

Malayan Straits Settlement Apricot Tall (SSAT)

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Conservation

Malayan Straits Settlement Apricot Tall (SSAT) is conserved at the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) in Kasaragod (Kerala) and at the research centres under the Kerala Agricultural University, India.

History

This cultivar was introduced into the germplasm collection at CPCRI in 1941. It was first reported by Oman (1919) as a semi-Tall type from Straits Settlements.

Identification

Malayan Straits Settlement Apricot Tall is classified as a semi-Tall variety and attains a height of about 5.7 m 25 years after planting. The trunk is slender with an average girth of 70 cm and a medium-sized bole. The circular crown has about 33 leaves which are medium in length with about 109 leaflets per leaf. The leaflets are not very long but slightly broad. The palm starts flowering about 80 months (65-96 months) after planting. The inflorescence is not very long, about 104-123 cm in length and bears about 25-38 spikelets. The inflorescence stalk is not very strong. The spikelets are short and contain less than one female flower per spikelet (0.6) on average. The number of female flowers/inflorescence is very low, ranging from 12-19. However, a higher setting percentage of 43% is observed. The palm is generally self-pollinated as there is complete overlapping of the male and female phases in a spadix. In addition, inter-spadix overlapping of male and female phases occurs. Within an inflorescence, the male phase lasts for about 20 days while the female phase lasts for 5 days. The fruits are yellowish red in colour, large in size and oval in shape. The nut inside is also large and oval with a large cavity.

Yield and production

The cultivar starts fruiting about 107 months after planting. However, within this cultivar, there is a wide variation in the age at first harvest, from as early as 82 months to 132 months after planting. The palm is a regular bearer, varying in annual nut yield from 21-99 fruits per palm. It produces about 11 bunches (9-14 bunches) per year. The fruits are big (788-113g in weight) with 27% husk. The husked nut weighs 697g on average and produces 189g copra. The oil content in the copra is 65%. The annual copra yield and oil yield for this variety is 2 t per ha and 1.3 t per ha, respectively, under rain-fed conditions.

Other information

This cultivar is highly susceptible to coconut root (wilt) disease. The quality of tender nut water is regular. Since the nut and copra yield is also less, it is not suitable for commercial planting. SSAT has been evaluated for yield and yield components in trials at CPCRI. It has also been used in breeding studies and in crop improvement programmes. In India, the Kerala Agricultural University released a hybrid named Kera Sowbhagya (WCT x SSAT) for commercial cultivation in Kerala state. This hybrid produces 130 fruits per palm per year with an average copra content of 195g per nut (4.3 t per ha per year) having 65% oil.

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Malayan Straight Settlement Green Tall (SSGT)

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Conservation

Malayan Straight Settlement Green Tall (SSGT) is conserved at the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) in Kasaragod (Kerala) and at the experiment stations in Sakhigopal (Orissa) and in Arsikere (Karnataka), India.

History

The first introduction of this variety was from Malaysia in 1940 and planted in Pilicode (Kerala). Open pollinated/selfed progenies of this material were later planted at CPCRI, Kasaragod. Direct introduction was made again in 1958. Later, *inter se* population was planted in 1972 and 1989 at Kasaragod.

Identification

The palms grow to 9.8 m with about 35 leaves on the crown. The stem girth at 1 m height from the ground is 79 cm. There are 29 leaf scars measured from 1 to 2 m above ground level. The palm flowers in 4-5 years after planting. The inflorescence is short, about 111 cm long, with short but strong peduncle. The mean number of inflorescences produced per year is 13 with a range of 7-14. The palm is of the indirect autogamous type, with about 46.5% of the inflorescences showing inter-spadix overlapping. The duration of overlap period is about 4.4 days. Fruits are oval to oblong. The husk, which makes up 32.8% of the whole fruit is oriented more towards the posterior. The husked nut is slightly angular in shape. The kernel is thick with a solid shell.

Yield and production

Fruiting starts 6-6.5 years after planting. It produces 114 nuts per palm; fruits are medium-sized and greenish yellow in colour. The fruit weighs about 1130g with 186g of copra per nut. In Arsikere, Karnataka, it yields 63 nuts and 130g copra per nut; and in Orissa, 70 nuts. The oil content of the copra in Kasaragod is 67%. The variety gives 3.7 t of copra and 2.5 t of oil per ha.

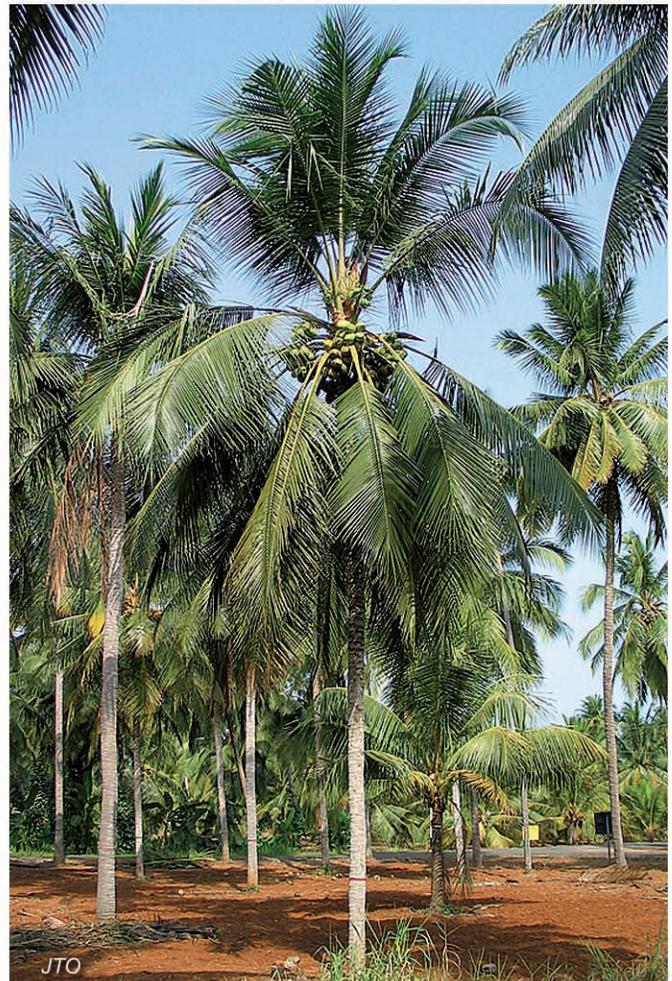
Other information

Malayan Straight Settlement Green Tall is sensitive to drought; comparatively tolerant to root (wilt) diseases of Kerala and sensitive to stem bleeding disease caused by *Thielaviopsis paradoxa*. This variety gives 43% more nut yield and 45% more copra yield than the local Tall. Hence, SSGT may be planted in large scale. Although this variety is no longer being used for breeding, in the past, this variety was crossed with Straight Settlement Apricot Tall (SSAT).

References

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