

**5<sup>th</sup> Day**  
**"International Coir Tech Expo – 2012"**  
**On 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2012**



A Seminar on Coir geotextiles and Coir Pith was held on the Forenoon of 16<sup>th</sup> of August, 2012 at the Expo venue. The Seminar was inaugurated by Shri. V.S.Vijayaraghavan, Ex. M.P. and former Chairman, Coir Board in a function presided over by Shri. T.K. Jose IAS, Chairman, Coconut Development Board. Shri. Vijayaraghavan in his inaugural address mentioned that coir

geotextiles and coir pith are having a lot of prospects in the export market of coir and coir products. The growth in exports of coir pith is exponential when compared to the growth in other sectors. Similarly, coir geotextiles is also having a lot of potential within the country also. He said Coir Board was able to get the approval of the Govt. of India for the use of coir geotextiles in the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana for the construction of 50 kmtrs road each in 9 States.

Shri. T.K. Jose, Chairman, Coconut Development Board in his presidential address mentioned the need for co-ordinated approach of the Coconut Development Board and Coir Board in enhancing the utilization of coconut husk for coir industry and also development of coconut based industries in all over the country. He added that the cost of coconut husk

will be a supplementary income to the coconut farmers who are worst affected by the low price prevailing for coconuts in the country. Dr. U.S. Sarma, Director, RDTE, CCRI welcomed the gathering. Prof. Kuncherria, Member Secretary, All India Council for Technical



Education, Shri. C.M. Kamaraj, President, Federation of All India Coir Ind. Association and Shri. Seshagiri Rao, President, Andhra Pradesh Coir Ind. Association, Rajamundry were in the technical panel.

There were 3 presentations on Geotextiles by Dr. G.V. Rao, Former HoD, Civil Engg. Dept. IIT, New Delhi, Dr. K.Balan, CET, Trivandrum and Dr. K. Beena, CUSAT, Cochin. The speakers in their presentations mentioned about the advantages of using coir geotextiles in soil erosion control and other soil bio-engineering applications. Dr. Balan in his presentation narrated that the engineering properties of coir has been well established and also the Indian Road Congress has also approved coir geotextiles as one of the materials for use for construction of rural roads in the country. Dr. K. Beena, Professor, CUSAT shared her experience in using coir geotextiles for the construction of one of the unpaved roads in the Thanneermukkam Village in Alappuzha district. She also made a presentation on the improvements of the soil behaviour by using coir geotextiles under a collaborative project taken up by the CUSAT.

There were two presentations by Dr. Dharma Pitchay, Tennessee State University, United States, Shri. U.S. Prabhu, MD, Shapith Media, Pollachi on the potential for enhancing market for coir pith in USA and EU countries.

While Shri. C.M. Hariraj, Chairman, Coir on Pollachi presented on the Coir fibre applications in China, Shri. Puttaswamy Gowda, President, Karnataka Coir Ind. Association made a presentation on the present status of coir industry in the State of Karnataka. Shri. M. Sudhakaran Pillai, Joint Director, CICT proposed vote of thanks.

### **Valedictory Function**



The valedictory and award distribution function held in the afternoon was presided over by Prof. G. Balachandran, Chairman, Coir Board. Shri M. Kumara Raja, Secretary, Coir Board welcomed the gathering. Shri M.C. Sampath, Hon'ble

Minister for Rural Industries & Nutritious Noon Meal, Govt. of Tamil Nadu was the chief guest on the occasion. The Hon'ble Minister gave a brief outline of the coir sector in Tamil Nadu and sought the whole hearted support of Govt. of India and Coir Board for the development of the industry. Shri A.C. Jose, Ex. MP and former Chairman, Coir Board delivered the key note address. Shri T.N. Pratapan, MLA was the guest of honour on the occasion. Shri P.P. Thankachan, Former Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly and Shri Feby Verghese, Managing Director, Kerala State Industrial Enterprises Ltd. offered felicitations on the occasion.



The prizes for various competitions held in connection with the Expo were given away to the winners by Shri M.C. Sampath.

Shri M. Kumaraswamy Pillai, Director (Marketing), Coir Board proposed Vote of Thanks to all who were involved and associated with the organization of the International Coir Tech Expo - 2012.