



SIGNIFICANCE AND SPECIFICATIONS OF MADURAI JASMINE

Balaji C*, Aswini R and Athish M

UG Students, School of Agricultural Sciences, Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan university, Trichy- 621112

*Corresponding Author Mail ID: jisribala957@gmail.com

Abstract

India is home to numerous types of Jasmine, with *Jasminum sambac* being the most widely grown variety in Madurai favored for its delightful fragrance, demand, and suitable agro-climatic conditions. This specific type contributes 25 percent to the overall production. Notably, it has been extensively referenced in Sangam literature. It is also the first flower in Tamil Nadu to receive a geographical indication tag. The Jasmine flower is recognized as a commercial bloom, utilized in various settings including religious ceremonies, weddings, garland production, funerals, and meetings. An increase in Jasmine production often leads to exports to other countries.

Keywords: Madurai Jasmine, malli, GI tag, fragrance and flower market.

Introduction

Madurai City is renowned for its Jasmine cultivation, earning the title of the “capital of Jasmine.” While India cultivates around 50 varieties of Jasmine, Tamil Nadu primarily grows only 3 to 4, with the *Jasminum sambac* variety being predominant in Madurai. In Tamil Nadu, 12,000 hectares are dedicated to Jasmine cultivation, of which 3,000 hectares are in Madurai, making it responsible for 25 percent of the total production.

Origin of Madurai Jasmine

Madurai Jasmine traces its roots back to the coastal village of Thangachimadam, situated on Pamban Island in Rameswaram. This location produces the Jasmine saplings that are then planted in the Jasmine-growing region of Madurai. Everyone adores the jasmine flower, whether it's woven into garlands or styled in women's hair. Madurai is often equated with

malli, the Tamil word for jasmine. The most favored variety of this plant is cultivated extensively throughout the city.

History

Madurai's deep connection with Jasmine likely dates back to 300 BC or even earlier. The flower is frequently mentioned in Sangam literature, a collection of Tamil poems composed between 300 BC and 300 AD during the Sangam, which was a gathering of Tamil scholars held regularly in Madurai during that era. One poem narrates the tale of Pari, a Tamil king, who could not bear to see a delicate Mullai Jasmine creeper lying on the harsh forest floor. To lend a hand, Pari offered his royal chariot so the Jasmine creeper could gracefully twine around it and find a more comfortable position. Jasmine is also referenced in ancient Hindu texts as well as in classic literature like the Mahabharata. Today, Madurai has become a prominent market for jasmine cultivated in its surrounding areas and has branded itself the jasmine capital of India. The plant flourishes in regions near Madurai, such as Aruppukottai, Natham, Melur, Thirumangalam, Perungudi, Uthappanaickanur, Ammainaickanur, and Nilakottai locations enriched with fertile, moist, well-drained sandy loam soil.

Characteristics of Madurai Jasmine

Madurai Jasmine is an evergreen, semi-vining shrub. The most prevalent variety, *Jasminum sambac*, is recognized by its medium bold, white, and highly aromatic blossoms. These flowers typically have five petals or more, exuding a sweet and floral scent that intensifies in the evening.

Jasminum Sambac, a rare and elusive type of jasmine, stands out in a market dominated

by officinale and grandiflorum varieties. Sambac has a notably lower yield compared to other jasmine types and requires very specific conditions to take root and thrive.

Madurai Flower Market

Every early morning, unopened flower buds are collected and transported to the Madurai market in plastic bags filled with glistening buds. Since jasmine flowers are perishable, they cannot be stored for long. After harvest, jasmine needs to be delivered to the market by 9:00 AM to fetch a good price; beyond that, prices tend to drop. The speed at which jasmine must be sold is also affected by the absence of adequate storage facilities. Farmers have to sell their flowers within an hour to maintain stable prices.

Jasmine receives in Madurai market

Months	Production
February to April	300 to 500 kg/day
April to August	2 to 3 ton/day
August to October	1 ton/day
December to February	150 kg/day

Geographical Indication Tag for 'Madurai Malli'

This is the first geographical indication tag awarded to a flower in Tamil Nadu. Recognized globally for its unique size, shape, and strong fragrance, "Madurai Malli" stands out. Farmers from the districts of Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Sivagangai, and Virudhunagar are thrilled that the Geographical Indications Registry has granted this flower the geographical indication mark. The application for this tag was submitted in June 2000 and was officially approved on January 16. In addition to "Mysore Malli," this is the second GI tag for Madurai and the second for jasmine flowers after "Madurai Sungadi".

Conclusion

Jasmine flowers fall under the category of commercial flowers. They are utilized by all social classes and religious groups for ceremonies, weddings, gatherings, and burials. Jasmine is also exported to cities like Chennai, Bangalore, and other foreign countries where

industries extract fragrance from it. Madurai is renowned within Tamil Nadu for its jasmine production. The region also cultivates various flowers, including tuberose, chrysanthemum, and roses. Out of the six types of flowers grown and sold in the Madurai district, jasmine ranks first.

References

- Pandiarajan, C. (2007). Production and marketing of jasmine in madurai district Tamil Nadu. Shodhganga
- <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/jspui/handle/10603/125366>
- T, K., Rajamani, K., Ganga, M., & Boopathi, N. M. (2021). Morphological characterization of certain Jasminum sambac genotypes using principal component analysis. The Pharma Innovation, 10(12), 118–123. <https://doi.org/10.22271/tpi.2021.v10.i12.b.9333>
- PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF JASMINE IN MADURAI DISTRICT - Dr.S. Rosita Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai – 21, K. Manivannan Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, Senthamarai College of Arts and Science, Madurai – 21.
- Madurai mallingai (<https://www.maduraimalli.com>) "welcome to Madurai mallingai" "history of Madurai malli"
- The Hindu (<https://www.thehindu.com>) "the lesser known origin of Madurai Jasmin" "geographical indication tag for madurai malli"
- Numerical.co.in (<https://numerical.co.in/numerons/collect ion/5c2aea81cb4b49281e45afc0>) "Jasmin cultivation on Madurai, Tamil Nadu.