

'Madurai Malli' a Good Source of Income

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Madurai: Increasing demand for 'Madurai malli' garlands abroad could open up opportunities for women to earn a sustainable income, said C Chinnusamy, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute (ACRI), Madurai.

Speaking at a capacity building workshop on 'Madurai malli' at Thiagarajar College on Wednesday, he said tapping the foreign market could help offset fall in 'malli' prices during summer when the yield is huge.

The workshop was organised by the women's study centre of the college in association with the Thiagarajar Crafts Foundation to train women to form self-help groups. Around 50 women from self-help groups in the Vilacheri area attended the session.



Thiagarajar College Principal T Rajasekar speaking at a capacity building workshop on 'Madurai Malli' at the college on Wednesday | EXPRESS

Pointing out demand from countries like Singapore, Malaysia and the US, B Bakiyathu Saliha, an assistant professor at ACRI, said that customers abroad demanded stringent specifications for garlands and appropriate training was needed for women to meet them.

She also explained about interventions made by ACRI in increasing productivity of 'malli' to make it more profitable. Chandrasekar, a com-

missioning agent for 'malli', said that women could easily make Rs 400 in about five hours by tying around 20 garlands. "If they prefer to tie strings instead in measures of kilos, they get at least Rs 100 per kilo," he said. He added that there was acute shortage of labour for making garlands. Thiagarajar College principal T Rajasekar felicitated the guests while S Kanagasabai delivered the vote of thanks.