

Neera producers welcome incentives

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Neera producers welcomed the various incentives declared by finance minister KM Mani in his budget. Rs 10 crore was set apart for giving Rs 10,000 subsidy for training a neera technician. Also government will give financial support to each coconut producer company, for plant and machinery. The maximum limit will be 25% of the cost or Rs 50 lakh, whichever is higher. On top of this there will be equity support to the Farmer Producer Companies to the tune of 25% of the amount raised by the farmers. Rs 10 crore was allocated for this. Packaged neera will be served as one of the beverages in all public functions and government accommodations, the minister said.



"We have collected Rs 3 crore as equity from the shareholders and are expecting to collect Rs 5 crore towards the end of March. With the budget proposals, we will get Rs 1.25 crore as equity from the government," said P Vinodkumar, chairman of Palakkad Coconut Producers Company Ltd. "We will get Rs 50 lakh for plant and machinery," he said.

Shajahan Kanjiravilayil, chairman, Kaipuzha Coconut Producer Company Ltd, said the subsidy for training neera technicians will be of great help to his company which is the first neera producing company in the state. "We already have 110 neera technicians, which we expect to go beyond 400 in the future," he said.