

**NOTIFICATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)**

Ref: CoAV/DoAEE/EXT/K-AgTech LaunchPad/HR-1 dtd 10-07-2025

K-AgTech LaunchPad

Transforming Rural Future

KAU- NABARD- WSU Initiative

College of Agriculture, Vellayani

(A NABARD-Supported Rural Business Incubation Centre)

Thiruvananthapuram – 695 522

Notification for the Appointment of Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

K-AgTech LaunchPad, a rural agri-tech business incubator supported by NABARD's Gramya Vikas Nidhi and hosted by the College of Agriculture, Vellayani under Kerala Agricultural University, invites applications for the post of **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** on a **contractual full-time basis**.

About the Incubator

K-AgTech LaunchPad: Transforming rural future is a KAU- NABARD-WSU initiative and is Kerala's leading platform for nurturing innovative agri-startups and enterprises in agriculture and allied sectors. It operates under NABARD's Rural Business Incubation framework with support from the university and other stakeholders, aiming to transform rural entrepreneurship.

Position: Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

- **Type:** Full-time (Contractual)
- **Tenure:** Initially for 2 years, extendable up to 5 years based on performance
- **Remuneration:** ₹90,000 per month + performance-based incentives as approved by the Board of Directors

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide strategic leadership and manage day-to-day operations
- Implement programme guidelines effectively

- Design and deliver incubation programs; support and mentor startups
- Build partnerships with industry, academia, and government agencies
- Ensure financial sustainability of the incubator
- Monitor and evaluate programme outcomes as per NABARD/PMRC standards
- Support incubatees in accessing markets and scaling operations

Eligibility Criteria

Essential Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Agriculture/Horticulture/Forestry or B.Tech. in Food Technology/Food Processing or B.Sc. (Agri Business Management) from a State Agricultural University (SAU)
- Master's in Business Administration (MBA/ABM) from reputed institutions such as IIMs, National Institutes, or Tier II business schools in India
- More than 5 years of experience in any of the following:
 - Business incubation or agribusiness development
 - Technology commercialization or startup mentorship
 - Entrepreneurship development or agri-startup cluster management

Desirable Qualifications:

- Master's degree or higher in Agriculture, Horticulture, Agri Engineering, Food Processing, or related fields from an SAU
- Professional Certifications like– Certifications in entrepreneurship, incubation management, project management (e.g., IIMs, EDII, NIESBUD).
- Working knowledge of digital tools for business planning, incubation management, or market analytics.
- Exposure to Government / CSR-funded Projects and Proven track record in mobilizing funds or writing successful project proposals in innovation/agribusiness domains.

Application Requirements

Interested candidates should submit the following:

1. **Detailed CV** with a recent passport-size photo
2. **Statement of Purpose** (maximum 1000 words)
3. **Two reference letters**

Last Date to Apply: 25 July 2025

Email for Submission: t.allan@kau.in

To be addressed to:

Dr. Allan Thomas

Professor & Head (Agricultural Extension Education)

Principal Investigator & Interim CEO, K-AgTech LaunchPad

College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 522

Mobile: 9447051292 | Email: t.allan@kau.in

Website: www.kauagtechlaunchpad.com / www.coavellayani.kau.in

Selection Process

- Shortlisting based on eligibility and experience
- Presentation to the Selection Committee
- Personal Interview

Note:

- K-AgTech LaunchPad is an equal opportunity employer
- Women candidates and professionals from rural backgrounds are encouraged to apply
- For detailed Terms of Reference, please visit: www.coavellayani.kau.in

Contact for Enquiries:

Dr. Allan Thomas

Professor & Head (Agricultural Extension Education)

Principal Investigator & Interim CEO, K-AgTech LaunchPad

College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 522

Mobile: 9447051292 | Email: t.allan@kau.in

Issued following NABARD RBI guidelines and approved by the Board of Directors of K-AgTech LaunchPad.



Dr. Allan Thomas
Professor and Head
Agrl. Extension Education
CEO i/c: K- AgTech LaunchPad
College of Agriculture, Vellayani
Thiruvananthapuram- 695 522