



Mr. N. Ramanathan
Chairman

THE KARNATAKA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION



NEWS LETTER - 2

Dear Member,

I am happy to circulate this News Letter 2 since circulating my News Letter 1 on 5th March 2022. This is to further brief you of the events and developments which have transpired since my News Letter 1.

1. The 64th KPA Budget General Meeting on 19th March, 2022:

The 64th Budget General Meeting of the Association was held in the evening on 19th March, 2022 at 6.30 pm at the beautiful Mercara Downs Golf Club, Madikeri. The meeting was held mainly to approve the Budget proposals for the FY 2022-23 of the Association and other subjects. Many Members of the Association had attended the Budget General Meeting.

At the Budget General Meeting the subscription rates were revised as follows:

Sl. No	Category	Existing rate of Subscription (In Rs.)	Revised rate of subscription (In Rs.)
1	Ordinary Members	Rs.160/- Per Ha.	Rs.168/- Per Ha.
2	Ordinary Members 9 Ha and below	Rs.2,000/- p.a.	Rs.2,000/- p.a.
3	Personal Membership	Rs.750/- p.a.	Rs.1,500/- p.a.
4	Firm Membership	Rs.3,000/- p.a.	Rs.4,000/- p.a.
5	Associate Membership	Rs.3000/- p.a.	Rs.4,000/- p.a.
6	Association Membership	Rs.1,000/- p.a.	Rs.2,000/- p.a.

(The subscriptions are payable with GST at 18% p.a.)





2. The KPA Sports Club Golf Tournament on 19th March, 2022.

The KPA Sports Club had successfully held a Golf Tournament in the morning and afternoon sessions on 19th March, 2022 at the Mercara Downs Golf Club Madikeri. Members of the KPA Sports Club and KPA had attended the Golf Tournament. There was prize distribution ceremony in the evening and Trophies for various categories were awarded to the winners.



3. Meeting by Revenue Minister Sri. R. Ashok with Coffee Growers on 28th April, 2022.

The UPASI, KPA and KGF had jointly organized Coffee growers Conference on 28th April, 2022 at the Kuvempu Kala Mandira at Chikmagalur on regularization of Revenue Lands in un-authorized Cultivation of Coffee Growers. The State Revenue Minister Sri. R. Ashok had attended the conference. The meeting was also attended by Chikmagalur MLA and

BJP National General Secretary Sri. C.T. Ravi, MLAs of Sringeri Sri. T.D. Rajegowda and Mudigere Assembly Sri. M.P. Kumaraswamy, MLC Sri. M.K. Pranesh and Sri. S.L. Boje Gowda, Former Minister and Advisor to Chief Minister Sri. D.N. Jeevaraj, UPASI Vice President Mr. Jeffry Rebello, Chairman KPA Mr. N. Ramanathan, Vice Chairman KPA Mr. Mahesh Shashidhar, KPA EC Members, Past Chairmen and Members of the KPA.



The Revenue Minister Sri. R. Ashok said the State Government understood the problems of the Coffee growers. Since 50 years to 70 years Coffee growers are in unauthorized occupation of Government revenue lands. These lands are not yet regularized. There is a request from Coffee growers to lease the Government lands in their possession from 30 years to 50 years. They should be excluded from Land Grabbing Act. A Legislation would be brought to lease Government lands to Coffee Growers based on slabs.

The State Government had brought out the Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance 2022, dated 30th May 2022. Under Section 94A Sub section (4) time is extended to file application for grant of dry lands land up to 2 Ha by one year. However, this scheme is not applicable to Forest and Plantation lands.

In a press statement the Minister thereafter said a bill would be introduced in the next session of the Karnataka State Assembly to lease Government Lands.

4. Meeting with Mr. Manoz Jain, Secretary, Labour Dept. on 8th June, 2022:

I along with our Executive Committee Member Mr. Yeshwant Gurjer and Mr. P.K. Mathew, Member of our Labour Negotiation Committee had met Mr. Manoz Jain, Secretary to the Labour Department, GoK on 8th June, 2022 as a courtesy visit and discussed issues affecting the plantations. We also discussed including KPA as a Member of the Minimum Wage Advisory Board.

5. Webinar on 9th June 2022:

The Scientific Committee of the Association had organized a Webinar for KPA Members on 9th June 2022 on “Importance and Benefits of Granulated Lime Application in Coffee and its Intercrops”. Dr. Ramakrishna Parma, Retd. Professor of Soil Sciences, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore made an informative presentation on the subject which was well received by the participants. Mr. Akhilesh Shukla, Min Shakthi, had arranged the Presentation. Many KPA members had attended the webinar. The webinar was followed by an interactive Question and Answer session at which Members clarified many queries on the subject.

6. LLC Meeting on 1st July 2022 at Kochi for signing the Memorandum of Settlement for enhancing the retirement age of staff working in the UPASI member estates to 60 years.

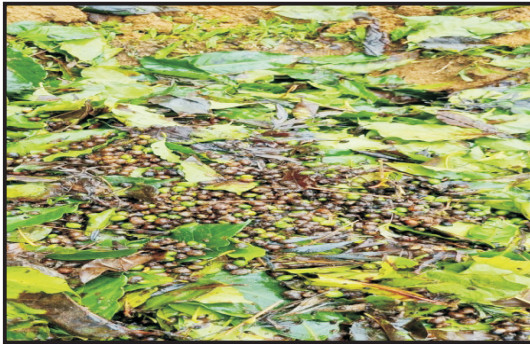
I along with the Secretary had attended the UPASI Labour Liaison Committee Meeting on 1st July, 2022 at Kochi for signing the Memorandum of Settlement for enhancing the retirement age of staff working in the UPASI Member Estates from 58 years to 60 years.

