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## A NOTE ON THE USE OF DETACHED SPROUTS AS A PLANTING MATERIAL IN GINGER

Sprouts detached from mother rhizomes were found to be the best planting material in the case of turmeric (Aiyadurai 1966). But in the case of ginger no such work has been undertaken. Rhizome bits are used as planting material in ginger. The mother rhizomes are seen attached to the newly formed rhizomes even at harvest time. This gave an indication that the mother rhizomes were not fully utilized by the plants. Further, there is also the practice of detaching the mother rhizomes two to three months before harvesting the main crop. These show that in ginger the mother rhizomes are required only in the initial stages of growth.

An observational study was undertaken to find out the suitability of planting the detached sprouts from mother rhizomes instead of the rhizome bits, at the Horticultural Research Station, Ambalavayal during 1976. Twenty sprouts of 4-6 cm height were detached from the sprouted rhizomes and planted in wooden boxes. Immediately after planting mulching with green leaves was done at the rate of 500 g of green leaves/plant. One more mulching at the same rate was given 60 days after planting. 1 kg of FYM., 10 g superphosphate and 2.5 g muriate of potash/plant were given as a basal dose, 5g ammonium sulphate on the 60th day of planting and 5 g ammonium sulphate and 2.5 g muriate of potash/plant were also given on the 120th day of planting. Two drenching with Agallol 3 was given as a preventive measure against rhizome rot. The plants were harvested on the 265th day of planting. The height of the plant, the number of leaves, number of tillers and green weight of rhizomes were recorded.

18 out of the 20 planted sprouts survived and the plant growth was excellent. The height of the plants ranged from 23 cm. to 73 cm. The number of tillers ranged from 7 to 20 and the number of leaves from 63 to 311. The yield of green ginger showed a very wide range of 250 g to 2.5 kg. The mean height of plant, mean number of tillers, mean number of leaves and mean yield of green ginger produced were 60 cms, 14 numbers, 194 leaves and 1.161 kg respectively.

These results indicate that the sprouts detached can be used as planting material in ginger. The mother rhizomes used for the production of sprouts can be used for vegetable purpose. Thus seed material can be saved.

## സംഗ്രഹം

ഇഞ്ചിയുടെ ഭൂകാണ്ഡമാണ് സാധാരണയായി വിത്തായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ ഇഞ്ചിയുടെ മുളകൾ മാത്രം അടർത്തി എടുത്ത് വിത്തിന് പകരമായി ഉപയോഗിക്കാമെന്ന് കണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു.

## REFERENCE

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