# EFFECTS OF PLANTING METHOD AND EARTHING-UP AT FLOWERING ON THE POD YIELD OF ERRECT TYPE GROUND-NUT (ARACHIS HYPOGAEA)

K.A. Mettananda
Agricultural Research Station, Maha Illuppallamma

Ground nut (Arachis hypogaea) is a leguminous oil seed crop with a wide range of uses in human diet. Earthing-up at flowering has been shown to be useful in maximizing the pod yield of runner type ground-nut. However, the need for earthing-up at flowering for errect cultivars with bunched pod formation has not been well established.

Effects of the method of planting and earthing-up at flowering on the yield of errect type cultivar MI-1, was investigated in two seperate studies conducted at the Agricultural Research Station in Mahailluppallama ($8^{o}$N and $80^{o}$E) during Yala (Dry) season, 1987 and Maha (Wet) season 1987/88.

Two methods of planting Flat bed and Ridged, were tested with and without earthing-up at flower, under supplementary irrigation, in replicated trials. There was no significant difference in pod yield between methods of planting in both seasons. An increase in pod yield by 30% was recorded with earthing -up at flowering irrespective of the method of planting, in the experiment of Yala 1987. However, as revealed by the results of Maha 1987/88, there was no significant yield increase due to earthing-up at flowering. This could be attributed to the favourable soil physical conditions for peg penetration due to the availability of sufficient soil moisture during the 'Maha' season.

Earthing-up at flowering is essential to maximize pod yield of errect type ground-nut only during Yala (Dry) season, irrespective of the method of planting.