry Technical Institute (WASI).

This tour was designed with a view to comprehend applied learning, rather than just theory. The companies we visited were genuinely interested in the perspectives of the participants on tour and in sharing their research and finding to uncover some of the initiatives which is their prosperity mantra. It was also enlightening to understand and appreciate the alternative perspective of plantation workers from a different country and witness their business philosophy as it is implemented and espoused.

It is interesting to note that in India we are being encouraged by the government and the Horticulture Department to promote inter-cropping, while in Vietnam, mono-crop farming is the success story. Inter cropping is certainly strategic in maximum space utilization, however, the burden on the soil and replenishing the soil-nutrients is deleterious. There is a beauty of a perfect, even, uniform crop from end-to-end, but there is an exquisiteness in the asymmetry when nature takes an upper hand too!



Farming in Vietnam is examined primarily from the aspects of soil productivity which in turn will yield a bounteous produce. Each crop consumes a pre-determined set of nutrients and regulating the toxicity of the soil and restoring the soil balance after multi / intercropping is an arduous task.





In Vietnam, multi cropping is viewed as economically onerous; the government supports farmers in the interim years from planting till crop harvest, therefore, diminutive efforts to supplement income is unnecessary. Farming is studied as a systematic scientific process right from the seedling stage to harvest and not simply as a result of divine providence, dependant on the mood of the cosmos! Action to betaken in the chance of any eventuality is analysed and solutions provided.

This was an invaluable experience, the beauty of rural and urban Vietnam is mesmerising and the duration and dynamics of the professional interaction consolidated the learnings. Vietnam has achieved high productivity due to high yielding seedlings, good management, monocrop farming, exceedingly hard working and diligent farmers, constantly seeking new answers to new challenges.

Useful links:

http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/849061468133768943/pdf/652000CAS0 P1230Official0Use0Only090.pdf

http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/03/27/supporting-sustainable-forest-plantations-in-vietnam

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3357683/

http://gcrmag.com/market-reports/view/vietnam-buon-ma-thuot-a-coffee-success-story

10) Meeting with Mr. Alok V. Chaturvedi and Mrs. Anita Karn:

I visited Delhi on 7th September, 2016 and met Mr. Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi, IAS, Additional Secretary - Plantations, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Mrs. Anitha Karn, IFS., Director of Plantations, Ministry of Commerce & Industry to highlight our submissions on the 'Enactment of Coffee Bill 2016'.

The KPA took this opportunity to once again highlight all plantation issues that require urgent attention.

Useful Links:

http://commerce.nic.in/doc/writereaddata/uploadedfile/MOC_635975236972205126_ Repeal_Coffee_Act_1942_Enactment_Coffee_Bill_2016.pdf https://indiankanoon.org/doc/106706913/

Useful Link:

http://www.northblocksouthblock.com/dr-m-k-shanmuga-sundaram-gets-addl-charge-as-chairman-in-coffee-board-bengaluru/

11) CASS - VIII, Chapter -3 at Kodagu District:

The Scientific Committee of the KPA organized the Coffee Area Scientific Symposium VIII, Chapter - 3 for KPA Members at Mrs. M. Kannathal's Palanji Estate, Mr. Nitesh Nanjappa's Kogilehalla Estate, Chettalli and Mr. Faiz Moosakutty's Bibi Plantations, Suntikoppa, on 21st September, 2016.

Dr. S.J. Ankegowda, Prl. Scientist (Plant Physiology) and Head ICAR - Indian Institute of Spices Research, Regional Station, Appangala inaugurated the conference.

The **field visits** were an examination on the following:

i. Palanji Estate: Robusta estate planted with both old Robusta as well as C X R, a part of which is under Drip Irrigation and inter cropped with approximately six thousand pepper vines.

- ii. Kogilehalla Estate: Arabica estate intercropped with high yielding pepper.
- **iii. Bibi Plantations**: Arabica estate inter-cropped with approximately fifty thousand pepper vines.

Presentations:

A presentation was made by Dr. S.J. Ankegowda, Pr. Scientist (Plant Physiology) and Head ICAR - Indian Institute of Spices Research, Regional Station, Appangala, Madikeri on Phytothera, Aerial Wilt, Micro Nutrients and Fertilizers recommended for Pepper Cultivation.









12) TATA Education Development Trust:

The JRD TATA - KPA Golden Jubilee Education Fund Trust scholarships are much coveted and each year the number of scholarship applicants who qualify after inquiry has been increasing. The scholarships are for meritorious students of the staff, non-staff, supervisors and workers working in KPA member estates.

Taking note, KPA had written to the TAA Trusts, Mumbai on 5th July 2016, for an

additional grant of Rs.30 Lakhs to increase the corpus available so that the amount distributed through these scholarships are substantial as well the number of students availing these scholarships would increase.

