

A preliminary study on 14 indeterminate type Tomato introductions in mid country wet zone

Tomato is one of the well-known and the most consumed vegetables in Sri Lanka. Its special nutritive value and dual usage as both fresh fruits and processed products contribute to its world-wide popularity. The total tomato production is around 60 million tons in the world annually. However, the productions of tomatoes in the tropics are confronted with many problems such as lack of improved varieties, pest and disease especially Bacterial Wilt, post harvest losses and marketing problems.

At present, there is only one indeterminate variety recommended by the Department of Agriculture and this type of tomato cultivars are urgently needed for fresh market, growing inside polytonnels, green houses, home garden or in the field. Therefore, this study was initiated with the objective of identifying promising indeterminate type varieties having good yield potential, bacterial wilt resistance and acceptable fruit quality characters.

During Maha 97/98, fourteen indeterminate varieties with a recommended variety were evaluated in the fields at Gannoruwa. The 14 day-old seedlings per hill. Recommended fertilizers and cultural practices were applied during the crop growth period. Ten varieties namely, CLN 1463A, CLN1463 B, CLN 1460 A, CLN 1464 A, CLN 1464 B, CLN 1466 A, CLN 1466 C, CLN 657 BC, F2 267-0-15-0, CLN 657 Bcl F2 - 285-0-20 and CLN 1466 B were selected. These selected varieties showed moderate to highly resistant reaction to bacterial wilt disease, and high yield potential. Fruits were medium to large, firm and crack resistant.

Therefore, these promising varieties could be utilised as parents in hybridization programme or introduce as new varieties after further yield evaluation studies.