

Governor: Find ways for profitable farming

634 students receive degrees during convocation



Ceremonial welcome: Governor P. Sathasivam being escorted to the convocation of Kerala Agriculture University in Thrissur on Friday. ■ K.K. NAJEEB

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Governor P. Sathasivam has called upon young graduates and researchers of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) to explore ways of enhancing the profitability of farming and adding value to the produce at every stage, from the seed to the end user.

He was speaking after inaugurating the convocation ceremony of the university at University Central Auditorium at Mannuthy on Friday.

Food security

He said the KAU, right from its inception in 1972, had been in the forefront of developing and fine-tuning the human resources needed to fulfil the great mission of ensuring food security through effective agricultural progress.

“Through the release of 333 varieties of different crops, the development of planting varieties, and, above all, through scholarly guidance on the best farming

practices, the university has positioned itself in the hearts of the people,” he said. He said it was a matter of pride that two of the 119 varieties of rice developed by the KAU were now occupying over 80% of the cropped area in the State.

With seven colleges, six regional agriculture research stations, seven Krishi Vigyan Kendras, 15 research stations, and 16 research extension units under the faculties of agriculture, agricultural engineering and forestry, the KAU is a major institution catering to the needs of Kerala farmers and fostering agricultural education in the State, said KAU Vice Chancellor R. Chandrababu.

‘Floods, an opportunity’

The KAU is intensely involved in research that had immediate socio economic impacts, said Minister of Agriculture V.S. Sunil Kumar.

The recent floods had badly affected the State, especially Kuttanad, Idukki and Wayanad, regions of

great agricultural importance.

The floods had provided an opportunity to view Kerala’s models of development critically and adopt feasible alternatives. The activities of the university showed that it was truly committed to develop sustainable technologies, he said.

Key role

The KAU had played a key role in framing specific strategies to realise the objective of doubling farmers’ income in the State, Guest of Honour Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE, Director General, ICAR, New Delhi, said.

A total of 634 students, including 273 graduates, 260 postgraduates, 34 PhD holders and 67 diploma holders, received their degrees.

Medals distributed

The Governor distributed medals to rank holders. K.P. Sudheer, Professor, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering, has been selected for the best teacher award this year.