

(4) Name of the Innovation: “Kalarickal White” variety of small cardamom

A. Nature of the innovation

Shri. K.J. Baby, Kalarickal House, Puliyanmala, Idukki district, Kerala developed this variety which is a selection from the cultivar Vazhukka. It is cultivated in Kerala and Tamil Nadu at elevations ranging from 900–1200 above MSL the variety is unique in nature bearing white coloured flowers devoid of violet colored labellum. The specialty of this variety is that the plants are robust and leaves are deep green, oblong-lanceolate or ovate. The panicles are semi-erect (pendent) in nature and attain a length of 1.00–1.5 m. A panicle has about 40–45 raceme and each raceme possess 16–22 capsules. The capsules are globose or ovoid or narrowly ellipsoid to elongate in shape and are pale green to dark green in colour. The recovery is 25% and the volatile oil content is in the range of 7.5–8.0%. The variety is adaptable to wide range of topographical and climatic conditions. It can even perform well under less shady conditions.



B. Problem statement

Existing varieties perform well only under shady conditions. These varieties are not adaptive to wide range of topographical and climatic conditions. Also, the oil content in most of the prominent varieties is in a mediocre range necessitating a better variety for bakery and oil extraction industry.

C. Process of technology development

In 1996, for the first time, he observed a white flower plant in his cardamom garden, which he had till then, never heard or seen, and so he isolated it and multiplied it by vegetative propagation. At that time itself a lot people showed interest in it, but he did not want to distribute it, as he wanted to observe the results over a period. By 2001, he had raised around 800 plants, which were similar to the mother plant and bore white flowers. His three sons have been much interested in evolving a variety out of the white flowered mother plant and their involvement, interest and hard work has been instrumental in the evolution, multiplication and dissemination of this variety over the years.



The major advantages of the innovation are

- ✓ Variety bears white flowers.
- ✓ The variety is adaptable to wide range of topographical and climatic conditions.
- ✓ Highly adaptable to variable shading conditions.

D. Replication and promotion

Farmer started selling tillers of this variety from 2003 onwards and the variety is currently being cultivated in nearly 2000 acres of land in Idukki and Wyanad districts of Kerala.

E. Recognition

Baby received a 'Certificate of Merit' for being the "Best Cardamom Cultivator" in the public function conducted in Kattappana Fest 2004 by Kattappana Grama Panchayat. He has also received a Certificate of Appreciation from Asst. Director of Agriculture, Kattappana for the new high yielding variety developed by him. Spices Board, Government of India has awarded him with a certification mentioning the presence of white flowered characteristics being unique to a farmer-bred variety.

	Name & Address	K.J. Baby Kalarickal House, Puliyamala P.O., 685 515 Idukki Kerala
Phone no.		04868 270254
Educational qualification		Primary
Land holding (in Ha)		1.2
Farming experience		45 yrs
Name of the crop/ Livestock/ other enterprises		Mixed farming
Social recognition		Member, Cardamom Growers' Association