

Agri. Res. J. Kerala, 1976 14 (1)

A NOTE ON THE EXISTANCE OF A NEW VARIETY OF PINEAPPLE

In India there are a number of pineapple varieties, the important ones being Kew, Queen and Mauritius. The variety Kew is also known as 'Giant Kew' and Cayenne'. The variety Queen contains two more distinct types viz. Red Ripley Queen and Green Ripely Queen. The fruits of all the above mentioned varieties are oval or oval to cylindrical in shape with a well developed crown. An entirely different type of pineapple was observed in some hilly areas of Trivandrum District (Nedumangad Taluk). In this case the fruit is abnormally long and conical in shape and crown is reduced to small scaly leaves. This can be due to the transformation of the vegetative crown portion of the spikate inflorescence into floral parts. The scaly leaves towards the top of the crown are longer than those at the basal region. In this variety 'fruit-lets' are produced from the stalk at the base of the main fruit, instead of slips. The morphological characters of the plant and the fruit characters such as colour and flavour are similar to those of Red Ripley Queen. The variety is locally known as 'Koompu puruthy'. It is known to exist in the above locality for the last forty years. This variety may have originated by mutation in Red Ripley Queen. It is seen only in places where Red Ripley Queen is abundantly grown.

Owing to the fancy shape and colour of the fruit, this variety can very well find a place in ornamental gardens and also as a new type in the germplasm collection for future breeding works.

സംഗ്രഹം

'റെഡ് റിപ്ലിക്വീൻ' എന്ന ഇനത്തോടു സാമ്യമുള്ള ഒരു പുതിയ ഇനം കൈതച്ചക്ക തിരുവനന്തപുരം ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ടിൽ നെടുമങ്ങാട് താലൂക്കിൽ കാണപ്പെട്ടു. ഇതു വളരെ നീളമുള്ളതും കോണിക്ക് ആകൃതിയോടു കൂടിയതുമാണ്. ഈ ആകൃതി കാരണം ഒരു കരുതക സസ്യമായി തോട്ടങ്ങളിൽ വെച്ചു പിടിപ്പിക്കാനും, മാറ്റ നല്ല ഇനങ്ങൾ ഉല്പാദിപ്പിക്കാൻ ജോഷ്യാസമായിട്ടും 'കമ്പു പുറത്തി' എന്ന നാടൻ പേരിൽ അറിയപ്പെടുന്ന ഈ ചെടി പഠനീയമാണ്.

Agricultural College and
Research Institute, Vellayani, Kerala.

M. R. c. PILLAI
IP SUKUMARAN NAIR

(M. S. received: 3-8-1971)