



Indigenous Paddy Variety: Keonjhar Kalachampa

Source: [TH](#)

A farmer from Odisha has **officially registered his indigenous paddy variety, Keonjhar Kalachampa**, and has sought compensation from the [Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority \(PPV&FRA\)](#) for the seed's commercialisation.

Keonjhar Kalachampa:

- The Indian government **notified the variety in 2015**. The Odisha State Seeds Corporation (OSSC) and private companies have **significantly contributed to the production and distribution** of the variety.
- **Features:**
 - The variety has shown **resilience to major diseases, pests**, and the effects of [climate change](#).
 - It is **non-lodging (resistant to bending or falling over)**, responsive to fertilizers, **suitable for both timely and late sowing**, and a **high-yielding** variety.
 - Due to its **resistance to biotic stress**, it is highly preferred by farmers and was one of the **first traditional varieties in India** integrated into the formal seed supply chain.

Gene Bank Initiative:

- Odisha has created a unique [gene bank](#) to **preserve traditional paddy varieties** from farmers, with seeds **stored in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment for up to 50 years**.
 - India has **established its [seed storage facility](#)** at Chang La in Ladakh.

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA):

- It was established under the **PPVFR Act, 2001**.
- The authority protects plant varieties, farmers' and breeders' rights, and **promotes the development of new varieties** while **safeguarding the rights of farmers who have conserved plant varieties for generations**.
 - The [Registrar General](#) is the **ex-officio Member Secretary** of the Authority.

Read More: [Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority \(PPV&FRA\)](#)