

# KAU should lead agricultural renaissance: Min

The link between KAU and the Agriculture Department will be strengthened, says minister

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Thrissur**

AGRICULTURE Minister V S Sunil Kumar on Friday inaugurated the new academic and research management block of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) on the university main campus.

He said the new block, named C Achutha Menon Memorial academic and research management block, is the fulfilment of a long-cherished dream of KAU. The improved infrastructure facilities should encourage creative thinking and research efficiency, he said.

"The government wants KAU to lead an 'agricultural renaissance' in the state. Researchers should play the lead role in this. Though the government will not interfere with KAU's autonomy, it will monitor its research activities to ensure research funds are being utilised to benefit the farming sector," Kumar said.

He said the link between KAU and the Agriculture Department will be strengthened and an action plan for it had been drawn in a meeting convened recently.

"KAU must step up and re-mould its activities to infuse life

into Kerala agriculture. The enormous research done and laudable results achieved should catalyse further growth and prosperity," he said.

He also laid the foundation stone for a new sports pavilion at Vellanikkara. While the 40,000 sqft KAU block was built with financial aid from ICAR, the pavilion is funded under the state plan.

In his presidential address, K Rajan MLA said the state government's commitment to the farming community is aptly reflected in the manner in which SBI was coerced to ensure financial support to the state's farmers.

Welcoming all, KAU Vice-Chancellor P Rajendran highlighted the infra-structural development achieved by the university in the past three years and the contributions it made for the benefit of the farming sector.

"The new building will pave the way for administrative efficiency and research quality enhancement," he said.

K V Vijayadas MLA and Madakkathara panchayat president P S Vinayan offered felicitations. Registrar S Leenakumari proposed a vote of thanks.



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V S Sunil Kumar,  
Agriculture Minister