

**B-70 : PROMISING AND PEST RESISTANT VARIETIES OF
PIGEONPEA: *Cajanus cajan* L. AND THEIR SEASONAL
PERFORMANCE IN MAHAWELI SYSTEM B.**

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Pigeonpea varieties were evaluated under supplementary irrigation and insecticide free environment at Aralaganwila in Mahaweli system B during Yala 1990 and Maha 1990/91. Yield potentials as well as susceptibility to flower and pod pests were measured.

ICPL 81 gave the highest and ICPL 8304 and ICPL 269 gave higher yields than the recommended varieties T-21 and MI 10. The variety ICPL 81 showed lower susceptibility to flower and pod pests. The higher yielding varieties which showed lower susceptibility to pod pests possessed specific characters such as spreading and indeterminate branching habit, prominent reproductive phase with shorter period for flowering and pod development, scattered arrangement of flowers, pods and their clusters and pubescence on pods. Tested varieties were more vigorous, matured earlier and possessed more number of flower clusters, flowers, pod bearing branches, pods and seed yields during Yala than that during Maha. Profuse vegetative growth, severe pest damages on flower buds, flowers and pods and fungal diseases associated with rainy weather affected pod setting and seed yields during Maha.

The above promising varieties and the characters associated with lower susceptibility to pests can be exploited for future varietal development programmes. Pigeonpea cultivation under supplementary irrigation is more profitable during Yala than that during Maha.