

NITK professor's book on arecanut released

Mangaluru: A book titled 'Areca Nut - History, Constituents, Cancer & Beyond', authored by Dr Prasanna Belur, a Professor of chemical engineering at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Suratkal, was released at Campco in Mangaluru on Wednesday. The book provides a comprehensive exploration of arecanut, covering its historical, socio-economic, cultural, and scientific dimensions. NITK director Prof. B Ravi released the book. Dr Belur provides detailed scientific insights into the chemical constituents of areca nut, including arecoline, polyphenols, and tannins, while evaluating traditional medicinal claims against modern research findings. Importantly, the book addresses the controversial question of carcinogenicity, distinguishing between pure areca nut and products containing tobacco or additives, and emphasising that current experimental data are insufficient for conclusive assessments. The work also includes comparative analyses with cocoa and cocoa-derived compounds, showing how plant bioactives are studied in modern biomedical research. CAMPCO officials, including president S R Sathishchandra, Mahesh Puchhappady, president of the All India Areca Growers Association, and Vigneshwara Varmudy, retired associate professor of Economics, attended the function. ENS