



THE KARNATAKA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION



Mr. S. Appadurai
Chairman

NEWS LETTER - 1

Dear Members,

It is a great honour and a privilege to be elected as the Chairman of the Karnataka Planters' Association, the Premier State Plantation Association at our 62nd Annual General Meeting held on 11th November 2020 at Chikmagalur. I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be the Chairman of the Association for the year 2020-21.

I would now like to bring to your attention the following events and developments which have transpired since I took over as the Chairman of the Association on 11th November 2020.

1) Committees & Sub Committees for the year 2020-21.

The following are the Executive Committee and Sub Committees and their Conveners formed for the year 2020-21.

a) Executive Committee:

1. Mr. S. Appadurai (Chairman)
2. Mr. N. Ramanathan (Vice-Chairman)
3. Mr. Mahesh Shashidhar
4. Mr. A. Arvind Rao
5. Mr. Yeshwant R. Gurjer
6. Mr. Sameer Gurjer
7. Mr. Waheed Naqvi
8. Mr. K.G. Rajeev
9. Mr. M.C. Kariappa
10. Mr. M. Salman Baseer
11. Mr. Krishanth Chowdu

b) Co-opted Members:

1. Mr. D. Vinod Sivappa
2. Mr. A.S. Shankare Gowda
3. Mr. AL. RM. Nagappan
4. Mr. Jeffry Rebello

5. Mr. Ajoy Thipaiah
6. Mr. Sahadev Balakrishna
7. Mr. Marvin Rodrigues
8. Mr. Nishant R. Gurjer
9. Dr. M.M. Chengappa
10. Mr. H.T. Pramod
11. Mr. M.B. Ganapathy
12. Mr. Shirish Vijayendra
13. Mr. N. Bose Mandanna
14. Mr. Chacko P. Thomas
15. Mr. A.P. Rajaram
16. Mr. P.S. Satyanarayana
17. Mr. Vijay Karnad

c) KPA Trustees, Trustees of Silver Jubilee Trust & Late Radcliffe Memorial Scholarship and JRD Tata-KPA G.J.E.F. Trust and TEDT.

1. Mr. S. Appadurai
2. Mr. N. Ramanathan
3. Mr. Mahesh Shashidhar
4. Mr. Shirish Vijayendra

d) KPA Sub-Committees & their Conveners:

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| 1. Taxation Committee | Convener - Mr. P.S. Sathyanarayana |
| 2. Negotiation Committee | Convener - Mr. Vijay Karnad |
| 3. Scientific Committee | Convener - Mr. Mahesh Shashidhar |
| 4. Land Matters Committee | Convener - Mr. Vijay Karnad |
| 5. Sports Committee | Convener - Mr. A.P. Rajaram |
| 6. Tea Committee | Convener - Mr. A. Arvind Rao |
| 7. Public Relations & Membership Drive | Convener - Mr. M. Salman Baseer |
| 8. Environment Awareness Committee | Convener - Mr. K.G. Rajeev |
| 9. Website Committee | Convener - Mr. Yeshwant R. Gurjer |

2) Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee on CWSB on 13-11-2020:

The Seventh Virtual Meeting of the WSB Steering Committee was held by the Coffee Board on 13th November 2020 at the Coffee Board HO at Bengaluru to discuss high incidence "Coffee White Stem Borer" which is affecting the Coffee Plantations.

The Meeting was chaired by CEO and Secretary Coffee Board Dr. K.G. Jagadeesha. The Director of Research Dr. N. Surya Prakash Rao and other Coffee Board Officers and Steering Committee Members from KPA Mr. Anil Kumar Bhandari, Mr. Bose Mandanna and Mr. M.B. Ganapathy had attended virtually. Dr. K.G. Jagadeesha in his introductory address informed all possible avenues are being explored to find an appropriate remedy to the CWSB. Then Director of Research Dr. N. Surya Prakash Rao made a presentation on important decisions and suggestions made at the Sixth Steering Committee meeting and action taken on the action points. He added that 18 awareness programmes and 3 Webinars were conducted.

