

# Carbon neutrality: Kerala has an edge, says expert

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**Kochi:** Kerala has an edge over other states to achieve zero-emission status, provided it identifies its carbon emission sources and reduces it by adopting good agriculture practices and green-friendly transportation, said Prof Kadambot Siddique.

Siddique told TOI on the sidelines of the 16th Agricultural Science Congress that achieving carbon neutrality is not easy as emissions from farms and outside need to be calculated. Kerala is looking to make all its seed farms carbon neutral.

“Emissions from paddy crops, methane burps from the farm animals, use of fertilizers, tractors and other machinery constitute in-farm emissions while transport of chemicals to the farm and movement of products from it, too, account for emissions. You can offset them by planting fruit trees which are carbon sinks. Use of bio-organic manure can help reduce fertilizer usage,” he added. The sta-



Achieving carbon neutrality is not easy, says agro-economist Prof Kadambot Siddique

te has an advantage of having 30% forest cover, good rainfall, and non-coal power plants, he said.

Siddique is a renowned agro-economist from the University of Western Australia who works with agriculture and food industries in Australia to improve crop production and sustainable agriculture. At the science congress, he spoke on international collaboration in research. He will be the lead speaker at a programme being organized by the agriculture department on 'carbon-neutral farming' in Aluva on Friday.