

Coconut plucking is changing lives

DC CORRESPONDENT
THRISSUR, JULY 20

An employment outlook survey among a group of selected 200 coconut pluckers reveal that coconut care and climbing has been changing the lives of those who are employed in this vocation, including men and women, positively.

According to K J Prabitha, of the Cooperation and Banking College in the Kerala Agriculture University (KAU), who conducted the study, all of them were meeting their household expenses without difficulties and a majority had begun to save and invest.

Those below 50 constitute 96 percent of climbers, of which seven percent are women. About 55 percent opted for training to make it an income generating activity and 77 percent had no previous experience. About 42 percent of trainees take it as a regular vocation while for 31 percent it is a part-time activity. 46 percent say they climb 20-40 trees per day depending on the demand. Most importantly, 93 percent



of the group say the option has enhanced their standard of living and changed their lifestyle, the survey held.

A majority of those surveyed said they had found financial success in the vocation because they earned between ₹750-1000 per day by working for 4-5 hours. Ex-service personnel, those in part-time service and housewives narrated their success stories.

M P Vincent MLA, an executive member of the KAU governing body, said that a welfare fund for those engaged in coconut climbing would be mooted in the next Assembly session.