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Soil-less medium a big hit

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Kochi: Ernakulam Krishi Vigyan Kendra's new soil-less medium, that can be used as an alternative to soil in farming, has turned a hit among the Kochiites, receiving a huge response from the public at a sales mela held at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on Thursday.

Around 1,000 residents visited the mela and purchased nearly 2,000 packets of the product. The mela was conducted as part of popularizing the new soil-less medium among the public. In addition, prior booking for around 5,000 packets of the product also was received from the public at the mela. The Ernakulam KVK developed the soil-less medium by using composted press mud, a by-product from sugar mills along with coir pith, powdered cowdung, neem cake, dolomite and biocontrol agents.

Considering the growing demand for the product, the KVK would again conduct a mela on September 26, he said.