

come-first-serve basis. The station has already distributed more than one lakh planting materials, including tissue culture plants of pineapple, passion fruit and banana (Fig.18).



Fig. 18. Nursery and sale

Extension

Technology transfer is effectively carried out through personal discussions, field visits, phones, emails, websites, posts, radios, TV's, news papers, periodicals, publications, pineapple fests, seminars, trainings, etc. Publications such as leaflets, palmiets, books, CDs, DVDs, etc covering various aspects of cultivation and utilization of the mandatory crops of the station are also being undertaken. The centre produces and sells Tissue Culture Plants, Seedlings, Rooted cuttings and Publications and renders services such as Agrilclinic & advisory, Training, Consultancy, Quality testing and Project work of U.G. & P.G. students.

Outlook

Earnest efforts are also being taken to acquire free government land nearby as a permanent farm for raising various fruit plants, conserving germplasm and conducting field research, besides establishing adequate infrastructure for further development and diversification, renaming the station as Tropical Fruit Crops Research Station (TFCRS). It is also proposed to establish a fruit processing laboratory with FPO registration at the centre for the efficient conversion of leftover fruits to value added products like squash, jam, syrup, etc.

Besides pineapple, since Vazhakulam and neighbouring areas are well-known for other fruit crops like banana, mango, jack fruit, papaya, rambutan, mangosteen, etc, and there is no research station in the district catering to the needs of these farmers, Pineapple Research Station, Vazhakulam visualizes to be Tropical Fruit Crops Research Station (TFCRS) in the near future. This advanced research

centre of excellence dreams to be the ultimate authority and provider of excellent quality technology, products and services in tropical fruit crops. This is achieved through concerted research and development efforts sustained by best human resource and infrastructure development in line with Our Motto 'Quality People & Infrastructure for Quality Technology, Products & Services and Merit alone counts for Quality suitable for the purpose'.

The Tropical Fruit Crops Research Station comprises the following

Technology division

- Crop Improvement (Agricultural Botany, Plant Breeding and Biotechnology)
- Crop Production (Agronomy, Horticulture, Agricultural Chemistry and Agricultural Economics)
- Crop Protection (Agricultural Entomology, Plant Pathology, Microbiology and Nematology)

Products division

- Crop Processing and Product Development (Food Processing and Home Science)
- Quality Assurance (Quality Control)

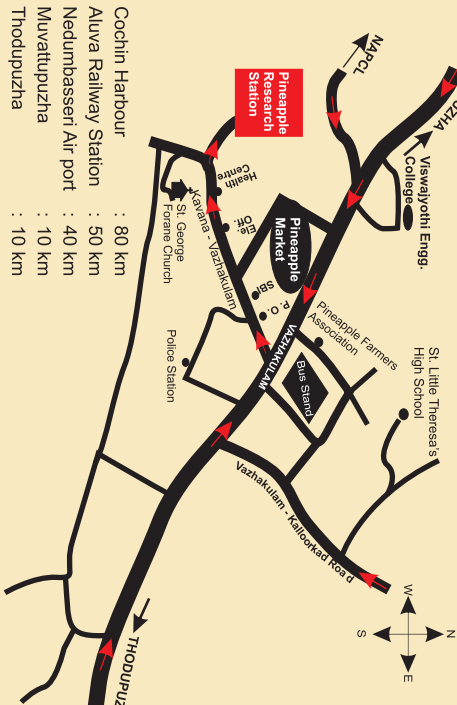
Services division

- Transfer of Technology, Other Services (Agricultural Extension, ICT)

You are welcome.....

You are welcome to this research centre of Kerala Agricultural University any time preferably with intimation. But please visit our websites <http://www.kau.edu/prsvkm> and <http://prsvkm.tripod.com> to know more about Pineapple Research Station and call us before you come. Your constructive comments, suggestions and criticisms are gratefully appreciated and acknowledged as they help us advance in the right direction. Let's together strive for a better tomorrow.

Reach us



Kerala Agricultural University PINEAPPLE RESEARCH STATION Vazhakulam

Crops

- Pineapple
- Passion fruit
- Banana

Technology

- Protocols for propagation including mass production by tissue culture
- Crop production as pure and intercrop in various situations
- Crop protection
- Processing and value addition
- Quality assessment

Products

- Tissue Culture Plants of pineapple, passion fruit and banana
- Seedlings of passion fruit
- Rooted cuttings of passion fruit
- Publications

Services

- Agrilclinic & advisory
- Training
- Consultancy
- Quality testing
- Project work of U.G. & P.G. students of other Universities
- Large scale Tissue Culture production

Contact Us

Associate Professor & Head

Pineapple Research Station (PRS)

(Kerala Agricultural University)

Vazhakulam P. O., 686670, Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam District.

Tel : 0485 2260832, Fax : 0485 2260832

Email : prsvkm@kau.in, prsvkm@gmail.com

Website : <http://www.kau.edu/prsvkm>
<http://prsvkm.tripod.com>

PINEAPPLE RESEARCH STATION

Dr. P.P. JOY, Associate Professor & Head



Technical Support : Justin T. Jose, Sruthy Thomas, Anjana R.

Neema James, Renju Rose Kurian



KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY PINEAPPLE RESEARCH STATION

VAZHAKULAM-686 670, MUVAATTUPUZHA, ERNAKULAM DISTRICT

PHONE: 0485 2260832, FAX: 0485 2260832

Email: prsvkm@kau.in, Website: www.kau.edu/prsvkm

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History

The Pineapple Research Station at Vazhakulam was established on 2nd January 1995 to give research and development support to pineapple farmers. Since then, this research centre of the Kerala Agricultural University has been steadily growing and serving as a subvention to the pineapple growers of the state and the country as well. The centre had a humble beginning on 2.1.1995 as “Pineapple Research Station & Pest and disease Surveillance Unit” under Kerala Horticulture Development Programme (KHDP). For the construction of the office-cum-laboratory building of the station, 15 cents of land was transferred from the Revenue Department to the Kerala Agricultural University on 24.6.1996. It was delinked from KHDP and became a constituent research centre of the Kerala Agricultural University under central zone on 1.7.1997. The present building was occupied on 27.6.1998.

