

Coconut Development Board to associate with colleges

Special Correspondent

KOCHI: The Coconut Development Board will launch a research project in collaboration with various educational institutions. The services of colleges with post-graduate departments in botany, zoology and biotechnology will be utilised in schemes for germination of hybrid coconut seedlings and raising nurseries.

The board is planning to produce 5 lakh disease-resistant and high-yield seedlings a year through artificial pollination and hybridisation technique.

Training

It will provide training in hybridisation technique.

The board is offering support for the research project

- **Board to launch a research project**
- **To produce five lakh high-yield seedlings every year**

under Technology Mission on Coconut (TMOC).

The projects will be implemented in 15 colleges in the State in the initial phase.

Production

The production of seedlings is scheduled to begin in 2013-14. It is expected that a single college can produce about 50,000 seedlings a year.

Those colleges and departments having adequate infrastructure facility for carrying out research can for-

ward their project proposal to the board.

The colleges will be given 50 per cent of the cost of the project.

Focus

The projects can focus on topics such as integrated pests and disease management in coconut, finding adulteration in coconut oil, and health benefits of coconut.

Special projects which could benefit coconut farming community are solicited.

Details

For details, contact Remany Gopalakrishnan, Deputy Director (phone: 94470 96553); or Jayasree, Senior Technical Officer (944447 27543) or visit www.coconutboard.nic.in.