

Development of viable substitutes for imports

Development, production and dissemination of knowledge on new tomato varieties/ hybrids through conventional and heterosis breeding technologies

Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill) is one of the most important and popular vegetables in Sri Lanka. It is cultivated in an area of 6413 ha with a production of 56894 Mt. During the recent past, much attention has been focused on this crop by the farming community of Sri Lanka,



due to its multifarious benefits in income, export potential, human nutrition, health and employment avenues. Research and Development work on this crop during 2002-2005 could be highlighted under the following components. Contribution to tomato seed availability to farmers through participation at seed production programmes and dissemination of knowledge through media and farmer training

programmes could be highlighted as important components of the efforts made by the researchers.

Special features of different varieties :

- Ravi- Heat tolerant, highly suitable for high temperature areas.
e.g. Dambulla, Hambanthota, Ampara
- Tharindu- Processing type, highly suitable for processing industry.
e.g. Tomato sauce, Paste
- Rashmi- Big fruit size (185g/fruit), Highly suitable for hotel industry and for supermarkets



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- Rajitha- Medium fruits size (82g/fruit), highly suitable for export market
- Lanka sour- Sour taste, highly suitable for Sri Lankan dishes
- Maheshi- F₁ hybrid variety, red fruits, high yield, Promotes local F₁ hybrid seed availability and seed industry
- HF 02- F₁ hybrid variety in the pipeline, dark red fruits, high yield, Promotes local F₁ hybrid seed availability and seed industry
- M65-1- Variety in the pipeline, dark red plum shaped fruits, Fetches high price in super markets

Mrs. Ranjani Peiris

Mr. Senarath Ekanayake

Mr. A.R.M. Maharouf

Dr. I.J. de Zoysa

Dr. C. Kudagamage

Horticultural Crop Research and Development Institute