

Delineation of Turmeric Zones in Tamil Nadu. K Kandiannan, K K Chandaragiri, N Sankaran & T N Balasubramanian, Department of Agronomy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore-641 003, India.

Tamil Nadu is having 30 districts, spread over 13 million ha. in 7 agro-climatic zones and lies between 8°5' and 13°5' north latitude and 76°15' and 80°20' eastern longitude. The average annual rainfall is 1010 mm with 54 rainy days. Tamil Nadu ranks third place in area under turmeric (11%) next to Andhra Pradesh (39%) and Orissa (18%) and second place in production (19%) next to Andhra Pradesh (49%). Turmeric is cultivated in all the districts of Tamil Nadu except Chennai District. But there is a great variation in area and production among the districts. Here, we have identified the efficient zones of turmeric in the state by using Relative Yield Index (RYI) and Relative Spread Index (RSI) as suggested by Kanwar (1972). The data on area and production for 20 years was collected from Season and Crop Report, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai and Agricultural and Fertilizer Statistics, The Fertilizer Association of India, Southern Region, Chennai and the RYI and RSI were calculated. The districts with RYI and RSI more

than 90 are considered as efficient zones and accordingly Erode, Coimbatore and Salem are efficient with RYI 101.81, 105.26, 95.57 and RSI 874.50, 391.78, 121.39, respectively. Erode and Coimbatore districts come under western agro-climatic zone and Salem District comes under northwestern zone of Tamil Nadu. Other important turmeric producing districts in Tamil Nadu are Dharmapuri, Namakkal, Karur, Villupurram, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Perambalur, Trichirappalli and Cuddalore. However, they are not efficient. Some of the newly formed districts like Namakkal, Karur may be efficient but should be confirmed. The identification of efficient zones will help the traders, policy makers and other developmental agencies to concentrate on that particular zone for setting up industry, trade centers etc. In India, more than 220 districts are producing turmeric and it is essential to identify the efficient districts for development and stabilization of turmeric production.

Reference

- Kanwar J S 1972 Cropping Patterns - Scope and Concept. In: Proceedings of Symposium on Cropping Pattern in India, Indian Council Agricultural Research, New Delhi.