

RUHUNU MIRIS

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A chilli variety called Ruhunu Miris is very popular as a green chilli under rainfed condition in some parts of southern dry zone. It is usually grown in Yala season. This variety is highly resistant to drought and tolerant to diseases. It gives a better income for the farmers growing crops under adverse conditions.

Ruhunu Miris shows wide variation in morphology and it is given on the paper by diagrams

The green pod yield and suggestions to improve the crop is also included.

Introduction

A chilli cultivar called "Ruhunu Miris" is popular among the farmers around Angunukolaplessa, Rana and Udayala area in the southern dry zone (Fig.1). This variety is more popular than MI varieties in these areas. Ruhunu Miris is picked as green chilli. The crop is mainly planted as a mono crop under rainfed conditions in the Yala season. Ruhunu Miris is in greater demand in the markets and fetches higher prices than any other green chilli variety.

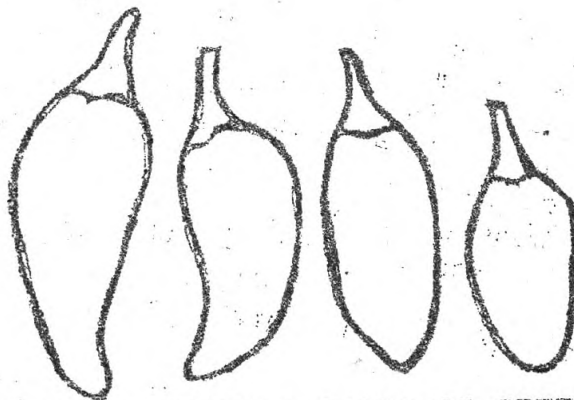
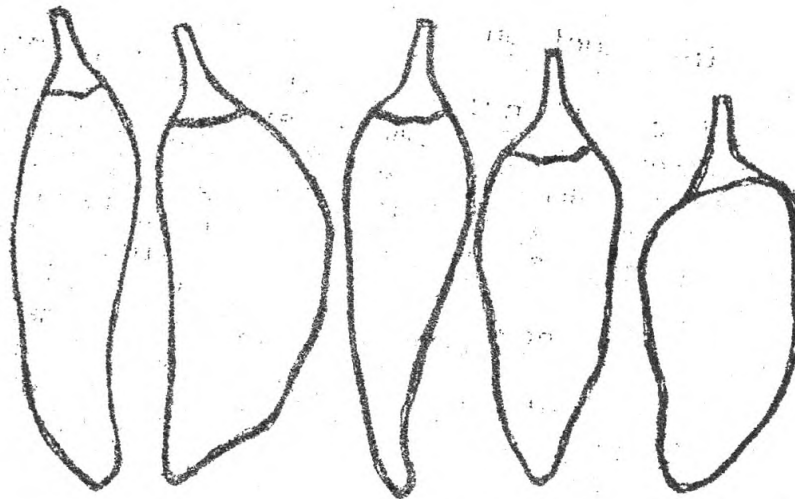
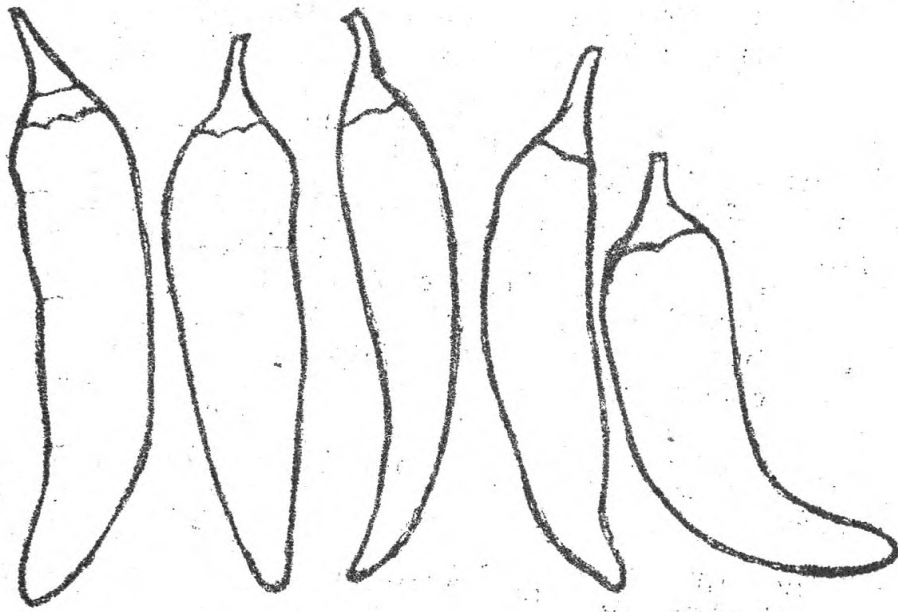
Methodology

The observation data were mainly gathered from the farmers field at Angunukolaplessa during 1984/85 Maha season. The different plant types and different pod shape and sizes were observed and selected for the study. The views of the extension personnel and research findings are also incorporated in this article.

1. Planting characters

Ruhunu Miris shows wide variation on plant morphology. The height of the plant varies from 50 cm to 100 cms. The structure of the plant and the spreading of the canopy are varied.

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: DIFFERENT SHAPES & SIZES OF GREEN PODS

The length of the green chilli varies from 2 cm to 6 cms and its shape and size also vary (Fig.2, 3). The surface of the pods is generally smooth with or without shine. The colour of the green chilli pods range from dark green to light green and the colour of the dry chilli varies from dark red to blackish red.

The Ruhunu Miris is tolerant to leaf curl disease, Anthracnose and Cercospora diseases (Fig.4). It is also highly drought resistant (Table 1). The leaves drop down by the end of Yala and with the rains of Maha, the crop is again vigourously rejuvenated.

2. Yield

The chilli pods are mainly harvested green and harvesting can go on or one year. The green chilli yield is around 5000 kg/ha (Research division 1982). The crop can be harvested 3-4 times in the Yala season. After the first rains of Maha the pods are picked at 1-2 week intervals. During this period farmers receive better income because no other green chilli varieties are available in the local market.

Ruhunu Miris is also used as a dry chilli but it does not fetch higher prices due to its shape and size (Fig.5). However the pungency is very high.

3. Suggestions for Improvements

(i) Varietal improvement

As the crop shows wide morphology, yield etc, the varietal improvement by selection is desirable.

(ii) Agronomic improvement

- (a) It is useful to formulate recommendations for fertilizer application and the optimum spacing for this variety.
- (b) At the initial stages, the crop gives little income and land is not fully utilized. Hence possibilities for intercropping with other crops should be explored.

Table 1: Mortality percentage, leaf curl disease percentage and yield (green pods) of MI-1, MI-2, and Ruhunu Miris.

	MI-1	MI-2	Ruhunu Miris
Mortality (drought) %	23	21	8
Leaf curl disease %	80	67	45
Yield kg/ha (green pods)	5130	8965	4950

Source: Research Division, 1982. Highlight of Research.

Conclusion

Ruhunu Miris is grown as a popular green chilli cultivar. It is highly drought resistant and disease tolerant. Introduction of superior variety by selection and agronomic improvement can up lift the Ruhunu Miris cultivation.

References:

Research Division (1982) Highlights of Research
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