FLOWER INDUCTION WITH ETHYLENE FOR SMALLHOLDER PINEAPPLE FARMERS

European regulation CE 1318/2005 of 11th august,2005 amending annex II of regulation EC 2092/91 allows the use of gaseous ethylene for flower induction in organic pineapple production. large scale commercial farmers also use ethylene for flower induction as it is more efficient than the inorganic calcium carbide. this leaflet shows how to use ethylene on small scale pineapple farm for flower induction.

1

Ensure that the plants to be forced are matured enough (about 7 -9 months of age, firm base to withstand lodging and about 80g D-leaf weight)

2

Obtain ethylene enriched activated carbon from sources like Athena Foods Ltd (Tema) or MOFA (Cape Coast)

WET APPLICATION

Fill a knapsack with water to the 15 liter mark

Empty the content of the ethylene enriched activated charcoal into the knapsack with water.

No vigorous shaking is required as the powder activated charcoal easily disperses in water easily

- Remove nozle
- Squirt 60 ml of the Suspension into The heart of the Pineapple plant
- For easy approximation of dosage say "pineapple" as you squirt

A single application is enough but a second application on the3rd day after forcing is also recommended

DRY APPLICATION

Empty the ethylene enriched activated charcoal into a standardized dry applicator

The applicator is calibrated to deliver the required dosage to the heart of the plant

Dispense the granulated enriched activated charcoal into the heart of the plant by pushing the lever up and down

A single application is enough but a second application on the 3rd day after forcing is also recommended

RECOMMENDATIONS

- After 5 weeks, flower begin to emerge from around the heart of the plant.
- Optimum flowering (90% plus) is attained between 5 - 8 weeks after forcing.
- Plants without by this stage could be forced again for late fruits.
- For inefficient flowering (less than 90%) seek technical advice from your ethylene supplier.