

THE KARNATAKA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION



Mr. Mahesh Shashidhar
Chairman



NEWS LETTER -2

Dear Member,

I am happy to circulate our News Letter 2. This is to further brief you of the events and developments which have transpired since circulating our News Letter 1.

1. Meeting with the Former Revenue Minister.

The Vice Chairman, Mr. K.G. Rajeev, President UPASI Mr. Jeffry Rebello, President Dr. Mohan Kumar and other office bearers of KGF and myself had a meeting with the Former State Revenue Minister Sri. R. Ashok to discuss on the rules for leasing of the Government lands in unauthorized occupation of coffee growers. The Minister noted our requests and informed that the requests put forward by us will be considered while notifying the rules.



2. Public Meeting at Chikmagalur on 21st February 2023:

Sri J.P. Nadda, National BJP President and Smt. Shobha Karandalaje held a public meeting at Chikmagalur on 21st February 2023. The meeting was attended by Past Chairman Mr. H.T. Pramod and Secretary Anil Savur D who submitted a Memorandum to Sri J.P. Nadda, Ms. Shobha Karandalaje and the Former Deputy Commissioner, Chikmagalur on the various issues faced by the Coffee Growers.



3. Soil Analysis Facility

The KPA in association with Chennai Mettex Lab had arranged a Soil Analysis Facility for its Members. The soil samples received from members were collected by a representative from Chennai Mettex Lab and sent to their Lab for the analysis and report. Members of the Association had utilized the services.

4. SLBC Meeting held on 14th February, 2023 at Bangalore.

The KPA had received an email from the Coffee Board on 3rd February 2023 to address issues faced by plantation sector related to Financial Institutions. KPA addressed the following issues:

1. To Restructure Loans, Reduction in rate of interest and Interest Subvention.
2. Grant Fresh Loans.
3. Enhance scale of Finance for Arabica & Robusta Coffee.
4. Exempt plantations from SARFAESI Act as they are agricultural properties.
5. Exclude plantations from CIBIL.
6. Banks to extend One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme to Coffee Growers.
7. Not to initiate recovery proceedings under SARFAESI Act 2002 against Coffee growers based on Karnataka High Court judgment dated 29-1-2021 as it is challenged in SLP before the Supreme Court.

5. Coffee Cupping Workshop on 27th February, 2023 at the KPA Office, Chikmagalur.

The Scientific Committee of the Association had conducted a workshop. Experienced international Q grader Mr. Sushanth H.R., Head - Quality Control, Olam conducted the workshop and cup tasted and analysed Arabica and Robusta coffees samples for various parameters at the cupping Session. The event was attended by 17 members.



6. Racket Tournament by KPA Sports Club on 8th March, 2023

The Racket Tournament was held by the KPA Sports Club /KPA Sports Committee at the Chikmagalur Club, Chikmagalur after many years. The following were the winners and runners up.

Badminton Singles

Winner : Krishanth Chowdlu

Runners : Pranam K.N

Badminton Ladies Singles

Winner : Ananya Pranam

Runners : Pranathi Shetty

Table Tennis Ladies Singles

Winner : Ananya Pranam

Runners : Pranathi Shetty

Badminton Doubles

Winner : Krishanth Chowdlu
and Saurav Sharath

Runners : Khurram and Rahul Arun

Table Tennis Singles Men

Winner : Krishanth Chowdlu

Runnersup : Sameer Gurjier



7. 65th BGM held on 9th March 2023.

The 65th Budget General Meeting of the KPA was held at the Kadur Club on 9th March 2023. This was attended by over 50 members. The agenda subjects itemized in the notice calling the meeting was passed at the meeting. The meeting was followed by an interesting and an informative presentation by Mr. Suhas Dwarkanath, Benki Brewing Tools on comprehensive post-harvest processing of Coffee, its importance, processing, grading, sampling, roasting, branding, etc.

The General body has approved the renovation of the secretary quarters at twelve lakhs Rupees and the renovation is almost complete.

We have received Voluntary contribution from the following members:

Name of the Member	Amount
Mr. A.S. Shankare Gowda	10,000-00
Mrs. Lekha Chandrashekar	5,000-00
Dr. M.J. Bharath	5,000-00
Mr. N.M. Shivaprasad	5,000-00
Mr. A.G. Divin Raj	5,000-00
Mr. R. Niranjana	3,000-00
Mr. M. Salman Baseer	3,000-00
Mr. C. Chandrashekar	2,500-00
Mr. S. Deepak Kumar	2,500-00
Mr. C.N. Nataraj	1,001-00
Total	42,001-00

We thank them immensely for their timely contribution.

8. KPA Brochure

The KPA Publicity committee introduced the KPA brochure which was released by the Past Chairman, Mr. A.S. Shankre Gowda at the meeting.



9. Session to develop Chikmagalur District as export hub on 13 March 2023:

A session to develop Chikmagalur District as an export hub was held on 13th March 2023 jointly by the Additional Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Federation of Indian Exports, Bangalore.

The session was organized to encourage and sensitize exporters, entrepreneurs, farmers, growers, and planters on the potential of exporting coffee, spices, agri products from Chikmagalur district and to boost international trade from India and resolve export issues.

10. UPASI Meetings:

I attended the UPASI Trustees, Combined Meeting of Coffee and other Commodities, EC Meeting and the UPASI Budget General Meeting on 23rd and 24th March 2023 at UPASI, Coonoor. The Commodity situation and plantation issues were discussed at the meetings.

Staff Demands:

The Labour Liaison Committee (LLC) of UPASI is negotiating the Staff demands submitted by ESUSI. A few meetings were held in this regard.

