

SECTION B

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EVALUATION OF YIELD AND TUBER QUALITY OF SWEET POTATO VARIETIES INTER-CULTIVATED IN COCONUT PLANTATIONS

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Next to manioc, sweet potato is the most popular indigenous root/tuber crop. It is cultivated as a mono crop, under coconut and in home gardens. Cultivation of sweet potato under coconut is gaining importance because of the potential area available in the Intermediate and Wet zones.

Several varieties were evaluated under coconut at the Regional Agricultural Research Centre, Makandura, situated in the Low Country Intermediate Zone.

Varieties Wariyapola and Bentota A gave the highest yields in trials under rainfed conditions in *Maha* 1980-81, *Yala* 1982 and *Maha* 1982-83. The net area yields obtained from these two varieties during these three seasons ranged from 4,191 to 10,864 kg per ha. These yields compare favourably with yields obtained with mono crops.

However, in taste panel ratings, their overall rank for fibrosity, flavour and taste, were intermediate. The varieties A₁, B₁ and Cinchi ranked highest in such ratings while Georgia Red, Norin, A₂₃ and Divulapitiya were the least acceptable.