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Scented Rice cultivation in organic way for greater market value

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Most of us who were brought up in the city know only Basmati rice and Jasmine rice as scented rice. Traditional scented rice has been grown for years in the state by the indigenous people of the state. Mostly scented rice of 3 varieties is being grown in the state such as Gobindabhog, Kalikhasa and Harinarayan. These are grown in Kharif season. “Attempt is to grow scented rice in organic way for greater market value. Normally the scented rice is sold in the market at 60-70 rupees per kg. But organic scented rice can be sold at 80-100 rupees per kg.,” said an official of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare department source.

In the previous year, scented rice was grown under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana over 2,000 Ha land. Plan is to cover 1,600 Ha this year spending 1.44 crore rupees benefitting around 8,000 farmers. Under this scheme, 9 thousand rupees is spent per hectare which includes distribution of seeds, distribution of 12 kgs of bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers (Azotobacter bio-fertilizer 4kg, potassium solubilizing bacteria (KSB) 4kg, KMP 4kg) to each farmer. Scented rice cultivation is mostly done in ADC areas such as Dasda, Tulashikhar, Damchara, Mandwi, Killa, Ampa, Karbook, Rupaichari etc.

Organic demand is growing in the markets and why not? It is always a better choice to avoid chemically grown food. The source also said that earlier scented rice cultivation was very less but after the launch of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, quite many farmers now can cultivate scented rice. Apart from organic cultivation of scented rice, agriculture department plans to bring 19,000 Ha land under organic farming spending 42.39 crore rupees.
