

# Kole lands in Thrissur, Ponnani to try 'Irupoo'

## As per data

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THE Kole lands in Thrissur and Ponnani are getting ready for the 'Irupoo' (twice in a year) cultivation of rice from this year under the project 'Operation Double Kole'. Inaugurating the workshop for the Kole farmers, Agriculture Minister V S Sunilkumar invited the farmers to be a part of the mission. He also requested the willing Padasekhara Samithis (council of people for each set of paddy fields) to take the lead. As per the data, Kole lands were once cultivated twice a year, but as years went by, it shrunk to just one. The department, along with the Kerala Agriculture University, is bringing back the system in an effort to increase the rice production.

According to Deputy Director of Agriculture Gopidas MP, "Usually, the farmers start the de-watering procedures by September 15, which will be advanced this year as part of the mission."

A committee with the Principal Agricultural Officer as the chairman was formed in the meeting to monitor the steps. As per the instruction of the university, to conduct 'Irupoo', the draining of water should begin by August 15. So far, 20 Kole paddy field committees have expressed willingness to experiment 'Irupoo'. Of the 20, 12 will cultivate rice twice, while 8 will have paddy cultivation first and then for the second time they would cultivate

some vegetables like beans. "In order to cultivate twice a year, the university has prepared a strategy by compressing certain procedures of farming. Generally, it takes 20 to 30 days to drain the water with additional pump sets and assistance will be provided. Similarly, the land preparation like ploughing and planting will also be compressed. Harvesting during the first crop will also be reduced to five days," said U Jayakumar, CEO of Kerala State Agricultural Mechanisation.

The university suggested Maniratna or Jyothi seed varieties during the first crop in order to schedule the harvest. The seed varieties with a ripening period of 100 to 105 days will be suitable for cultivation, when it comes to

'Irupoo'. Jayakumaran added the university on an experimental basis will monitor the 'Irupoo' cultivation in 1,800 acres at West Karimpadom and other adjacent regions. The department plans to try two-time cultivation in 10,000 acres in a certain proportion of paddy-pulses, paddy-vegetables and paddy alone.



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