He updated the Committee on the following progress of research on WSB undertaken.

- i) Availability of two alternate chemicals in place of chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin which are among the 27 chemicals proposed to be banned by the department of Chemicals.
- ii) Study initiated to reduce the cost on plant protection by using a combination of sprays.
- iii) Efficiency of control of WSB in trials conducted using stem wrapping material.
- iv) Impact of climate change on current management practices prescribed for control of WSB. It is found that there is no impact of climate change.
- v) Case studies are initiated to study the incidence of WSB in well maintained estates.
- vi) Leads are obtained in identification and selection of 6 genes out of 12 Genotypes responsible for WSB resistance.
- vii) Breeding for WSB tolerant varieties in Arabica of Genotype S 4595 was done in collaboration with M/s Jain irrigation. 30,000 tissue culture plants were prepared and they are undergoing tests in 27 locations in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu during the 2020 season.

Advisories on flight period of WSB beetle was disseminated to Coffee growers by CCRI on All India Radio, Coffee Krishi Taranga and WhatsApp groups.

The meeting was followed by an interaction session with the participants. Mr. Anil Kumar Bhandari and Mr. Jeffrey Rebello urged the Coffee Board to develop a Instrument/ Tool/Device/App for identification of the WSB as large extents of Arabica Estates are converted to Robusta due to WSB menace. Dr. Y. Raghuramulu, Sr. Advisor, said this is one of the priorities of CCRI for control of WSB and explained various initiatives taken by the CCRI to develop the tool.

Mr. Jeffrey Rebello wanted to know the research done by NCBS on WSB and requested the Coffee Board to continue to fund the research by NCBS. He also urged CCRI to collaborate with "Bio Bee" Bio Control Company of Israel to control WSB. Dr. Y. Raghuramulu replied that as the WSB beetle is cryptic in nature, none of the 18 Bio Control Agents tried were effective. Continuance to fund research by NCBS was discussed at the 5th Steering Committee Meeting and NCBS was informed to request for external funding for continuing with second phase of research.

Mr. M.B. Ganapathy said a focused approach to find a remedy for WSB is needed as management of WSB is difficult. The WSB tolerant variety S 4595 should also be a high yielding variety as release of high yielding varieties it is the need of the hour.

The meeting also discussed analyzing pesticide residues in coffee exported.

I along with Immediate Past Chairman Mr. Shirish Vijayendra, Past Chairman Mr. Jeffry Rebello (attended in person) and our Secretary Mr. Anil Savur had attended. The link for the online meeting was sent to all Members of KPA to attend the meeting.

3) Interactive Meeting on "Coffee Wet Processing & Effluent Management and Related Issues".

The Coffee Board in association with the KSPCB had organized a Virtual Interactive Meeting at the Coffee Board Head Office at Bengaluru on 20th November, 2020. The meeting was attended by me, Past Chairmen Mr. Jeffry Rebello (In person), Mr. M.B. Ganapathy, Mr. Ashok Kuriyan, other KPA Members and the Secretary Mr. Anil Savur. The interactive session was very useful and discussed issues involved in pulping of Coffee by wet process, provided insights and clarified issues on Wet Processing and Effluent Management in Coffee. Past Chairmen Mr. Jeffry Rebello Mr. M.B. Ganapathy and Mr. Ashok Kuriyan spoke on the subject.

4) Coffee Outturn and proposal to fix benchmark outturn in line with ICO Standards.

