

# Farmers should get power to decide price: Minister

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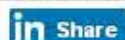
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*Says acreage under cultivation has come down*

The continuing crisis in the agriculture sector would be resolved only when farmers attained the supreme power to determine the price of the commodity, said Minister for Power Aryadan Mohammed.

He was speaking after inaugurating a neera production plant of the Coconut Farmers Producers Company, here, on Monday.

Mr. Mohammed said the State was currently witnessing a reduction in the total area of cultivation though there was slight improvement in production. "Even the existing regulations in the State were found ineffective in preventing the shrinking area of agriculture land," he shared.

Explaining the untapped opportunities in the farm sector, Mr. Mohammed said the sector would survive only with the marketing of value-added products like 'neera'. He said the government had already sanctioned Rs.10 crore for promoting 'neera' ventures in the State and it would be made available for all eligible entrepreneurs. The Minister also launched the new products from the Coconut Farmers Producers Company. District Cooperative Bank president Manayath Chandran chaired the function.