

KAU videos to guide flood-hit farmers

Ramavarman.T@timesgroup.com

Thrissur: Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) has released 10 short videos to help farmers employ scientific practices for the resurrection of flood-affected crops and has decided to adopt Arimboor village to promote post-flood agrarian activities there.

"Having felt the need to educate rural farmers about the precise practices to be followed, the extension wing has come out with short videos on the management of probable post flood infestations as well as preparation of agents required in common cases. They will give instantaneous information to rural farmers," said KAU vice-chancellor R Chandrababu. He was speaking after releasing the videos on crop-wise practices at a function held

The 10 short videos explain steps to deal with soil issues and management of major crops in the post-flood scenario

at KAU headquarters, at Vellanikkara on Saturday.

The videos, with a duration of 90 seconds, are uploaded in KAU website and also shared with other stakeholders. The short videos explain steps to deal with soil issues, management of major crops such as coconut, paddy, pepper, cardamom, areca nut and nutmeg in the post-flood scenario and also the preparation of bordeaux mixture and value of tricoderma-enriched cow dung.

The VC said that the university was doing whatever possible to resurrect the farm sector

"We are working with the farmers and walking with the government. A detailed advisory on crop protection and management of pests and diseases has already been published," he said.

KAU director of extension Jiju P Alex said that the videos would be widely circulated through social media so that everyone concerned gets acquainted with scientific practices. Crop-wise leaflets in PDF form are also being circulated. "The help desks in various KAU units will facilitate direct interaction with farmers attending the programmes, while the videos can reach every nook and corner disseminating useful information," he said.

Registrar P S Geethakutty said the KAU would adopt Arimboor panchayat under the village adoption programme of

the university. The KAU will provide various scientific and technical inputs for the revival of farming activities to the farmers of Arimboor panchayat, which is one of the worst affected areas in the recent floods. Students from the College of Forestry and College of Horticulture under the KAU had already interacted with the farmers there to identify their problems. A team of students, teachers and staff from the KAU had already supported the cleaning up of the houses there, in the post-flood period.

K Vidyasagar, dean of the College of the Forestry, said KAU team had already collected samples of water from the wells in Arimboor for testing and to ensure water quality in the area. The university will also help the panchayat to prepare a flood map of the area.