

# K - AgTech LaunchPad

Transforming Rural Future  
**KAU-NABARD-WSU INITIATIVE**  
Inauguration



**Sri. P. Prasad**  
Pro Chancellor, KAU



**Adv. M. Vincent**  
MLA



**Dr. B. Ashok, IAS**  
Hon. Vice Chancellor, KAU



**Dr. Shaji K. V.**  
Chairman, NABARD



**Dist. Professor  
George Williams AO**  
Hon. Vice Chancellor  
& President, WSU



**March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 10:30 am**  
at **College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Kerala**

PROGRAMME PARTNERS :





# **K - AgTech LaunchPad**

## **Transforming Rural Future KAU-NABARD-WSU INITIATIVE Inauguration**

*“A landmark initiative under the Rural Business Incubation Centre (RBIC) Programme,  
Supported by NABARD”*

With immense pride and enthusiasm, **Kerala Agricultural University (KAU)** cordially invites you to the grand launch of the **‘K-AgTech LaunchPad, a KAU-NABARD-WSU initiative for AgTech-Forward Transformation’**. This pioneering initiative represents a forward step towards rural entrepreneurship, sustainable agricultural practices, and climate-resilient innovation.

### **About the LaunchPad**

Supported under NABARD’s **RBIC programme**, this initiative stands as the largest- ever NABARD-funded project at KAU. It brings together the expertise of **KAU, Western Sydney University (WSU), and industry leaders** to address key agricultural challenges, foster technological innovation, and transform rural livelihoods. The **K-AgTech LaunchPad** is not just an incubation centre—it is a catalyst for change, leveraging advanced AgTech solutions to empower farmers, agripreneurs, and rural communities by integrating:

- Incubation support for start-ups from ideation to market success
- Value addition and product diversification to boost farmer’s income
- Entrepreneurial capacity building connecting research with industry
- AI-driven smart climate adaptation technologies to ensure resilience
- Women-led enterprise empowerment fostering inclusive growth

### **Key Expected Outcomes**

This initiative will drive economic growth by promoting start-ups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), ensuring climate resilience through smart adaptation strategies and enabling global collaboration via WSU-led knowledge exchange. It will establish a supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem, support AI-integrated hi-tech precision agriculture and create a state-of-the-art incubation facility to translate research into real-world impact. With a focus on scalable agripreneurship, value addition and women empowerment, the programme is expected to transform Kerala’s agricultural landscape.

Your presence at this milestone event will be invaluable, underscoring the significance of this initiative in shaping the future of Kerala’s agricultural sector and beyond. We look forward to welcoming you!

**Dr. Roy Stephen**  
Dean of Faculty  
College of Agriculture, Vellayani

**Dr. B. Ashok, IAS**  
Vice Chancellor  
Kerala Agricultural University

# KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

## COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, VELLAYANI

### PROGRAMME SCHEDULE - INAUGURAL PROGRAMME

<p>11:00 am Welcoming guests to the stage</p> <p>11:02 am Invocation Song</p> <p>11:05 am Welcome Address</p> <p>11:10 am Insight on-   <b>K - AgTech LaunchPad</b>            Transforming Rural Future            KAU-NABARD-WSU Initiative</p> <p>11:15 am Keynote Address</p> <p>11:25 am Presidential Address</p> <p>11:40 am <b>Inauguration</b>            Unveiling the Logo of   <b>K - AgTech LaunchPad</b>            &amp; Inaugural Address</p> <p>11:55 am Guest of Honour            Handing over the MoA; Unveiling   <b>K - AgTech LaunchPad</b> Design            &amp; Address</p> <p>12:10 pm Special Guest &amp; Address (Online)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Unveiling selected technologies for incubation &amp; Special Address</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Briefing on WSU Partnership</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">College Choir</p> <p><b>Dr. Roy Stephen</b> Dean of Faculty</p> <p><b>Dr. Allan Thomas</b> Professor &amp; Head Principal Investigator of the Project</p> <p><b>Dr. B. Ashok, IAS</b> Hon. Vice Chancellor, KAU</p> <p><b>Adv. M. Vincent, MLA</b></p> <p><b>Sri. P. Prasad</b> Hon. Minister for Agriculture Pro Chancellor, KAU</p> <p><b>Dr. Shaji K. V.</b> Chairman, NABARD</p> <p><b>Dist. Professor George Williams AO</b> Hon. Vice Chancellor &amp; President Western Sydney University (WSU) Australia</p> <p><b>Dr. Nicolene Murdoch</b> Pro Vice Chancellor (Global), WSU</p> <p><b>Dr Nisha Rakesh</b> Principal Investigator from WSU</p>
<b>12:25 pm FELICITATIONS</b>	
<p><b>Sri. Somasekharan Nair</b> President, Kalliyoor Grama Panchayath</p> <p><b>Sri. Shibu S. L.</b> Member, Executive Committee, KAU</p> <p><b>Dr. Thomas George</b> Member, General Council, KAU</p> <p><b>Dr. Rafeekher M.</b> Member, Academic Council, KAU</p> <p><b>Sri. S. S. Nagesh</b> Chief (Agri.), KSPB</p> <p>12:55 pm Vote of Thanks</p> <p>01:00 pm National Anthem</p> <p>01:05 pm <b>Technical session:</b> Lead Talk on ‘Transforming Rural Future’</p> <p>01:35 pm Discussion on the work plan</p>	<p><b>Dr. A. Sakeer Husain</b> Registrar, KAU</p> <p><b>Sri. Baiju N. Kurup</b> Chief General Manager, NABARD</p> <p><b>Dr. Jacob John</b> Director of Extension, KAU</p> <p><b>Dr. K. N. Anith</b> Director of Research, KAU</p> <p><b>Dr. Gopakumar S.</b> Director of Education, KAU</p> <p><b>Dr. M. H. Faizal</b> Professor (Research Coordination), KAU</p> <p style="text-align: center;">College Choir</p> <p><b>Dr. Shaji K. V.</b> Chairman, NABARD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NABARD, KAU &amp; WSU</p>

In the esteemed presence of Executive Committee Members, General Council Members,  
Academic Council Members & other University Officials



# K - AgTech LaunchPad



DISCUSSION CUBICLES



WORK AREA



CONFERENCE ROOM



IDEA PITCHING ROOM



MULTIMEDIA AUDIOVISUAL ROOM



VIRTUAL GAMING ZONE



RECREATIONAL AREA

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