

Successful Introduction of Pineapple (*Ananas Comosus* (L.) Merr.) in Tribal Area Under Satpura Plateau Region of District Chhindwara MP

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Pineapple also called Bahunetrphalam in Sanskrit. It is one of the most popular fruit crops of the tropics. The origin of the pineapple is the American continent, probably Brazil and Paraguay. It has spread throughout tropical and subtropical regions as a commercial fruit crop. The important pineapple going countries of the world are the Hawaiian Islands, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Brazil, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Taiwan, South Africa, Australia, Puerto Rico and India. Pineapple is one of India's most popular organic fruits. It is found in many states in India, including Kerala, Bihar, West Bengal, Karnataka, Goa, Assam and Maharashtra. The juice has worldwide market. Pineapple is one of the choicest fruits all over the world because of its pleasant taste and flavour. Pineapple is a good source of vitamin A and B and fairly rich in vitamin C and minerals like calcium, magnesium, potassium and iron. The pineapple belonging to the family Bromeliaceae a source of bromelin, a digestive enzyme. Pineapple is highly valued because of its excellence in canning and other processing industries for the production of nutritious and value-added products like juice, jam, jelly, candy, canned pineapple squash etc. In addition to being eaten fresh, the fruit can also be canned and processed in to different forms. Pineapple is a tropical plant grows well, both in the plains and also at elevations of 900-1100m above sea level. It tolerates neither very high temperature nor frost. An ideal temperature for successful cultivation of pineapple is between 20°C to 36°C. Slightly acidic soil with pH range of 5.5 to 6.0 is considered optimum for pineapple cultivation.

Queen or Common Queen is an old cultivar and is grown mainly in Australia, India and South Africa, where it is preferred for trade of fresh fruit. The plants are characterized by dwarf, compact habit of growth. Foliage is bluish-green. The leaves are short, stiff, spiny along the margins, and thickly covered with a whitish bloom on both surfaces. The flowers are lilac in

colour. Fruit weighs 0.9-1.3 kg. Peduncle is short; fruitlets or eyes are small, prominent, deep set. When fully mature, the fruit is golden-yellow and internal flesh is deep golden-yellow. The flesh, although less juicy than Cayenne, is crisp (less fibrous), transparent with a pleasant aroma and flavour. The total soluble solids content varies from 150 to 160 brix and acidity between 0.6 and 0.8%. The slips are 0-4 and suckers are 0-3, and both are smaller in size than those of Cayenne. Cultivation of pineapple in the tribal region is undoubtedly a very perspective venture with the region being an agrarian society with an average of 71 per cent tribal population, this will result in a breakthrough of social empowerment of the tribal people of the district Chhindwara. Pineapple cultivation helps in generating huge income of the growers and employment. A new fruit crop has been introduced with the successful production of pineapple in the tribal area. This crop is a very low-cost crop and it contains abundant nutrients. There are very few diseases and insects in it and the production method is also very easy. Pineapple has the potential to produce high production in very small areas and the market price remains the same for a short period of time. A farmer from a tribal area can fulfil his dream of doubling his income by adopting it. District Chhindwara is famous for its Finest Mandarin and Maize (Corn city). In recent years, additional Krish Vigyan Kendra-II, Delakhari, Tamia, established under JNKVV, Jabalpur in the year 2019. The KVK have started demonstration of pineapple in KVK-II, Delakhari farm from the year 2020. Tamia has the ideal agro-climatic conditions (well drained sandy-loamy soil with rich in organic matter, Temperature ranging cool winters 4 to 44 °C, Annual rainfall 950 to 1150 mm) for pineapple cultivation. Therefore, the famous variety of pineapple i.e Queen (5500 slips) were introduced from CIH, Dimapur, Nagaland was grown in over 1300 m² of land with double hedge row planting system in this KVK alone. Agro-climatic conditions of Tamia region are highly suitable for the successful cultivation of pineapple on large scale. Harvested Pineapple fruits from the KVK-II, Delakhari, Tamia farm are considered to be among best in its high TSS content (14 to 15 %) with very little or no fiber and acidity (0.4 to 0.5%). Fruit weight ranging from 0.900 kg to 1.400 kg with greatest appearance and keeping quality.