



ISS Newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR SPICES

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The alarming pressure on land for high value plantation crops and also the fluctuating price structure has necessitated the efficient use of natural resources viz., soil, water and solar radiation which can be effectively managed by mixed cropping of spices with other plantation crops.

Here, I would like to share my experiences of over 2 ½ decades on the need and scope of cultivation of high value major spices like black pepper and cardamom with a major plantation crop, coffee.

Most of the coffee estates are owned by small and marginal farmers. Hence it is important to cultivate coffee with other high value, compatible crops like spices which require similar agro-climatic conditions. In coffee plantations the cropping strategy should be adoption of multi-storied cropping which aims at raising of compatible combination of crops having varying canopy and rooting habits grown together in such a manner that their canopies intercept solar energy at varying heights and their roots forage the soil mass at different zones. Hence mixed cropping of coffee with spices like black pepper, cardamom, ginger and turmeric is assuming greater significance.

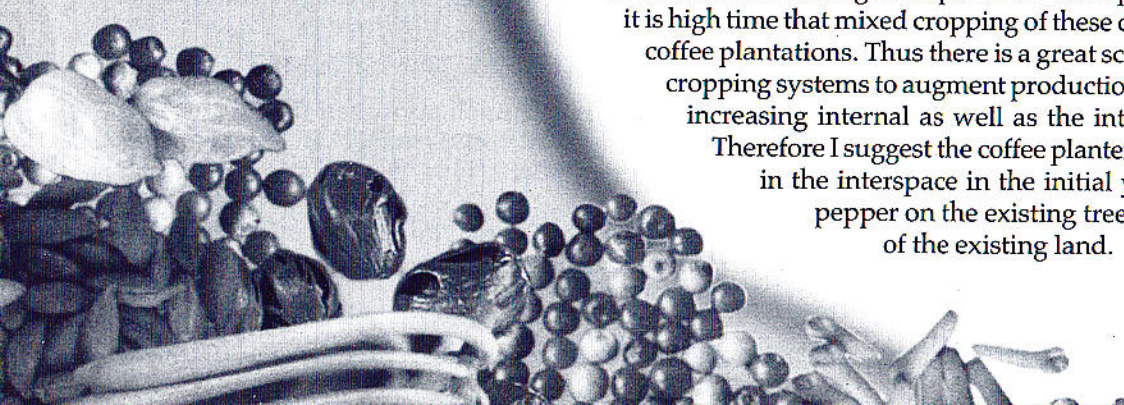
As both Robusta and Arabica coffee take at least three to four years to give economic returns, it is worthwhile to cultivate ginger in the interspace of young coffee estates in the initial years. Though the prices have come down in most of the plantation crops, cardamom has been fetching an encouraging price in the last couple of years. Hence, there is great scope to introduce cardamom in suitable areas to increase the production and productivity of coffee plantations.

Coorg Mandarin which was hitherto an important fruit (orchard) crop in coffee plantations, has almost become extinct due to greening virus complex disease. Under such circumstances, the only way out to increase the productivity of coffee plantations, is to take up mixed cropping with spices like black pepper trained on existing shade trees in coffee plantations.

As India is still the largest importer of tree spices like clove, cinnamon etc., it is high time that mixed cropping of these compatible crops is taken up in coffee plantations. Thus there is a great scope for the coffee based spices cropping systems to augment production and productivity to meet the increasing internal as well as the international demand of spices.

Therefore I suggest the coffee planters to grow ginger and turmeric in the interspace in the initial years and then to grow black pepper on the existing trees to get maximum benefit out of the existing land.

(V. S. Korikanthimath)



New Director for IISR

Dr. V. A. Parthasarathy former Head, Division of Crop Improvement, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod has taken over as new Director of Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode w.e.f. 17 August 2002.

A biotechnologist and horticulturist of repute, Dr. Parthasarathy is a recipient of ICAR Team Award in Horticulture (as leader) during 2002 and was also awarded DBT Overseas Associateship for visit to USA. He has more than 25 years of research experience in horticulture/plantation crops like citrus, vegetables, gerbera, gladiolus and coconut.

An expert in biotechnology and breeding of horticultural crops, Dr. Parthasarathy has published over 150 research articles in national/international journals, edited 10 books and contributed about 25 chapters to different books. He also guided many Ph. D students. He has visited many countries like USA, UK, Sri Lanka and Mexico.

