DID BLACK PEPPER CAUSE REWRITE TRANSOCEANIC TRADE AND COMMERCE IN KAVERIPOOMPATTINAM COROMANDEL COAST

1. Mr. M. ELANGOVAN, Ph.D., Research Scholar, Dept. of History, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar,
2. Dr. G. PARANTHAMAN, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Alagappa University, Karaikudi.
3. Dr. P. RAJAN, Professor and Head, Department of History, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar

The story of pepper is inherently associated with the set of experiences and economy of the antiquated Tamil nation (Sangam period: 200 BCE – 200 CE) that used to cover most thriving busiest harbor city Kaveriopompattinam, the present-day seaside town, Coromandel Coast.1 The close by encompassing agrarian social orders were experts at developing, weaving, assembling, development, etc. Paddy was the most significant yield; it was the staple oat all things considered. The following most significant harvest was pepper. One of the numerous remnants deserted by Sangam period include its wonderful verse that give socio-political, social and Oceanic exchange bits of knowledge into Tamil Nation, especially old Tamil busiest harbor, hefty exchange traffic and stocks to its peruser. Black pepper was one of the earliest attracted and heavy demand commodities was traded in the world on the shore of Kaveriopompattinam in Coromandel Coast. Pepper became Yavanapriya (the commodity which was very much like by the Yavanas).2 Black Pepper is one of the spices through the ages used to pertness baked and unbaked food.

1. First Author
2. Corresponding Author
3. Research Supervisor

This paper portrays unbearable spice routes, the attractions among the foreigners namely Yavanas and also focuses such trade related aspects evoked in the ancient Tamil literature such as Pattinapalai, the Post Sangam epic Silappathikaram and Manimekalai.3 This is also not impossible to discuss about the black pepper without mention about the maritime trade historical turn of several events around on, the spice routes that were established as an outcome of the aforesaid trade and the beginning of what is known globalization recently.

Here it is worthwhile to corroborate the Sangam Classical work with Foreign Notice. Pliny mentioned that the Roman trade with the Tamil land was on such a large scale. These goods were transported to the port towns to be exchanged for goods brought from overseas and also to be sent up and down the coast on small craft.4 Generally Tamils traded pepper for gold to Roman, and grain for white salt, etc. The early Roman Realm got immediate admittance to the Coromandel Coast and Malabar Coast in India and its scope of colorful flavors after their success of Egypt in 30 BCE. To give you a thought of how valuable dark pepper was thought of—3,000 pounds of dark pepper was requested alongside gold, silver and luxurious tunics, as a payoff to free Rome attacked by the Huns.5 In 410 CE, Roman geographer Strabo reported that an armada of 120 boats was sent on a full circle by the early domain on a one-year excursion to China, South-East Asia and India. On their return, they went up the Red Ocean, and load was conveyed by means of land to Alexandria (Egypt) and afterward dispatched to Rome.6 Unless, there was no worthy compensation Black Pepper were exchanged with gold by their weight and it cause Sting money to the Ancient Tamils through Transoceanic trade.

Huge Collections of Sangam poems are either communicated or spotted with details about busiest port towns, market places (Allangadi, Nalangadi), existence of inland and Maritime trade, material stocks and popular trading occupations adopted during Sangam Classical epoch. The Pattinappalai provides an additional information that gold from the Kongu country, pearl from the Pandya Sea and sandals from Coorg were among the most prominent articles apart
from Black Pepper exported from Coromandel Coast, Tamil Country. Sacks of pepper were brought from the house to the market; gold received from ships, in exchange for articles sold, were brought to shore in barges, at Kaveripoopattinam. Pattinappalai, Tamil Sangam Classical work of the early centuries CE, gives a vivid description of the various goods stocks dumped on the streets of the harbor city Kaveripoopattinam. Pattinappalai also makes mention, “the busiest harbor city Kaveripoopattinam where the beautiful Ships of Yavanas, Ships anchored on the Eastern Sea arriving with gold and departing with pepper and other commodities.” The articles of trade which came to Kaveripoopattinam and their respective places of origin also dealt in detailed manner.

