

KAU forging global links

Students from foreign universities visit the university

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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The Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) is taking efforts to strengthen study exchange with international universities of global repute.

“Exposure to agricultural systems in other countries would help the students from different parts of the world to comprehend the challenges and opportunities of different systems so that they can mould pragmatic models for agricultural development in their home territories,” said the Vice-Chancellor Dr. R. Chandra Babu here on Wednesday.

He was addressing the students and faculty of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA, who are on a four-day visit to Kerala including KAU campus in Thrissur, as a part of the International Agriculture and Rural Development (IARD) course programme - 2019 of Cornell University, USA.

IARD course was an excellent opportunity for enterprising minds for cross country learning of agriculture and rural development, the VC said.

Team

The team consisting of foreign and Indian students along with Cornell and Indian faculty was in Kerala as part of their field trip, which forms the final module of IARD curriculum.

The course, which provides opportunity for experiential learning for the selected students in US and



Students from Cornell University, the U.S., and State Agricultural Universities visit KAU, Mannuthy, as part of study exchange programme.

India, helps to understand the fundamental processes and practices to address food and nutritional security and to design models for sustainable crop production and productivity enhancement through value addition and rural community empowerment.

After the third and final module of the course, the students would present a synopsis of the final theme of their project.

Farm segments

The trip includes visit to rural farm segments, industry houses and interaction with policy administrators. The KAU is helping to organise the schedule in Kerala, which includes visit to various research facilities in the KAU, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, and SHGs functioning in the agricultural sector.

The team, split in to three thematic groups namely

agricultural systems, rural infrastructure, and value addition based on the interest of the students, visited the hitech vegetable nursery and farm mechanisation unit under the Agricultural Research Station, Mannuthy, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, cocoa research unit, cashew research station, tissue culture facility, medicinal and aromatic plants nursery, and Central nursery on the first day, besides interacting with station heads and senior faculty members.

On the second day, they visited model polyhouse, biological control unit and micro biology unit, post harvest facility at Vellanikkara, and the dairy plant and meat technology unit of the veterinary university.

In the next two days, the team will visit various SHGs and NGOs including Kudumbasree units involved in activities connected with agricultural and allied sectors.