Small cardamom is a very important spice crop of the world and popularly it is known as the queen of spices. It originated in the hilly tracts of the Western Ghats of South India. Now it is cultivated in other countries like Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea and Tanzania besides India. It is valued for its flavour and medicinal properties. Even through it earns a considerable amount of foreign exchange, there are problems related to productivity, production and marketing. Small cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum* Maton) has three natural morphotypes, *Malabar*, *Vazhukka* and *Mysore* based on the nature of panicles. Most of the farmers propagate cardamom clonally. Even though about twelve improved varieties have been released in India, many of the farmers depend on native elite landraces for their planting materials. Hence it is important that efforts are made to study the variability among such land races so as to select superior genotypes from them. Only a few cardamom hybrids have been released till date for cultivation. Hence hybridization and screening of hybrid germplasm to select superior plants is also important. Cardamom is highly habitat specific and hence screening varieties suitable for different agro climatic zones should be carried out so as to come out with genotypes suitable for each location. The present study is a humble effort in these directions.