

Sakhi Gopal Tall (SKGT02)

Ratnambal MJ, Kumaran PM, Bashkara Rao EVV, Pillai RV

Conservation

Sakhi Gopal Tall (SKGT02) is conserved at the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) in Kasaragod (Kerala); at the experiment station in Konark (Orissa); and at the International Coconut Genebank for South Asia (ICG-SA) in Kidu (Karnataka), India.

History

Sakhi Gopal Tall, popularly known as Orissa Tall, is indigenous to Orissa. Seednuts were collected from Orissa and the seedlings were planted at CPCRI, Kasaragod in 1956. This variety is also being maintained in Konark. In 1994, seednuts of this variety were collected from the College of Agriculture, Bhubaneswar, Orissa. Sixty seedlings were later planted at the ICG-SA at the CPCRI Seed Farm in Kidu in 1997.

Identification

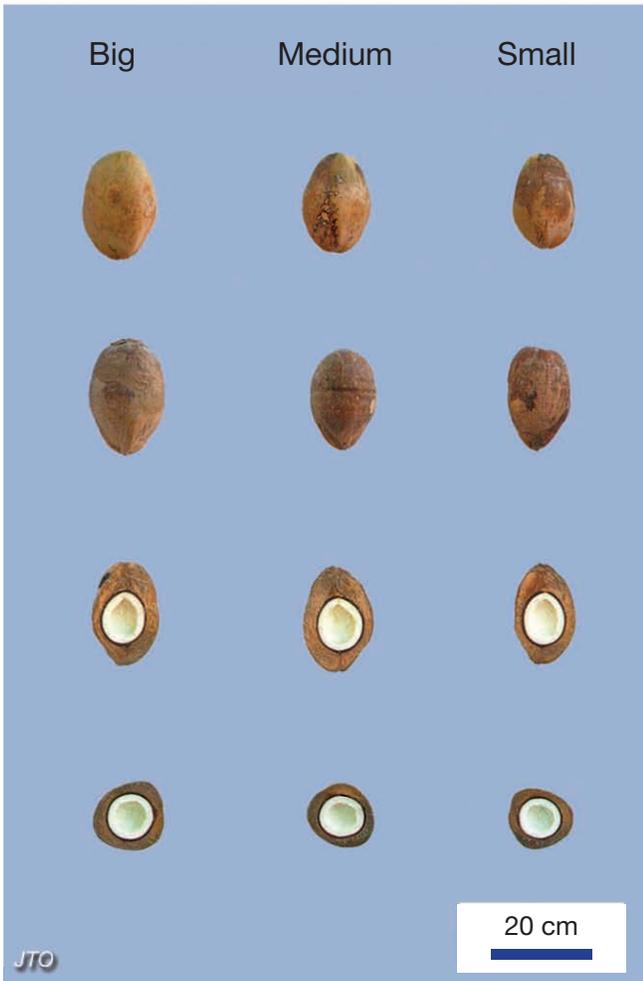
Palms grow to about 8-9 m, with a stem girth of 77 cm at 1 m from the ground level. The number of leaf scars measured from 1 to 2 m above ground level is 32. The leaves are long with a strong petiole which is about 113 cm long. The number of leaflets (120 cm long and 5.2 cm wide) per leaf is 223. The inflorescence is short, about 88 cm long. Fruits are oval in shape and mostly yellowish red in colour. The husk is thick, constituting 40% of the whole fruit. The husked nut is oval in shape. The kernel is thick.

Yield and production

The palms start fruiting nine years after planting. The palm produces 11 inflorescences per year with a range of 8 to 12. The fruits are medium-sized, weighing 880g. The copra content per nut is 163g in Kasaragod. In Konark, the palm yields 88 fruits per palm and the fruits are big, yielding 234g of copra.

References

- CPCRI. 1999. All India Coordinated Research Project on Palms (AICRPP) Annual Report Kerala, India.
- Ratnambal MJ, Nair MK, Muralidharan K, Kumaran PM, Bhaskara Rao EVV, Pillai RV. 1995. Coconut Descriptors Part I. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod, Kerala, India.



Tiptur Tall (TPT)

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Conservation

Tiptur Tall (TPT) is conserved at the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) in Kasaragod (Kerala) and at the centres under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Palms, India.

History

This cultivar was collected from Karnataka and planted in the genebank at CPCRI in 1964. This is a popular cultivar in Karnataka state. It grows well in the inland areas, located about 320 km from the sea coast, which have a low annual average rainfall of about 50-64cm.

Identification

Tiptur Tall is a Tall palm attaining a height of 8.8-10.8 m 32 years after planting. It resembles Indian West Coast Tall (WCT) in most of the morphological characters. The trunk is not very thick (71-87 cm girth). It has a medium-sized bole. The crown is circular with about 35 leaves on the crown. Leaves are long, on average 4.8 m, with strong petioles. The petiole is very broad and thick. The leaves have a large number (108-120) of broad (6.4 cm in breadth) leaflets. The inflorescence is not very long but with a strong stalk. There are about 31-39 spikelets and 16-28 female flowers. The fruit setting percentage is quite high, nearly 42%. The male phase is long and lasts for nearly 21 days. The female phase is very short (about 3 days) and begins 1-2 days after the end of the male phase. Although cross-pollination is the rule, some self-pollination is possible due to inter-spadix overlapping of male and female phases. The palm begins to flower 6-7 years from planting. The fruits are large, oval, and brown. However, green to greenish yellow nuts are also common. The nut inside is round with thick endosperm and a strong shell.

Yield and production

The palm starts fruiting from the 8th year. It is a regular bearer, producing about 9-11 bunches per year. The fruit is big and weighs around 1122g with a nut weight of 586g. The percentage of husk to whole fruit weight is rather high (47.4%). The copra content is 187.3g per nut with 68.4% of oil. The annual nut yield of this palm varies from 73-99 nuts with an average of 85 under rain-fed conditions. The average annual copra yield per ha is 2.8 t and the oil yield is 1.9 t.

Other information

This variety performs well in the low-rainfall areas (50-64cm) of Karnataka. The palm is a good yielder even under rain-fed conditions and can be used for commercial planting. This cultivar is suitable for consumption as tender nut. The water of the tender coconut is tasty and sweet. The tender nut water contains a total sugar content of 5g/100 ml and also high content of free amino acids. The performance of this cultivar has been evaluated in germplasm trials and has been utilized in the breeding programme at CPCRI to obtain Tall x Tall hybrids.

References

- Ratnambal MJ. 1999. Varieties suitable for tender coconut. *Indian Coconut Journal* 30:64-67.
- Ratnambal MJ, Niral V, Krishnan M, Ravi Kumar N. 2000. Coconut Descriptors Part II. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod, India.

