

Kerala School Agri Fest 2019 (Carnival of Child Farmers)

19-20 January 2019; Palakkad, Kerala State, India

Since 2010, Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) has been organising annual Children's Agri Science Congress to enthuse children to practice agriculture and deem farming as a dignified profession. CISSA could succeed to a greater extent in evolving a radical mindset change among schools, families and children upon the diverse benefits agriculture can cause. Each year, the Children's Agri Science Congress was held with a specific theme so as to inculcate among younger generation the right understanding about the scientific and social values inherent in agriculture.

For the past 7 years, each instance of the annual event could gather growing numbers of school children from all over Kerala, actively engaging in innovative farming practices, especially in the organic farming. Child prodigies could also set exemplary models of restoring a number of bygone cooking practices using local fruits, vegetables and leaves possessed with vast nutritional potential. The zest of thousands of enthusiastic children, and prudence of their parents and teachers were clubbed together to fetch global attention for the event. Ultimately, the Children Agri Science Congress of CISSA was conferred with prestigious Global Prize ESD Okayama Award of Japan in 2017.

Consequent to such rousing approval, CISSA has refurbished its resolve to hold the event in a more impressive way, encompassing more participants from all over Kerala. Pledged to ensure the participation of almost all schools in the State for the event, we have redesigned the event as 'Kerala School Agri Fest (K-SAF).

Kerala School Agri Fest (K-SAF 2019) was held during 19 and 20 January 2019 at Mariyumma Memorial Public School (MMPS), Pattambi, Palakkad, Kerala, India. The two day event was organised by Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) in association with various Governmental and Non Governmental Organisations.



The K-SAF 2019 programmes was declared open by Shri.P.Vijayan IPS, Inspector General of Police, Kerala State on 19th January 2019. A total of over 3100 students from 104 schools in Kerala State, India participated in the programme.



As part of K-SAF 2019, scientific presentations (both oral and poster) on different aspects of agriculture were made by students. Traditional Knowledge in Agriculture and Climate resilience was the focal theme and sub themes were Agro biodiversity, IT in agriculture, Cow-based agriculture, Medicinal Garden, Underutilized fruits and vegetables, Innovations in organic farming. Apart from scientific presentations there was theme based presentations on My School Farm and My Farm.

As a part of the programme exhibitions were arranged by students on topics including Agricultural implements of past and on diverse subjects such as “Seeds, Aquaponics, Food diversity, Weeds, Food from weeds, Bamboos, etc.



Quiz, Painting competitions, Cultural programmes including Folk songs (solo and group), Folk dance, One Act play and Short video films formed part of the event.

This programme was open to the public. There was a big gathering consisting of parents, teachers, students from nearby schools and the public.

The farmers who exhibited exemplary services to the development of agriculture were honoured during K-SAF 2019. These farmers along with scientists interact with the students on various themes related to agriculture.

Valedictory function was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, Govt. of Kerala Shri.K.Krishnankutty. The minister also gave away awards for the best school for the overall performance, best mentor and the students.

In addition, KSAF -GOONJ AWARD 2019 for the school that excelled in harnessing agriculture in their academic life were given to 11 schools.



About CISSA:

Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) is a multi-disciplinary organisation endowed with a think tank comprising of scientists and professionals from all walks of life, who provides foresighted guidance and orientation for its diverse feats bridging science with the society. Through innovative and incisive initiatives on science and social matters, CISSA made its presence notable. CISSA gathers strength through sheer social responsibility, scientific temper and unblemished integrity with the execution of its responsibilities. CISSA strives for fostering the symbiotic existence of traditional and modern branches of science.

CISSA regularly organizes events to preserve biodiversity (Indian Biodiversity Congress), promote medicinal plants and Ayurveda (Global Ayurveda Fest), and promote local food & agrobiodiversity (ANNAM- National Food & Agrobiodiversity Festival), Jackfruit Festival for promoting the multifarious advantages of jackfruit and its tree as well as a unique Children's Agri Science Congress assembling a dazzling parade of school children around us and National Banana Festival. In order to redeem the issues of environment, society and development, CISSA has been organizing diverse activities on thrust areas such as Food,

Health & Nutrition, Ecology & Biodiversity, Agriculture, Energy, Clean Technologies, Waste Management, Indian Sciences, Public Health, Disaster Management, Water Conservation etc.

CISSA has been organising a number of awareness programmes for school children's at state level and national and international programmes with massive participations. *CISSA undertakes leadership training courses for the youth to join CISSA as volunteers and for internship.*

Currently CISSA is headquarters of Regional Centre for Expertise (RCE), Thiruvananthapuram acknowledged by UN University. CISSA is also a partner organization of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, International Persistent Organic Pollutants {POPs} Elimination Network IPEN) and International Year of Soils (2015).

As recognition of its commendable work, CISSA has received several awards:

1. Best Organisation for Biodiversity Conservation- The State Biodiversity Award 2017 from Kerala State Biodiversity Board
2. Global Prize of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) – Okayama Award, Japan 2017- Children's Agriculture Science Congress
3. Metro Mart's Food Innovation Award 2018- National Banana Festival 2018
4. Medibiz Ayur Excellence Award 2017 - Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF)
5. Sresta Seva Puraskaram 2016- Jackfruit promotion