

# A YEAR-ROUND PRODUCTION SYSTEM FOR FRESH GINGER AVAILABILITY IN COCONUT-BASED HOMESTEADS OF KERALA

M. Ameena, T. Premalatha and Pooja, A.P.

Department of Agronomy

College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 522

Kerala Agricultural University

## INTRODUCTION

- Homestead provide enhanced food supply and increased diversity of food to some extent.
- Studies on coconut based intercropping rated ginger as a shade loving crop and highly suitable for intercropping in coconut gardens (KAU,1992).
- The active root zone of coconut is confined only to 25 per cent of the available land area .
- In coconut plantations of above 40 years, light transmission increases about 50 per cent which makes growing of intercrops possible in the interspaces (Nelliath, *et al.*, 1974)

## OBJECTIVE

- To utilize the interspaces in coconut garden in a scientific way for producing fresh ginger over space and time to meet year-round requirement for the family.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Homesteads with a land area of less than 10 cents (25 nos) having coconut as the major crop were intervened for testing the suitability.
- Raised boundary of basins opened for each coconut were utilized as beds for growing ginger
- The raised boundary of basins opened at a diameter of 2m were planted with ginger rhizome bits of 15g size with a bud treated with mancozeb (0.3%) at a distance of 25 cm accounting for 24 plants under one coconut tree in the age group of more than 40 years during the month of June.
- According to the household requirement, the no. of palms planted were enhanced.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Single coconut basin was enough to meet the fresh ginger requirement of a family of 4 members.
- The first set of plant could be uprooted during first week of November and later successively at fortnightly interval with two plants per month.
- The system of planting back a rhizome bit after uprooting has ensured regular availability of fresh ginger in a cyclic rotation.
- Yearly fresh ginger requirement of households was largely met by the coconut basins in homesteads with a supply between 2.40 and 3.60 kg/household/year with a saving of 250-500 Rs per year.

## CONCLUSION

- In households with at least one coconut, planting 24 ginger plants on the raised boundary of basins at a distance of 25 cm during June and planting back a bit of rhizome after each harvest could ensure year round availability fresh ginger .

## REFERENCES

K A U. 1992. Final Research Report. ICAR ad-hoc scheme on shade studies on coconut based intercropping situations, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala, India.

Nelliath, E. V., Bavappa, K. V. A., and Nair, P. K. R. 1974. Multistoreyed cropping – new dimension of multiple cropping in coconut plantations. *World Crops* 26: 262-266.