



Chief Minister Oommen Chandy tasting Neera after inaugurating the Neera plant set up at the College of Agriculture at Padannakkad in Thrissur

'Neera to Raise Coconut Farmers' Earnings'

Express News Service

Thrissur: Chief Minister Oommen Chandy appreciated the efforts of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) in developing a fool-proof technology for producing Neera.

Inaugurating the Neera plant set up at the College of Agriculture (CoA) at Padannakkad, the Chief Minister said that Neera production is bound to increase coconut

farmers' earnings and KAU's contribution in this regard will always be remembered as a milestone in farmer-friendly technology development. Congratulating KAU Vice-Chancellor and the scientists for their achievement, Oommen Chandy lauded KAU's various achievements.

He said that the government views KAU as an important institution in the state and hence, all its re-

quirements will be considered in a positive manner. The CM also inaugurated the new farm office, PG Block and Ladies Hostel annexe on the occasion. Agriculture Minister K P Mohanan, in his presidential address, said that a centre of excellence in Organic agriculture will be established at Nileswaram as a part of the centenary celebrations of Nileswaram agricultural farm which is attached to CoA. The minister

promised full financial backing for the new centre, which will spearhead activities aimed at making Kasargod the first fully organic district in the state. KAU VC P Rajendran highlighted the fact that the university is the first institution to develop a quality ensured technology for Neera production.

The VC also stressed that the university is committed towards ensuring food safety and food security.