A joint meeting of the KPA EC and UPASI Coffee Committee was held on 30th November 2020 by Video Conference to discuss the letter and the note received from the Director of Research, Coffee Board on 7th November 2020. It was also circulated to all Members on 11th November 2020 for their seeking inputs. After a detailed discussion the meeting decided to maintain the existing standards and the present system which is followed by the industry since many decades since abolition of the pooling system and so it does not need any change. A section of the growers, especially the small growers feel that the bench mark out turn in particular for Robusta Cherry has to be reduced. The meeting noted that the reduction in OT is not advisable as it will result in reduction in prices and buyers would offer lower prices which would affect the entire grower fraternity. Instead, growers have to be educated about following best agricultural operations, harvest and post harvest practices and standards.

Request Coffee Board to set up or allow self help groups to set up moisture testing services and put up mini hullers at the JLO and village levels which will enable the growers, in particular the small growers to verify the quality of coffee, OT results to help them to sell their coffees at the right price.

Thereafter a joint letter from UPASI and KPA was sent to the Director of Research informing this on 2nd December 2020. A meeting of Coffee Grower Associations would be convened on this issue to find a solution.

5) Launching of New series of Eco Pulpers - Penagos, Colombia.

The "World of Coffee" of Jayanthi Coffee had held an awareness programme on 4th December 2020 at the "Coffee experience Centre", M.G Road, Chikmagalur about launching of New Series of Penagos Pulpers.



Sri M.S. Boje Gowda, Chairman and Dr. K.G. Jagadeesha, CEO and Secretary Coffee Board were the Chief Guests and spoke on the occasion. I and Immediate Past Chairman Mr. Shirish Vijayendra, few KPA Members and Secretary Anil Savur had attended the programme.

Of the new series of Eco Pulpers released by Penagos, a separate "Eco Washer" was released for fermented Coffees which caught the attention of Growers.

6) Exempting Coffee Growers from depositing Fire Arms during Panchayath Elections in Plantation Districts.

KPA had submitted a Memorandum to the Deputy Commissioners of Chikmagalur, Kodagu, Hassan and Chamarajanagar to exempt plantation growers from depositing licensed fire arms for Panchayath Elections held on 22nd and 27th December 2020 as-

- i) Plantations are located in interior and remote areas. Therefore, there is danger to life of growers and fire arms are necessary for their security and self defence.
- ii) Plantations employ large work force during the harvest season and currency is brought from Banks for payment of wages to workers.
- iii) Large amount of Coffee is dried at the estate drying yards and stored at estate warehouses.
- iv) Deposit of fire arms has to be insisted for persons with criminal background, involved in criminal cases, persons released on Bail who are involved in rioting especially in case of elections.
- v) A blanket order to all license holders to deposit the firearms is unjustified.

7) Draft Outline of proposed Scheme of Coffee Board for Growers and exporters for implementation during the next plan period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The letter received from the Director of Finance on 14th December 2020 for Growers was discussed elaborately at the joint meeting of the KPAEC and UPASI Coffee Committee on 16th December 2021.

Members present appreciated that the Coffee Board had proposed to include most of the Schemes in the ICDP Scheme in the 12th plan of the Coffee Board. Members suggested Coffee Board has to be requested to include the following schemes and make the schemes applicable to all categories of growers and enhance the rate of subsidy.

1. Re-plantation of Aged / Senile Coffee Plantations.
2. Revival of WSB affected Arabica plantations by using Stem Wrapping Material.
3. Improving productivity of Robusta holdings by gap filling with elite clones and collar pruning.

4. Water Augmentation - (Water storage tank, Sprinkler/ Drip irrigation units, pumpsets, sprinkler pipes, Open well, Bore well).
5. Quality Up gradation- Pulper, Drying Yard, Mechanical driers, Godown, Moisture meter.
6. Custom Hiring Canter (Brush / Weed Cutter, Sprayers, Telescopic pruner, Pit digger. Chain Saw, Power Tiller, Mini Tractor. Rubberised Track Carrier).
7. Pollution abatement- Eco Pulpers.
8. Eco Certification.
9. Rainfall Insurance Scheme for Coffee.
10. Market support.
11. Interest subsidy.
12. Research Funding: Provide Rs 5 crore to reputed Research Institutes to undertake alternate research in WSB, Shot hole borer, Berry Borer, Mechanization of estate operations, etc.
13. Man-Wild Life Conflict - Implement a scheme for electrification of fences around Coffee Estates bordering forests or are near Forests, Wild Life Parks and Sanctuaries.

