

Organic farming to be promoted in 200 ha in 3 years

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ORGANIC farming in the district will be expanded to 200 hectares in three years and include more plantain and foodgrain varieties.

The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) council, which aims at developing traditional farming and is aided by the Centre, took the decision at its

first meeting here. Chaired by District Collector T V Anupama, the council focusses on organic farming and formulates activities to promote it. As part of promoting organic farming, The council had conducted a survey to identify cultivable land suited for organic farming.

The council aims at including the Chengalikkodan plantain, Aanakkodan rice variety, Pottuvellari, Manakkodi plantain and

others in organic farming activities. Agriculture officers said organic farming under the scheme had to be taken up through 110 clusters of farmers in the district.

At the meeting, the demand to include Kuttadan paddy cultivation at Punnayoor in PKVY projects was raised. Discussions on the possibilities of marketing the organic farming products was also held. In a scenario where the

state government promotes such products by opening eco-shops, support through the scheme would benefit farmers in finding the market for their products. The council also decided to coordinate with other departments concerned.

Principal Agriculture Officer A Kala, soil conservation officer P D Sindhu, scientists from Kerala Agriculture University and others were present.