Through letter Dated 3rd August -2016, the Tata Education and Development Trust generously approved a corpus grant of Rs.30 Lakhs (Subject to conditions). The 85% interest received from this amount after a reinvestment of 15% to the corpus fund will be utilized for providing scholarships. The KPA is grateful to the Tata Trusts for their generosity.

13) KPA Building 'A' Roof:

The KPA Office is shifted to a temporary premise near Old Post Office, Belur Road, Fort, Chikmagalur from 6th September 2016.

We thank our members for their support and contributions.

14) The KPA Sub-Committee Meetings:

a) Negotiation Committee Meeting:

2nd July at the KPA Office, Chikmagalur with regard to Tea matters.

b) Website Committee Meeting:

21st July, 2016 at KPA Office, Chikmagalur to discuss upgrading and revamping of KPA Website.

c) Scientific Committee Meeting:

19th July at KPA Office, Chikmagalur, 14th September, Madapur Club, Kodagu District to discuss CASS – VIII, Chapter - 2 and the KPA Study Tour.

d) Taxation Committee Meeting:

12th August at the Office of M/s. Lingapur Estates Ltd., Bangalore on 12th September, 2016 at Janardhana Hotel, Bangalore to discuss the implications and our submissions on GST and Rule - 7B of Income Tax Rules.

15) UPASI Meetings at Coonoor:

I attended the following meetings on 1st and 2nd August, 2016:

- Combined Meeting of Tea Committee & TRF Trustees
- Combined Meeting of Coffee & Spices Committee

- Executive Committee Meeting
- Environment sub Committee Meeting
- Annual General Meeting and Tea Conference on 23rd and 24th Sept. 2016

16) Raw Coffee Price:

Raw Coffee Price (Karnataka) as on 21-9-2016 (In Rs. /50 kg.)

Ar. Pmt.	Ar. Chy.	Rob. Pmt.	Rob. Chy.
8375-8650	3700-4150	<u>5750-</u> <u>6000</u>	<u>3200-3400</u>

17) 58th the KPA Annual Conference:

The 58th Annual Conference of the KPA will be held on the 14th and 15th of October 2016 at the ITC Windsor, Windsor Square, Sankey Road, Bangalore. On behalf of the Karnataka Planters' Association, I cordially invite all members to the 58th Annual General Meeting.

The Programmes for the 14th and 15th October, 2016 has been sent by e-mail and post to the General Membership.

I request you all to attend both the events and I sincerely look forward to your participation in the success of the AGM.

UPASI-KPA Coffee Conference on 14th October, 2016:

Session -I

9.00 am. to 9.15 am. : **Inauguration of the Exhibition of Stalls:**

By Mr. D. Vinod Sivappa, President, UPASI and

Mr. Baba P.S. Bedi Chairman, KPA.

9.15 am. to 9.30. am. : **Inauguration & Lighting of the Lamp:**

By Dr. M.K. Shanmuga Sundaram, IAS,

Chairman, Coffee Board and

Mr. D. Vinod Sivappa,

President UPASI & Distinguished Guests.

9.30 am. to 9.40 am. : **Welcome by:**

Mr. Baba P.S. Bedi, Chairman, KPA. 9.40 am. to 9.45 am. : **Introductory Remarks & Moderation of the**

Days Programme:

By Mr. AL. RM. Nagappan,

Chairman, UPASI Coffee Committee.

9.45 am. to 9.55 am. : **Address by:**

Mr. D. Vinod Sivappa,

President, UPASI.

9.55 am. to 10.20 am. : **Key Note Address by:**

Dr. M.K. Shanmuga Sundaram, IAS,

Chairman, Coffee Board.

PRESENTATIONS (10.20 am. to 1.25 pm.)

Presentation- I

10.20 am. to 11.00 am. : "Global Coffee Nutrition and Value Chain."

By Ms. Chrystel Monthean,

Value Chain Director,

YARA Crop Nutrition, OSLO, Norway.

11.00 am. to 11.15 am. COFFEE BREAK

SESSION -II

Presentation - II

11.15 am. to 11.30 am : "Restructured KPA Website"

1. Mr. Sunil P. Rasquinha, Convener and

2. Mr. Yeshwant R. Gurjer, Member,

Website Committee, KPA.

Presentation - III

11.30 am. to 12.00 noon. : "Behavior of White Stem Borer in the Coffee

Eco System and on the remedies that may curtail

this menace"

By Dr. Shannon Olsson,

Naturalist, Inspired National Chemical Ecology, National Centre for Biological

Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore.

Presentation - IV

12 noon to 12.30 pm. : "Role of Tissue Culture, Drip Irrigation &

Fertigation in Quality Production of Coffee"

By M/s. Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd.,

Presentation-V

12.30 pm. to 1.00 pm. : "Presentation on KPA Study Tour to Vietnam"

By Mr. Sunil P. Rasquinha,

Member, Scientific Committee, KPA.

