

## VICE CHAIRMAN PRESIDED OVER THE MILLETS FIELD DAY FUNCTION AT TIRUVARUR ON 02.02.2016.

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A project entitled Revival Back of Millets in Delta has been sanctioned to Thiruvarur district under State Balanced Growth Fund (SBGF) and is being implemented by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK-TNAU) Needamangalam. Millets like Kudiraivali cultivation was in vogue in the delta during mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century and due to change in life style, food habits and increase in per capita income, its cultivation was almost abandoned in the delta and a major shift towards rice was noticed.

Millets are nutrient rich grains which should be used in dietary habits and its regular intake helps to reduce major malnutrition related issues. Moreover, millets are gaining popularity among urban consumers.



In this context, a project has been sanctioned to TNAU, KVK, Needamangalam with an objective to revive the cultivation of millets in the delta through popularizing the millets cultivation. Accordingly, the KVK has formed a farmers group and millets – Kudiraivali has been sown in a demonstration plot (10 acres) in Koradacherry village, Koradcherry block identified as a backward block under SBGF. The germination is good and the crop stand is impressive. Vice chairman visited the field along with district collector and other officials.



In order to give fillip to the cultivation of millets a field day function was organized by KVK Needamangalam on 02.02.2016 which was presided over by Vice Chairman, State Planning Commission, Chennai. In the

presidential address, the Vice chairman emphasized the role of millets from various perspectives viz., health and nutrition, farm income and feed for cattle. In his felicitation address, Dr.M Mathivanan, IAS, District Collector, Thriuvarur district stressed the need for bringing back the millets in the dietary schedule for which large scale planting in the delta become imperative.

Technical presentations on millets cultivation were given by Mr.K.Mayilvahanan, Joint Director of Agriculture and Dr.K.R.Jahanmohan, Head of Division, (APP) SPC. The meeting was attended by a focused group of 40 farmers. As a part of the project activities, Vice Chairman also distributed the Millet demonstration kits to the farmers. All the arrangements were made in a convergence mode by Department of Agriculture, District Planning Office and by Dr.R.Baskaran, Programme Coordinator, KVK (TNAU), Needamangalam.

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