

KAU to focus on technologies for climate resilience in farming

General council holds meeting to chalk out strategies for post-flood rebuilding

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The Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) General Council has resolved to reorient the research focus on developing technologies for climate resilience in agriculture.

The special meeting of the council convened to discuss post-flood agricultural scenario and chalk out strategies for rebuilding the State farm sector here on Saturday also decided to establish a data management centre and department of remote sensing studies in the university to aid flood mapping with emerging technologies.

Vice Chancellor R. Chandra Babu briefed the house about the extent of damage caused to the agricultural sector by the August floods.



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R. CHANDRA BABU
Vice Chancellor, KAU

He presented the estimate of losses prepared by various agencies and explained the parameters adopted by KAU for estimation.

The VC said the university had issued crop-specific and area-wise advisories for farmers and revised the nutrient management prescriptions for different soil types. It had also conducted farmer interfaces and training pro-

grammes to aid post-flood farm management, he noted.

The council members stressed the need for problem-oriented and farmer-friendly research approach and coordination between different R&D institutions. Farm implements for small holdings need to be developed and production of quality planting materials needs to be enhanced with farmer participation.

There was a proposal to explore the nutritive component of bamboo. Research on invasive plants and intervention in post-harvest management of horticultural crops were also mooted.

The VC informed the council that the university was providing technology backup for initiatives of the

government in greening the State.

“A critical analysis of the long history of tree planting ventures in the State reveals the poor progress due to improper site-species selection, inferior planting materials and unscientific management practices. We have to focus on strategies that take care the local needs such as food and nutrition, fodder, green manure and timber within the overarching milieu of ecological and environmental adaptability,” Dr: Chandra Babu said.

The meeting was attended by MLAs K. Rajan, K.V. Vijayadas and M. Vincent, Executive Committee members A. Anil Kumar, K. Aravindakshan and T. Pradeep Kumar, and Registrar P.S. Geethakutty.