National Seminar on Strategies for Increasing Production and Export of Spices

The Indian Society for Spices in collaboration with Indian Institute of Spices Research conducted a National Seminar entitled 'Strategies for Increasing Production and Export of Spices' during 24-26 October 2002. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. G. Kalloo, Deputy Director General (Hort.), ICAR, New Delhi. Dr. K. V. Peter, Vice-Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University presided over the function. Dr. V. A. Parthasarathy, Director, IISR, Calicut welcomed the gathering and Dr. Y. R. Sarma, President, ISS introduced the Seminar topic.

This was followed by four technical sessions on

- I. Production strategies for optimization of inputs
- II. Biodiversity and conservation
- III. Biorational management of pests and diseases
- IV. Value addition, marketing and export strategies of spices

The seminar highlighted the need for strengthening the research efforts on precision farming and development of eco-friendly plant nutrient management system, biocontrol of pests and diseases. It also emphasized the need for popularization of medicinal uses of spices.

Awards

The following awards were presented during the seminar.

Sugandha Bharathi Award (2002) for life time contribution to the cause of spices was conferred on Sri. Venugopalan Nambiar posthumously who evolved the first black pepper hybrid Panniyur - 1.

Dr. J. S. Pruthi Award for the best research article published in the JOSAC Volume 10 was bagged by Dr. K D Khiriya, Dr. R S Sheoran and Dr. B P Singh for the

paper entitled 'Growth analysis of fenugreek *Trigonella foenum-graecum* L. under various levels of farm yard manure and phosphorus'.

H. S. Mehta Memorial Award for the best oral presentation in the National Seminar was bagged by Dr. V V Belavadi, Dr. C Parvathi, Dr. Thimmarayappa, Dr. M R Anand and Dr. Y L Ramachandra for their paper entitled 'Pollinator recruitment in relation to flower density in small cardamom'.

Dr. Alapatti Prasada Rao Award for the best poster exhibited in the National Seminar has gone to the poster entitled 'Lycopene and volatile oil constituents - changes during the storage of mace powder (*M. fragrans*)' authored by Ms. K M Maya, Dr. T J Zachariah and Mr. B Krishnamoorthy.

Annual General Body Meeting of ISS

General body meeting of ISS was conducted on 24 October 2002. Dr. Y. R. Sarma, President presided over the function. Dr. M. Anandaraj, Secretary briefed about the activities of the Society. The audited account for the period ending 31.03.2002 was presented by Dr. V. Srinivasan, the treasurer. Dr. K. V. Ramana, Chief Editor of JOSAC presented the report of the editorial board.

The general body approved the following amendments in the guidelines proposed by the Secretary.

- I. Increase of ordinary/annual membership fee to Rs. 250.
- II. Increase of life membership fee to Rs. 1500 for residents in India and SAARC countries and US \$ 500 for residents in other countries.
- III. For publishing articles in JOSAC, atleast one of the authors should be a member of the ISS.

Mr. M. K. Sachidanandan, Returning Officer for Election, declared the results of the election to the office bearers of the Society. Dr. K. S. Krishnamurthy, Joint Secretary proposed vote of thanks.

Executive council meetings

The decisions emerged during the executive council meetings held on 02.12.02 and 13.05.03 are given below.

02.12.02

- Ø One Vice President, 5 Executive Council Members and 4 Zonal Councillors were nominated by the Executive Council.
- Ø Society may launch its own website and the details of Executive Council Members and Journal of Spices and Aromatic Crops may be provided in the web page.

13.05.03

- Ø The Executive Council approved the conduct of National Seminar at ICAR Research Complex for Goa, Goa during November 2003.
- Ø The Executive Council decided to publish the proceedings of the National Seminar held during October 2002.

New office bearers of ISS

The following were elected as the new office bearers for the period 2002-2004

President	Executive councillors	Zonal Councillors
V S Korikanthimath	N P Damodaran	North Zone
Vice Presidents	S Edison	Rakesh Mehra, Hisar
V K Raju	Johnson K George	East Zone
M Anandaraj	N Ramachandran	Ajay Harlalka, Calcutta
Secretary	B Sasikumar	West Zone
T John Zachariah	W T Jacob	Suresh Kumar Malhotra, Ajmer
Joint Secretary	M R Sudharshan	Central Zone
K N Shiva	M Tamil Selvan	Rakesh Pandey, Lucknow
Treasurer	J Thomas	South Zone
KS Krishnamurthy	V Unnikrishnan	V V Belavadi, Mudigere

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON NEW PERSPECTIVES IN SPICES, MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS

Indian Society for Spices in association with ICAR Research Complex for Goa, Goa and Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut is planning to conduct a National Seminar to share knowledge and exchange the ideas among spices and aromatic plants researchers and also to spread the cultivation of such crops in non-traditional areas like Konkan and Goa regions. For this purpose one session is planned exclusively for interaction between farmers and scientists. Following technical sessions are planned.