1.00 pm. to 1.20 pm. Questions & Answers

Panelists:

Dr. Binaya Parida (Yara Fertilizers India Pvt. Ltd.)

Mr. Ranbir Mansingh Mr. Shricharan Jayaram

1.20 pm. to 1.25 pm. : **Vote of Thanks:**

By Dr. M.M. Chengappa, Vice-Chairman, KPA.

1.25 pm. : Lunch 58th Annual Conference on 15th October, 2016

10.30 am. LIGHTING THE CEREMONIAL LAMP

and

INAUGURATION OF THE CONFERENCE BY THE

CHIEF GUEST

SRI. DINESH GUNDU RAO

Working President

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, Bangalore.

GUESTS OF HONOUR

MS. SHOBHA KARANDLAJE

Hon'ble Member of Parliament Udupi – Chikmagalur Constituency.

SRI. ARVIND JADHAV, IAS.

Chief Secretary

Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.

ADDRESS BY

SRI. BABA P.S.BEDI

Chairman, KPA.

ADDRESS BY THE GUESTS OF HONOUR

MS. SHOBHA KARANDLAJE

SRI. ARVIND JADHAV, IAS.

ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST

SRI. DINESH GUNDU RAO

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIPS BY

DISTINGUISHED CHIEF GUEST & GUESTS OF HONOUR

VOTE OF THANKS BY

DR. M.M. CHENGAPPA

Vice-Chairman, KPA.

18) 41st Area Tea Scientific Conference held at Koppa Estate on 1st October, 2016:

The 41st Area Tea Scientific Conference was held on 1st October, 2016 at Koppa Estate, Koppa.

In the morning Mr. Shireesh Gurjer and Mr. Sameer Gurjer showcased their beautiful estate where tea was inter-cropped successfully with pepper.

The delegates were also shown Catimore variety of coffee grown under Rubber.

In the after noon, the following presentations on Scientific, nutrient management, CTC machinery and qualities of teas were made by Scientists from UPSI-TRF.

Introductory Remarks about UPASI-TRF	Dr. B. Radhakrishnan, Director, UPASI – TRF.
Choice of herbicides for Weed Control in Tea.	Dr. Victor J. Ilango, Asst. Director, UPASI-TRF.
Biological & Natural Control of Pests.	Dr. B. Radhakrishnan, Director, UPASI – TRF.
Efficient Nutrient Management.	Mr. G. Venkateswaran, Sr. Advisory Officer, UPASI-TRF, Coonoor

Aspects of Tea Machineries	Mr. M. G. Sathish, Engineer, UPASI-TRF, Coonoor
Advisory Officers Report	Mr. M.A. Subair, Advisory Officer, UPASI-TRF

The Scientific Conference was inaugurated by Mr. A. Ramesh Rao, Past Chairman, KPA and Past President, UPASI.

The KPA is grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Shireesh Gurjer and his family for being so gracious and kind in hosting the 41st Area Tea Scientific Conference.

The KPA is also grateful to Kadamane Estates Company, Kadamane, Hassan District for agreeing to host the 42nd Area Tea Scientific Conference.

19) Website:

The restructuring of the website is in process and a presentation is being made at the UPASI-KPA Coffee Conference on 14th October, 2016.

20) Feed Back:

Your feedback, compliments and complaints are valuable to improve our services to the plantation industry and the KPA family. We will investigate any issue of concern and respond to every query.

21) Last Bow:

I take my cue from the Last Bow by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, quote, 'Education never ends, Watson. It is a series of lessons with the greatest for the last' unquote. My tenure as Chairman clearly is not the last lesson in my journey through life and as a coffee planter, but I can say with absolute 'elementary' conviction, that it has been rewarding.

I am often referred to as living in the boondocks, but life for me is incomprehensible without my plantation and being part of its creation, evolution and life. Natural beauty has incalculable worth and the absolute stillness at a plantation is like getting off a ship after a long voyage. As much as we transform the land by farming, it is farming that actually transforms and when it takes root in you, it crowds out other endeavours. Your acres become your world; when the land asks, you give unconditionally or the primal forces of wildness will overrun! Many of you may understand when I say I feel connected to the natural energy cycle of the universe at my plantation and I am truly fortunate to be sustaining my livelihood by doing what I love.

In closing, my only wish is the continued success of the KPA and the plantation industry which is not merely an activity which is native to me, but it is a calling where I see my devotion in the conservation of our treasured landscapes and awe in its creation in planting, nurturing, blooming and burgeoning as my highest reverence.

Again, thank you for your continued guidance and support as we move to the next change of guard with renewed commitment. I have been immensely fortunate to have been given an opportunity to lead this renowned Plantation Association in its 58th year and share the journey over the last year with such inspirational colleagues, through whom, the story of the KPA goes on.

With Best Wishes & Warm Regards,

Yours sincerely,

BABA P.S. BEDI Chairman, Karnataka Planters' Association

6th October, 2016