



### About NFPP



Nedspice believes that backward integration and sustainability are some of the main challenges for the food industry in the years ahead. To ensure that spice farming remains financially attractive and offers a sustainable livelihood for farmers Nedspice has initiated the development of backward integration programmes for farmers in the countries it works in. This ambition is laid down in the Nedspice - Farmers Partnership Programme (NFPP) which defines the approach, key principles as well as the expected results. In this update you will find information about the latest NFPP activities for ginger in Palakkad, India.

### Crop stage



- Monsoon onset over Kerala was on 29-May and the Better Ginger Initiative programme commenced on 4-Jun.
- Ginger seed rhizomes were treated with Trichoderma (a bio fungicide) instead of Mancozeb (a synthetic pesticide) prior to planting.
- Soil pH of the raised beds has been maintained by a hydrated lime (Calcium Hydroxide) application before planting the seed rhizomes.
- Adequate organic matter was applied, with 25 MT per hectare, by way of the farmyard manure application, during land preparation.

Climate development in NFPP area (2018/19 season)<sup>1</sup>

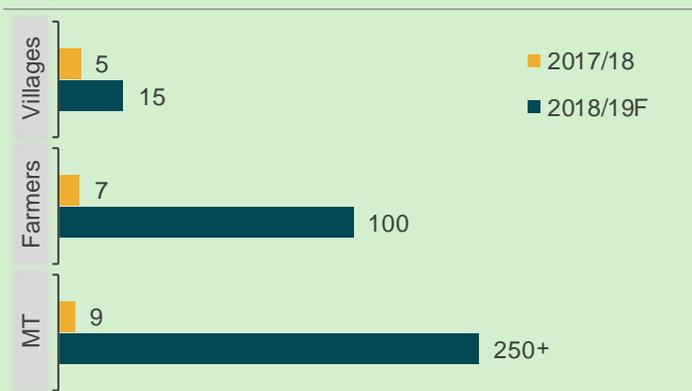
Stage	Period	°C	mm	Days	✓
Planting	Jun	(3%)	+157%	+17%	✓
Vegetative	Jul - Oct				
Rhizome formation	Nov				
Rhizome maturation	Dec				
Harvesting	Jan - Feb				

### Developments



- The NFPP for ginger was initiated in the 2017/18 crop season. A pilot project started in Palakkad district of Kerala with 7 farmers in 5 villages, from which 9 MT of superior quality sulfur and aflatoxin free dried ginger was procured.
- The Better Ginger Initiative started in Jun-18 after the successful completion of the ginger pilot during 2017/18. The programme is comprised of 15 villages in Palakkad district with 100 farmers enlisted and a procurement target of 250+ MT of sulfur and aflatoxin free dried ginger being set.
- The significant increase in farmer registration is a result of the Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) implemented in the previous year and good yields obtained by farmers who participated therein.

Programme impact and evolution



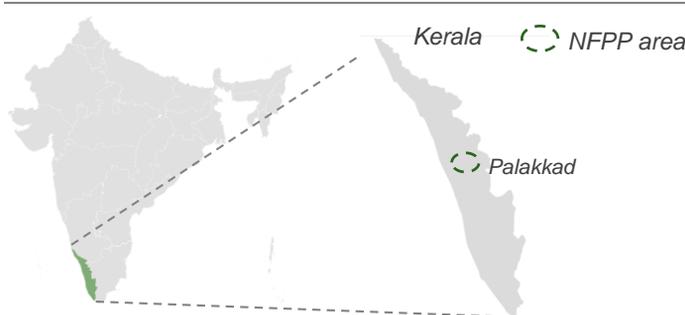
### Land Preparation



### NFPP area overview



Land preparation for ginger plantings - Liming operations and the raised bed method with irrigation channels (Beds with 1m width and 0.30m height)



<sup>1</sup>) Stages are indicative for the Himachal variety. The percentages represent the change versus the same period last year, considering data till 30-Jun-18. Rainy days are defined as days with >0mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.



- Farmer registrations and sowings commenced in Jun-18.
- Regular field visits during the land preparation and sowings ensured:
  - the treatment of seed materials with bioagents;
  - the adoption of good agricultural practices;
  - the proper adherence of the dimensions for the raised beds and the spacing of rhizomes during sowing.
- The mulching of the beds with green leaves was carried out immediately after planting for an effective weed control and better moisture retention, facilitating proper germination.
  - The uniform germination of seedlings has been observed in the fields planted in the first week of June.

## Ginger seed rhizomes



## Land preparation and seed treatment



- *The slicing of ginger seed rhizomes into pieces of 5-7 cm length for sowing.*



- *A 5-7 cm ginger seed rhizome piece with visible sprouting buds used for sowing.*



## What's next?



- Training on fertilizer application and pest management to the registered farmers for NFPP-BGI on a monthly basis, commencing from Jul-18.
  - Focus to be on the adoption of good agricultural practices and nutrient management for better rhizome development.
- Farmer meetings involving officials from the Agricultural Science Centres - Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Palakkad, Kerala during various crop development stages, commencing from Aug-18.
- The inclusion of NFPP-BGI under Farm Sustainability Assessment on Sustainable Agriculture Initiative global platform during crop year 2018/19.
  - Work on self-assessment certification modules for a representative set of farmers in the BGI program, will commence from Sept-18.

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