The Perumpanatrupatai another Sangam Classical literature also mentions goods traffic and means of transport. The local merchants, who used to carry pepper in small business on the back of donkeys. Donkeys were used to carry goods on tough terrains. The Manimekalai shows that the busiest port Kaveripoopattinam was ruined by sea-erosion. Pattinappalai mentions horse, pepper, gold, ahil, pearls and coral were exported from there. Ptolemy mentions it as Khaberia. It seems to be a wonted thing to drink toddy then, at more than one places reference of toddy drinking can be found in this poem. A lot of commodities were part of trade at the city sea-ports Kaveripoopattinam, where lot of ships was lined up with food material and other goods. The lines illustrate details of the material culture at city’s ports where most of the buying, selling and exchange between goods happened.

The Great King Karikala Chola of the Sangam period constructed the dam Kallanai on the river Kaveri. The significance of Sangam economy and the developing trade with Rome was reflected in several Sangam Classical Literature. Indian products like pepper, perfumes, jewels, Ivory, textiles, precious stones, sandalwood, iron and steel were exported to Rome. Gold and silver were imported to India from Rome. The huge harbor like Kaveripoopattinam imported the largely luxury articles, gold, horse, wine, die pigments, coral, betel, brass, glass, metal wares from the western world. Silk was imported from the Eastern Countries. Occasionally, Sri Lanka exported food grains to ancient Tamils. Pepper, nuts, rice, cotton, white sugar, caglewood, sandalwood and dress materials were exported to the respective countries. Cholas established tollgate and employed large number people to print the tiger emblem and carried the goods.

In addition, As Kaveripoopattinam by Pattinappalai the Sangam Writing Purananuru likewise recounts the development of boats in the harbor of Muciri: Sacks of pepper were brought from the close by house to the harbor; gold got from ships, in return for articles sold, were brought to shore in surges, at Muciri, where the music of the flooding ocean never stopped, and where Kuttuvan (the Chera Lord) introduced to guests, the uncommon results of the oceans and mountains.

From this it is away from parts of Tamil Nation specifically, Kaveripoopattinam, Muciri and Tondi had in bounty money crops like pepper, cardamom, sandalwood, and so on which was searched after energetically by outsiders particularly Romans and Egyptians. Like, the Cholas the writing Patirruppattu alludes to a Chera Ruler Imayavaramban Neduncheralattan who rebuffed the Yavanas by restricting their hands behind them and pouring ney (Ghee) on their head. It shows that the Chera rulers like the Cholas in the Coromandel Coast were likewise effectively associated with abroad exchange from these commended ports, Tondi and Muciri.

Like Pattinappalai, Akananuru makes notice, "the city Muciri additionally where the excellent vessels, the works of art of the Yavanas [Westerners], mix white froth on the Periyar, waterway of Kerala, showing up with gold and leaving with pepper." In another case the writer discusses Muciris (otherwise called Muciripattanam or Muciri) as "the city where alcohol proliferates", which "gives riches to its guests aimlessly" with "gold conveyances, conveyed by the maritime ships and brought to the stream bank by nearby boats".

The engravings from the late Pandya period (thirteenth century CE) found in the Tilakesvara sanctuary at Devipattinam give fascinating data about the import and fare of products from this seaport and furthermore about the subtleties of the expenses exacted on
them. Pepper, areca nut, fragrances and different things were sent out from here. Besides, numerous merchandise from inland were brought here for export. It was overwhelmed with ships sent there with cargoes from Arabia and by the Greeks. The boats brought huge amount of Gold and got back with pepper and the uncommon results of the ocean and the heap of the Chera nation.

