

Call to resolve farmers' issues

STAFF REPORTER
KASARAGOD

Despite agriculture playing a major role in the country's economy, the sector is yet to receive the status it deserves, Revenue Minister E. Chandrasekharan has said. He said the State and Centre should join hands to resolve a host of issues faced by the farmers.

Mr. Chandrasekharan was inaugurating the 'Kisan conference' and a six-day 'Agri-business expo', hosted by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) to mark its foundation day and the silver jubilee of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra under it, here on Friday.

Farmers' views

He said farmers' views should be taken into account



Revenue Minister E. Chandrasekharan tries his hands on an agricultural implement displayed at an Agri-business expo at the CPCRI in Kasaragod on Friday. ■ K. VINAYA KUMAR

before evolving welfare measures like crop insurance schemes.

The Minister said it was time to make an introspec-

tion into whether the fruits of research taken up by institutions like the CPCRI were reaching the farmers at the desired level.

It was prudent to put in place a viable and scientific mechanism before applying chemical pesticides and fertilizers as their improper usage could cause serious health hazards as in the case of the indiscriminate use of endosulfan in Plantation Corporation's cashew plantations in Kasaragod, he said.

Underscoring the need to revive traditional organic farming methods, Mr. Chandrasekharan urged the officials to find ways to clear apprehensions of farmers on reduced yield while employing organic methods.

CPCRI director P. Chowdappa, Principal Agriculture Officer T.R. Usha Devi, and organising committee convener and Principal Scientist C. Thamban spoke.