The KPA sent the above inputs to the Coffee Board 21st December 2020 based on the above inputs received from the KPA EC and UPASI Coffee Committee Members.

A letter on outline proposals of the Coffee Board for Coffee Exports was received from Director of Finance on 18th December 2021 and inputs received were compiled and sent to the Coffee Board on 31st December 2020.

8) Shortage of Fertilizers

The Department of Fertilizers, GOI had reduced the Maximum Limit for purchase of subsidized Fertilizers for the Plantation Sector to 200 Bags per Month. GST details of Growers are insisted to be filled in the POS Machines.

On 9th February 2021 KPA sent a Memorandum to the Hon'ble Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Sri. Sadananda Gowda, Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, and Commerce Minister Sri. Piyush Goyal, Chairman and the CEO and Secretary Coffee Board not to fix maximum limit for Coffee Growers who submit ID proofs.



A meeting was also held on 20th February 2021 at the Coffee Board, Chikmagalur which was attended by Chairman, Coffee Board Mr. M.S. Boje Gowda, Vice Chairman Coffee Board Sri G.S. Mahabala, officials from the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, President of Chemicals and Fertilizer Association and two

Fertilizer Dealers and had a detailed discussion on the issue. The Department of Agriculture and Horticulture were requested to write to the State Government about reducing the maximum limit for the Plantation Sector and not to fix any limit for purchase of fertilisers and not to insist for incorporating GST in POS Machines for purchase of Fertilizers. Thereafter, the Secretary and CEO Coffee Board Dr. K.G. Jagadeesha wrote to the department of Fertilizers, New Delhi in this regard.

9) Pre Budget Memorandum 2021-22:

KPA had submitted its Pre Budget Memorandum to the Union Finance Minister on 7th January 2021. The following were requested in the Memorandum:

- 1.(a) Restructure all loans over a period of 9 years with 2 years Moratorium period at a reduced rate of interest at 3% pa.
- 1.(b) Reduce the rate of interest to 3% p.a. on all crop loans and development loans disbursed to coffee growers as per the applicable scale of finance.
- 1.(c) Increase the limit of Interest Subvention Scheme for Short Term Crop Loans and Development Loans in the FY 2021-22 as follows:
 - i). For Crop loans from 3 Lakhs to 25 Lakhs at 3% pa.
 - ii). For Crop loans above Rs.25 lakhs at 6% p.a.
 - iii). For Development Loans up to 25 Lakhs at 3% p.a.
 - iv). For development Loans above loans at 6% p.a.
2. Delete Rule 7B(1) of Income Tax Rules by amending the Rules which will help more growers especially the small growers to cure their coffees and sell it to get better remunerative prices. This would fulfill the GoI objective of doubling Farmers income by the year 2022-23.
3. Exempt or Reduce Customs Duty on import of "Plantation Machineries and equipments" OR collaboration with Foreign "Plantation Machinery and equipment companies to manufacture them domestically suitable to Indian conditions under the "Make in India" policy of the GOI.
4. Support well known R & D plantation institutes like CCRI and UPASI TRF, Valparai for undertaking research in coffee to release high yielding, disease and drought resistant coffee varieties and for finding an effective remedy for the "White Stem Borer" menace in Arabica Coffee.
5. GOI and State Governments to share the social costs which are now entirely borne by the Plantation Managements like Medical, Housing, drinking water, sanitation, etc. as plantations engage large workforce.
6. To Converge MGNREGA scheme with Coffee Board schemes like Convergence of MGNREGA scheme with Rubber Board schemes approved by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the GOI.

