

A Note on the Performance of Tapioca Varieties in Vellayani

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In Vellayani, tapioca is cultivated in an area of more than 3,000 acres. The variety usually cultivated is Kalikalan, a local variety. So far, none of the improved varieties have been cultivated in this area. As each region has different soil features and varying climatic conditions, trials of improved varieties of tapioca have an important bearing in any crop improvement programme for finding out high yielding strains.

Hence, a varietal trial was conducted at the Agricultural College Farm, for three consecutive years viz 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61. The experiment was laid out in randomized blocks having six replications. Only four varieties were tried during the first year, whereas five varieties were included during second and third years. The yield data of the three years 1958-'59, 1959-'60 and 1960-'61 are given in the table below :-

Table - yield data of tapioca in lbs. per acre.

	1957-'58.	1958-'59.	1959-'60	Mean.
H-105	26,438	9,377	10,696	15,510
Kalikalan.	23,943	6,362	10,551	13,609
H-9/49.	22,473	8,591	10,575	13,546
Anamaravan.	21,271	8,349	9,220	9,613
H-20/50.	9,064	7,599	a,332
C. D.	3,364	Not Significant.	Not Significant.	

In the trial, during the first year, the analysis shows that there was significant difference in yield between the varieties. The improved variety H-105 has given the highest yield followed by the local variety kalikalan. During the next two years, the varietal differences were not significant. But during these two years also, the improved variety H-105 gave the highest yield.

The mean yield for the three years shows that the improved variety H-105 has given the highest yield the next being the local variety kalikalan.

Thus from the trials conducted in the College, the performance of variety H-105 seems to indicate that there is scope for extending the area under this variety in this locality.