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100 cooperative societies keen to export value-added farm produce'

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The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Over 100 cooperative societies from Kerala have come forward to export value-added farm produce. It would be apart from the 30 societies with which agreement had been reached for exporting such produce, Cooperation Minister V.N. Vasavan said in Kochi on Tuesday.

He was addressing the media after flagging off the first container with 12 tonnes of value-added farm produce from the Valarpadam International Container Transshipment Terminal to the United States. The consignment included tea dust, coconut oil, frozen and dried tapioca with masala, dried jackfruit, tea, and vacuum-fried banana chips, from three societies. More such items will be exported in the coming days.

The export of such value-added items to the U.S. and Europe would invigo-



Cooperation Minister V.N. Vasavan with packets of value-added farm produce that were exported to the U.S. from Kochi, on Tuesday.

rate the State's agricultural sector and open up employment opportunities. Personnel from 30 cooperative societies were imparted training at Kumarakom. Financial help will be offered in the form of loans at 1% interest for amounts up to ₹2 crore, having seven years' repayment tenure. This is inclusive of government subsidy. The amount ought to be used to build godowns and cold-storage facilities. A dedicat-

ed office will be readied in Kochi to coordinate the export process, while a Kothamangalam-based firm has been tasked with coordinating the process.

Next phase

The items mulled for export in the next phase include molasses, coconut milk, and passion fruit. More items that pass the quality test will be exported. Cooperative societies have so far readied 420 va-

lue-added farm produce. This could be a reason why Kerala was the sole Indian State to be invited for a meeting of cooperation ministers from 30 countries. The Kerala Bank had 823 branches at present, said Mr. Vasavan.

Dubai ship

He added that the State government was making efforts to launch a Kochi-Dubai passenger ship service. Two agencies have been selected for the purpose. Preliminary works worth ₹12 crore are under way for the launch of coastal cruise services from ports in the State to those in other States and countries. The cooperative sector will also be involved in tourism and export from the Vizhinjam port.

A total of 32 cranes have arrived from China at the port. T.V. Subhash, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, and M.G. Ramakrishnan, coordinator of exports, were present.



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First International Dairy Federation summit from today

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The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), and the International Dairy Federation (IDF) are jointly organising the first IDF Regional Dairy Conference Asia Pacific-2024 from June 26 to 28 in Kochi.

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh will deliver his address virtually. J. Chinchurani, Kerala's Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister; Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, Ministry of Coop-

eration; Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and President, Indian National Committee of IDF; and Meelesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB, and Member Secretary, Indian National Committee of IDF, will take part in the event.

The three-day conference is being held at Grand Hyatt, Bolgatty.

Themed 'Farmer-centric innovations in dairying', the event will feature insightful deliberations bringing together leaders and experts from the global dairy sector. The goal was to collectively address key issues affecting the dairy sector, particularly in

the Asia Pacific region and globally, said a communication here.

Mr. Shah said the sessions promised to showcase global and regional perspectives on dairy farming and innovation. They will explore ways to enhance productivity, ensure transparency in milk aggregation, and promote sustainable practices. From addressing climate challenges to advocating for One Health principles, the discussions will spark meaningful dialogue and provide actionable insights.

More than 1,000 delegates and participants from over 20 countries will take part in the event.