



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 the nutmeg better initiative undertaken in Kerala, India.

Crop stage



- The nutmeg crop is at fruit development stage.
- Extreme weather during Aug-18 negatively impacted the crop as floods caused water logging and leaching of top soil nutrients.
- Furthermore, strong winds during Oct-18 resulted in severe damage to the nutmeg trees and buds at Chalakkudy and Angamaly areas.
- The salvaged nutmeg orchards are showing healthy growth and good fruit development, without any pest and disease attack, however overall impact from the above is still estimated to reduce the crop by 20-25% vs last year.

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

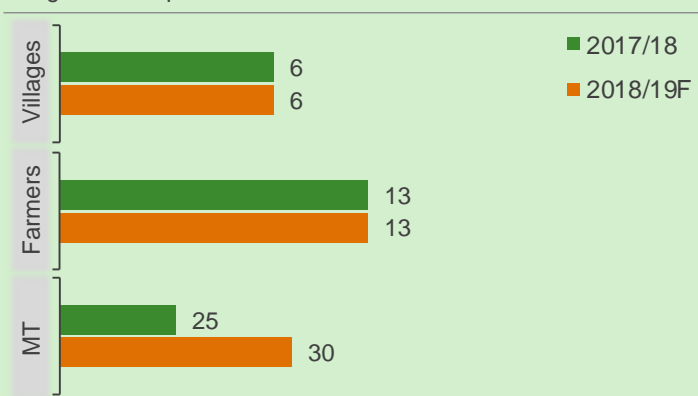
Stage	Period	☀️ °C	☁️ mm	☔ Days	📏
Non flowering	Sept	(1%)	(87%)	(62%)	✗
Bud initiation	Oct – Nov	(0%)	(25%)	(4%)	✗
Fruit development	Dec – Mar	(0%)	245%	18%	✓
Fruit maturation	Apr – May				
Harvest	Jun – Aug				

Developments



- The NFPP for nutmeg was initiated in the 2017/18 crop season. A pilot project started in Ernakulam district of Kerala, known as one of the traditional nutmeg growing regions in Kerala.
- 13 farmers across 6 villages, with productive nutmeg plantations that are 16+ years old, participated in the pilot programme, from which 25+ MT of superior quality aflatoxin free nutmeg was procured.
- The Better Nutmeg Initiative (BNI) has commenced for the 2018/19 crop season from 1-Sep-18.
- Nedspice aims to procure 30 MT of superior quality, aflatoxin free dried nutmeg from the 2018/19 crop season, c. 20% increase vs last season.

Programme impact and evolution

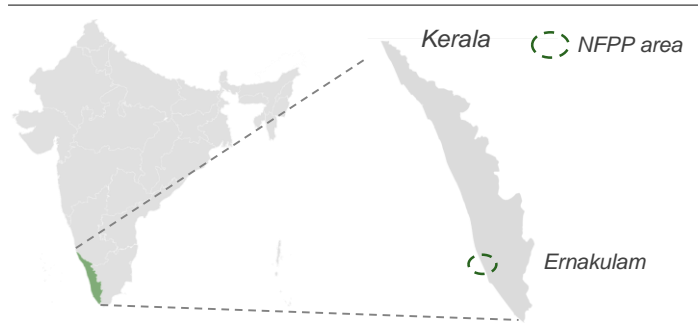


Nutmeg crop stage



- Nutmeg bud initiation stage (Oct - Nov).
- Nutmeg fruit development stage (Dec - Mar).

NFPP area overview



¹ Stages are indicative for the Viswasree variety. The percentages represent the change versus the same period last year, considering data until 10-Feb-19. Rainy days are defined as days with >0mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.
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- Sep - 18: Farmer registrations were completed 13 farmers registered for the Better Nutmeg Initiative programme.
- All farming activities are being captured on the NFPP Nutmeg App to ensure complete traceability.
- Farmers have been advised to focus on timely application of fertilisers and fungicides.
- Using dried leaves as mulch has been done, which provides the following advantages:
 - Reduce weed growth;
 - Increase organic matter content of soil;
 - Reduce water stress.

The impact of the floods last August



- *Less fruit development in the nutmeg orchards which were impacted by floods.*



- *Healthy nutmeg trees in a higher land which was less impacted by floods.*

Irrigation



- *Sprinkler system was installed in the NFPP nutmeg orchard for summer irrigation to reduce water stress.*



What's next?



- Regular field visits will be conducted to ensure timely use of bio-fungicides during fruit development and fruit maturation stages.
- 15th March: Farmer training on:
 - Water conservation methods and irrigation scheduling during summer time to reduce water stress in NFPP project area;
 - Effective disease prevention and management will be explained to NFPP farmers and proper application of bio-pesticides will be promoted;
 - Continuous training with adherence to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP's).

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