

Kera Gramams to give boost to coconut farming

Agri Initiative

13 Kera Gramams will be set up in Malappuram district to boost coconut farming

The department has selected Peruvalloor, Edavanna, Thazhekkode, Irimbiliyam, Veliyancode, Thalakkad, Wandoor, Edappal, Cherukavu, Pandikkad, Angadippuram, Anakkayam and Chaliyam panchayats for the project.

Farmers will be given assistance to prepare compost units and setting up local coconut tree sapling nurseries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
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THE Agricultural Department is all set to bring a boost to the coconut farming in the district by launching 13 Kera Gramams in the district. The exclusive project will extend financial and technical assistance to coconut farmers and will help them make basins around coconut trees, plant more saplings, remove unproductive trees and increase production.

The department has selected Peruvalloor, Edavanna, Thazhekkode, Irimbiliyam, Veliyancode, Thalakkad, Wandoor, Edappal, Cherukavu, Pandikkad, Angadippuram, Anakkayam and Chaliyam panchayats for the project.

"Our prime intention is to increase production and ensure farmers proper ir-

rigation facilities," said Agriculture Department deputy director N U Sadanandan. The project is a joint venture of the department and local bodies. Besides, assistance will be sought from the Irrigation Department to help farmers meet their watering requirements.

Apart from developing irrigation facilities, farmers will be given assistance for preparing compost units and setting up local coconut tree sapling nurseries.

As per the plan, ₹97 lakh will be given to each panchayat. The amount includes allocation of ₹22 lakh from the civic bodies. Coconut is the prime crop in Malappuram, where around 1.5 crore coconut trees are grown in more than one lakh hectares of land. The formal launch of the project will be held by the end of July.

