

Two farmers from Thrissur bag Plant Genome Saviour awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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TWO farmers from Thrissur have won the prestigious Plant Genome Saviour Award instituted by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FR Authority), India.

P V Jose from Potta, Chalakudy has won the Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Reward which carries a purse of ₹1.5 lakh, citation and memento. Jayan K R of Avittathur, Irinjalakuda has won the Plant Genome Saviour Recognition which carries a purse of ₹1 lakh, citation and memento.

The Thayannankudy tribal settlement in Chinnar, Idukki



P V Jose

has already been named the recipient of the Plant Genome Saviour Community Award. The awards have been facilitated by the IPR Cell of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU). Jose has been conserving nutmeg types and fruit



Jayan K R

plants like mango, banana, rambutan, mangosteen, custard apple and the like on his eight-acre farm for the past 50 years. KAU-Pullan, a nutmeg genotype of superior quality was released from his collection as an official variety from

KAU. Jayan, affectionately called Plavu Jayan by Avittathur, is a conservator of traditional jackfruit varieties. His nomination for the Plant Genome Saviour Award was prompted by Minister for Agriculture V S Sunilkumar, after jackfruit was declared the state fruit. After returning from the Gulf, Jayan took up cultivation and conservation of traditional jackfruit varieties and devoted his time for spreading the fruit across the state.

"The continued presence of Kerala farmers in the Plant Genome Saviour awards is ample proof of KAU's support to farmers," said KAU Vice-Chancellor R Chandra Babu.