

RESEARCH NOTE

A NEW GROUNDNUT VARIETY – “TIKIRI”

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Groundnut is cultivated in the dry and intermediate zones of Sri Lanka. In the dry zone the crop is cultivated mainly under rainfed conditions over an extent of 7,500 ha. in *maha* season. Therefore, varieties adapted to rainfed farming are essential. “Tissa” is the only drought-tolerant variety released to-date by the Department of Agriculture for rainfed cultivation of groundnut.

The newly released variety “Tikiri”, is also suitable for rainfed conditions and in addition gives 20% higher yields than “Tissa”. This variety originally came from ICRISAT, India as ICGV 86015. After multi-locational trials conducted in Sri Lanka, this variety was identified as “Tikiri” and selected as a widely adapted, high-yielding, and medium-duration variety suitable for rainfed conditions.

The plant is of the semi-erect type, with dark green leaves, takes 30-40 days to flower and produce orange colour flowers. It reaches maturity in 100-110 days, and bears medium-sized pods with 1 or 2 light purple, medium sized seeds. The variety is tolerant to the major groundnut diseases with no record of severe pest attacks, and tolerant to drought with the valuable characteristic of low crop water use efficiency (WUE) at water stress and well-watered conditions, has a strong peg (and therefore low yield-loss) and is suitable for consumption after boiling.