Unripe or halfway ready peppercorns are utilized in the assembling of different green pepper collects, for example, green pepper in saline solution, oil or vinegar, dried green pepper, pickles, pasta, and so forth. Dark pepper is picked up from still unripe green berries (drupes) that are put in heated water quickly and afterward dried in the sun or with machines, during which the external layer therapists and turns black. White pepper is procured from the ready organic product. It is douse in salt water for a week and when the external skin deteriorates, it strips off to get the internal seed. Sichuan pepper has a place with a totally changed family and isn't connected to dark peppercorns. Similarly, pink peppercorns are likewise inconsequential to the dark pepper family.

Thus, the ancient Tamil merchants Guilds moved with their merchandises packed in carts and on the backs of animals from one place to another place and to the fair. Salt was a core ingredient of inland trade. Salt merchant guilds are mentioned frequently in the literature. They were known as they carried salt bags or carts drawn by bullocks and walked along the streets and lanes proclaiming its price of exchange. Salt was sold in transaction for paddy. Pepper was one more core ingredient that was transported on the back of mules.

Before the seventh century C.E., in nearby islands namely Java and Sumatra, vines of peppers that grew in the wild were transplanted. Due to the enormous cultivation and abundance harvesting of black pepper, ginger, cardamom, cinnamon, turmeric, and sandalwood maritime trade and commerce was flourished in Ancient Tamilaham. It is attested by the fact that several Tamil usages and expressions clearly attested the fact that The Tamils had close trade contacts with China. In transactions for several items, China imported black pepper, cardamom, frankincense, and red sea from Tamil Country. The Chinese had trade connections with Tamil Country till the ninth century C.E. These products were in great demands in overseas countries.

The immediate and lively exchange among Rome and Tamilaham declined during the third century A.D. due to developing turmoil in the Roman Realm. While the coins of the earlier century were found in such colossal amounts in Tamilaham, coins identifying with the third century A.D. are infrequently to be found. The exchange didn't kick the bucket, since Alaric the principal Lord of Visgoths collected his war reimbursement from Rome in 409 A.D. His terms incorporated the conveyance of 3000 pounds of pepper. Huge numbers of these flavors had therapeutic qualities and would fill just in the jungles of the East that made them much searched after in the West. These flavors were utilized as food-enhancing specialists, however in mixtures, remedies for toxic substances, balms and some were even scorched as incense.

In the closing part that pepper is inherently associated with the set of experiences and economy of the antiquated Tamil nation. Dark pepper was one of the most punctual pulled in and hefty interest products. Pepper became Yavanapiya implies, the product which was a lot of like by the Yavanas. Generally Tamils traded pepper for gold to Roman, and grain for white salt, etc. The early Roman Domain got immediate admittance to the Coromandel Coast and Malabar Coast in India. Except if there was no commendable pay peppercorns were traded with gold by their weight and it cause Stinging cash to the Old Tamils through Overseas exchange. The Sangam Old style works specifically, Pattinappalai, Perumpanatrupatai, Purananuru, Patirruppattu, Akananuru and Manimekalai give a clear depiction of the pepper exchange which came to Kaveriopoompattinam. The gigantic harbor Kaveriopoompattinam sent out the to a great extent number of articles. Dark pepper was most significant product to Rome.
Coin of Roman Emperor Augustus
found in Pudukkottai

Local imitation of a coin of Augustus,
c. 1st century AD.
Foreign Travellers

Under Sea

References

2. *Pattinappalai*: 92, 86-88
6. Ibid
7. *Akananurra*: 130:11
10. *Manimekhalai*, 20:14
11. *Pattinappalai*: 96, 134-135
12. Here are brought

   Swift, Prancing steeds by sea in ships,  
   And bales of pepper black, by carts.  
   Himalayas sends gems and gold,  
   While Kudda hills, sweet sandal-wood And akhil; pearls from the south sea come,  
   Red coral from the eastern sea.  
   The Ganges and the Kaveri bring Their yield; Ceylon provides its food,  
   And Burma, manufactures rare.(*Pattinappalai* 212-221)
16. Pattirrupatru: II: 10
17. Akananuru: 130:11
22. Archana Subramanian, Route it through the seas, *The Hindu* dated December 01, 2016