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Effect of fruit pulp on viability of Palmyrah (*Borassus flabellifer* L.) seeds

The seedling vigour in the dioecious palmyrah palm is determined by many factors beginning from pollination. Existence of fruit pulp influenced the viability of seeds. The germination potential of the palmyrah pulpy seeds and their subsequent tuberization was assessed.

An experiment was conduced to determine whether the fruit pulp has any influence on viability of palmyrah seeds. Its was found that there are significant differences among four treatments. When comparing the treatments of pulp unextracted and pulp extracted seeds and their subsequent tuber weights, the tubers produced from pulp extracted seeds had higher fresh weights (P=0.05). When the tuber responses from pulp extracted seeds and pulp unestracted sun- dried seeds were compared, the tubers from pulp extracted seeds were superior. It was also found that the tubers from pulp unextracted seeds. Tubers produced from fresh unextracted seeds showed the least size.

The fresh tuber length in pulp extracted seeds was greater than that of pulp unextracted seeds. Comparing the tubers of pulp extracted seeds and pulp unextracted sun-dried seeds, the fresh tuber length was greater in tubers produced from pulp extracted seeds

(P=0.05). However there was nosignificant differences between the tuber length of pulp unextracted seeds and pulp unextracted sun-dried seeds.