

'Padma Shri' Award-2024



Shri Satyanarayana Beleri is a farmer- turned- paddy conservator of Netтанige a small, quaint hamlet located in the district of Kasargod, the Northern most part of Kerala bordering Karnataka. He is the eldest son of Late Kunjirama Maniyani from whom he has inherited four acres of land along with his two younger brothers. He grows rubber as the main crop along with areca nut and spices as intercrops.

2. Born on June 15, 1973, Sathyanarayana with single-minded devotion is thus, trying to preserve this seed heritage, that too without any monetary returns or rewards. Now with this background at this most opportune juncture, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dakshina Kannada is proud to present Shri. Sathyanarayana Beleri for prestigious civilian award 'Padma shri'. Along with traditional varieties of paddy, he is also conserving important traditional varieties of areca nut, nutmeg, black pepper and jack. Further, he is an apiarist and has the skill in grafting/budding of plants.

He started growing paddy in polybags. Different varieties are harvested, sun-dried and then stored in paper bags. By following this method, he has conserved as many as 650 land races in an area of 200 square meter. Besides conserving he also has shared these germplasms with important research institutes, State Agricultural Universities of South India and farmers that too free of cost

Plant Genome Savior Farmer Reward -2021

ICAR KVK, Dakshina Kannada nominated farmer B.K. Deva Rao has got '**Plant Genome Savior Farmer Reward**' for the year 2021 from Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Authority for collecting and preserving 224 varieties of Paddy seeds and have become role models in the field of organic farming and water conservation.

For B.K Deva Rao (78), cultivating paddy (rice) has been a way of life for the past 50 years. Living in the times when we hear news about farmer suicides, Deva Rao's story is one which inspires awe and admiration. Farmers, also called as 'Anna Dhatha' (rice giver) form the backbone of our country, have been neglected in the present times. However, Deva Rao has managed to rise above this negativity. For him, cultivating paddy is more of a passion than a means of making money. At the same time, he has mastered a model which is not only economically feasible, but also healthy, environment friendly, and sustainable.

