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EFFECT OF SMOKING SEED-RHIZOMES ON THE YIELD OF GINGER

Smoking ginger seed rhizomes before storing is a common practice cultivators which is believed to increase the yield of this crop. But no reliable information is available regarding the benefits of smoking and its advantages, if any, over storing the seed rhizomes in pits or the number of smokings required. The present study was therefore undertaken at the Central Horticultural Research Station, Ambalavayal during 1968-69 and 1969-70. Six treatments (Table 1) were given to the seed rhizomes and planted them in a field experiment laid out in randomized-block design with 4 replications. Each net plot consisted of 4 beds of 3 m x 1 m. The yield data of ginger were statistically analysed and the results are presented in Table 1. The treatment effects were significant during both the seasons and under combined analysis. It is revealed from the pooled analysis that T₁ and T₂ gave significantly higher yield than T₆, T₅, T₃. Smoking the seed rhizomes once or twice before storage is therefore beneficial to increase the yield of ginger.

Table I. Mean yield of ginger under different treatments

Treatment No.	Particulars of treatments	Yield of rhizome (kg / plot)		
		1968-69	1969-70	1968-70
T ₁	Smoked once and stored by spreading on floor	21.46	17.41	19.44
T ₂	Smoked twice and stored as above	21.21	18.25	19.73
T ₃	Smoked thrice and stored as above	18.88	12.71	15.30
T ₄	Smoked 4 times and stored as above	22.87	12.27	17.57
T ₅	Smoked 5 times and stored as above	19.83	12.40	16.12
T ₆	Stored in pits and covered by mud plastering, leaving a hole	14.74	18.14	16.44
C. D. (0.05)		4.97	4.11	3.08

Horticultural Research Station,
Ambalavayal, Calicut.

A. MURALIDHARAN
A. S. VARMA
E. v. G. N.MR

(M. S. received on 14-8-1973)