

KAU team on exchange visit to US

Part of tie-up with Cornell University

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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Under an academic collaboration between the Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) and Cornell University, Ithaca, U.S., four students and a faculty member of the KAU will visit the university next week.

The KAU group consists of three post-graduate students Anirudh K.C. (agricultural economics) and Anunayana T. John (agricultural meteorology) from the College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara, and Deepa R. Chandran (plant pathology) and a third-year under-graduate student Sanoop Skaria Varghese from the College of Agriculture, Vellayani.

Rose Mary Francies, Professor, and Head, Department of Seed Science and Technology, College of Horticulture, is part of the team. The team will leave for the U.S. on October 13.

"The beginning of a sustainable collaboration for the benefit of our students and faculty will be flagged off by the Minister of Agriculture by handing over the scholarship to the select group. A function to herald the new initiative has been arranged on October 12," said R. Chandra Babu, KAU vice chancellor.

"The visit will allow the students and a faculty acquire advanced knowledge and help equip themselves

to address challenges like food shortage, hunger, and malnutrition through the International Agriculture and Rural Development course (IARD), 2019, offered by Cornell University," he said.

"The exchange programme will provide a platform to inculcate and imbibe the approaches followed at Cornell that can be emulated to enrich teaching, research, and academics at the KAU as well as bring about a paradigm shift in the approach to concerns of farmers," he said.

Three modules

The IARD course offered by Cornell University comprises three modules spread over nine months. The first module consists of lectures delivered by professors in different fields of crop sciences, food sciences and food technology, food marketing, rural development, nutrition, and biotechnology. The students have been attending the lectures through electronic medium since the last week of August.

The second module includes lectures and a comprehensive two-week immersion programme on the Cornell campus.

In the third module, the faculty and students from Cornell University will team up with the KAU group in a field trip in India.