11. Memorandum on Arms Deposit:

The KPA had submitted Memorandums to the Deputy Commissioners of Chikmagalur, Kodagu and Hassan Districts requesting not to insist deposit of licensed firearms belonging to plantation growers as they live in remote areas and they need firearms for their personal safety.

Thereafter, a reply was received from the Deputy Commissioner, Chikmagalur, informing that a decision was taken by the Screening Committee to deposit firearms at the nearest Police Station.

12. Meeting with the Labour Minister and Secretary to Government:

The Vice Chairman, Mr. K.G.Rajeev, Mr. Jeffry Rebello President UPASI and I had a meeting with the Former State Labour Minister Sri. A. Shivaram Hebbar, Secretary to Government Dr. N.V. Prasad, Labour Commissioner and the Assistant Labour Commissioner in April 2023 and discussed the Financial Crisis and hardship faced by the plantation sector, labour situation in the plantation industry and also appraised them about the impending wage revision. The Minister and the Secretary noted our concerns and informed that the requests put forward by us will be considered.

Minimum Wage Draft Notification is published. The KPA has sent its objection to the Draft Notification.

Negotiation with unions on Minimum wage notification is also in progress.

13. Virtual Meeting by CCRI on revision of norms for Coffee Effluent Treatment:

This meeting was convened on the direction of Dr. K.G. Jagadeesha, CEO and Secretary Coffee Board on 24th April 2023 as the Pollution Control Board had demanded compliance of pollution standards prescribed under the recent notification to Eco pulpers. The standards prescribed therein applies to traditional pulpers. The meeting discussed the subject in detail and thereafter it was decided to apply to the MoEF & CC and CPCB to relax standards to growers who have installed Eco pulpers without making it mandatory but only recommending it. To revisit lining of lagoons either by Geo membrane as they are plastic and as are installed in the fields they will crumble as crabs and other insects eat away or prescribing highly graded Clay as lining as highly graded clay is not available in the market.

14. Seminar and facility visit on Vermicompost, Bio-fertilizers and Bio-pesticides.

The Scientific Committee of KPA had held a Seminar and facility visit on Vermicompost, Bio-fertilizers and Bio-pesticides on 3rd May, 2023 at the College of Horticulture, Mudigere in Chikmagalur District.

The seminar provided information on facility for setting up Vermicompost, preparation of Bio Fertilizers and Bio Pesticides. The seminar was conducted by Professors and experts on the subject and included a theory session followed by a visit to Vermicompost set up demonstrating its manufacture and development. This was followed by visit to lab where manufacture and development of Trichoderma was demonstrated and was attended by 39 members.



15. Meeting to discuss reduction of import duties on Coffee HS lines under FTAs on 8-5-2023:

I attended a virtual meeting held on 8th May 2023 regarding GOI negotiating Free Trade Agreement with countries like the UK, Canada and the EU countries on Coffee. In this regard, the Ministry had requested the Coffee Board to provide inputs on Tariff reduction for certain HS lines on Coffee and product specific rules of origin under FTA. The Coffee Board had requested KPA to send its inputs. The Association sent its inputs seriously opposing any reduction in Import Duty as any reduction in import duty would affect India's domestic coffee prospects.

16. 18th edition of TGLIA STC-2023 awards.

In the 18th edition of TGLIA STC-2023 our member Goomankhan Estate won awards in all three categories CTC Leaf, CTC Fannings and CTC Dust. We congratulate Goomankhan Estate for winning the prestigious award.

17. Fifth World Coffee Conference & Expo 2023.

The 5th World Coffee Conference & Expo 2023 would be held from 23rd September to 1st October 2023 at the historic Bengaluru Palace. The Website of 5th WCC is <https://www.wccindia2023.com>.

The Theme of the Conference is "Sustainability through Circular Economy and Regenerative Agriculture."

The 5th WCC Conference entails the International Conference, World Coffee Exhibition, skill Building workshops, B2B Meetings, Buyer selling meets, Competitions & awards, Global CEO Conclave, Growers conclave, Networking Evenings and a plethora of networking events.

Over one lakh visitors are expected to visit. The World Coffee Conference is held once in four years and held for the first time in Asia and India at Bengaluru. The Conference will provide a unique and a golden opportunity to Indian Coffee Growers and to all stakeholders to participate in the Conference at their home ground. Hence KPA is planning to participate in the event.

We have received a communication from Dr. K.G Jagadeesha, CEO & Secretary Coffee Board informing the tentative schedule of the Conference and has requested Coffee growers to retain some of their best Coffee lots for Display and Brewing at Conference. The Coffee Board has formed various Committees for the 5th WCC and a few members from KPA are included in the Committees.

The Association intends to participate at the WCC.

18. 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). Variable Dearness Allowance to Plantation Workers from 01-04-2023 to 31-03-2024.
- ii). Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) to Staff from 01-04-2023 to 31-06-2024.
- iii). Coffee Cupping Workshop on 27th February, 2023 at KPA Office, Chikmagalur – Postponed from 16th February, 2023.
- iv). Notice & Agenda for the 65th Budget General Meeting on 9th February, 2023 at the Kadur Club, Chikmagalur.
- v). Seminar & Facility Visit on Vermicompost, Bio-Fertilizers and Bio-Pesticides / on 3rd May, 2023 at Horticulture College of Mudigere, Chikmagalur Dist.
- vi). Karnataka Assembly Elections on 10th May, 2023 – Grant of Paid Holiday to Employees.
- vii). Seminar on Importance of Soil Testing, Soil Health & Nutrition and Pepper Management based on location requirements at an Estate Level on 5th June, 2023. at the KPA Office, Chikmagalur.

With Best Wishes & Warm Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mahesh Shashidhar
Chairman

Date: 1st June 2023



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