

KAU honours award-winning tribal society

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THRISSUR

The Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) honoured the Thayannan Kudy tribal society of Idukki, which was given the National Plant Genome Saviour Award for 2015-16. The award was declared in November.

KAU Vice Chancellor R. Chandrababu honoured the members of the society at the university headquarters at Mannuthy on Friday.

The settlement, situated in the Chinnar wildlife sanctuary, has a population of 150, in 42 houses.

Their commitment to con-

serving cereals and millets, spices, tubers, vegetables, fruits and rice won them the award given by Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Authority under the Union government.

Diverse crops are conserved in this hamlet, including 17 varieties of millet, us-

ing traditional farming practices. The tribal society was guided to the recognition by the KAU IPR Cell.

"KAU has been in the forefront of activities to help farmers gain recognition. The number of Plant Genome Saviour Awards won by Kerala farmers is a testi-

mony to it," he said. The members presented seeds of traditional varieties to the Vice Chancellor, who promised to preserve them in the seed bank of KAU.

Dr. Chandrababu said the GI application for Tirur Vettilla had been submitted by the university.