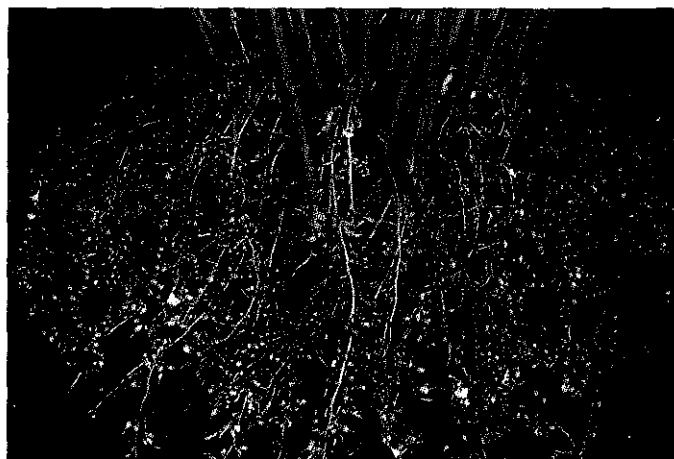
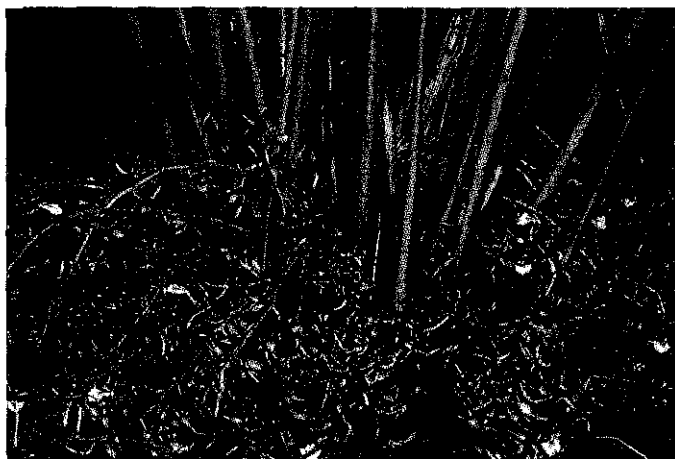


M.N. Venugopal and D. Prasath

New cardamom varieties



Spice of commerce: Cardamom IISR Avinash and IISR Kodagu Suvasini

CARDAMOM (*Elettaria cardamomum*) is an important, export-oriented spice crop. It covers 77,725 ha (2004-05), out of which 56, 37 and 7% of area is in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, respectively. One of the major production constraints in cardamom is lack of high-yielding, disease resistant and location-specific varieties. In order to select high-yielding and disease resistant varieties, a systematic attempt has been made. Three improved varieties, mainly selections from open-pollinated progenies, have been released. They are:

IISR Kodagu Suvasini

It is a high-yielding variety developed through selection from third generation open-pollinated progenies of C1.37. It has an average

yield of 745 kg/ha, essential oil (8.7%) and bold capsules (89). It is ideal for all cardamom-growing areas of Karnataka, Wynad in Kerala and lower Pulneys in Tamil Nadu.

IISR Avinash

IISR Avinash has been developed through selection from open-pollinated seedling of CCS-1. It is tolerant to rhizome rot disease. The average and potential yields are 847 and 1,483 kg/ha, respectively. Its capsules are dark green and colour is retained even after processing, which fetches premium price. It is adapted to all cardamom-growing regions of Karnataka, Wynad region of Kerala and other regions with similar agroclimatic conditions. It is highly suitable for planting in valleys and rhizome rot disease-prone areas.

IISR Vijetha I

IISR Vijetha I is a selection from field resistant mosaic clones collected from mosaic-infected areas. This is resistant to mosaic disease and has an average yield of 643 kg/ha, while potential yield being 979 kg/ha. It has 77% capsules with good appearance. It is adapted to cardamom-growing regions of Karnataka and Waynad region of Kerala, and recommended for areas with moderate rainfall, and moderate to high shaded mosaic infested areas.

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