

### **Evaluation of nine tomato introductions in mid country wet zone area**

Tomato gives a good income and has high nutritive value being a good source of vitamins (A,B,C) and minerals. There is a necessity to introduce new tomato varieties to Sri Lanka.

Genetic variability is the key to success in crop improvement programmes. Therefore identification of promising donors to utilize in hybridization programmes is important. In this study, nine introductions ( HT-2026D, HT 2116B, HT 1314G, HT 2070A, HT 2123A, HT-AV-10, HT-AV-8, HT-AV-9, HT-AV-13 ) and a local check variety Thilina were evaluated at Gannouwa during Yala 2001 and Maha 2001/2002 in a Randomized Complete Block Design with three replications. The cultural and agronomic practices were done according to department recommendations. The results revealed that there were significant variation in yield potential and fruit quality characteristics such as fruit size, weight, shape, colour and peel thickness among the tested entries. The line, HT-2123A recorded the highest yield of 56.6 t/ha with a fruit weight of 50 g/fruit. The lines HT13114G, HT2123A, HT-AV-8 gave higher yields than the check variety, Thilina. The line HT-1314G had dark yellow fruit colour which is an indication of high carotene. Except the lines HT-2070A, HT-2123A, HT-2116B all the others had a fruit weight higher than 100 g. The highest fruit weight of 275 g was observed in HT-AV-10 and HT-AV-9. All the entries had a reaction of moderately resistant or resistant to bacterial wilt disease. Therefore, these lines could be utilized as donors to create genetic variability, especially in fruit quality characteristics to develop superior tomato genotypes.