Location

The centre is located close to the pineapple market at Vazhakulam, 10 km east of Muvattupuzha on the Muvattupuzha - Thodupuzha road in Ernakulam District, Kerala. It is about 40 km from Cochin International Air port, Nedumbassery; 50 km from Aluva railway station and 80 km from the Cochin harbour.

Mandate

The mandate of the research centre is to give research and development support to the pineapple growers, provide quality technology, products and services to the pineapple sector and undertake basic and applied research in pineapple and other fruit crops of Kerala.

Facilities

Laboratory: Plant biotechnology, phytochemistry and microbiology labs equipped with Laminar Air Flow Cabinets, Orbital Shaker, Hot air ovens, Precision Weighing balances, pH meters, Deep freezer, Gel documentation system, Centrifuges, Electrophoresis apparatus, PCR unit, UV-Visible spectrophotometer, UV-Transilluminator, ELISA Reader & washer, Flame Photometer, Hand Refractometer, Microscope with Camera, BOD incubator, Colony Counter, Distillation unit etc (Fig. 1-5).

Farm : 1.2 hectares

Library : Specialised books and periodicals relevant to the sector



Fig. 1. Mircoplate Washer & Reader



Fig. 2. Laminar Air Flow Chamber & Culture room



Fig. 3. PCR Unit



Fig. 4. Microscope with Camera



Fig. 5. UV-Vis Spectrophotometer

Training Hall: Well furnished training hall with modern audio-visual and projection systems

Sales Centre : For the public sale of Tissue Culture Plants, Seedlings, Rooted cuttings, Publications, etc.

Achievements

The station has taken up research on pineapple in various aspects like intercropping in rubber and coconut, plant spacing and density, organic and chemical fertilizer requirements, etc. besides experiments on development of new varieties. The centre has developed scientific technology for the commercial cultivation of Kew and Mauritius varieties of pineapple, including pure cropping, intercropping in rubber and coconut plantations and in reclaimed paddy fields. Technology is also developed for organic production. Based on continuous surveillance and laboratory studies the station has identified the presence of Pineapple Mealy bug Wilt Associated (PMWA) virus in Vazhakulam area. Based on all the findings, this station has formulated the Package of Practices Recommendations for the popular varieties Mauritius and Kew and included in the KAU POP. All the technologies developed are being delivered to the pineapple growers extensively. Tissue culture protocols for various varieties of pineapple, passion fruit and banana are available.

Vazhakulam pineapple has been registered in the Geographical Indication Registry to boost the export of pineapple. The station is pursuing its User Registration. Participatory technology process and product development in association with sister institutions, Nadukkara Agro Processing Co. Ltd. and Pineapple Farmers’ Association for the stake holders is a steady and continuing process at the centre. The station has already produced and sold more than 60,000 tissue culture pineapple plants and 25,000 passion fruit seedlings. Large scale tissue culture production of banana has been started. Pineapple Research Station launched its own website (www.kau.edu/prsvkm) as a subsite under the Kerala Agricultural University main site in June 2010. The website of the station is regularly updated with more relevant and useful information (Fig. 6-17).



Fig. 6.
Pure Cropping



Fig. 7.
Intercropping in rubber



Fig. 8.
Intercropping in coconut



Fig. 9.
In reclaimed paddy fields



Fig. 10.
Mauritius



Fig. 11.
Kew



Fig. 12.
Amrutha



Fig. 13.
MD-2



Fig. 14.
Mealy bug and
Infection of PMWA Virus



Fig. 15.
Tissue culture
pineapple



Fig. 16.
Passion fruit
seedlings



Fig. 17.
Tissue culture
banana

Research

The centre undertakes basic and applied research and development activities in pineapple, passion fruit, banana and other fruit crops of Kerala. The research and development projects are mainly in Participatory technology development (PTD) mode and funded by various agencies like KAU, State and Central governments, ICAR, SHM, NHM, KSCSTE, etc.

Ongoing projects

Presently the following four plan projects are operational at the station.

- Research on pineapple
- Research on passion fruit
- Breeding for yield and quality of pineapple
- Selection of high yielding superior quality pineapple for the central zone of Kerala in PTD mode

An externally aided project on ‘Evaluation of passion fruit types for commercial cultivation in Kerala’ at a total cost of Rs.12.55 lakh for 3 years is sanctioned by Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment to harness the full potentials of the growing situation giving maximum benefit to the growers in terms of more employment, higher incomes and better standard of living enabling better food, health and employment security.

Another project proposal to establish a fruit processing laboratory at PRS, Vazhakulam for the efficient conversion of leftover fruits to value added products like squash, jam, syrup, etc at a total cost of Rs.19.90 lakh was submitted for approval under RKVY 2011-12.

Seed & Nursery

The station undertakes large scale production of tissue culture plants of different varieties of pineapple, passion fruit and banana as well as seedlings and rooted cuttings of passion fruit. They are available for sale at the centre. Booking for the planting materials can be made with advance payment either in person as cash or through post as Demand Draft in favour of Associate Professor & Head, PRS, Vazhakulam payable at State Bank of India, Vazhakulam-686670, Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam District, Kerala (Code No: 7844). Priority is always given to firm orders with advance payment and delivery will be on first-