

For Jayasree, farming was a passion

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Kochi: When Krishi Bhavan officials at Chottanikkara decided to introduce on-farm production of vesicular arbuscular mycorrhizae (VAM) – an eco-friendly method of avoiding pests – on an experimental basis, they had no doubt about the farmer who would willingly be a part of the experiment. For them, Jayasree Unnikrishnan of Eruvely near Chottanikkara – who had won the best woman farmer award within Krishi Bhavan limits – was the best person for the plan. She proved that their choice was not wrong.

She cultivated VAM at her farm and distributed it to other farmers in the area within a few months. “She had won best woman farmer award several times. Her efforts and involvement in agriculture-related activities were exemplary,” said agricultural officer at Krishi Bhavan in Chottanikkara Bijumon Zachariah.

“She was the secretary of Chottanikkara A-grade vegetable cluster. She was also the secretary of Vegmart, a market operated by farmers in Chottanikkara panchayat. She won the best farmer award for

bringing maximum vegetables at Vegmart,” he said.

Many of the workshops and on-field activities for farmers in the area were conducted at her farm. “She would grow all types of vegetables, fruits and paddy. She was involved in other social activities in the area,” said president of Chottanikkara grama panchayat Omana Sasi.

Jayasree left for Delhi on Thursday to attend a relative’s wedding.

“Her elder son Harigovind works in a private firm in Mumbai and so she left with her younger son Gowrishankar. Hari met them in Delhi. After the wedding ceremony on Sunday, Harigovind returned to Mumbai while Jayasree and Gowrishankar stayed back with their family members, to tour Delhi,” said member of Chottanikkara grama panchayat Shaji George.

Her husband

Unnikrishnan is working in Dubai. Jayashree was very active as the office bearer of Sree Bhoothanathavilasam NSS Karayogam. She was also very active in administrative committee of some of the temples in the area.

While heading for Delhi on Friday, Jayasree had told her neighbours about the trip, said Jithu, one of her neighbours.



Jayasree Unnikrishnan of Eruvely had won the best woman farmer award from Krishi Bhavan. Many workshops and on-field activities for farmers in the area were conducted at her farm