

Kerala agri body launches sugarcane farming demo

Our Bureau

Kochi

In an attempt to produce quality jaggery, the Ernakulam Krishi Vigyan Kendra of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has launched a demonstration of sugarcane farming at Alangad, Karumaloor and Neerikkode areas in the district.

As part of this, KVK planted sugarcane variety CO 86032 released by ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore for jaggery purpose in 1 hectare. The KVK is also planning to establish a jaggery production unit near Alangad by the time of harvesting the crop in next December.

Dilip Kumar, Principal Scientist from ICAR-Indian

Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow visited the farming sites and interacted with the farmers.

REVIVING SUGARCANE

He assured technology backstopping from IISR on setting up the jaggery unit. The sugarcane farming that existed in the area can be revived and the jaggery can be GI tagged.

The expected cane yield is likely to be 100 tonnes, of which 10 tonnes of jaggery can be produced.

The demonstration's main objective is to produce chemical-free quality jaggery and establish a branded marketing channel to revive the glory of age-old Alangadan Sharkara (Alangad Jaggery), said Shinoj Subramannian, Principal Scientist and Head of the KVK.