

IDENTIFICATION OF CHILLI GENOTYPES FOR TOLERANCE TO LEAF CURL COMPLEX DISEASE UNDER FIELD CONDITIONS

V. Arulnandy
Regional Agricultural Research Centre
Mahalluppallama

Chilli (Capsicum annum var. accuminatum) is an attractive crop to dry zone farmers due to its high return. Leaf curl complex (LCC) is an economic important disease in chillies that can drastically reduce the yield if not controlled. Therefore, farmers invest substantial sums of money on agro-chemicals to control this disease.

A screening programme was carried out at the Regional Agricultural Research Centre in Mahalluppallama during the dry season (Yala) 1988 to identify chilli genotypes that are tolerant to LCC under field conditions. Thirty-three genotypes, pedigrees from the population of a local chilli cultivar "Ruhunu miris", were screened along with the standard cultivar "MI-2" under the application of recommended pesticides as well as without pesticides.

No difference in the incidence of LCC was observed between pesticide application and no pesticide in five genotypes which could be considered as tolerant types to this disease. In addition, under both pesticide and no pesticide treatments these five genotypes produced the same amount of dry pods and their pod yield was three times the standard cultivar MI-2, when grown without pesticides.

These five genotypes, pedigrees of Ruhunu miris, may be the potential candidates for future recommendation.