

Pineapple Research Station,Vazhakulam

Pineapple Research Station (PRS), (Kerala Agricultural University), Vazhakulam

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<http://prsvkm.tripod.com>

Station Head		Dr. P. P. Joy,	
Longitude		76°39' - 76°40'	
Lattitude		9°57' - 9°59'	
Nearest City/ Town	Muvattupuzha , Thodupuzha	Distance from Nearest City/ Town (km)	10
Nearest Railway Station	Aluva	Distance from Nearest Railway Station (km)	50
Nearest Airport	Cochin International Air Port	Distance from Nearest Airport (km)	40

About Station

The research institute 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 Kerala Agricultural University on 24.6.1996. It was delinked from KHDP and became a constituent research centre of Kerala Agricultural University under central zone on 1.7.1997. The present building was occupied on 27.6.1998.

The research centre undertakes basic and applied research and development activities in pineapple and other fruit crops of Kerala. The research and development projects are mainly in Participatory technology development (PTD) mode and funded by various agencies as KAU, State and central governments, ICAR, SHM, NHM, KSCSTE, etc. The station has taken up research in pineapple on various aspects like intercropping in rubber and coconut, plant spacing and density, organic and chemical fertilizer requirement 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 lands. Technology is also developed for organic production

Objectives

To give research and development support to growers of pineapple and other tropical fruit crops

Vision

Pineapple Research Station, Vazhakulam visualizes to be Tropical Fruit Crops Research Station (TFCRS) serving as the ultimate authority and provider of excellent quality technology, products and services in tropical fruit crops through concerted research and development efforts sustained by best human resource and infrastructure development

Mission

To be the ultimate authority and provider of excellent quality technology, products and services in the pineapple and other tropical fruits sector through concerted research and development efforts sustained by best human resource and infrastructure development

Achievements

- The station has identified the presence of pineapple mealy bug wilt associated (PMWA) virus in Vazhakulam area, this station has formulated the Package of Practices Recommendations for the popular varieties Mauritius and Kew.
- *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
- Participatory technology process and product development in association with sister institutions, Nadukkara Agro Processing Co. Ltd.
- The station has already produced and sold more than 100000 Tissue Culture pineapple plants and 30000 passion fruit seedlings. Large scale tissue culture production of banana has been started

Technology

- 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

Varieties Released

- Mauritius
- Kew

Research News and Events (recent) concerned with the Station

Pineapple, passion fruit and banana varieties, production and processing technologies are available from the station websites www.kau.edu/prsvkm and prsvkm.tripod.com