

Agri. Res. J. Kerala, 1977, 15 (2)

INFLUENCE OF PLANTING SUCKERS IN LEVEL GROUND AND IN TRENCHES ON FRUIT YIELD OF PINEAPPLE

The methods of cultivation of pineapple vary in different parts of the country. Hayes (1960) describes planting suckers in individual holes in Hawaii by means of a planting iron with or without the use of polythene paper. Firmingersmanual and Dhaireswar (1950) recommend planting pineapple on ridges especially as an intercrop. In Kerala, it is customary to cultivate pineapple in level ground, in ridges or in deep trenches depending on local preferences. In Trichur district, trenches of 45 cm. deep are used for planting pineapple suckers providing distances of 45 cm. between plants, 60 cm. between rows and 180 cm. between trenches. No data supporting the advantages of planting suckers in such deep trenches were available. Therefore, a field trial to find out the influence of depth of planting pineapple suckers on the yield of fruits was initiated in 1969—72 period at Banana Research Station, Kannara.

The trial was laid out in October 1969 using uniform suckers with five treatments viz, planting suckers at ground level and in deep trenches of 15, 30, 45 and 60 cm. adopting two row system of planting with spacing of 40 cm. between plants, 50 cm between rows and 150 cm between trenches. The gross plot size of each treatment was 60 sq. metres accommodating 120 plants. Besides applying a basal dose of farm yard manure @ 10 tons per hectare, fertilizers to supply 8 g. N; 4 g P₂O₅ and 16 g K₂O per plant were applied in two split doses. Data on yield were recorded and analysed statistically.

The data on yield indicated that there was no significant difference due to treatments in the total weight of fruits per plot indicating that trench planting of pineapple does not help in increasing the yield in plant crop season. The results of this study thus did not support the expenditure now being incurred by the local cultivators in preparing deep trenches for pineapple planting. Further, deep trenches are not suitable for accommodating high population densities.

സംഗ്രഹം

കൈതച്ചക്ക വിവിധ താഴ്ചകളിലുള്ള കിടങ്ങുകളിൽ നടന്നതുടലം ഉളവാകുന്ന ഉല്പാദനം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള ഒരു പരീക്ഷണം 1969-72 കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ കണ്ണൂർ വാഴകൃഷി ഗവേഷണ കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ നടത്തപ്പെട്ടു. കൈതച്ചക്ക വിവിധ താഴ്ചകളിലുള്ള കിടങ്ങുകളിൽ നടക്കുന്ന ഉല്പാദനം വിലുവ ലഭ്യമാകുന്നില്ല എന്ന് ഗവേഷണഫലങ്ങളിൽ rolcroo തെളിഞ്ഞു.

Table
Yield of fruits in kg per plot

Treatment	Adjusted mean fruit weight in kg/plot
1. Ground level	68.22
2. Trenches 15 cm deep	66.28
3. ,, 30 cm	60.21
4. .. 45 cm ..	63.62
5. ,, 90 cm	70.22
Significance 5% level	Not significant

REFERENCES

- Dhadeshwar, S. R.** 1950. Trench cultivation of pineapple. *Dharwar. Agric. Col. Mag.* 4, 9—11.
- Hayes, W. B.** 1957. Fruit Growing in India. **Kistabistan**, Allahabad, India.
- Collins, J. L.** 1960. The Pineapple. Leonard Hill (Books) Ltd., London.

**Banana Research Station,
Kannara.**

S. BALAKRISHNAN
P. G. VEERARAGHAVAN
M. NATARAJAN

(M.S. received: 9-5-1977)