Crop Improvement and Biotechnology Crop Production
Post Harvest Technology Crop Protection
Marketing Transfer of technology

Seminar venue: ICAR Research Complex for Goa, Goa

Date: 27-29 November 2003

Registration Fee: Rs. 750 for Non members Rs. 500 for Life members
Rs. 400 for Students

Last date for sending abstracts : 30 September 2003

General Convenor: Dr. V. S. Korikanthimath, Director, ICAR Research Complex for Goa, Ela, Old Goa, Pin - 403 402, Goa. E-mail: director@icargoa.nic.in

For further details, please contact: Dr. T. John Zachariah, Secretary, Indian Society for Spices, C/o Indian Institute of Spices Research, P. B. No. 1701, Marikunnu (P. O.), Calicut - 673012. Ph: 0495 - 2731410, 2731753.

E-mail: iss@iisr.org, zacjohntj@yahoo.com

or

Dr. V. S. Korikanthimath, Director, ICAR Research Complex for Goa & President, Indian Society for Spices, Ela, Old Goa, Pin - 403 402, Goa. E-mail: director@icargoa.nic.in

6TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PLANT GROWTH PROMOTING RHIZOBACTERIA

The 6th International PGPR (Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria) Workshop will be held from **5-10 October 2003** at **Calicut, India**. The workshop is organized by **Auburn University, Alabama, USA** in association with Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi and Indian Society for Spices, Calicut. The venue of the workshop is at **Kadavu**, a health resort about 12 km from Calicut city. The main objectives of the seminar are

1. To facilitate international communication, research and development of PGPR and other beneficial microorganisms.
2. To bring together scientists from different disciplines, such as Microbiology, Agronomy, Soil Science, Nematology, Plant Pathology and Molecular Biology to discuss on opportunities and challenges of PGPR based systems.
3. To introduce Indian research to an international scientific audience.
4. To encourage the development of international cooperative research programs.

There would be eight technical sessions

1. Agronomy and Pathology of Tropical Plantation Crops.
2. Overview of PGPR Work in India.
3. Integrated Biological Systems.
4. Technology Transfer in Developing Countries- Models for Delivering PGPR to Growers.
5. Can Basic Research Really Aid Practical Use of PGPR?
6. Recent Developments in *Bacillus* Genetics and Mechanisms.
7. Mechanisms of Growth Promotion.
8. Mechanisms of Biocontrol.

In each session oral presentation would be by eminent scientists in the respective fields. All other presentations would be in the form of posters.

The **registration fee** for Indian delegates

Industry Employees : Rs. 10,000/-

University, State and Federal Govt. Employees : Rs. 3000/-

Accompanying Persons : Rs. 2000/- each

Research Fellows : Rs. 2500/-, Students : Rs. 1000/-.

For further information please contact **Dr. Y. R. Sarma**, Organizing Secretary & General Convenor, IISR, Calicut - 673 012, Kerala, India. Phone: 0495 - 2731566 (O), 2373302 (R). E-mail: sarmayr@yahoo.com or visit the web site www.ag.auburn.edu/india/pp.html.

THE ISS FAMILY - KNOW YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS

(Continued from previous issue)

Institutional member

M/S Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd.

Jain Plastic Park, P. O. Box - 72, Jalgaon-425001

Life members

Mr. Chowgule, D. Y., Chowgule House, Mormugao Harbour, Goa, Pin - 403 803

Mr. Dada Kalander, H. E., M/S Sugandha Flavours & Extracts Pvt. Ltd., Balaraju's Road, Tank Mohalla, Shimoga, Karnataka, Pin - 577 201.

Mr. Dalvi Prakash Yashawant, C/O. N.N.

Sakhawarkar, 58, Yadogopal Peth, Satara - 415 002.

Dr. Damodaran, N. P., Director, International Institute of Ayurveda, Trichy Road, Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore, Pin - 641 045

Dr. Deepika Subash Chandratreya, Sital Niwas, Sital Bang, 64, Walkeswar Road, Mumbai, Pin - 400006

Mr. Deshpande, A. A., Scientist SG, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hessaraghatta Lake Post, Bangalore-560089

Mr. Devaiah, A. K., Agro Input Consultancy Centre Main Road, Post Box No.58, Madikeri