I, Vice Chairman Mr. N. Ramanathan and Executive Committee Member Mr. Yeshwant Gurjer had met the Add'l Chief Secretary (Finance) Sri. ISN Prasad on 19th February 2021 and had submitted the Pre Budget Memorandum of the Association.



The following requests were made in the Memorandum:

1. Release a grant of Rs.1.9 Crores for undertaking Research in Coffee to produce high yielding, disease and drought resistant clonal varieties.
2. Provide uninterrupted 3 phase power supply to the plantation areas to operate IP sets, Coffee Pulpers, Tea Factory machineries and other plantation machineries and instruments.
Exempt electricity Tax for captive generators as the power supply to the plantation areas is very erratic.
3. Allot sufficient funds in the Budget for repair and maintenance of roads passing through the plantation areas in the State.
4. Upgrade District Hospitals in the plantation districts to Super Speciality Hospitals to handle serious diseases, illness and injuries which need immediate treatment.
5. Exempt VAT on high speed diesel as growers have to depend heavily on captive diesel generators for pulping of coffee, irrigation for Coffee Blossoms and backing as power supply is erratic.
6. Improve forest habitats; make food and water available in forests, translocation of wild animals to far off forests and construction of elephant proof barriers using railway lines.

10) Meeting with Invest India, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry in the ODOP (One District One Product) Team on 1st March 2021.

A meeting was held by the "One District One Product" team with the representatives of KPA on Domestic and Export concerns of Coffee and Pepper Plantations in Chikmagalur and Kodagu Districts under the "One District One Product" policy of GOI on 1st March 2021. I, Vice Chairman Mr. N. Ramanathan, Chairman UPASI Coffee Committee Mr. Jeffry Rebello and EC member Mr. Yeshwant R. Gurjer had attended the meeting. Various issues relating to Domestic and Export concerns of the Coffee and Pepper plantations in Chikmagalur and Kodagu Districts were brought to the attention of Dr. Anu Kadyan and Mr. B.C. Nitin. Later a note on Domestic and Export concerns of the Coffee and Pepper Plantations was sent to Dr. Anu Kadyan and Mr. B.C. Nitin.

11) UPASI Meetings:

I had attended the UPASI Trustees, Combined Meeting of Coffee Committee and EC Meetings held by Zoom Video Conference on 25th January 2021 and 12th and 13th February 2021. Many plantation issues were discussed at these meetings.

12) KPA Sub-Committee Meetings.

The following subcommittee meetings of the Association were held:

- a). Taxation Committee Meeting on 15th December, 2020 to submit the Pre-Budget Memorandum 2021-22 to the Union Finance Minister and to the Chief Minister, GoK.
- b). Meetings of the Sports Committee on 7th January 2021 and 10th February 2021 to discuss organizing of Sports by the KPA Sports Club.
- c). Meeting of the Scientific Committee on 27th January 2021 to discuss organizing of Webinar on "Collar Pruning and Grafting" for KPA meeting.
- d). Meeting of the Environment awareness Committee on 23rd February 2021 by to discuss the Questionnaire received from CPCB.
- e). Meeting of Tea Committee was held on 23rd February 2021 to discuss Tea Issues.

13) KPA Circulars:

The following circulars were sent from the KPA office by e-mail and post. I request members to go through the same.

- ◆ Compulsory Contribution to the Karnataka Labour Welfare Fund.
- ◆ List of KPA Office Holidays for the year 2021.
- ◆ Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) to Staff from 01-01-2021 to 31-03-2022.
- ◆ Gram Panchayat Elections.
- ◆ Errata to the Proceedings of the 62nd Annual General Meeting.
- ◆ VDA payable to Plantation Workers from 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022.
- ◆ Notice & Agenda for the 63rd BGM on 22nd March, 2021.

With Best Wishes & Warm Regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. S. APPADURAI

Chairman

Date: 16th March 2021