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Two turmeric assaying labs set up in Erode

STAFF REPORTER
ERODE

Two turmeric assaying state-of-the-art laboratories that helps in scientifically knowing the exact proportion of Curcumin 'so that farmers can get better price for their produce was inaugurated at Perundurai and Gobichettipalayam here on Saturday.

Established by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX), under its social responsibility initiative with support from Myrada, an NGO serving the rural farming community, one lab was set up at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) premises at Puduvaliyampalayam village at Gobichettipalayam.

The facility was inaugurated by Minister for School Education K.A. Sengottaiyan in the presence of District Revenue Officer S. Kavitha, NCDEX Managing Director V. Vijay Kumar, NABARD General Manager Vijayalakshmi, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK, P. Alagesan, and other officials.

Mr. Alagesan said that India accounts for 80% of the total turmeric production in the world whereas the export is very less. World markets are ready to pay higher



Minister for School Education K. A. Sengottaiyan after inaugurating the turmeric assaying facility at Gobichettipalayam in Erode on Saturday. ■ M. GOVARTHAN

price for turmeric having higher proposition of Curcumin, which is 2 to 6%. But, farmers are not getting the right price for their produce as the quality is not assessed scientifically. He added that the Curcumin-based testing will help in improving the quality and productivity and pave way for wider global market.

In an interaction with mediapersons, Mr. Vijay Kumar said that the Curcumin test-

ing labs were established for the first time in the State that would help in assessing turmeric quality.

He added that the market is buyer-specific and without knowing the quality of the products, it is difficult to connect the farmers and the traders.

He said that more buyers in remote places will know the quality of the turmeric and will offer better price that will ultimately benefit

the producers.

Also, based on high Curcumin composition, farmers can choose the variety of turmeric to be cultivated, he added.

He wanted such labs to be established in all the mandis in the State so that quality is ensured.

Officials said that the results of the samples would be declared in three days and the testing charges are yet to be fixed.