



### 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

- Excessive rainfall during the vegetative stage has led to the incidence of fungal diseases (rhizome rot) in the crop. Weeding operations in the flood impacted fields have not been carried out by farmers, in order to reduce cultivation costs. This is also likely to have an impact on the crop yield.
- Insufficient rainfall recently is unfavourable for rhizome formation, which would be seen clearly by end of this month.
- Due to overall shortage of rhizomes as seed material after floods during Aug-18, selling activities may become scarce unless price is attractive, farmers would prefer storing seed material for the next season.

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

Stage	Period	☀ C°	☁ mm	☁ Days	📅
Planting	Jun	(3%)	+157%	+17%	✓
Vegetative	Jul - Oct	(1%)	+49%	(13%)	✗
Rhizome formation	Nov	n.a	(59%)	(20%)	✗
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 (BGI) 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, after the heavy rains and floods during Aug-18 in the ginger project area, NFPP farmer registrations for the BGI reduced to 10 farmers across 6 villages with c. 10 hectares, from which Nedspice aims to procure 100+ MT.

Programme impact and evolution

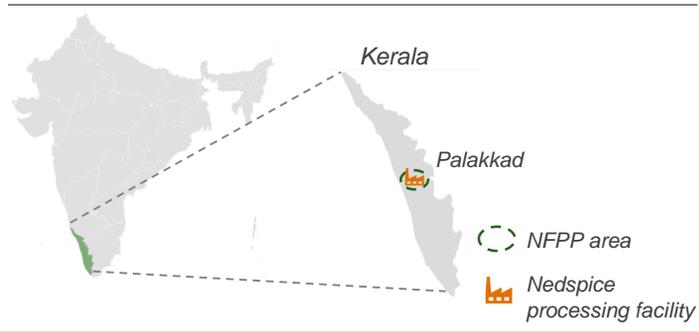


### Crop stage



- Ginger crop at rhizome formation stage.
- Parts of ginger crop affected by rhizome rot.

### 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 10-Nov-18. Rainy days are defined as days with >0mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.



- Sep and Oct-18:
  - Fertiliser application was carried out in the ginger fields after the start of North East monsoon.
  - Farmers have applied fungicide in their crops to limit the spread of rhizome rot in the fields.
  - Application of micronutrients through foliar application has been carried out to improve crop health.
  - Growth promoters were applied due to nutrient leaching after heavy rainfall and floods during Aug-18.
  - All farmer data and field activities have been recorded and updated in the NFPP app for complete traceability.
  - Healthy and pest free beds have been marked for seed rhizome multiplication in the next season.

## Rhizome development



- *Ginger flower formation from rhizomes indicates good and healthy rhizome development.*
- *Flower colour will change from green to red, once the rhizome maturation happens, which would be by Dec-Jan.*



## Pesticide application in ginger crop



## What's next?



- Mid Dec-18: Farmer trainings on the following harvest and post-harvest practices will be conducted, to ensure procurement of aflatoxin and allergen free produce:
  - Thorough dry washing (through abrasion) of harvested rhizomes
  - Avoidance of sulphur usage during the drying process
  - Reduction of moisture to below 12% in the raw material
- Preparation for the next crop season 2019/20:
  - Due to poor soil quality observed in some of the fields owing to soil run-off and leaching of nutrients, soil testing of selected farmer plots will be made mandatory for the next season, prior to land preparation.
    - Remedial soil improvement measures will be included in the package of practices.

### Nedspice

Netherlands: +31 10 2801 380

United States: +1 843 443 4007

Vietnam: +84 274 37 18 005

India: +91 484 22 23 286

spices@nedspice.com

<http://www.nedspice.com/>

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