

# Promoted organic farming all her life, Kamala Pujari dies

**SUJIT BISOYI**

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**KAMALA PUJARI**, a tribal woman from Odisha known for her contribution to organic farming and preserving over hundreds of indigenous varieties of paddy which earned her the prestigious Padma Shri award, passed away on Saturday while undergoing treatment. She was 76.

Pujari was admitted to the district headquarters hospital on Tuesday for fever and age-related ailments and later moved to the SCB medical college in Cuttack after her condition deteriorated. Hospital sources said she died of cardiac arrest early this morning.

Odisha chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi offered his condolences and spoke to Pujari's son Gangadhar over phone. The state government also announced that her funeral will be held with full state honours.

Leader of opposition and for-



**Kamala Pujari being awarded by former president Ram Nath Kovind in 2019.** *File*

mer chief minister Naveen Patnaik also expressed condolences to the family.

For her contribution to agriculture, she received the prestigious Padma Shri award — the fourth highest civilian award — in 2019 from then President Ram Nath Kovind.