

TNAU to initiate 'corporate' farming in villages

Amutha Kannan

COIMBATORE: To make farming effective in terms of maximum yield using minimum investment, equipment and labour, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has come up with the proposal of initiating 'corporate' farming in villages.

Since the concept of co-operative farming was not successful, the university has shifted its focus on corporate or group farming to ensure that the farmer gets the highest possible profit by bringing the vendor or trader to him.

According to TNAU Vice-Chancellor P. Murugesu Boopathi, the university is planning to adopt villages which are willing to accept the proposal of corporate farming.

“The university will take the lands of the farmers who want to be part of the project and will hold them in toto as a single piece. Cropping pattern will be decided on the nature of the soil. University scientists will do everything from choosing the water source and land levelling to harvesting, marketing and value-addition. Once the system stabilises in two or three years, the university will hand over the project to the farmers who will carry on the same pattern,” Mr. Boopathi said.

Explaining the reason behind initiating the concept, the Vice-Chancellor said this was aimed at minimum utilisation of resources for the optimum good.

Farmers did not have to make expensive investments individually. It was enough if there were one or two tractors, a single water source and also a single common loan.

The university would ensure that the group derived maximum yield by putting to use all its “hi-tech” technologies.

Three years were enough to break even or make a profit. Since one or two crops would be cultivated on a vast expanse of land, it would attract vendors to tap the opportunity to use a single source to buy the produce.

The Vice-Chancellor said that farmers were hesitant to adopt any kind of sharing-based approach in farming.

But they had to realise that this was the only way to combat decreasing resources in terms of land, labour shortage, and market-related problems.