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Coconut farmers take to streets for more funds, land



Kera Karshaka Confederation activists taking out a Collectorate march in Kannur on Monday against the State's 'anti-farmer policies.' — PHOTO: S.K. Mohan

Venting out their resentment over the 'lax' attitude shown to the issues faced by coconut producing units, various coconut producers took out a massive march to the District Collectorate here on Monday.

The major demands raised by the units, which rallied under the platform of Kasaragod Coconut Producer Company Ltd, include allocation of budgetary provisions, announced in 2013-14 and 2014-15, made for the coconut farmers.

They also called for desisting moves to bring Neera production under the Abkari section.

The protestors also demanded interest-free loans to the farmers. The other demands raised during the Statewide march include allotting requisite land to set up companies to explore value-added coconut production.

The companies, thus set up, should be entrusted with the procurement of raw coconuts to help farmers get better market for their produces. The farmers are planning to stage indefinite hunger strike in front of the Secretariat from May 18.

The march was inaugurated by C.H. Kunhambu, former MLA.