

Move to clear waste from paddy fields

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: The department of soil conservation will take steps to remove waste including plastic lying in the paddy fields in the district.

"We will approach the Clean Kerala company to help us clear the waste so that it can be disposed of in a proper way," said district soil conservation officer, Anuradha B S. She said that there is lot of hyacinths growing in the canals and steps will be taken to remove so that the water flow is not disrupted.

They plan to seek the support of the revenue department to check the encroached banks of the canals so that the depth and width of the canals can be increased. "We would get the clearing done through the MNREG workers at the panchayat level," she added.

The department expects to incur an expenditure of Rs 35 crore for these activities. A team of officials from the soil conservation department including a surveyor, two working superintendents among others is visiting the flood affected areas and collecting data from the flood victims in panchayats.

The current soil conservation pattern of the department

is aimed for the agricultural promotion. Soil Water Conservation Program (RIDF) is implemented from the fund allocated to the State Government for development of Water Resources from the National Agricultural Rural Development Bank's Infrastructure Development Fund.

The objective of the project is to prevent soil erosion by initiating the water conservation activities that support agriculture. The department also intends to provide protection against pest management in flood-affected areas. The project will also implement flood relief measures to ensure better infrastructure facilities for farming.

Under these watershed schemes, 90% subsidy fund will be allocated for implementing soil conservation measures for all land holders in the area. The department will also provide 95 percent subsidy assistance for construction of the lateral walls and the irrigation pond that will be beneficial for the area. Beneficiaries can directly apply for the scheme without the assistance of contractors.