

Nano foods to play major role in future

STAFF REPORTER

THRISSUR

The first technical seminar of VAIGA 2017 has highlighted the need to develop nano foods to meet the rising demand for food.

The session started with a presentation by Dr. C. Anantharamakrishnan, Director, Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanja-

vur, followed by Dr. Cindy Vasudevappa, Vice Chancellor, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM). "The growth in food production in India continues to remain at the level of 2-3%. But with the population estimated to reach 160 crore by 2035 the food requirement will be 400 MT

and a major shift in growth rate has to be achieved. Food processing industry will have a major role to play in the development of agriculturer," the experts noted.

"Technological advancements like vacuum frying to reduce oil consumption, fortification and impregnation, automation and robotics and nanotechnology will play a

crucial role in the food processing industry," Dr. C. Anantharamakrishnan said

"Nutraceuticals play a major role in enhancing the life expectancy of humans. Reduction on particle size will help increase the absorption of nutrients. Nano foods will help to achieve this. Examples of nano food currently in market are canola active

oil, nano green tea and omega 3 bread. Robotics will help to minimise human involvement in product packing," he said. Dr. Cindy Vasudevappa introduced various machineries developed by NIFTEM to the audience. The opportunities in various food sectors and the skill development initiatives were also discussed in detail.