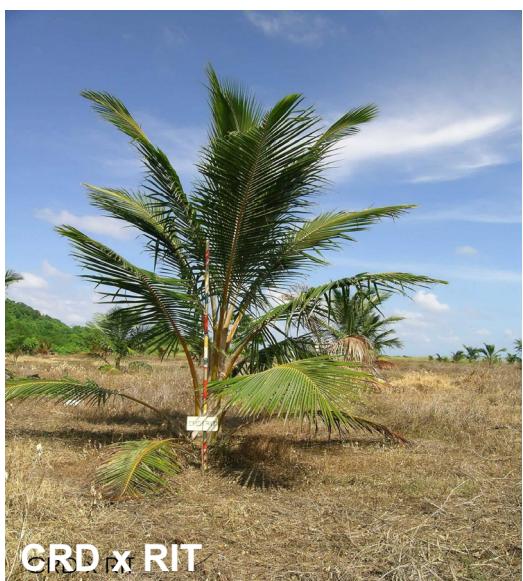




MRD x VTT



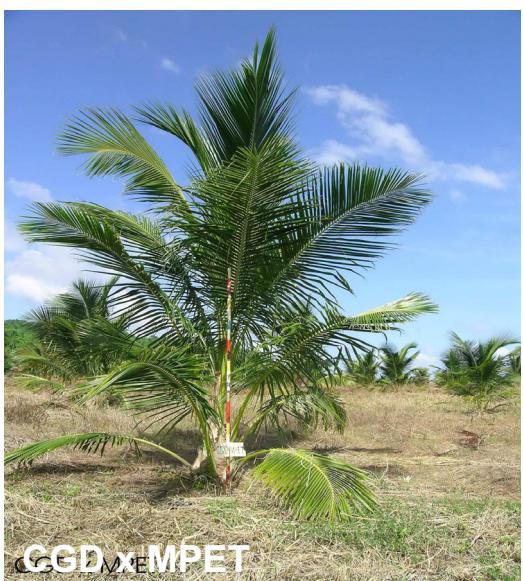
MRD x TAGT



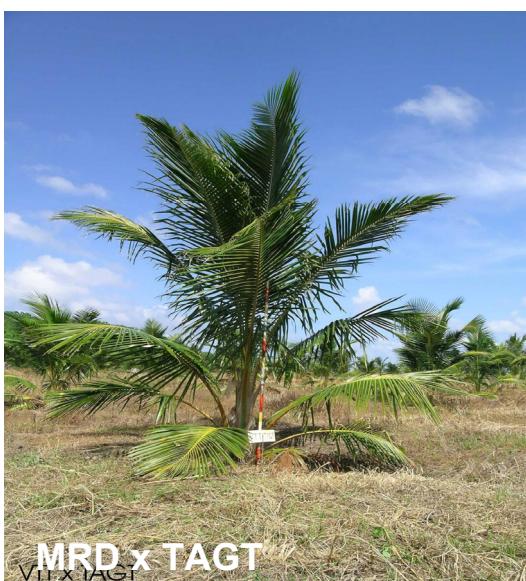
CRD x RIT



CGD x PNT



CGD x MPET



MRD x TAGT

Annex 3. Description and pictures of the parent varieties of local coconut hybrids used in the trials in Jamaica¹

Thailand Tall (THT)

Anupap Thirakul, Chulaphan Petchpiroon and R. Bourdeix

Description

On average, the fruits of Thailand Tall weigh between 1890 g (in Thailand) and 1990 g (in Côte d'Ivoire). The inner nut is oblong in shape with a somewhat flat bottom and weighs about 1300-1400 g. Its 560-610 g kernel gives 300-320 g of thin copra when dried.

The Thailand Tall palm bears a small number of large round to oblong fruits, with thin to moderate husk, high water content and a relatively thin kernel. It is typical of the Southeast Asian varieties, with a thick straight stem, a large bole, slowly increasing its fruit yields up to at least 20 years. From 3 to 12 years, this variety grows about 80 cm per year. The Thailand Tall is viviparous: fruits begin to germinate high in the palms before falling naturally to the ground. This viviparous condition is not commercially desirable. To avoid spoilage of fruits through germination, it is necessary to harvest the ripe fruits from the top, often using trained monkeys.

Yield and production

In Thailand, this variety does not start bearing on average until six years after planting. In farmers' fields, average yields are between 20-25 fruits per palm, although individual palms may give from 60-90 fruits. Yields at maturity rarely exceed 1.5–2 tons copra per hectare. Copra oil content is about 60 – 62%.

Other information

A genetic improvement programme was launched by the Chumphon Agricultural Research Centre at the Sawi Station in 1960. Thailand's seedgardens produce at least 250 000 hybrid seednuts annually, under the names of SAWI 1 and SAWI 2, respectively. These hybrids are in fact PB 121 (Malayan Yellow Dwarf x West African Tall) and PB 132 (Malayan Red Dwarf x West African Tall) created in Côte d'Ivoire. The fruits of these two hybrids are sometimes considered too small by growers. Hence, distribution of a hybrid with large fruits was started in 1984. A seed garden was established to supply Thailand Tall Sawi x West African Tall seednuts. This was without doubt the first use of a Tall x Tall hybrid in a development programme. In 1994, production of this hybrid, known as "Chumphon Hybrid 60", remained limited to 20 000 seednuts per year. In 2003, only 2500 seedlings were produced. In Jamaica, the Thailand Tall Sawi has proven to be relatively resistant to Lethal Yellowing disease, with 32% mortality, compared to 89% for the Jamaica Tall variety.

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- Thirakul A. and H.C. Harries. 1982. Description of four different coconut populations in Thailand. Paper presented at a seminar on plant genetic resources, 2–5 September 1982, Bangkok, Thailand (in Thai).

¹ For the description and pictures of Malayan Yellow Dwarf (MYD), please refer to Annex 1 of the article "Coconut hybrid trials in Côte d'Ivoire" in this book, pp. 32-51; for the description and pictures of Panama Tall (PNT), please refer to Annex 1 of the article "Coconut hybrid trials in Benin" in this book, pp.58-61