

We, at UPASI TRF, are honoured to declare that the ensuing Plantation Crops Symposium (PLACROSYM) which is 20th in the series will be held between December 12 and 15, 2012 at Jenneys Residency, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. We are delighted to host the PLACROSYM for the fourth time ever since its inception.

PLACROSYM is hosted by various plantation crops research institutes which are involved in research and developmental activities for promoting the plantation crops. To share the innovative ideas/technologies among the scientists working in various plantation crops research institutions and to exchange thoughts with reference to the global demands, PLACROSYM is being conducted biannually. It offers an opportunity for the budding scientists to acquire the knowledge from the plantation community through inspiring interactions, legitimate lectures from experts and participating intellects/technocrats from allied industries.

PLACROSYM XX will cover multifaceted research, developments and extension of spices and plantation crops including plant breeding & genetics, molecular biology & biotechnology, agronomy & soil science, pests & diseases, plant physiology & biochemistry, harvesting & post harvesting technologies, quality control, product development/diversification & value addition, marketing and economics/statistics. Research papers on all spices and plantation crops will be considered for presentation and discussion on a common platform of PLACROSYM XX.

An exclusive session on the theme "**Mechanisation for sustainable productivity**" will be held during the PLACROSYM XX.

From the "Industrial Revolution Era", we have stepped into the "New Millennium" with additional tasks to feed the population. A couple of decades ago, with limited land under cultivation and natural resources, we have achieved the "Green Revolution". Under the unpredictable scenario of change in climate, global warming and scarcity of labour, our targets are multifaceted and we have to maximize the productivity, improve the labour's welfare and national security thereby to address the stability of our agricultural policies and other related issues.

In the recent past, agricultural productivity is far behind the estimated figures which are certainly of concern with biotic and abiotic variables. Decline in productivity/ stagnation is witnessed by the plantation sector too. Considering the scarcity of workforce, improving the labour productivity is the need of the hour where mechanization could be an effective alternative to complete the husbandry practices in time and curtail the cost of production.

Conservation of energy, effective utilization of human and natural resources are warranted to cope with the "Go Green and Grow Green" policy which in turn preserve the biodiversity and ecology of the plantations where "Mechanization" is the immediate thrust. Even though mechanization got popularized in agricultural sector, it was under utilized in plantation sector. This is the time to discuss the "Pros" and "Cons" of mechanization in plantation crops and implement complete mechanization to overcome the labour shortage in the industry and to produce the commodity with competitive prices. In this context, during this biennium, "Mechanization for sustainable productivity of plantation crops" gained importance as the concept of the Plantation Crops Symposium XX.

About us : The "Seed of Tea Research" was sown at Tea Experimental Station, Davershola, Gudalur, The Nilgiris during 1926 and it has established into a world renowned institute. A decade ago Tea Research Institute was constituted as self-governing body, the UPASI Tea Research Foundation (TRF) under a Board of Trustees. At present, Tea Research Institute at Valparai and its six Regional Centers in tea districts all over south India are contributing to the perspective of tea industry.

Programme : The symposium will be held between 12.12.12 and 15.12.12. Each technical session will have a lead paper (invited talk) and contributory papers (oral and poster). Plenary Session will be held on December 15, 2012. Further details on technical sessions will be issued in the next circular.

Contributory papers : There shall be both oral and poster presentations where papers selected for oral presentation will be allowed 15 minutes including three minutes for discussion. Papers selected for posters should be displayed during the symposium at parallel technical sessions as per the instructions to be issued in the next circular.

Important instruction to the contributors : Papers submitted for presentation will be accepted only after peer review. All accepted papers will be designated as oral/poster presentation by a team of experts. The organising committee of PLACROSYM XX proposes to publish the extended abstracts and issue to the participants during the symposium.

The committee comprising Editorial Board, Journal of Plantation Crops (JPC) will review the full length papers before October and the papers that fit into the scope of the Journal will be published immediately after the symposium. Others may opt to publish their contributions elsewhere. It may be noted that the symposium proceedings are not a part of the Journal of Plantation Crops.

Revised papers received after the prescribed date will not be considered for presentation. Manuscripts must conform to the format and style of the JPC. Two hard copies of the manuscript along with the soft copy (in MS Word), clearly indicating the file name(s), need to be submitted.

