

# 'Global market for coconut products from State'

H 3  $\frac{12}{16}$

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** Kerala has the potential to become a major player in the burgeoning global market for coconut-based products, according to Uron M. Salum, Executive Director, Asia and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC).

Mr. Salum, who is in the city to participate in the international workshop on agro-processing and value addition organised by the Agriculture Department, said coconut-based liquid products such as virgin coconut oil, coconut water, and coconut milk were expected to see substantial value growth in the near fu-

ture. Coconut water was likely to register the highest market growth, he said while addressing a technical session at the workshop.

Kerala, he said, could harness its inherent advantages to tap emerging markets for coconut products.

Hemant Dholakia, Manager, Product Development, Tetrapak, Singapore, said the coconut water market was picking up in North America, Europe and Asia.

Krishna Kumar, Head, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kayamkulam, said efforts were on to come up with new varieties of palms yielding coconuts weighing up to 750 g.