

# Neera Products Launched

**Kochi:** Innovative Coconut Neera Products developed by SCMS Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology in association with the Coconut Development Board were jointly launched by Coconut Development Board chairman T K Jose and SCMS chairman GPC Nayar, at SCMS Campus, Kalamassery. The value-added products include fresh and processed Neera as green health drink, Neera Honey, Neera Sugar and Syrup.

Speaking on the occasion, T K Jose said the excise rules regarding production and marketing of Neera are expected to be amended shortly. These products have the potential to significantly improve the state revenue and income of coconut farms.

If the government permits tapping of 10 per cent of the coconut trees in the state for Neera, more than one lakh technicians will secure employment in the state, he added.

GPC Nayar mentioned that the association with CDB has helped SCMS to undertake the research projects.

Shaji, the Neera technician, who has been trained for Neera tapping explained the tapping process. A joint certification programme with CDB for training Neera technicians will be rolled out by SCMS shortly. ENS