

Training in coconut tree climbing begins

Staff Reporter

KRISHNAGIRI: A six-day programme to provide training on coconut tree climbing using a mechanical device, began at the Dr. Perumal Krishi Vigyan Kendra here on Monday.

T. Sundarraj, Programme Coordinator of the Kendra told *The Hindu* that the residential programme for farmers in and around Krishnagiri was conceived by the Coconut Development Board.

The first batch of 20 farmers are from Pannandur, Arasampatti, and Barur. The Kendra would impart training for three more batches.

V. Prakash (25), a coconut tree climber, told *The Hindu* that he used to climb a minimum of 35 coconut trees in four hours. For this he used to get Rs. 400 a day. First three months of Tamil months, Chitrai, Vaikasi, and Avani were the peak seasons for tender coconuts. Tree climbers used to earn much during this period.

He said that with the help of the climbing device, one can climb more trees in a safe way. All the participants of the programme would be given Rs. 150 a day along with free boarding and lodging. At the end of the training programme, they would be given the climbing device costing Rs. 2,500 designed by the Coconut Development Board, said Dr. Sundarraj.

The training programme include coconut harvesting operations, cleaning trees,



Farmers undergoing training in coconut tree climbing at Elumichangiri, near Krishnagiri on Tuesday. - PHOTO:N.BASHKARAN

combating diseases affecting the coconut trees, fertilisation, and making value added products. The participants would have to undergo jogging, breathing exercise, and yoga.

Those, including women, in the age group of 18 and 40

with a minimum education qualification of Standard VII are eligible to attend the training programme.

A. Venugopal, Executive Engineer, Department of Agriculture Engineering inaugurated the programme.