

# Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority

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**In news**-The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has designated Kerala Agricultural University as a centre of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority.

## **About the authority-**

- The objective is **to protect the rights of Kerala farming communities** over the traditional plant varieties.
- **Any person, group of persons or any governmental or non-governmental organization can file the claim for compensation** on behalf of those communities who have contributed significantly in the evolution of any registered plant variety.
- If any farmer or farmers cluster in Kerala have a claim on contribution in the evolution of any registered variety, they can approach Kerala Agricultural University.
- **Kerala Agricultural University will verify the claims relating to field crops, fruits, vegetables, trees, spices, flower crops and plantation crops** in the State and report to PPV and FR Authority and no fee will be claimed from the farmer or farming communities for such claim.
- The move is expected to boost the efforts to protect the State's traditional plant varieties and prevent bio-piracy.
- Among the policy interventions to aid agricultural development, the enactment of the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act 2001**, which **ensured the legal protection of intellectual property rights in the agricultural sector**, including that of farmers.

- The protection ensured the commercial possibilities of innovations not only for the private sector but also for the public sector and the farmers.
- The law ensures the farmer's rights as a conserver of traditional varieties apart from that as a developer of new varieties.