

Agri. Res. J. Kerala 1977 15 (1)

METHODS OF CULTURAL PRACTICES TO BE ADOPTED FOR PEPPER VINES FOR MAXIMUM YIELD

As pepper is grown mainly as a rain fed crop, cultivation of soil is very important. Cultural practice of digging is usually done around the vines or for the entire plantation irrespective of the type of the soil. Two diggings are usually given to the crop (Sayeed 1963). It reduces the incidence of 'spikefall' to a considerable extent and helps in increasing the yield. Digging also helps the vines to withstand the vagaries of the seasonal conditions. The present investigation was planned to ascertain the best methods of cultural practices to be adopted for pepper vines so as to get maximum yield.

The studies were conducted at the District Agricultural Farm, Neriama-galam. The soil type was laterite. The following four treatments including control were adopted viz. digging around the vines to a diameter of 6' every year, once in October (T_1), digging around the vines to the diameter of 6' every year twice - - one in August and the other in October (T_2), digging the entire area once in a year during post-monsoon period (T_3) and control (no cultural practices).

The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design, replicated six times. The variety Karimunda was used in this trial. The rooted vines were planted during the year 1968, with a spacing of 3x3 metres. Each plot comprised of four observational plants excluding border rows. The yield data were recorded from individual vines for four years (1972—1975). The pooled analysis of the data for the two steady bearing periods namely 1974 and 1975 was done and data are presented in Table 1.

The analysis of the yield data for the first three years showed no significant differences in the mean yields. However, significant differences in the mean yields was observed in the fourth (1975) and in the combined analysis for the third and the fourth years (1974 and 1975). The cultural practice of digging around the vines to a diameter of 6' every year twice (T_2) produced the highest yield over other treatments and control. The differences in the mean yields among T_1 , T_3 and T_4 were not significant. The finding in the present investigation that digging twice in a year in laterite soil give maximum yield agrees with the general observations of Sayeed (1963).

Table 1
Effect of different cultural practices on the yield of pepper

Years Treatments	1972	1973	1974	1975	Mean for 1974 & 75
T ₁	0.304	0.908	3.650	6433	5.042
T ₂	0.695	1.950	4.317	12.600	8.468
T ₃	0.324	0.577	2.767	5.200	3.983
T ₄	0.254	0.406	3.017	3.600	3.318
Significance C. D. (5%)	N. S. —	N. S. —	N. S. —	S. 2.403	S. 2.856

സംഗ്രഹം

ചരൽ പ്രധാനമായ മണ്ണിൽ കരുമുള്ള *Piper nigrum* ഏറ്റവും അനുയോജ്യമായ ഇടയിലൂടെ സംബന്ധിച്ച നേര്യമംഗലം കരുമുള്ള ഗവേഷണപദ്ധതിയുടെ കീഴിൽ നാല് വർഷം (1972-75) നടത്തിയ പരീക്ഷണത്തിൽ, വർഷത്തിൽ രണ്ടു തവണ, *raw* തായത് കാഗസ റീലും കെടോബറിലും ചെടിക്കു ചുറ്റും ആടി (6') വ്യാസത്തിൽ ഇടയിലൂക്കിയാൽ കൂടുതൽ വിളവ് ലഭിക്കുമെന്ന് തെളിയിക്കപ്പെട്ടു.

REFERENCE

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(M. S. Received 4-11-1976)