

Setting up mini terrace orchards

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To attain self-reliance in the production of toxic-free organic fruits, the Ernakulam Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), functioning under the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), has come up with a new plan – to encourage setting up of mini orchards on terraces. The plan includes popularising the technique of rearing fruit trees on house terraces, creating public awareness and ensuring the availability of quality fruit saplings besides providing technical support. For this, KVK is organising an exhibition and sales mela at CMFRI. The two-day exhibition-cum-sales mela will begin on Tuesday.

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– Shinoj Subramanian,
KVK head

The technology and technique of setting up mini orchards will be demonstrated to the public at the exhibition. Organic farmers who have succeeded in rearing fruit trees on their terraces will share their experiences. The fruit trees they are currently growing on rooftops will also be exhibited. Visitors will get the opportunity to interact with scientists and experts in the field.

Early-bearing fruit saplings, including those of mango, jack, guava, gooseberry, blueberry, sapota, pomegranate, custard apple, cherry, passion fruit as well as different varieties of water apple and lemon will be available at the fair. Videos explaining the methods of growing fruit trees will also be shown.

“The programme aims at setting up mini orchards on the terraces of maximum houses in Ernakulam district and hence increase fruit production,” said KVK head Shinoj Subramanian. He said the programme also looks to make people aware that the cultivation of quality and toxic-free fruits is possible even in small areas in one’s locality.

“The practice will definitely help us attain self-reliance in fruit production. This in turn will help us to gradually avoid consuming fruits laced with harmful chemicals. At present, fruits available in Kerala markets are brought from the neighbouring states and overseas. Reports show the fruits are treated with harmful chemicals to keep them looking ‘fresh’ for prolonged periods,” Shinoj said.