

# Forum to set up Neera plant at Muthalamada

Special Correspondent

**PALAKKAD:** The Muthalamada Federation of Coconut Producers Societies (MFCPS), which secured licence from State government to commercially manufacture the sweet toddy-based health drink, Neera, began the process of setting up a plant for the purpose.

"The first phase will use sweet toddy from 1,500 coconut trees of the region," said MFCPS chairman P Vinod. Other than MFCPS, nine coconut producers' societies in the district have also got permission to extract Neera and market it commercially.

Together they can collect sweet toddy from 15,000 coconut trees. As per the plan, over 36,000 litres of Neera would be processed per day in the district by all the societies. The plant would come up on a one-acre plot in Muthalamada under the initiative of MFCPS, but it can be used by other societies.

The Coconut Development Board has allocated Rs. 50 lakh for setting up the plant. Beneficiary farmers would be selected as per the norms of the board. Over 3,000 jobs would be created and each coconut tree owner would get an average of Rs. 18,000 as income every six months.