In Karnataka the retirement age of Staff, Non Staff, Supervisors and Workmen was implemented from 58 years to 60 years as per the Gazette Notification dated 27th March 2017 and a Circular was sent by KPA to its Members on 20th June, 2017.



7. Heavy Rains in July 2022 and Damage to Coffee Crop and Plants:

I am shocked and upset to see heavy rains lashing coffee plantations in the Chikmagalur, Kodagu and Hassan Districts. The heavy rains significantly damaged standing coffee crop and estate infrastructure. The crop and coffee plants were affected by stalk rot and root rot diseases due to which the Coffee berries turned black and dropped and its quality deteriorated. We have brought this fact to the attention of the Coffee Board the District Administration and Revenue Authorities who will make a joint inspection to assess the damage. The State Government should declare the affected villages in Chikmagalur, Kodagu and Hassan Districts as flood affected. The Banks should take note of this and should rephrase the loan accounts and provide relief to the affected coffee growers.



8. Free Electricity to small and medium Coffee Growers up to 10 HP.

As farmers were affected by heavy rains, floods since last few years and were in financial crisis, at the request made by Coffee Grower Associations from Kodagu, Coffee Board and elected representatives in the Plantation Districts to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Energy Minister to provide relief the Government of Karnataka under the G.O. on 20th July 2022 No. Energy/521/PSR/2021 Bengaluru Dated 20-7-2022 subject to the following conditions.

1. Electricity charges will be reimbursed of electricity consumed on or after 01.07.2022.
2. The consumers have to submit certificate from concerned department that they are small and medium Coffee growers.
3. Consumers of these categories have to compulsorily submit Aadhaar Card, Bank Account number and related documents and provide other information.
4. Consumers of these categories will be issued monthly bills at the rate approved by the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission.
5. Consumers are eligible for the relief after they pay the monthly electricity Bill in full within the stipulated time. The subsidy received by ESCOMS from the Government will be refunded by directly crediting to their Bank Account under DBT based on monthly electricity consumption after excluding electricity Tax.
6. One installation of small and medium growers only will be provided with free electricity.

This order is issued as per approval of the note of the Finance department No. 271 expenditure -1/2022 dated 14.07.2022 and subject to approval of the State Cabinet.

9. Meeting by Deputy Commissioner Chikmagalur & Superintendent of Police on 27th July 2022 at 11.00 am on Migratory Labour.

The Deputy Commissioner of Chikmagalur District Sri. K.N. Ramesh and Superintendent of Police Sri. Akshay M. Hakay had held a meeting at the office of the Superintendent of Police with Coffee Growers on engaging Migratory Labour. Representatives from the KPA, KGF, Mudigere, Aldur, Avathi and Mallandur Coffee Growers Associations, Labour Department and District Information Department had attended the meeting. Deputy Director (Extn.) Coffee Board, Chikmagalur, Sri. D.S. Srinivas had facilitated the meeting.





They informed the meeting was convened to advise Coffee Growers to maintain contact details of Migratory Labour engaged by them from outside the State and within the State as recently workers from Pakistan and Bangladesh were found. The coffee estates have to maintain a register having following details.

i). Correct Name ii). Father's Name iii). Full Address iv). Mobile Number v). Date of Joining vi). Date of Leaving vii). Arrival from Place viii). Colour Photo ix). Aadhaar /Other ID number and its copy x) Contact Details of Agent /Contractor.

Details have to be maintained i). Outside the State ii) Within State in XL sheet and soft copy or hard copy shared with the District Administration and the Police.

The District Administration will prepare a format of Register of Migratory Labour and will share. This may be updated from time to time.

Coffee Owners should observe suspicious behaviour/activity, body language of labour coming from outside the State. Owners have to be careful while engaging Migratory Labour as the owner is liable for all consequences.

10. UPASI Meetings:

I had attended the UPASI Trustees, Combined Meeting of the Coffee Committee and the EC Meetings held by hybrid mode on 25th March 2022 and 1st August 2022 and UPASI BGM held on 25th March 2022.

11. KPA Sub-Committee Meetings:

The following subcommittee meetings of the Association were held:

a) Meeting of the Scientific Committee on 9th May, 2022 to discuss M/s Coorg Institute of Technology, Ponnepet willing to take up innovation in development of technology suitable for critical coffee estate operations to help the Coffee Grower Community, holding of future Field Visit/s and to decide holding webinar on "Importance and Benefits of Granulated Lime Application in Coffee and its Intercrops."

- b) Meeting of the Public Relations & Membership Drive Committee on 19th May, 2022 to discuss ways to improve the Membership of the Association and to create awareness of KPA's aims, objectives and contribution among KPA Members and the grower fraternity for growth of Membership.
- c) Meeting of the Environment Awareness Committee on 3rd June, 2022 to decide KPA's representative at the virtual meeting to be held by the CPCB, New Delhi in July on "Success Story of growing coffee in an environment friendly way."

12. KPA Circulars:

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

- i). Quarterly Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) to Staff from 01-07-2022 to 30-09-2022.
- ii) Inviting inputs from members for development of Technology Critical for Coffee Estate Operations etc. to send to a Technical Institute in Plantation District.

With Best Wishes & Warm Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. N. RAMANATHAN
Chairman

Date: 15th August, 2022

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