

New techniques developed by KAU's Cocoa Research Centre will be adopted soon, says minister

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Agriculture Minister V S Sunil Kumar said that measures to popularise cocoa varieties, agro techniques and processing technologies developed by the Cocoa Research Centre of Kerala Agricultural University will be adopted.

Speaking after inaugurating a seminar organised by the

centre at Vellanikkara, the minister said that the ongoing research collaboration between KAU and confectionary company Cadbury is a perfect example of a successful and sustainable public-private partnership. Similar collaborations have to be formed and popularised, he said.

In his presidential address, KAU vice-chancellor R Chandrababu said that cocoa has

once again become popular among Indian farmers on account of remunerative prices and the ease in management.

"KAU has been leading cocoa research in the country for a long time and 90 per cent of cocoa cultivation in India was established with KAU's cocoa hybrid seedlings. Cocoa has been widely accepted by the farmers of Kerala as one of the most compatible crop for inter-crop-

ping in coconut, arecanut, rubber and oil palm plantations," he said.

Madakkathara panchayat president P S Vinayan, KAU general council members A Anilkumar, T Pradeep Kumar, P K Sreekumar and Sakkir Hussein, director of research P Indiradevi, director of extension Jiju P Alex and Cocoa Research Centre head B Suma also spoke at the seminar.