

KVK launches farm service centre

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: In an effort to address the shortage of skilled labourers for farming activities, the Ernakulam Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has launched a farm service centre equipped with a wide range of farm machineries and equipment. Farmers in the district can avail the paid service for all kinds of farm initiatives.

The centre is equipped with machineries such as tractors, power tiller, power weeder, different types of ploughs, rotavators, earth augers, motorized and hand-operated sprayers, rice transplanter, agri waste shredder, slurry pump and water pump. In addition, scientific advisories will be provided during farm visits.

"The new initiative of KVK will be beneficial to



CMFRI director A Gopalakrishnan inaugurates the farm service centre of Krishi Vigyan Kendra at the institute on Tuesday

hundreds of farmers in the district who face shortage of skilled labourers," said CMFRI director A Gopalakrishnan. "The farm service centre has been set up with a cost of Rs 40 lakh under a project of the Union government to popularize mechanised farming," he said.

"Presently, trained staff

of KVK provide technical services such as land preparation, pond preparation, fish cage fabrication and ploughing. Self-help groups will be formed in the future to make farm services available to large-scale farmers. More equipment and machinery will be added," he said.

"At present, the farm ser-

vice centre is focusing on the seasonal works of paddy land preparation as the monsoon has arrived," said KVK head and senior scientist Shinoj Subramannian.

"In just three days, we got around Rs 23,000 by leasing out tractors, and tractor service for 100 hours have already been booked. We have been receiving a lot of enquiries about the services of the centre," Subramannian said. He added that KVK did a study on the requirements of farmers before setting up the centre, and found that there is a huge market for mechanized sector in agriculture.

To avail the services of the centre, farmers can register their names by contacting KVK at 8089434479. Those who are trained in agromachinery operation and interested to take part of the mission can also register their names by contacting KVK.