

**Maheshi: A locally developed new tomato hybrid with  
high yield potential and bacterial wilt resistance**

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Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill) is a popular vegetable crop cultivated in Sri Lanka. Many exotic hybrids are available in the market and farmers tend to cultivate these hybrids with the intention of obtaining high yield and income. However, many farmers reported several problems in exotic hybrids. Therefore, there is an urgent need to introduce a promising local hybrid having high yield potential with bacterial wilt resistance. This study was undertaken at Horticultural Crop Research and Development Institute, Gannoruwa during the year 2000-2005. The hybrid developed from a single cross combination, was officially released as Maheshi in 2005. The hybrid Maheshi which possesses determinate plant growth type consistently gave a significantly higher yield (58 t/ha) than the tested 09 exotic hybrids and T 245 variety in replicated yield trials. Maheshi hybrid showed moderate resistance to bacterial wilt disease, and it also qualified as a variety in Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability test which is a basic requirement for varietal release. The fruits of Maheshi are red in colour and slightly flattened. The weight of a fruit is about 125 g and peel thickness is 8 mm. The hybrid Maheshi is highly preferred by the consumers.

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