

Surinam

Genebank

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Surinam - officially the Republic of Surinam - is a country in northern South America. Surinam is one of four non-Spanish-speaking states in South America along with Brazil, which is Lusophone, Guyana, which is Anglophone and French Guiana, which is Francophone. Surinam is situated between French Guiana to the east and Guyana to the west. The southern border is shared with Brazil and the northern border is the Atlantic coast.

In the 1980's, trials for resistance to the Heart-rot disease of coconuts was carried out on a number of varieties and hybrids of these varieties. The varieties used were: Malayan Dwarfs; Sri Lanka Green Dwarf; Sri Lanka Red Dwarf, Sri Lanka Yellow Dwarf, a Surinam Dwarf and a Surinam Tall. It was observed that all varieties succumbed to Heart-rot disease, but it seems that some difference exists between varieties in their susceptibility to the disease.

References

- Alexander VT, Elias FE. 1981. Varieties of coconut [resistant/susceptible?] to Heart-rot in Surinam In: International Conference on Tropical Crop Protection, Lyon, France. pp. 1-9.
- Kastelein P, Sanchit-Bekker ML, Dipotaroeno MS. 1985. Confusion in the recognition of Heart-rot and Red Ring disease in coconut. *Surinaamse Landbouw (Surinam)* 33(2): 56-61.

Surinam Brown Dwarf (SUBD)

Ratnambal MJ, Niral V, Krishnan M

Conservation

Surinam Brown Dwarf (SUBD) is conserved the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), India.

History

Surinam Brown Dwarf was introduced to the germplasm collection at CPCRI in 1974.

Identification

Surinam Brown Dwarf is a very short-statured palm, attaining a height of only 2.2-3.6 meters 22 years after planting. The stem is very thin, with a girth of 58-60 cm. It has no bole and the crown is circular. The leaves are short with long, thin petioles. The leaflets are long and thin. The inflorescences are small with thin stalks. The number of female flowers per inflorescence is quite high (average 28), with at least one female flower per spikelet. However, the fruit setting percentage is very low (20%). The palm is highly self-pollinated. The length of the female phase is comparatively long (5 days) and overlaps with the male phase. In addition, the inter-spadix overlapping of male and female phases is quite long (7 days). The fruit is medium-sized with a very high proportion of husk (61.7%). The fruits are yellowish red in colour and oblong in shape. The nut is small with a thin shell and moderately thick kernel.

Yield and production

This variety starts flowering early, about 55-63 months after planting. On average, the palm produces 8-11 bunches per year and yields about 40-53 nuts per year under rain-fed conditions. However, it is not a regular bearer, producing good yields only in alternate years. The husked nut weighs about 215-255g with 62-78g copra per nut. The oil content in the copra is 65.9%. The average estimated annual copra yield per ha is 0.6 t and the oil yield 0.4 t under rain-fed conditions.

Other information

This variety is susceptible to fatal wilt/Heart-rot disease (*Phytophthora* sp.). It is also highly susceptible to wilt disease. At CPCRI, Kasaragod, it has been evaluated for yield and performance in germplasm evaluation trials. At the Surinam Agricultural Experiment Station, this cultivar has been used in the breeding programme, especially for disease resistance breeding. The hybrid Malayan Dwarf x Surinam Dwarf was found to be less susceptible to wilt disease in Surinam.

References

- Alexander VT. 1981. Varietal resistance studies for 'heart-rot' disease of coconuts. *Surinaamse Landbouw* 29:20-23.
- Anonymous. 1973. Surinam Agricultural Experiment Station Coconut Annual Report.
- Ratnambal MJ, Niral V, Krishnan M, Ravi Kumar N. 2000. Coconut Descriptors-II, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod, India.

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