

EVALUATION OF SOME RICE INTRODUCTIONS FOR COLD-TOLERANCE

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Low temperature is the major constraint in rice production at higher latitudes in Sri Lanka. The farmers in these areas grow tall, long-aged photo-sensitive traditional rice varieties. High yielding, early maturing, cold tolerant rice varieties are urgently required to stabilize the rice yields in these areas.

This study was carried out at Maldeniya (950 m elevation) during Yala 1986 to select cold-tolerant rice varieties. Eighty eight varieties from different rice growing regions of the world with the local check variety (H_4) were tested for cold-tolerance at reproductive and ripening stages. Out of these, 13 entries were selected on the basis of plant height, growth duration, tiller number, leaf colour, panicle emergence, flowering uniformity, spikelet sterility and phenotypic acceptability. These selected entries will be further evaluated for yield potential.