

(8) Name of the Innovation: “Pepper Thekken”Black Pepper variety.

A. Description of Innovation

The variety named Pepper Thekken is a natural mutant of piper nigrum (Black Pepper), which has been identified and cultivated by Sri. T.T. Thomas, Thekkel, Kanchiyar P.O, Idukki district, Kerala for the past 25 years. The specialty of the variety is that the spikes are fully branched, while the other pepper varieties are single spiked without branches. The farmer innovation – Pepper Thekken variety yields about 8600 Kg / ha (Dry Weight) and is highly disease tolerant.



B. Problem Statement

The pepper varieties normally grown in the High Ranges of Idukki district yields about 3000 kg/ha (Dry Weight) and is highly susceptible to wilt diseases. The normal varieties grown here are not have branched spikes.

C. Process of Technology Development

The variety Pepper Thekken is a natural selection. About 35 years ago, the innovator noticed a pepper plant with peculiar characteristics in the forest area of Kanchiyar in Kattappana panchayat. He collected it from the forest and grew it in his field. He observed that the plant was superior to other pepper varieties grown in the region in terms of vigour, yield and disease resistance. He propagated the plants and the variety was named “Pepper Thekken”.




The pepper varieties usually grown bear single spikes and each spike bear about 60-80 berries. The variety Pepper Thekken bears branched spikes. Each of the spikes has about 60-80 branches and sub branches. Each of the clump (Branches & Sub branches together) bears about 800-1000 berries. Experts from Kerala Agricultural University, Indian Cardamom Research Institute and State Department of Agriculture visited his field and certified the innovation.

D. Replication and Promotion

More than 200 farmers have collected the planting materials of Pepper Thekken over these years. Through these farmers, the technology has spread to Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Wynad and different parts of Idukki district. The innovation was presented at First Farmers’ Science Congress organized by KVK Kannur. The innovation has also been nominated for the award of National Innovation Foundation. The innovation has been telecasted through Television Channel – Idukki Vision. The innovation has been reported by various leading local dailies like Malayala Manorama, Matrubhoomi & Mangalam.

E. Recognition

- a. Institutional acceptance of the innovation: Not yet received any Institutional acceptance but the innovation has been nominated for National Innovation Foundation (NIF), Gujarat.
- b. Recognition in the form of Honours/certificates/awards etc.:
- ✓ Certificate for presenting a paper entitled “A new high yielding variety of Pepper” at the Farmers Science Congress organized by KVK, Kannur.
 - ✓ Certificate of honour from Kattappana Block Panchayat.
 - ✓ Certificate of honour from Kanchiyar Grama Panchayat.
 - ✓ Certificate of honour from Bharathiya Janatha Karshaka Morcha.
 - ✓ Certificate of honour from Bapooji Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Idukki.
 - ✓ Certificate of Merit from Society for Research and Initiatives for sustainable Technologies and Institutions, Ahemdabad.

	Name & Address	Mr. T. T. Thomas, Thekkel, Kanchiyar P.O., Idukki, Kerala
Phone no.		9961463035
Educational qualification		High school
Land holding (in ha)		1.2
Farming experience		35-40 yrs
Name of the crop/ Livestock/ other enterprises		Pepper
Social recognition		Nil