

समृद्धि इबलानवेदीं

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

ICAR-ATARI Bengaluru NEWSLETTER



January to March, 2022

Volume - 3 : Issue - 1

Felicitation to Padma Shri Awardee Amai Mahalinga Naik: The Tunnel Man of Karnataka

A focal function to felicitate Amai Mahalinga Naik – The Tunnel Man of Karnataka was organised on 31.01.2022 at 4.00 PM in ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dakshina Kannada, Mangaluru during the 12th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meet. It was attended by about 58 farmers, officers from various Institutions, students and KVK staff.

Dr. Chethan N. Scientist (Fisheries) welcomed the chief guests, farmers, officers from various Institutions, students and KVK staff. Dr. T. J. Ramesha, Senior Scientist and Head narrated the contribution of Amai Mahalinga Naik who has been selected as one of the Padma Shri awardees this year for his contribution towards agriculture



Dr. N. A. Patil, Director of Extension, KVAFSU, Bidar presided over the function. Dr. Hemla Naik, Director of Extension, KSNUAHS, Shivamogga and Dr. Venkatasubramanian, Director ATARI, Bengaluru were chief guests.



Shri Amai Mahalinga Naik (Age 77 Years), an Innovative Farmer from Adyanadka village of coastal Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri Award - 2022 for transforming an arid sloping hill into a fertile farm through an Innovative Zero -Energy Micro-Irrigation System. He is known as “One-Man Army” and “Tunnel Man” in his surrounding areas.



Shri Amai Mahalinga Naik single handedly dug 6 Tunnels (Surangas) of 315 ft length to bring over water to his farm. He also constructed 300 percolation trenches alone in the hills surrounding the farm with around 5,000 large laterite stones that he carried himself to his farm. Shri Naik built two revetments (15-ft long, 30-ft wide and 5-ft high) and a tank of 12,000 litres capacity to fill-up the revetments. He turned a deserted and barren plot of land into a lush oasis supporting 300 arecanut palms, 75 coconut trees, 150 cashew trees, 200 banana saplings and pepper vines. In addition to this, he also keeps bees and produces azolla for his cows as a dietary supplement. Shri Naik's farm has become a model-farm land and has over 1,000 visitors every year including the foreign tourists.