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Medicinal value of fruits and vegetables to be studied

Special Correspondent

University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, signs MoU with U.S. university

ICHR to be involved in the project

Minister to take up tomato price issue with Chief Minister

BANGALORE: The University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, and Texas A and M University on Monday signed an MoU for research in studying the medicinal and nutritious value of fruits and vegetables in the State for treating diseases such as cancer, developing native varieties and value added products, imparting technology to farmers for increasing production, processing and export the same to other countries.

The MoU was signed by Special Officer of the UHS Shankar B. Dandin and vice-president of the Global Initiative at Texas A and M University Eric Bost in the presence of the Horticulture and Prisons Minister Umesh V. Katti and Principal Secretary Subir Hari Singh.

The Minister said that an institution — Karnataka Centre of Excellence in Fruits and Vegetables for Health — would be floated in a year for the purpose.

Asked whether this institution would focus on native fruits and vegetables and share expenditure of the study and research, the Director of Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, Texas, Bhimu Patil said that it would give foundation money. He said that the Indian Council of Horticultural Research would be involved in the project.

Later, speaking to presspersons, Mr. Katti said that he would take up the issue of fall in tomato prices with Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa for announcing a minimum support price, but ruled out any immediate relief.

The Minister said that he had requested Mr. Yeddyurappa to instruct the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike to allot 400 shops to the HOPCOMS for selling vegetables and fruits in Bangalore.

He said that there was great demand for blue grapes in Kerala, but some newspaper had published a false story alleging that consumers were afflicted by cancer. The officers of the Horticulture Department had taken up the matter with their counterparts in Kerala.