

HANDS-ON

'Agri innovations must reach farmers'

The Centre will take initiatives to ensure that new technologies and results from universities and research stations of the country reach the farmers directly, says Union Agriculture Minister

Reach-out initiative

The Union Minister said that many innovations were taking place in the field of agriculture at universities and research stations in the country. But the result of the researches did not reach the farmers at the right time and this is affecting the production of farm produce

To remedy this, the government plans to arrange a meeting between the higher officials of the Agriculture Department and the scientists every three months

Plans for Kerala

State Agriculture Minister says there are plans to allot agro-parks in all districts in the state, of which four would be dedicated to coconut products



Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunilkumar presenting an 'Aranmula metal mirror' to Union Minister for Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh at a function at CPCRI, Kayamkulam, on Thursday | EXPRESS

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UNION Minister for Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh said that the Central Government would take initiatives to ensure that the new technologies and research results, which evolved in agricultural research stations and universities in the country, reach all the farmers. He was speaking after inaugurating the National Farmers' Meet at the Central Planta-

tion Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) at Kayamkulam near here on Thursday.

The Minister said that many innovations were taking place in the field of agriculture were at universities and research stations in the country. But the result of the researches did not reach the farmers at the right time and this is affecting the production of farm produce, he said. So the government is planning to arrange a get-together of higher officials of the Agriculture Department

and scientists every three months, the Minister added. He said that the irrigation and road projects envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi helped in the basic infrastructure development of the villages of the country. The project to avoid middlemen from the marketing sector of urea has attained its goal, he claimed. "States should be alert on the timely and effective spending of Central funds. The Central Government will allot sufficient fund to the state after implementation of allocated projects," the minister added. He said that the Centre would also allocate funds for the establishment of soil testing laboratories in each panchayat in the state.

State Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunilkumar, who presided over the meeting, said that the state government would allot agro-parks in all districts in the state to produce value-added products from agricultural produce.

Out of these, four agro-parks would be based on coconut products, Sunilkumar said. MP K.C. Venugopal requested the minister to increase the export tax of palmolein.

Kayamkulam municipal chairman N. Sivadasan, Agricultural Production Commissioner Raju Narayana Swami, Agricultural Director Biju Prabhakar, CPCRI director P. Choudappa and Kayamkulam regional head V. Krishnakumar spoke on the occasion.



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Radha Mohan Singh,
Union Agriculture Minister