

# **Constraints in Conserving the Biodiversity of Rice in Wayanad district of Kerala**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Kerala is known for the cultivation of traditional rice varieties, which are noted for their medicinal, nutraceutical, and other special characteristics. They are exceptionally rich in genetic diversity and possess excellent traits, including better grain quality profile, health, nutritional values, and resistance to climate related stress, pests, and diseases. But now a days a drastic loss of these varieties occurring. As reported by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board, out of the nearly 160 rice varieties of Wayanad, 55 traditional varieties were now extinct. The study was conducted in Wayanad district during 2021-22 using descriptive research design. Four blocks were selected and from each block 3 villages were selected, from each village, 10 respondents were selected using simple random sampling procedure. Thus, making a total sample of 120 respondents. This study revealed that lack of institutional & government support (Rank I), followed by delay in payment of government assistance and incentives (Rank II), higher labour wage rates for farm operations (Rank III), bird damage in the field (Rank IV), lack of availability of indigenous rice variety seeds for cultivation (Rank V), non-availability of labour (Rank VI), lack of awareness about legal support and government schemes (Rank VII), delay in procurement by Govt. agencies (Rank VIII), wild boar damage in the field (Rank IX), lack of awareness in on modern production technologies (Rank X ), lack of transportation facility (Rank XI), lack of milling facility (Rank XII), wild elephant damage in the field (Rank XIII) and low productivity of indigenous rice varieties (Rank XIV), were the major constraints perceived by the farmers in conserving the bio-diversity in rice.

**Keywords:** *Biodiversity, Conservation, Indigenous rice, Constraints and Traditional rice varieties*