

# Farmers warm up to new high yielding potato variety

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Idukki:** The trial farming of new varieties of potato in the cool season farming area has achieved a big success.

In August, the new potato varieties were cultivated at Vattavada, Kottakambur and Kadavari on a trial basis. The new varieties of 'kufri giridhari' and 'kufri himalini' of potato seeds were developed at the center for potato research at Ooty and cultivated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Centre.

Last week scientists from the ICAR and agricultural department officials conducted the harvesting of the potato varieties.

"The trial farming has achieved a big success. The new potato varieties, 'kufri giridhari' and 'kufri himalini' will harvest within 75 days," said a agricultural department official.

For the first time, Kerala has cultivated new varieties of potatoes. Normally the farmers in the



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area cultivate the seeds of 'kufri jyothi' variety and they used to suffer from low production.

They normally use pesticides to avoid bush attack. Agricultural department officials said the new variety of 'kufri giridhari' would resist the late bush attack.

The new varieties of potato were tried as per the request of the agricultural department. ICAR scientists E P Venkitachalam, K N Divya, H M Priyanka and Vattavada agri-

cultural officer K Murukan led the trial harvest of the potato varieties.

With the trial farming successful, the agricultural department now plans to distribute the seeds of 'kufri giridhari' and 'kufri himalini' to the farmers in the winter vegetable area.

Kufri Girdhari is a medium maturing potato variety suitable for cultivation in the hills. It has a high level of resistance to late blight both in foliage and in tubers.