

‘KVKs have a big role in boosting rural economy’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Thrissur

KAU vice-chancellor R Chandrababu has called upon Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) to identify crops, cropping patterns and technologies that can facilitate improved income for farmers. Inaugurating the scientific advisory committee of the Thrissur KVK, Chandrababu stressed the role of technology in agricultural development. “India’s progress from a food-deficit country to a food-surplus country was triggered by research and transfer of technology,” he said. “The rate of return from these twin elements is high when compared to the investments. Having practised intensive agriculture to achieve this progress, we are now looking forward to new technologies to ensure food safety and nutritional security.”

KVKs have a major role to play in boosting the rural economy. The most pragmatic approach is identifying the problems faced by the farming community and replicating successful models to alleviate them, he said. “Reducing the gap between the yield obtained by enterprising farmers and the rest will lead to enhanced production and boost in income. The synergy of resources available in various departments will ensure better results. Always go for technologies affordable for farmers and measure the effect of improved varieties,” he said. D S Sreenivasa Reddy, principal scientist, ICAR Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Bengaluru, suggested that the action plan for KVKs should be formulated jointly by researchers, extension personnel and farmers.

Technologies should be comprehensive and result-oriented, he said. KAU director of extension Jiju P Alex said that technology development should emerge from the needs of farmers and problems faced by extension professionals so that concrete programmes can be devised. KVK head A Prema, officers from line departments, KAU units, farmer representatives and the lead bank manager participated.



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