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CMFRI starts cultivation of tubers, pulses

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Kochi: The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) here has initiated a new farming challenge among government organisations towards food security in the state.

The model initiative includes farming of tubers and pulses along with vegetables in an area of around three acres of barren land on the premises of residential complex here.

Agriculture minister V S Sunil Kumar launched the farming by planting ginger saplings on Thursday.

CMFRI director A Gopalakrishnan said that priority was given to crops such as tubers and pulses as they could act as an alternative to survive during the times of famine. Pulses are also being cultivated as the state is totally depended on other states for its vegetable protein requirement. KVK also started a helpline to guide farmers in aquaculture and animal rearing.

The minister also asked KVK to design and demonstrate a working model of the mini rice mill required at each paddy field. The major crisis faced by the medium paddy farmers in the state is lack of such mini rice mills.