Awards : A couple of awards will be presented in PLACROSYM during the plenary session which include Dr. C.S. Venkata Ram Memorial Award for the best original research paper and Dr.R.L. Narasimhaswamy Memorial Award for the second best original research paper and for poster presentations.

Venue : Jenneys Residency, Avinashi Road, Coimbatore Aerodrome Post, Coimbatore 641 014.

Location : The "Textile" city Coimbatore is well connected by air, rail and road right from the small towns to metropolitans. From the airport, the venue is located 3.0 km towards Coimbatore city and 7.5 km from the Coimbatore Railway Junction on the Avinashi Road. Weather will be pleasant during December and night temperature is likely to be around 16°C.

Registration : All participants should fill in the Registration Form attached herewith or photocopy of the form. e-registration is also possible through our website: <www.upasitearesearch.org>.

Registration fee

General category	Rs. 2,500/-
ISPC members	Rs.2,000/-
Students/Research scholars	Rs.1,500/-

For the accompanying person of the registered delegate, 50% of the respective registration fee will be charged for attending the symposium, cultural programme and for food & beverages. He/she will not be entitled to get the symposium package. Registration fee may please be paid through Demand Draft drawn in favour of PLACROSYM XX payable at Union Bank of India/State Bank of India, Valparai, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu .

Accommodation : Accommodation for participants can be arranged in hotels at Coimbatore on prior request. Details will be issued in due course.

Industrial exhibition : It is proposed to hold an exhibition in relation to plantation crops and allied corporate industries during the symposium. Information regarding the exhibition will be circulated in due course.

Post symposium tour : If there are considerable no. of participants, a local sight seeing trip will be arranged on 16.12.12 and the details will be circulated in the final circular.

Important dates to remember :

Preliminary registration	30.06.12
Submission of extended abstracts	30.06.12
Screening and selection of abstracts for presentation	15.07.12
Submission of full length papers	31.08.12
Acceptance of MS for oral/poster presentation	31.10.12
Confirmed registration along with fee	31.10.12

ORGANISING INSTITUTIONS/SOCIETIES

Central Coffee Research Institute
Balehonnur 577 117, Karnataka

Central Plantation Crops Research
Institute, Kasaragod 671 124, Kerala

Central Coir Research Institute
Alleppy, Kerala 688 522

Coconut Development Board
Kera Bhavan, Kochi 682 011, Kerala

Indian Cardamom Research Institute
Myladumpara 685 553, Kerala

Indian Institute of Spices Research
Kozhikode 673 012, Kerala

National Research Centre for Cashew
Puttur 574 202, D. K., Karnataka

National Research Centre for Oilpalm
Pedavegi 534 450, Andhra Pradesh

Rubber Research Institute of India
Kottayam 686 009, Kerala

TRA Tocklai Experimental Station
Jorhat 785 008, Assam

UPASI Tea Research Institute
Valparai 642 127, Tamil Nadu

Indian Society for Plantation Crops
CPCRI, Kasaragod 671 124, Kerala

Indian Society for Spices, IISR
Kozhikode 673 012, Kerala

Society for Promotion of Oilpalm
Research and Development, NRC Oilpalm
Pedavegi 534 450, Andhra Pradesh



PLACROSYM
Mechanisation for
sustainable productivity **XX**

Plantation Crops Symposium XX
(PLACROSYM XX)

12.12.12 to 15.12.12

Jenneys Residency, Avinashi Road, Coimbatore
Aerodrome Post, Coimbatore 641 014, Tamil Nadu

REGISTRATION FORM

PLACROSYM XX

December 12-15, 2012

Jenneys Residency, Coimbatore 641 014

UPASI Tea Research Foundation

Tea Research Institute, Valparai 642 127

1. Name in block letters:.....

2. Designation:.....

3. Affiliation:.....

4. Address for
communication :

Phone (O) : Phone (R) :

Mobile :

e-mail :

5. Are you an ISPC member : YES/NO

6. Presenting the paper in the symposium : YES/NO

7. Title of the paper:.....

8. Payment of Registration Fee : Rs

DD Number Date:.....

Bank:.....

9. Do you require accommodation : YES/NO

Date : Signature of the Participant

DD may be drawn in favour of "PLACROSYM XX" payable at Union Bank of India/State Bank of India, Valparai, Coimbatore Dist., Tamil Nadu

Further circulars will be issued only to the registered participants

GENERAL CHAIRMAN

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