



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



- Farmers completed sowing during the first week of June and germination has been observed after 3-4 weeks. Good weather conditions have supported the development of the ginger crop so far.
- This crop season, a trial with the IISR-Varada variety started in the project area. This variety is known for a good yield, higher quality and is tolerant to some diseases.
- The trial aims to test the possibility of applying this variety on larger scale in Palakkad. So far the trial crop is doing well.

Climate development in NFPP area (2019/20 season)¹

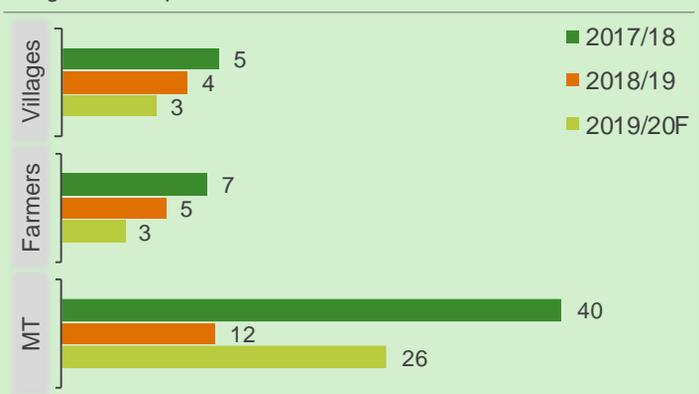
Stage	Period	☀️ C°	☁️ mm	☁️ Days	📅
Planting	Jun	8%	28%	(33%)	✓
Vegetative	Jul - Oct	3%	(100%)	n.a.	✓
Rhizome formation	Nov				
Rhizome maturation	Dec				
Harvesting	Jan - Mar				

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. Due to severe floods in Aug-18, only 4 ha from 5 farmers were left in the BGI.
- For this crop season, 3 farmers from 3 villages were selected based on farming performance. Nedspice has set a procurement target of 10 MT of superior quality, sulfur and aflatoxin free dried ginger.

Programme impact and evolution



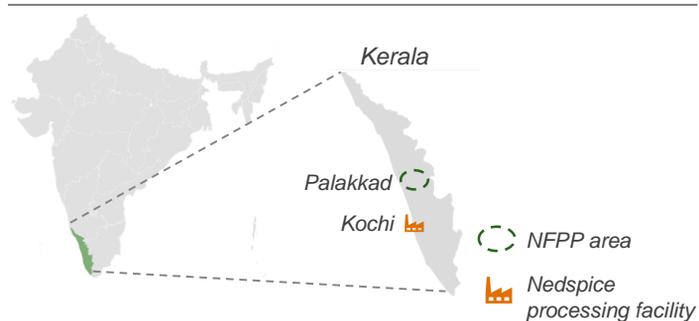
Crop stage



- Sown ginger on the raised beds.

- Germination of ginger rhizomes.

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 07-Jul-19. Rainy days are defined as days with >2.5mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.



Activities

- May - Jun-19: Farmer trainings on:
 - Bio fungicide (Trichoderma) treatment for rhizomes prior to planting;
 - Adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs);
 - Proper adherence of the dimensions for the raised beds and the spacing of rhizomes during sowing.
- Mid Jun-19: Farm Sustainability Assessment onsite audit completed successfully which verified:
 - Greater awareness of farmers on biodiversity conservation and waste management practices;
 - Adoption of GAPs regarding crop rotation, green manuring, timely weeding, planting of wind breaks/ border crops.

Good Agricultural Practices



- *Ginger rhizomes after treating with Trichoderma.*



- *Coir pith spread on the raised beds to avoid damage in case of heavy monsoon.*



- *Application of agricultural lime which helps to improve physical, chemical and biological properties of soil and reduces toxicities.*



- *Hay is also applied on the raised beds for extra protection during heavy monsoon.*



What's next?



- Jul-19 onwards:
 - Trainings on fertilizer application and pest management to NFPP farmers on a monthly basis;
 - Focus to be on the adoption of good agricultural practices and nutrient management for better rhizome development.
- Aug-19: Farmer meetings involving officials from the Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR), Calicut, Kerala during various crop development stages, commencing from 25-Aug.
- Jul-Oct-19: Micronutrient application will be promoted during the vegetative stage.
- Manual weeding will be promoted as an alternative of applying herbicides, considering chemical residue presence, less impact to soil, environment and biodiversity.

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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