

Plant Propagation and Nursery Management Unit

Vellanikkara

The Plant Propagation and Nursery Management Unit was established in 1989 with the objective of production and distribution of quality planting materials of fruit plants, plantation crops, spices, ornamentals and vegetables. Campus Development Scheme was launched in the KAU main campus during 1990 for the general development and beautification of the main Campus. Coconut Development Farm is also attached to the PPNMU. The total area under PPNMU is 88 acres. The land utilization is as follows.

Land utilization

Sl. No.	Crops	Area (acre)
1	Coconut Farm	50
2	Cashew plantation	3
3	Progeny Orchard	5
4	Vegetables and banana	10
5	Nursery area	7
6	Farm road, building etc.	13
TOTAL		88

Activities

Revenue generation activities

1. Vegetable seed production
2. Planting material production of fruit crops, plantation crops and spices, cash crops, ornamentals and flowering plants, tree crops etc.
3. Coconut oil production
4. Hybrid coconut seed production
5. Banana cultivation
6. Integration of coconut farming with livestock, goat and rabbit, chicken, quail
7. Production of bio control agents
8. Production of vermi compost, oushadhi compost and coir pith compost
9. Mushroom and vinegar production

Non Revenue generation activities

1. Beautification of the entire Campus
2. Central irrigation facility
3. Upkeep and maintenance of building premises of main campus (Head quarters, Central library, Central auditorium etc).
4. Supply of labourers on need base for KAU HQ, KAU school etc as per official request
5. Cleaning of premises of University Students hostels, International hostels, Scientist and staff quarters including pruning/ training of trees

Staff Position

Name of sanctioned posts	No. of sanctioned posts	Permanent staff in position	Vacancy
Professor	3	2	1 (Asst. Professor on contract basis)
Section Officer	1	1	-
Office superintendent	1	1 (Computer Assistant)	-
Assistant	1	1	-
Farm superintendent	1	1	-
Farm manager/ Farm Officer(Agri)	1	1	-
Farm Assistant (Vety)	1	1	-
Tractor Driver	1	-	1
Lab Assistant	1	1	-
Class IV	1	1	-

Activities

PPNMU has the mandatory duty to keep the main campus neat and tidy. Time bound weed management, pruning and training of trees and other landscaping operations are to be under taken in a systematic manner. An integrated irrigation water supply system for the entire campus was installed under the control of Professor and Head, Campus Development and is being maintained. Quality seed production of important vegetables viz. bittergourd, amaranthus, bhindi, cucumber, ash gourd, pumpkin, snake gourd, cowpea, brinjal, chilly is being taken up in large scale according to the demand. Quality planting materials of fruit plants like Mango, Jack,

Sapota, Guava and minor fruits, plantation crops, spices, forest plants and ornamental plants are being produced and distributed. Banana cultivation is carried out in 3-5 acres. Nendran is cultivated as pure crop and Njalipoovan and Poovan banana are cultivated as inter crops to meet the sucker requirement. Collection and establishment of elite species of Anthurium, orchid, cactus and bonsai plants is also done.

The Coconut Seed Farm established in the KAU Main Campus by Coconut Development Board, Cochin was handed over to KAU during 2002-2003. The farm has a total area of 25 hectares planted with 6 Tall Coconut varieties (Komadan, Tiptur Tall, LO, WCT Kasargode, Kuttiyadi and Malappuram eco types) and 3 Dwarf varieties (CGD, Gangabandam and COD). In the Coconut Development Farm, in addition to coconut, cultivation of crops like banana, fodder crops, heliconia, ginger, turmeric, yam etc are taken up on a regular basis. Meat goat unit, dairy unit, rabbit unit, vermi compost unit, bio control agents production unit, Coconut oil production unit, Tissue culture production unit are also functioning. Hybrid coconut production under RKVY project is also carried out here since 2010.

The scientists of this station are rendering necessary advice to the students, farmers and organizations visiting central nursery as well as conduct training on various aspects of farming and offer classes and guiding the students of COH, Vellanikkara.

Professor & Head