

PERFORMANCE OF CARDAMOM VARIETIES IN THE PLAINS

The soil and climatic requirements of cardamom are so specific that there is no authentic report of any attempt for cultivation of this precious crop in the plains even on a small scale. So a research project on growing different varieties of cardamom in coconut gardens was started during 1978 at the Vellayani campus of Kerala Agricultural University. Two clumps each of the varieties Malabar, Mysore Vazhukka, Munjirabad, and Kanni elam and 150 one year old seedlings of mixed origin were planted in one acre of coconut garden consisting of middle aged palms with banana plants grown at 3 m spacing for intense shade. The planting was done on 7-7-1978.

Of the clumps planted only Kanni elam survived fully after one year. Of the 150 seedlings planted 81 survived after one year. But during the severe summer of 1980 more number of plants dried up in spite of pot watering. Two years after planting only 20 sickly plants remained in the experiment field.

Flowering was noted in 10 plants, including the Kanni elam clumps, during the period of three months from 12-6-1979. A total of 32 inflorescence were produced. Selfing was tried in 18 flowers and crossing in 42 flowers. But all the flowers have shed on the next day of opening. So in none of the plants there was any fruit setting.

The present study confirms the fact that cardamom fails to establish and come up satisfactorily in plains under coconut garden conditions. The survival of plants itself was very difficult and even the surviving plants failed to produce any fruits inspite of artificial pollination. This may be due to the absence of cool humid atmosphere in the plains during flowering season which is necessary for fruit setting in cardamom.

സംഗ്രഹം

സമതലത്തിൽ ഏലച്ചെടിയുടെ വളർച്ച പഠിക്കാൻ വേണ്ടി വെള്ളായണി കാർഷിക കോളേജിൽ rarastaj" വ്യത്യസ്ത ഏലം ഇനങ്ങൾ നട്ടുപരികഴിച്ചതിൽ തെങ്ങിൻ മൂലം മീറ്റർ അകലത്തിൽ വാഴ നട്ടു പിടിപ്പിച്ചുണ്ടാക്കിയ roisroej'iraS പോലും ഏലച്ചെടികൾ വളരാൻ വിസതEതിക്കുന്നതായികണ്ടു. ആകെ പത്ത് ffi's" ചെടികൾ പൂക്കുകയുണ്ടായെങ്കിലും കൃ(roils; സങ്കരണവും സ്വകരണവും നടത്തിയിട്ടുപോലും ഒരൊറ്റ കായും പിടിക്കുകയുണ്ടായില്ല.

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