

UNAI- MARIAN CHAPTER: WORKSHOP ON SDG

An International Workshop titled 'Sustainable Development Goals in the 21st Century' was organized at Marian College Kuttikkanam Autonomous on 1 & 2 of February 2019. The focus of the workshop was to promote sustainable agriculture which is linked to Goal # 2 of the UNSDG to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The event was jointly organized by the UNAI-ASPIRE Marian Chapter, Department of Applied Economics and KFUNAI. Dr.Sophia von Lieres, a scholar in the field of sustainable development inaugurated the workshop. The resource persons included Dr. T V Muralivallabhan, author of the book 'Dimensions of Sustainable Economic Development', Dr. Cherian P Kurien, academician and a practitioner of natural farming, Mr. Rony Joseph, Asia Coordinator of FIMARC and entrepreneurs and innovators from the farming community. One hundred and fifty students from different UNAI ASPIRE Chapters attended the workshop.

Field experience and hands-on training was organized in association with Peermade Development Society (PDS), an organization that has been successfully working for more than 20 years to bring about sustainable development in the region (Idukki district). Rev. Dr. Roy Abraham P, the Principal and the Chairman of UNAI-ASPIRE Marian Chapter presided over the function. The programme included farm visits, demonstration classes by farmers, a walk through the pristine nature, cultural night showcasing traditional and folk art forms etc.

There was a concept presentation competition for the participants. The best two teams that presented sustainable development models, bagged cash awards and certificates.

The programme followed a green protocol. There were no disposable cups, plates, bottles etc. used. The stationery items given were all eco-friendly, including the pen that was hand made with a seed inside each of it. Jute and cotton banners that were handmade were used.

The workshop ended with a green pledge. The participants took oath to take up measures to protect and conserve nature the best possible way.