

NEW VARIETY RELEASE

Registration of CIM-Vrinda: A citral (Neral and Geranial) rich high essential oil yielding variety of *Ocimum basilicum* L.

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ABSTRACT

Citral oil holds a 41.5% market share in the booming global essential oil industry (CAGR of 9.57%). Citral (3,7, dimethyl-2,6-Octadienal), is a chemical compound made up of the aldehydes citral A (Geranial) and citral B (Neral). *Ocimum basilicum*, which can produce a short duration, quick bumper supply with minimal resources and fits in the crop cycle of important cereals and pulses, could satisfy a requirement for early growth, high biomass of "citral," within 3–4 months. To cater to the pacing demand, CSIR-CIMAP developed releases "**CIM-Vrinda**", a citral-rich high essential oil yielding variety of *Ocimum basilicum* L. with an average citral content of 77-80%, potential fresh herb yield of 450-460q/h, and essential oil yield of 140-150Kg/ha in a single harvest of 3-4 months. CIM-Vrinda can be identifiable through glossy dark green (RHS 144A), undulated lamina margin, long leaf, and inflorescence with the pink corolla, with 77-81% citral content in essential oil obtained from the fresh herb, fetching a net income of more than Rs 83,500-1,00,000 Lakhs per ha. Culturing in agroclimatic zones IV, V, VIII & X is recommended.