

## *Makaram* and *Kumbham* - Two improved rice varieties for the Cherady tracts of Kerala

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### Abstract

Two long duration high yielding photosensitive varieties of rice viz. *Makaram* and *Kumbham* have been developed and recommended for commercial cultivation in the second crop season in the deep ill-drained soils of the southern districts of Kerala. These varieties were developed through mass selection and bulk progeny testing of the local Cherady type, so as to retain its broad genetic basis. *Makaram* has a yield potential of 5.2 t grain and 11.1 t straw per ha, whereas *Kumbham* has a yield potential of 4.7 t grain and 10.8 t straw per ha. Both these varieties are comparatively tolerant to acidic soils, pests and diseases and *Kumbham* is comparatively tolerant to lodging.

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