

'Link between KAU and agri dept to be strengthened'

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Thrissur: The government has drawn up an action plan to strengthen the linkage between Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) and department of agriculture, said agriculture minister VS Sunilkumar said here on Friday.

He was speaking after inaugurating the new Academic and Research Management block of (KAU) at the University main Campus.

He said the thrust of the linkage initiatives would be to ensure that the researches carried out at the KAU would lead to hike in the agricultural productivity and the income levels of the farmers.

The researches should no longer be confined to the laboratories, but their results must get reflected in the farms. The government does not want to interfere with the autonomy of the KAU, but there will be regular monitoring of the research projects and their results at the highest levels, and a system has been put in place for this, the minister added.

He said a coordination committee of the senior scientists and officials from the KAU and the agricultural department will meet regularly to ensure linkage between the university and the farms.

"Government wants the University to lead an agricultural renaissance in the state. Researchers should play the lead role in this," the minister said.

Pointing out there are several Central agricultural research institutions are working in Kerala, the minister said he would discuss with the director general of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) how an effective linkage between laboratories and farms can be achieved.

Minister also laid the foundation stone for a new sports pavilion at Vellanikkara. While the 40,000 sq.ft Academic and Research Management Block is built with financial aid of ICAR, sports pavilion is funded under state plan.