

Farm devt-farmer welfare schemes integration sought



The farming fraternity is highly vulnerable to the drastic changes in the weather pattern and it directly affects the peasants' income. Though this poses a challenge, it also calls for new technologies and interventions, thereby opening a window of new opportunities

R Chandrababu,
KAU
Vice-Chancellor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE@Thrissur

DISTRICT Collector A Kowsigan on Monday called for a convergence of the farm development and farmer welfare programmes formulated by various agencies. Inaugurating the Technology Week of Thrissur Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) under the Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), the Collector said many programmes had been implemented by the Centre, state government and LSG bodies for the farming sector.

“Though they have different names and are implemented by different agencies, their objective is one and the same. Therefore a convergence of such programmes will make things easier for the implementing agencies and help realise the objectives faster,” he said.

“Policy formulation and implementation should realise the complexity of issues and adopt a simplistic approach. Changes in knowledge, attitude and skills will lead to performance and hence the technological inputs through forums like Technology Week are very important in equipping farmers,” he said.

KAU Vice-Chancellor R Chandrababu, in his presidential address, said researchers

should turn the challenge posed by climate change in to an opportunity.

“The farming fraternity is highly vulnerable to the drastic changes in the weather pattern and it directly affects the peasants’ income. Though this poses a challenge, it also calls for new technologies and interventions, thereby opening a window of new opportunities. The best approach is to boost productivity, develop resilient cultivators and technologies and reduce the carbon footprint,” he said.

According to the VC, “the success of research is measured by the farmers’ rate of adaptation. The KVKs play a key role in popularising new varieties and disseminating new agro techniques and tools in partnership with line departments, the LSGIs and the farmer groups”.

KAU director of extension Jiju P Alex spoke of the critical interventions of the Thrissur KVK and the theme of Technology Week- ‘Climate Change and Livelihood Security’ - in his welcome address. Vegetable Fruit Promotion Council Keralam district manager A Amja; associate director of research Asha Shankar and KVK head A Prema spoke. The award-winning farmers from the district were honoured at the function.