



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



- Devastating floods during Aug-18 caused severe damage to NFPP Ginger crops in Palakkad.
- Approximately 60% loss has been reported and only 10 hectares of salvaged crop are left after the recent heavy rains and floods.
- Severe incidence of rhizome rot has been observed in the fields, resulting in lower yields this season.

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

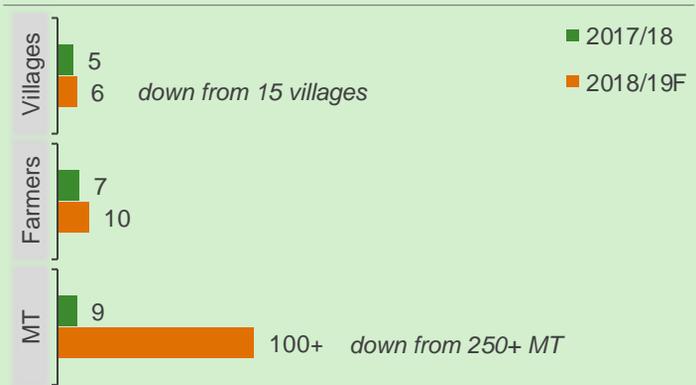
Stage	Period	☀ C°	☁ mm	☁ Days	📏
Planting	Jun	(3%)	+157%	+17%	✓
Vegetative	Jul - Oct	(5%)	+108%	+70%	✗
Rhizome formation	Nov				
Rhizome maturation	Dec				
Harvesting	Jan - Feb				

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 comprised of 15 villages in Palakkad district with c. 40 hectares enlisted and a procurement target of 250+ MT of sulfur and aflatoxin free dried ginger being set.
- However, NFPP farmer registrations for the Better Ginger Initiative in Palakkad have reduced to 10 farmers across 6 villages with c. 10 hectares due to the recent flood issues, from which Nedspice aims to procure 100+ MT.

Programme impact and evolution



Crop stage



- Ginger at vegetative stage in early Aug-18.

- Ginger fields under flooded condition.

NFPP area overview



¹) Stages are indicative for the Himachal variety. The percentages represent the change versus the same period last year, considering data until 5-Sep-18. Rainy days are defined as days with >0mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.



- Jul to Aug-18: Farmer training on the applications of fertilisers supplying major nutrients for crops.
- Mulching was done by using straw for improving soil fertility and reducing weed growth during vegetative stage.
- Weeding is being carried out in the fields due to excessive weed growth after rains so that fertilisers being applied are available to the crop.
- Fungicide application is also being carried out in the fields which are affected with rhizome rot.
- Application of hydrated lime has been done in the salvaged fields for quick absorption of soil moisture to minimize root rot incidence after water logging.
- Farmers had increased the number of drainage channels to avoid flooded conditions earlier.

Salvaged and damaged crops



Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)



- Hydrated lime applied for quick absorption of soil moisture after water logging.



- Ginger crop damaged at vegetative stage due to rhizome rot beyond control after floods.



- Cow Pea grown as legume (helps in nitrogen fixation in soil) in ginger beds (left).



- Mulching done by using straw for improving soil fertility and reducing weed growth (right).

What's next?



- Sep-18: Training to registered farmers of NFPP - Better Ginger Initiative on fertiliser application and curative application of fungicides, to provide extra protection for the salvaged NFPP plots after heavy rains and floods:
 - Focus on the adoption of good agricultural practices and nutrient management for better rhizome development and maximising crop yields;
 - Manual weeding will be promoted as an alternative of applying herbicides, considering less impact to environment and biodiversity;
 - Field visits will be conducted on a weekly basis to monitor crop development and salvage the crops to the best extent possible.

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