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Agri varsity releases technology of making organic manure from hair

Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran released the technology by handing over the protocol to Thampi UN, General Secretary of All Kerala Barber-Beautician Association

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KERALA Agriculture University on Saturday released the technology of making organic manure from human hair at the VAIGA International Expo and Krishi Unnathi Mela at Thekkinkadu Maidan.

Barber shops and beauty parlours in the state struggle to get rid of the massive quantity of human hair which accumulate on their premises. D Girija, Professor and Head of Department of Microbiology, College of Horticulture, and her team have come up with a solution for this: transforming human hair into liquid manure, which can be used for farming.

Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran released the technology by handing over the protocol to Thampi UN, General Secretary of All Kerala Barber-Beautician Association.

Agriculture Minister V S Sunil Kumar presided over. KAU Vice Chancellor R Chandra Babu presented the technology to the audience.

Girija said: "1 kg of human hair is transformed into one-and-half litre of liquid manure through physical and chemical processing. One litre of this liquid manure, mixed in five litres of water, can be sprayed on vegetable crops."

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It contains 5gm potassium, 20 milligram calcium, 3 milligram magnesium, 72 milligram sulphur and 3.3 milligram zinc in addition to other components. It has already been tested on vegetables like ladies finger, Amaranthus and brinjal. It has been found that this liquid manure significantly encourages plant growth and the productivity of crops better than those grown under standard conditions.

Thus a serious waste management issue has been converted in to a healthy plant nutrient. Sunil Kumar said the technology will be taken up for industrial production.

The department is ready to hand over the technology to entrepreneurs.