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Development of vegetative propagation techniques for Solanum melangena var. insanum L. (Elabatu)

A pot experiment was conducted to develop vegetative propagation techniques for *Solanum melangena* var. insanum (Elabatu) cuttings at different stages of maturity (i.e. soft wood and semi - hard wood) treated with and without commercially available hormones (i.e. Secto and Clonex) were used as six treatments - soft wood cuttings (T1), semi - hard wood cuttings (T2), soft wood cuttings treated with Clonex (T3), semi - hard wood cuttings treated with Clonex (T4), soft wood cuttings treated with Secto (T5) and semi hard wood cuttings treated with Secto. Cuttings were planted in polythene bags (10 x15 cm) filled with a potting mixture of 1: 1: 1 - sub soil: sand and compost. Shooting and rooting were evaluated at 3, 5 and 7, weeks after planting. Experiment was done according to a complete randomized design with 4 replicates

for each treatment. Shooting started at 2 -3 weeks after planting while rooting started a little late (3-5 weeks after planting) in all treatments. Both hormones promoted shooting and rooting but Secto gave the best rooting. (i.e. 17 -20% more root biomass) irrespective of maturity of cutting.