

RELATED KEYWORDS: [Save-Our-Traditional-Paddy](#)|[hybrid-paddy](#)|[Erode-farmers](#)

## Erode farmers to say no to hybrid paddy

TNN | Aug 20, 2014, 05.40AM IST

ERODE: On Tuesday farmers in Kanchikoil village in Erode district pledged not to use hybrid or tissue cultured paddy varieties for crop cultivation. They decided to use only traditional paddy varieties which do not need pesticides and other fertilisers. "We have taken this decision after we realised that the soil in which we cultivated hybrid and tissue cultured paddy varieties lost its original composition due to excessive use of pesticides and fertilisers. We want to pass on the same land to our future generation who would use it for cultivation," said Nel Jayaraman, state coordinator, Save Our Traditional Paddy Varieties Forum.

Members of Bharathiya Kisaan Sangam (BKS) conducted a traditional paddy fest in Kanchikoil in Erode district on Tuesday. According to the organisers, the main motive of this festival was to create awareness on forgotten traditional paddy varieties. "We have more than 1,500 varieties of traditional paddy in our country. But most of the varieties vanished due to hybrid and tissue cultured modern paddy varieties and we totally have ignored traditional paddy for cultivation. To encourage farmers to again start cultivating those traditional paddy varieties, we have conducted this festival," Jayaraman said.

According to him, the traditional paddy varieties such as kulla kar, thooya malli, illuppai poo samba, mappillai samba, kowni, karudan samba, karunkuruvai are different from each other. "kulla kar rice increases the count of red cells in our blood. Illuppai poo samba cures diabetes and joint pains and mappillai samba increases motility count in men," he said and added that each paddy variety had its own power. "But, we could not find these kinds of powers in the modern paddy variants. Moreover traditional variants do not need too much pesticides and fertilisers and do not affect the soil," he said.

In the paddy fest, organisers gave one kg of traditional paddy varieties to each farmer who participated in the festival. "Our forum will give paddy varieties free of cost to everyone who wish to use them.

Jayaraman said that farmers of Kanchikoil planned to sow traditional paddy varieties.

"There are 10,000 acres of land in Kanchikoil and this year we have distributed paddy varieties to 300 farmers. They will sow them in 400 acres this year and they will extend the crop area in the coming years. The farmers who get paddy varieties this year will donate paddy seeds to other farmers who wish to use them for cultivation," he added. Farmers who received the seeds on Tuesday began to sow them in their land which they had filled with fertile soil.

More from The Times of India

- [PAU holds training course on yield enhancement of rabi crops](#) 22 Aug 2014
- [Bankers flay crop loan waiver](#) 09 Aug 2014
- [Rain eases drought threat in Bihar](#) 14 Aug 2014
- [Kharif crop sowing touches 60%, brings relief to food shortage fear](#) 30 Jul 2014
- [Jumbo menace in Jajpur](#) 05 Aug 2014

- [Despite awareness programmes, man-animal conflict on the rise in Nilgiris...](#) 23 Aug 2014

From Around the Web

- [IBM Cloud turns 17 ships into one fleet](#) IBM
- [Grow IT Infrastructure Without Making a Costly Investment](#) VMware
- [Innovation: this is how you can reach your consumers](#) EY
- [The is an Inexpensive Way to Catch Fraud and Abuse in Healthcare](#) Fico
- [Japan's Aeon hopes customers get Pakistan mango munchies](#) Nikkei Asian Review
- [Girls Write Now Presents: Ode to Malala](#) Girls Write Now