

**(1) Name of the Innovation: “Njallani Green Gold”** variety of small cardamom.

### **A. Description of Innovation**

The farmer innovation Njallani Green Gold variety in 1987 revolutionized small cardamom cultivation in Kerala particularly in Idukki district in production, management and productivity. Njallani belongs to Vazhukka type with high yield potential and ability to respond to better agronomic management. It spread like wild fire to occupy more than 70% of the cardamom area in Idukki in about a decade and lesser percentage of area in other cardamom growing regions. The increase in the cardamom production in Idukki district as well as in Kerala could largely be attributed to this variety.



### **B. Problem Statement**

Till 1980s mainly Mysore, Malabar and Vazhukka types occupied the cardamom tracts of Idukki district. The productivity of cardamom at the time was less than 200kg/ha. As per the Complete Enumeration Survey on the State Wise Area and Production of Small Cardamom, during 1986-87, the area under small cardamom was 61000ha with a production of 2500 tones. By 1990-91, the area reduced to 44008 ha and the production increased to 3450 tones. This increase in production despite the decrease in the area is mainly attributed to the cultivation of Njallani variety.

As per M.S. Swaminathan Committee Report submitted to Government of India, the spread of the variety started in early 1990s and reached the peak by 2002-03. On the assumption that influence of Njallani on the yield and production had become perceptible only from 1995-96 and subsequent 75% of production difference from the base period prior to 1995-96 is contributed by this variety, its revenue contribution to the state is estimated to be @ 150 crores during the last 15 years.

### **C. Process of Technology Development**

The innovator Rejimon Joseph used to help his father Sri. Sebastian Joseph in cardamom field right from his school days. He experimented with artificial cross-pollination and different planting methods in cardamom. He noticed a cardamom plant with peculiar features in his plantation. He propagated it vegetatively and observed its growth and yield characteristics. It took almost ten years for him to develop the new variety Njallani Green Gold, which is actually a selection from Vazhukka.



Sri. P.J. Philip, Deputy Director (Development) of Spices Board took great interest in the innovation and helped in the spread of the technology. All India Radio and leading newspapers also took up the innovation in a big way.

### The major advantages of the innovation are


- ✓ High productivity i.e. 2000-2500kg/ha as against 250-300kg/ha in case of other varieties
- ✓ Dark green colour of the capsules.
- ✓ Bold capsules of 8.5-9.0 mm size amounts to 30% where as in other varieties it is about 15-20%, seeds/ capsule is 18-36, whereas in other varieties, it is less than 20
- ✓ In case of Njallani length of panicle varies from 5-9 ft but in other varieties it varies from 3-5 ft
- ✓ 40-48 racemes /panicle and 17-25 capsules/raceme in Njallani but in other varieties, 20-22 racemes/panicle and 7-14 capsules/ raceme.

### D. Replication and Promotion

The variety is spread over 23500 ha area in Idukki district. In Palakkad district, it is being grown in about 2000ha area. In Waynad district, 70% of the hill area under cardamom is occupied by this variety. Mainly newspapers and television channels did the promotion of the innovation. The innovator claims that there is more than 1000 newspaper coverage in Malayalam, English, Kannada and over 100 television coverage on his innovation.

### E. Recognition

- a. Institutional acceptance of the innovation:
  - ✓ National Innovation Foundation Award in 2001.
  - ✓ Spices Board Special Award in 1995.
- b. Recognition in the form of Honours/certificates/awards etc.
  - ✓ Spices Board has announced a special grant of RS. 6.0 Lakhs.
  - ✓ Gandhiji Study Centre (NGO) awarded the title 'Elathilakam' and a gold medal.
  - ✓ World Vision of India (NGO) honoured him with a shield.
  - ✓ Certificate of honour from 'krishad' a Karnataka based organization.

	Name & Address	<b>Mr. Rejimon Joseph</b> Njallaniyil, Kattappana, Idukki district, Kerala.
Phone no.		04868 273169, (0)9447105070
Educational qualification		Degree
Land holding (in Ha)		3.2 ha
Farming experience		25 years
Name of the crop/ Livestock/ other enterprises		Cardamom, Pepper, Coffee
Social recognition		President, State Human Rights Protection Cell, Kerala State