

# Retd CPCRI scientist Ratnambal passes away

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**M J RATNAMBAL, 76, retired principal scientist of Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), succumbed to cancer on Friday.**

A renowned cytogeneticist, Ratnambal was actively involved in the conservation of genetic resources and breeding of coconut, ginger, turmeric and black pepper with significant contributions to the development of around 13 improved varieties and hybrid of the crops, said a statement from CPCRI.

“She played a key role in setting up the international coconut genebank for South Asia at CPCRI. She was also instrumental in setting up the bio-

technology unit at the Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode. She was recognized as the best woman scientist and awarded the ICAR Panjabrao



M J Ratnambal

Deshmukh Woman Agricultural Scientist Award in 1998,” the statement said.

Ratnambal is survived by husband M K Nair, former director of ICAR-CPCRI and son M K Rajesh, principal scientist, ICAR-CPCRI.