Evaluation of the performances of Brinjal (*Solanum melongena* L.) varieties in Ampara

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Binjal or Egg plant (*Solanum melongena* L.) is widely cultivated crop in the day zone of Sri Lanka and there are a large number of local and improved varieties available for cultivation. The variety selected for cultivation must be high yielding variety with adaptability to prevailing climatic conditions of the area, soil factors and water availability and also must show resistant or tolerant to the pest and diseases. Therefore selection and recommendation of suitable varieties for a particular environment or for a particular agro-climatic zone is very important to maximize the yield per unit area. Thus this experiment was conducted to evaluate the performances of five commonly cultivated Brinjal varieties; Laneiry, Variety 08890, EGH 314, BW 11 and SM 164 in Ampara to select and recommend the most suitable Brinjal variety for growing in Ampara area.

These five varieties were evaluated in a Randomized Complete Block Design with three blocks and number of leaves and plant height in weekly intervals from second week to sixth week and average pod weight and average yield per plant were recorded and analyzed to compare the varieties.

The variety EGH 314 produced the highest average yield per plant (1500 g) ($p< 0.05$) with an average pod weight of 87 g. Although BW 11 and SM 164 gave significantly higher average pod weight of 105 g and 100 g respectively ($p<0.05$) compared to others and their average yield per plant 1200 g and 1300 g were significantly lower than EGH 314, thus EGH 314 recording the highest yield per unit area (27.75 t/ ha) among all, the five varieties evaluated.

The Brinjal variety EGH 314 is recommended as the most suitable variety for cultivating in Ampara area in terms of yield per unit area, among the five varieties evaluated.

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