

(9) Name of the Innovation: “Kumbukkal” Black Pepper variety.

A. Description of Innovation

K.T. Varghese an innovative farmer from Cheruvalikulam, has developed a disease resistant variety of pepper, which has stable yield, high oil content and pungency than the local varieties. His father is also an agriculturist grew rubber as the main crop with some pepper on the ten acres of land. The variety has a highly developed root system making it resistant against quick wilt and foot rot, and can also be grown in stony areas having less soil depth.

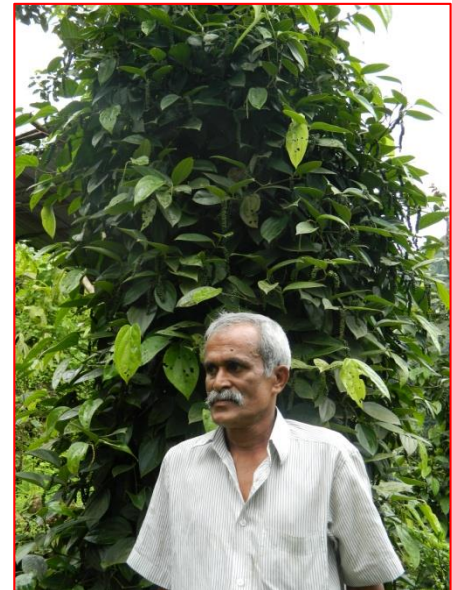


B. Problem Statement

Black pepper cultivation is facing many constraints due to the pest and disease problems especially quick wilt disease causing yield reduction and even total loss of the crop.

C. Process of Technology Development

In 1989 he had severe incidence of quick wilt in his pepper crop and to his surprise only five- eight plants could survive the incidence. His wife advised him to propagate the remaining plants through vegetative propagation to which he consented. Along with them, he cultivated the fresh seeds of Karimunda variety also. This was successfully done till 1995, then again there was an attack of quick wilt in the entire Idukki district. All his plants were lost excepting the ones, which were the progeny of the previous quick wilt survivors. After this episode he again repeated the process of propagation and increased his yield substantially over the years.



Special features of the variety:


- Higher yields compared to locally cultivated varieties.
- Resistant against quick wilt, and can be grown in stony areas having less soil depth.
- It is preferred due to the high pungency and has good demand from farmers even from far-flung areas.
- According to him, the variety contains 2 percent higher oil than other conventional varieties cultivated in the region.

D. Replication and Promotion

Shri. Varghese is using this variety after isolating and stabilizing the plantlets. In 2001, after the visit of an officer from the Spices Board, a paper on his variety got published in the magazine, *Spice India*, which gave him much recognition and he got a good demand for his variety in 2002. Anticipating a good demand in 2003, he prepared around one lakh vegetative propagules for sale and is being distributed among the pepper growing belts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

E. Recognition

Spices Board has published about the pepper variety developed by innovator in the '*Journal of Spice India*'.

	Name & Address	K.T Varghese Kumbukkal, Cheruvallikulam Murinjapuzha, Peermade - 685 532, Kerala
Phone no.		04869 288275, 9961021273
Educational qualification		High School
Land holding (in Ha)		1.2
Farming experience		40 Yrs
Name of the crop/ Livestock/ other enterprises		Mixed Farming
Social recognition		Nil