

RKVY / NADP PROJECT (2019-2021)

Project	: Popularization of warm temperate fruits (Pear, Plum, Peaches & Kiwi) in South Indian Hills”.
Centre	: HRS, Kodaikanal.
Objectives	: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction and Popularization of kiwi fruit cultivation in South Indian Hills• Introduction of suitable rootstocks for plum, pear and peaches• Increasing the productivity by introducing the choice varieties• Training the farmers in various aspects of nursery techniques in pear, plum, peaches and kiwi fruit.

Success story

A NADP scheme on “Popularization of Warm Temperate Fruits (Pear, Plum, Peaches and Kiwi) In South Indian Hills” was operated at Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal during the year 2019-21. In this scheme, four demonstration units were established in peach, plum, pear and kiwi each 1 ha in a total area of 4 ha at HRS, Kodaikanal. The demonstration units focused the new innovative technology on high density orcharding, hi-tech training models and high yielding varieties assembled from G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar, Uttarakhand. Five one day training programme were also conducted to the farmers at Gundupatti village, Vilpatti village, Vadakavunji village, Bryant park and HRS, Kodaikanal. Dissemination of improved cultivation practices including off season production in pear, plum, peach and kiwi through trainings and demonstrations were provided through cluster approach, Cultivation of kiwi fruit is gaining prominence in recent years which has high returns per unit area and is recommended as a better alternative to apple in Kodaikanal region. 2000 No.s of kiwi rooted cuttings were supplied to the farmers through Horticulture department.

A progressive farmer named Th.R. Selvarathinam, S/o. Rani Arumugam from Uppuparaimethu of Vilpatti village has traditionally grown temperate fruit crops of seedling origin. Being unaware of the improved varieties and cultivation practices, low yield of less fruit quality was obtained every year from his farm fetching fewer prices in the market. Th. R. Selvarathinam attended the one day training programme and came forward to grow the kiwi crop. He was provided kiwi rooted cuttings from HRS, Kodaikanal. The farmer has planted the kiwi in an area of one acre adopting the spacing of 5 x 5 m under Y-trellis training system during 2021. Another farmer named Th.S.Palanisamy, S/o/Samiyappan has also planted kiwi in an area of 2 acres at Vilpatti village during this year. Similarly, several farmers of Kodaikanal region who have attended training programme planted kiwi in their field adopting appropriate sex ratio and other improved cultivation practices. The improved varieties namely Allison and Hayward were introduced in these farmers field. The farmers will harvest the crop after five years of planting. The expected outcome will be the annual production of 25 tonnes/ha with an anticipated BCR of 1:5.0.



**Kiwi planting at the farmers field
Th.R. Selvarathinam
(Uppuparaimettu, Perumalmai)**



**Distribution of Kiwi plants to Th.
R.Selvarathinam, Farmer,
Uppuparaimettu, Perumalmai**