Micrografting in cocoa (*Theobroma cacao* L.)

M.R. BINDU* AND V.K. MALLIKA
Onattukara Regional Agricultural Research Station, KAYAMKULAM (KERALA) INDIA

ABSTRACT
Cocoa (*Theobroma cacao* L.) is one of the important beverage crops in the world which is grown for the beans used for the manufacture of drinking cocoa and chocolate. This is a highly heterogeneous and heterozygous tree crop because of its cross pollinated nature. In cocoa, micro propagation offers a potential for producing large number of uniform plants from selected genotypes in a comparatively shorter time. But the *in vitro* rooting of the shoots produced from nodal segments was very difficult. Micrografting of the *in vitro* derived shoots to axenic seedlings was found to be highly successful.

Key words: Cocoa, *Theobroma cacao* L., Micropropagation, Micrografting.