

YIELD POTENTIAL OF COWPEA VARIETIES

Pulse crops play an important role in enriching both human diet and in improving soil fertility. Among the various pulse crops grown in Kerala, cowpea is the most popular and it is cultivated in the homestead gardens and in the paddy fields during summer season. An experiment was laid out (RBD with replications) in the Instructional Farm and Research Station, Mannuthy during the summer season of 1976 to study the yield potential of nine cowpea varieties, namely, Pusa phalguni, P-118, Pusa dofasli, Kunnamkulam, New era, Pusa barsathi, Calicut-51, Calicut-78 and Culture-1.

Seeds were sown in rows 15 cm apart adopting a seed rate of 20kg/ha for all the varieties. A uniform dose of N,P,K at the rate of 20,30 and 10kg/ha respectively was given. High volume spraying of phosphamidon at 0.03% was given four times at intervals of 3 weeks to control pest infestation. The crop was irrigated according to necessity.

The data on the yield of grain (dry seed) in kg/ha are presented in Table-1.

It is seen that the variety New era has given the highest yield of 938.834kg/ha which was significantly superior to all the other varieties except Kunnamkulam and the latter was on par with P-118 and superior to the rest. The studies conducted at Rice Research Station, Pattambi, during 1974-75 and 1975-76 also revealed the superiority of Kunnamkulam variety over the other cowpea varieties tested (Anon 1975 and 1976).

Table 1

Grain (Dry Seed) Yield of Cowpea Varieties in kg/ha

Treatments	Grain (dry seed) yield in Kg/ha
Pusa Phalguni	600.500
P-118	660.833
Pusa dofasli	442.167
Kunnamkulam	851.667
New Era	938.834
Pusa Barasathi	638.333
Calicut-51	606.333
Calicut-78	631.667
Culture-1	438.333
CD (0.05)	191.667

സംഗ്രഹം

1976 വേനൽക്കാലത്ത് മണ്ണുത്തിയിലുള്ള റിസർച്ച് സ്റ്റേഷൻ ആൻറ് ഇൻസ്ട്രക്ടർഷണൽ ഫാമിൽ ഒൻപത് പയറിനങ്ങളുടെ വിളവുൽപാദനശേഷി പരിശോധിച്ചുനോക്കിയതിൽ ന്യൂ ഇറാ എന്ന പയറിനം ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ വിളവ് നൽകുന്നതായി കണ്ടു.

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