

Guidelines issued for copra procurement

Special Correspondent

KOCHI: Kerala Kerakarshaka Sahakarana Federation Limited (Kerafed) and Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited (Marketfed) have been designated as the State-level marketing agencies for procurement of copra during the 2012 season.

Guidelines for procurement of copra under minimum support price (MSP) have been issued vide a gov-

ernment order dated February 3.

The Centre has fixed the MSP of fair average quality (FAQ) of milling copra at Rs.5,100 a quintal and that of ball copra at Rs.5,350 a quintal.

The MSP for procurement of de-husked coconut has been fixed at Rs.1,400 a quintal. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (Nafed) will be the nodal

agency to undertake price support operations, according to the order.

Kerafed is permitted to procure copra from Kasargod, Kannur, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, and Palakkad districts. Marketfed is permitted to procure copra from the remaining districts.

The Coconut Producers' Societies recognised by the Coconut Development Board, farmers' clusters of Agriculture Department, Kudum-

basree, and Janasree units having adequate infrastructure for drying coconuts are permitted to procure raw coconut (de-husked coconut) at Rs.1,400 a quintal from the farmers coming under their area of operation and make FAQ grade copra and supply to State-level agencies allotted to their district. Nafed and State-level agency of Nafed will enter into an agreement for the procurement.