

Wayanad is known as Land of Spices. Major Income generating crop of Wayanad is pepper. Production of pepper declined due to the incidence of foot rot disease. KVK Wayanad identified and isolated *Trichoderma* strains from Wayanad soil for effective management of foot rot disease of pepper. KVK started production of *Trichoderma* in late 90's. *Trichoderma* gained popularity and thus demand was increased. To meet the increased demand, KVK ventured in to mass production of bio-control agents.

For getting man power, 13 tribal women (youth) from Nellarachal tribal colony were selected and imparted training for mass production of bio-control agents in view of providing them self employment. In fact, due to implementation of Karapuzha irrigation project, tribals have lost their agricultural fields which were the main source of income for livelihood. Trained tribal women registered as SHG named SABARI. Then, KVK extended work contract with SABARI for mass multiplication and distribution of *Trichoderma* under revolving fund activities of KVK. Members of SHG gained 30-35 % of the total benefit as per MOU signed.



Salient Features

- Selected SHG group (SABARI) belongs to tribal hamlets who were the victims of implementation of Karapuzha irrigation project
- Trained tribal women formed as registered society SABARI and taking work contract for mass production of bio-agents
- Members of SABARI are earning at present a monthly income of Rs 5000 by engaging in mass multiplication of *Trichoderma*, which has revolutionized the income pattern of their family

As there is no government or private agency in the district other than KVK through SABARI producing bio-control agents, State Planning Board sanctioned Rs 36.39 lakh for modernizing existing bio-control lab of KVK for large scale production of *Trichoderma* and *Pseudomonas*. Now Kendra is having a well established and fully equipped lab which can produce *Trichoderma* and *Pseudomonas* @ 2 t/month.

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