SOME OBSERVATIONS OF EARLY MATURITY GROUNDNUT GENOTYPES UNDER RAINFED CONDITIONS

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An early-maturing groundnut variety is an urgent requirement for IL region in the Monaragala district. Since there are no such varieties released to farmers much emphasis is given to developing such varieties with the assistance of ICRISAT IN India.

This experiment was carried out at the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Angunukolapelessa, during the Yala season 1986 to study maturity of twenty five cultivars of groundnut under rainfed culture in the dryzone of Sri Lanka. The experiment was carried out in triple lattice design (5 x 5) with three replications using 4m. 4 row plots.

Data were obtained on leaflet size, number of primary branches, flower characters, pod size and shape,number of pods per plant, number of seeds per plant, number of seeds per pod, pod weight per plant, seed weight per plant, shelling percentage, 100 pod weight, 100 seed weight, seed colour and plot yield.

According to the observations, varieties ICGS(E) - 20 ECGSC(E) - 27, CHICO and ICGS(E) - 119 showed 83 - 90 day maturity period, although early parental line CHICO had the lowest yield. Selected varieties derived from that parent possessed not only short duration but also better comparable yields. Results of this study showed no relationship between early maturity and high yield. However, there was a relationship between cumulative flower count and the yield.

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