

5th Regional Committee Meeting on: Family Farming for Sustainability held at KAU, Thrissur during 19-20 Dec. 2014.

Recommendations

- Developing different family farming models to suit various agro-climatic conditions, namely, Agri-Agri, Agri-Horti, Agri-Horti-Silvi, Agri-Horti-Livestock, Agri-Horti-Fisheries, Agri-Horti-Dairy systems.
- Demonstration and implementation of new models of integrated farming systems with high-tech Agriculture and high-tech Horticulture developed under the leadership of IAUA.
- Promotion of farm mechanization, pooling of machinery and custom hiring to reduce the drudgery of elderly family members in family farming and to address labor shortage.
- Developing and disseminating new packaging technologies and regional level branding systems of produce and planting materials involving SHGs and market-oriented groups for increasing the marketable surplus of small farms.
Motivation and attraction of qualified youth towards high-tech Agriculture and sensitization about the whole range of Agri-business, high-tech production systems, and markets, through training, demonstrations and interfaces at different levels.
- Inter university and inter institutional collaborations in teaching and research have to be promoted.
- Establishment of a multi-university Research Centre of the South Indian Agricultural Universities is to be given importance.
- Family farming is to be upgraded from subsistence farming to high-tech farming by the involvement of agricultural universities and bringing the IT professionals in farming.
- Indigenous Technical Knowledge is to be documented and revalidated by research system and is to be integrated to the farming systems particularly family farming.
- Urban Horticulture should be promoted.