

## Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare visits KVK-Lakshadweep



Sushri. Shobha Karandlaje, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India visited KVK-Lakshadweep Islands on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2022. The Hon'ble Minister visited the KVK premises and glanced the technological innovations exhibition held here. She interacted with the farmer / entrepreneur beneficiaries of the KVK. The exhibits comprised of the innovations/ technologies of ICAR institutions/Universities that are suitable for the special agro-ecology of the islands and which are being tested/

demonstrated by the KVK. Seaweed farming activities of the ICAR-CMFRI in the islands was also highlighted. The Hon'ble Minister appreciated the efforts of the KVK and stressed on the need to identify more such technologies that would benefit coconut farmers, poultry growers and fishermen of Lakshadweep and help them overcome the farming, secondary production and marketing constraints.

A farmer's interaction meet with the farmers and KVK beneficiaries was held at Muttiar Beach, Kavaratti. The interaction meet was attended

by Shri. Amit Satija, Secretary (Finance), Shri. Shashank Mani Tripathi, Secretary (Agriculture), Shri. Rakesh Kumar, Director (Agriculture) and other officials of the UT administration of Lakshadweep. Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, Director, ICAR-ATARI informed the works carried out by the KVK in the islands and stressed for the convergence in development activities.

During the inaugural speech the Minister stressed on the importance of forming more Farmer Producers Organisation

(FPO) in promoting the value added products in coconut and fish. She also stressed to utilize the schemes by Central government in agriculture and allied areas.

The lead farmer beneficiaries of the KVK were also honoured in the function. The Minister also released the KVK times complied by KVK-Lakshadweep. The visit of the Minister, exhibition and the farmers meet was coordinated by the KVK Lakshadweep in the leadership of Dr. P. N. Ananth, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK-Lakshadweep.

