

Minutes of meeting with Department of Horticulture, Scientist, IIHR and Professor, GKV held on 19 Feb 2025 at 11:30 AM.

The meeting was chaired by Justice Shri B. Sudershan Reddy, Hon'ble Oversight Authority (KMERC).

The list of participants is enclosed.

At the outset MD, KMERC welcomed the Hon'ble OA, Advisor to Hon'ble OA (AOA), and participants from the Indian institute of Horticulture Research, Department of Horticulture, and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru to the meeting.

AOA informed that an article on nutrient value and its benefit to farmers through the cultivation of Chadrahalasu, a variety of Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) was published in the Down to Earth Weekly. Officers from the Department of Horticulture, Professor from GKV, and Scientist from IIHR were invited to provide insights about the crop and benefit to farmers in case it is commercially grown in the mining areas by promoting its cultivation.

Dr. Karunakaran, Scientist from IIHR and expert in horticulture, presented comprehensive insights on Chandrahalasu, covering the following points:

- The jackfruit is Multipurpose, and adaptive to different microclimatic zones.
- IIHR identified two varieties viz., Siddu and Shankara developed by the farmers and were named after them.
- The crop is cultivated by the farmers from Bengaluru and Tumkur District and is well established.
- The fruit has a high fiber content, compared to other fruits and millets, it is a source of Vitamin A and has good marketing opportunities in North India and export.
- Technologies - have been developed for converting the fruit into a variety of food/snack items, resulting in value addition to the Fruit.
- The estimated cost of cultivation is Rs. 6.78 Lakhs with a gestation period of 6 years.

- After 6 years the estimated net return from the crop is Rs. 6 lakhs / Hectare with a benefit-cost ratio of 2.39

The Scientist recommended planting 3 or 4 jackfruit varieties on the same land to ensure sequential fruit-bearing and stable year-round income. He also suggested that the MGNREGA scheme can be converged to address labour problems for cultivating the crop.

He further suggested that KMERC may support farmers in Chitradurga and Tumkur districts in cultivating jackfruit, given the favorable microclimate in these areas. He also mentioned that the institute has a well-equipped nursery in which approximately 1 lakh seedlings can be produced annually for distribution to farmers in these districts.

With regard to cultivation in Ballari and Vijayanagara, he noted that the climate is too dry and hot. He recommended introducing the crop in horticulture farms as a demonstration plot and conducting a pilot study to assess its survivability.

After detailed discussions, it was concluded that further discussions are needed with the officers of Horticulture Department, scientists and professors from IIHR and GKVK, to decide on taking up this programme under CEPMIZ.

Sd-
Justice B. Sudershan Reddy
Oversight Authority

KARNATAKA MINING ENVIRONMENT RESTORATION CORPORATION			
ATTENDANCE			
Meeting Date:19.02.2025 Time:11.00 AM		Venue: Board Room, KMERC	
Sl.No	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Hon'ble Justice B. Sudershan Reddy	Hon'ble Oversight Authority	
2	Sri. Balasubramanian, IAS., (Rtd)	Advisor, Hon'ble OA	
3	Smt. Uma Mahadevan, IAS.,	ACS & DC and Chairman, KMERC	
4	Dr. Sanjay S. Bijjur, IFS	Managing Director, KMERC	
5	Ramesh. D.S.	Director, Horticulture	
6	Dr. G. Gautham & Kanna	IIHR, Bangalore	
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8	K. B. Dundi	Adl. Dir. of Horticulture	
9	Dr. Shyamalamma S.	Prof. & Head, Dept of Biotech	
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Meeting with IIHR, AKVR & Horticulture
regarding 'Chandra Halasu'