

Vembanad revival on district agenda

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Ernakulam district panchayat will consider restoration of Vembanad Lake ecosystem and conservation of traditional Pokkali farms as its future development initiatives, president K G Radhakrishnan said. He was speaking after inaugurating a brainstorming workshop

ICAR-CMFRI WORKSHOP

held at ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on Tuesday as part of the nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan'.

Highlighting the body's upcoming plans, he said a comprehensive study will be carried out to formulate a viable proposal with an aim to boost agriculture and allied activities in district.

He also announced plans to explore farm tourism. "District panchayat's 235-acre farm at Neriamangalam will be developed into a centre of excellence by tapping its potential for farm tourism," he said, adding that steps would be taken to strengthen urban horticulture.

Emphasising the importance of restoring soil fertility, the panchayat president urged stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices, including soil test-based fertiliser application, integrated nutrient management and greater use of organic manures alongside chemical fertilisers.

In an effort to make farming profitable, Radhakrishnan suggested integrated farming systems aligned with market demand, saying it would be more sustainable and profitable than conventional monocropping practices.