

Agri College to Get New Research Centres

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Madurai: As part of its golden jubilee celebrations, the Agricultural College and Research Institute (AC&RI), Madurai, would get a new centre of excellence for innovation, a first of its kind in the country in the field of agriculture.

Speaking at a press conference here on Thursday, K Ramasamy, V-C of Tamil

Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), said that the Centre would help in pulling youngsters for post doctoral research for which the infrastructure is inadequate at present. The AC&RI, established on Aug 19, 1965, and affiliated to TNAU, is entering its golden jubilee year during which a number of initiatives are being planned. A grand function, in which ministers and senior officials

are participating, is planned on Aug 19 to formally kick-start the celebrations.

The institute will also be getting a new biotechnology department with a state-of-art research centre and a central government funded research centre in the name of M S Swaminathan.

C Chinnusamy, Dean of AC&RI, said that the state government has allocated ₹8.5 crore for the centre of

excellence and another ₹15 crore for the biotechnology centre. AC&RI would also be launching a new 90-day certificate course on organic farming. The institute is signing a MoU with an NGO to train 250 people over a period of two years.

P Santhi, Director of Open and Distance Learning (ODL), said that 30 students would be taken in the first batch. She said that each stu-

dent would be provided five cents of land in which they would learn organic farming. The institute has also planned to conduct national and international conferences throughout the year.

During the press conference, Ramasamy highlighted the milestones AC&RI has achieved over the past five decades in introduction of new crops and techniques benefiting Madurai region.