

'Leave field, take up allied activities'

Coimbatore, March 15: The farming methods in our country should be modified to make it less labour-oriented, Jaggi Vasudev said.

Addressing a farmers conference organised by National Agriculturists Awareness Movement (NAAM) here on Thursday, he clarified that he was not advising to adopt Western methods, but to modify the existing ones.

He suggested that in the next six years, 20 percent of

the farmers should come out of farming and take up allied activities like marketing and transportation, and in the next six years, another 20 percent should come out.

Though 60 percent of the total population of the country is employed in agriculture, the sector's contribution to the GDP is low. Naturally, the sector fails to get the needed consideration. There is also a need to bring down the cost of production and look at possibi-

lities to export our agricultural produce. The farmers can get profit by exporting their produce. For instance, if an Indian farmer gets around Rs 20 per kg for potato, in the US, a farmer gets Rs 70.

The Isha Foundation is negotiating with a major company for setting up training centres for farmers.

"I've a whole plan to change the agriculture scenario of Tamil Nadu in a matter of 8 to 10 years," he claimed. ■ENS

Jai kisan



POWER OF THE TILLER: *(From right) Former Director of CBI D.R. Karthikeyan, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, the State president of National Agriculturists Awareness Movement, T.S. Prabhu Raja and organic farming scientist K. Nammalvar, at the farmers' conference in the city on Thursday.- PHOTO: K. ANANTHAN*