

THE EFFECT OF SEED CORMEL RATE ON YIELD
POTENTIAL OF WELI-ALA (COLOCASIA SP.)

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Weli-ala is a Colocasia genotype which has the shortest crop duration of 3.5 months and the highest yields of 18-20 t/ha. Harvestable yield of weli-ala consists of various sizes of cormels including elongated and small globular cormels which are non-marketable. Elongated tubers possess comparatively low content of starch and small globular cormels need more time in cleaning and processing for cooking.

This study looked into the possibility of using these non-marketable cormels as planting materials.

Results indicated that these tubers can be successfully used as planting materials in the next season. Planting three cormels per hill was most beneficial as it gave significantly higher yield response (yield) than two cormels or single cormel planting.

Seed cormel rate higher than three per hill reduced the formation of large marketable tubers and also produced a higher percentage of non-marketable cormels.