Cultivation of vetiver as an annual crop for its essential oil to realize high return and industrial sustainability

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Introduction

- Vetiver or Khus (Chrysopogon zizaniodes L. Nash) is an important aromatic plant belongs to family Poaceae, rich source of vetiver oil
- It is native to India
- Grown world over for essential oil, conservation of soil and other natural resources
- Vetiver oil is obtained from continuous hydro- distillation of roots about 18-24 hours

Uses

Widely used in flavor, fragrance. Cosmetic, soft drinks etc. industries world wide

Demand

- With the improved economy in the country, the oil demand has increased manifold because of its unique quality/ chemical profile
- It imparts unique odder to be used in flavor and fragrance industry and can never ever be substituted and synthesized/reconstituted

Oil production

- The present global annual production of oil is approximately 300 tones
- Haiti and Indonesia produces about 70% of the total oil production of the world
- Indias contribution is only 20-25 tones of oil

Better perfumery value oil

- The oil produced in North and South India differs a lot in respect to quality
- North Indian type vetiver oil has better perfumery value than South Indian type and hence fetches a higher price
- Vetiver oil produced in North India is considered to be the best in the world

Status of vetiver oil

- In North India, Uttar Pradesh is the main oil producing state, where the major quantity of oil is produced from roots collected from wild sources
- With the depletion of wild resources, oil production in North India has declined very fast
- Up to 2004, the oil production of vetiver oil has come down to few hundred kilos, whereas in the past it was in tones

Reason for depletion

- Traditionally the vetiver slips are planted monsoon and harvested in next year winter after 18-20 month
- This practice had intent problem of long gestation period due to which marginal farmers were not inclines to adopt the cultivation
- Further low oil content/ yield, high cost of manually spade digging, return after a long duration etc were the other limiting factors in adoption/ popularization of vetiver cultivation
- In order to meet the challenges, cultivation of vetiver is now inevitable

Varietal development and improved cultural practices

- In order to make the vetiver cultivation attractive to the growers, CSIR-CIMAP developed high yielding (30-35 oil kg/ha), short duration (10-12 month) genotype (CIM-Vridhi).
- Improved cropping and cultural practice for early return for sustaining the same
- Thus, the efforts of CSIR-CIMAP bore the fruit and vetiver crop emerged as most suitable and viable crop option in normal and adverse conditions for cultivation in India





Evaluation of vetiver crop age on root and oil yield (Calvengers basis)

Crop age(month)	Root yield(q/ha)	Oil content(%)	Oil yield(kg/ha)
8	13.65	1.30	17.75
9	14.31	1.60	22.90
10	14.96	2.30	34.41
11	15.00	2.50	37.50
12	15.12	2.65	40.07
13	15.23	2.60	39.60
14	15.25	1.85	28.21

Performance of vetiver elite clone CIM-Vridhi on 50 kg tank basis

Elite clone	Root yield (q/ha)	Oil content (%)	Oil yield (kg/ha)
Gulabi	16.47	1.49	24.52
Dharni	12.98	1.10	14.28
CIMAP- KS- 1	10.49	1.02	10.69
CIM- Vridhi	18.60	1.52	28.30
C.D.5%	0.76	0.11	2.01

CSIR-CIMAP vetiver mission

- Initiations for khus bio-village based commercialization of vetiver cultivation in Northern plains
- The khus bio-village programme has been successfully implemented in normal and problem soil (salinity) areas
- Sitapur, Barabanki, Raibarrely, Unnao, Sultanpu, Lucknow, Pratapgarh, Behrich and Basti district in U. P. and Madhubani, Vashali and Siwan districts of Bihar

Technology disimination

- Genetically pure planting material and technical know- how for vetiver cultivation were provided to the selected farmers of their bio-village and thus large area was brought under cultivation.
- The feed back of oil production from farmers indicated that average yield ranges from 15-20 kg oil/ha







Commercialization

year	No. of farmers	Area ha
2005-2006	5	0.2
2006-2007	45	5.0
2007-2008	180	17.0
2008-2009	415	46.0
2009-2010	850	75.0
2010-2011	1125	155.0

Oil production

year	Oil production through cultivation kg	Rate of oil/kg cultivated vetiver Rs
2005-2006	5.0	10,000-11,000
2006-2007	110.0	10,000-11,000
2007-2008	375.0	11,000-12,000
2008-2009	970.0	11,000-13,000
2009-2010	1700.0	11,000-14,000
2010-2011	2650.0	12,000-16,000

Comparison of cropping system

Cropping system	Net profit Rs/ha/year
Paddy-wheat	40,000-50,000
Maize-mustered	35,000-40,000
Maize-mustered- M.arvensis	60,000-70,000
Paddy-potato- M.arvensis	80,000-90,000
Sugarcane	1,25,000-1,50,000
vetiver	1,30,000-1,60,000

Vetiver intercropping system

 The khus cultivation signlficantly enhanced the farm income of thefarmers to grow M. piperita, M. arvensis, Ocimum basilicum as intercrop during Februry- June with vetiver

Intercrop	Oil yield (kg/ha)
M. piperita	60-75
M. arvensis	125-150
Ocimum basilicum	60-80





Vetiver intercropping with food crops

- October planted vetiver intercropped with wheat produced both the commodities is more profitable with reduced cost of cultivation
- Moreover, during the early part of the vetiver crop farmers advised to utilize inter space for some other pulse crops
- Generated additional revenue and helped the farmers in better utilization of resources





































Bihar













































Conclusion

- Being a annual crop, it provides an opportunity to employ higher number of labour than traditional crop
- It is not affected by wild animal and adverse climate.
- A large volume of root bio mass is converted into oil through nearby field distillation units and marketed as per convenience

Contd.

- These features of vetiver cultivation have attracted the grower and entrepreneurs in North India and Bihar for the cultivation and distillation of vetiver and adopting it as a cash crop
- Income from vetiver and intercropping with *Mentha* spp, kalmegh, wheat and pulses is much higher than other crops