



**Workshop on Challenges
and Prospects of Banana
Cultivation in Kerala**

28 October, 2023

at

PPRI, Thiruvananthapuram

Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI)

Kaimanam, Pappanamcode P.O.

Thiruvananthapuram , Kerala-18

The crisis in the farm sector is an extension of the general economic crisis inflicting all sectors in varying degrees since the onset of trade liberalisation in the country in 1991. The gravity of the crisis has been acute for those who reproduce in the periphery of market relations. Petty commodity producers and wage labourers have been pushed to utter penury as the crisis started engulfing the crop production sector, especially the perishable food crops with very short shelf life. One of such crops, which has been subjected to violent volatility in price, is banana and other plantain. More than one lakh hector of total cropped area in Kerala is under banana and other plantain cultivation. Recently, it is reported that there has been a sharp decline in area, production and productivity of the crop. The objective of the workshop is to identify the problems of banana cultivators for the market with a view to formulate a state level policy for farmers.

As compared to other crops, banana is cultivated mostly in low lying wetland, previously used for paddy cultivation. As paddy cultivation ceased to exist, paddy land owners lease out the land to agriculture labours or full time farmers, who own only a small patch of land, which is too small to eke out a living. The tenant farmer pay ground rent, meet the production cost for almost 12-14 months and the price of the crop in the market compensate for the labour hours expended. Banana and other plantain fetches a higher price during festival seasons like Onam and if the crop is not harvested and sold during the season, farmers are bound to fall in deep

red. It has been noted that the climate change has shattered the availability of water and more over, compounded further by a drought or flood in every three years in the state. Crop attack by wild animals is yet another menace faced by farmers. All these factors have posed serious challenges to banana and other plantain cultivation in the state.

Against this backdrop, the workshop discusses the challenges faced by farmers. It is expected that the deliberation in the consultative workshop would help to evolve a state policy for banana and other plantain cultivators in Kerala.

Target Group

- ◆ Academicians, Policy Makers
- ◆ Research Scholars and Social Scientists
- ◆ Farmers and SHGs of Farmers
- ◆ Farmers' Union
- ◆ Social Activists, Government Officials, including Agriculture Officers and Experts

For contacts:

9495370643

info@ppri.org.in