

Foot Rot Tolerant Black Pepper 'IISR Thevam' Turned Planters Pride

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Phytophthora foot rot is a devastating malady affecting black pepper vines of all ages across time and space. Vine death is complete in the affected plants. Though integrated control measures are available, it is less effective in saving the affected vines in the advanced stages of infection or preventing the occurrence and recurrence of the malady. Disease resistant varieties are the cheap, durable, most effective and safe option to

prevent crop loss due to diseases in any crop. In case of black pepper, the variety 'IISR Thevam' has fulfilled this long felt need of a foot rot disease tolerant variety!

IISR Thevam, a selection of popular cultivar Thevan mundi, was released by ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode during the year 2005. After a series of trials involving many black pepper varieties in the hot spot areas of foot rot disease, the first trial started

in Tata Tea Ltd. Estate, Valparai, Tamil Nadu. Among the many varieties evaluated, only 'Coll.1041' (the pre-release identity of IISR Thevam) survived in the sick soils naturally infected with the foot rot pathogen. Owing to its disease tolerance coupled with high yield and good quality, Coll.1041 was christened as IISR Thevam and released (The suffix Thevam denotes the origin of the variety from the mother clone Thevan mundi while the prefix IISR is the acronym for Indian Institute of Spices Research).

Over the years IISR Thevam has become a favourite of planters across the country and planters prefer the rooted cuttings of IISR Thevam, over other black pepper varieties/hybrids.

Mr. H.S. Dharmaraj of Geetha Estate in Honkaravally, Karnataka is having about 2020 vines of IISR Thevam of varying ages. "IISR Thevam is the number one variety owing to its disease tolerance coupled with high yield and good quality", asserts the young planter Mr. Dharmaraj. He gets a yield of 8-11kg (dry) from a nine-year-old vine with a bulk density of 570 g/L while other varieties record bulk density below 540g/L. Berries of IISR Thevam are bold and attractive.

No other black pepper varieties have this high yield and good quality coupled with disease tolerance, says Mr. Dharmaraj. Hence, he and his father Mr. H.N. Santhiah are planning to replace other black pepper varieties in the estate with IISR Thevam and are planning to start an exclusive nursery for IISR Thevam. An ace quality coffee grower who bagged second prize in the prestigious Ernest Illy

International Coffee Award 2017, Mr. Dharmaraj is also in the business of black pepper export. He has installed all the necessary infrastructure facility for sorting, grading and packing of black pepper at his homestead and is assisted by Mrs. Nanditha Dharmaraj in the venture. Mr. Dharmaraj is of the opinion that the bold and attractive berries of IISR Thevam have an



advantage in the export market too.

Mr. Dharmaraj takes utmost care in all aspects of black pepper cultivation and processing. Integrated nutrient and plant protection schedule are adopted in the estate. The vines trailed on live standards are provided with drip irrigation as done for the coffee plants. Many planters/farmers regularly visit the estate to get acquainted with the practices of Mr. Dharmaraj. This year 1200 visitors came to the estate so far. After seeing the performance of IISR Thevam at the Geetha Estate, many planters from Karnataka are approaching the ICAR-IISR Regional Station, Appangala for planting material of this variety.

Tata Coffee Ltd.'s Glenlorna Estate, Hudikeri,



Footrot tolerant green healthy lush green IISR Thevam vines amidst infected vines of Panniyur-1 at Coffee Ltd.'s Glenlorna Estate, Kodagu

Hysodlur, Kodagu is yet another tell-tale success of IISR Thevam. In this estate, one can see very healthy lush green IISR Thevam vines amidst infected vines of Panniyur-1, a sight to behold. There are about 2200 vines of IISR Thevam, of varying ages, in the estate. Convinced with its disease tolerance, high yield plus good quality, more and more planters are now opting for IISR Thevam in Karnataka and Kerala.

Address:

Mr. H.S. Dharmaraj

Geetha Estate, Honkaravally, Saklespur Taluk, Karnataka, Mob: 9448156453.

Rooted cuttings of IISR Thevam can be obtained from:

I. Manager

ATIC, ICAR-IISR, Kozhikode, Pin: 673 012, Ph: 0495 2730704

2. Head

ICAR-IISR Regional Station, Appangla Madikeri, Ph: 08272 245451/245514/298754

3. Mr. Martin Manuel

Elavunkal, Thalayad PO, Unnikulam Kozhikode, Pin: 673 574, Mob: 9495613499

4. Mr. Girish N. Hegde

Sahyadri Nursery and Farm, Halkodu Village Edagigaleman Post, Sagar Taluk, Shimoga Karnataka, Mob: 9448146432

5. Mrs. Tabira C/o Mr. Abdul Nabeel

Pattorakkal, Natura, Meppayyur PO, Pin: 673 524, Mob: 9495083753

6. Mr. N.T. George

Nedumkallel, Venappara, Kozhikode, Pin: 673 582, Mob: 9048227237

