

Poster

**BULB SHAPE INDEX IN DIFFERENT CLUSTER ONION (*ALLIUM CEPA* L.)
CULTIVARS IN SRI LANKA**

H.M.C. HITINAYAKE¹, J.P. SUMANARATHNE², W.A.D.S. ABESSEKARA¹
K.G.N. MADUSHIKA¹, W. SAMARAKOON¹, P.G.W. PATHIRAN¹
AND K.G. SWARNALATHA¹

¹ *Regional Agricultural Research and Development Centre, Aralaganwila, Sri Lanka*

² *District Secretariat Office, Monaragala, Sri Lanka*

ABSTRACT

Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) is an important alliaceous crop and it can be regarded as the second most important vegetable crop grown in the world after tomatoes. Estimation of physical properties is an essential tool to the breeder for selection of best quality and quantity preservation of onion. Considerable differences exist in the size, shape, dry matter content, Total Soluble Solid (TSS), rest period and other characters of the different onion bulbs. The bulb shape is an alert phenotypic character for the selection of onion cultivars in crop improvement procedure. The bulb shape is assessed by the bulb shape index, this is determined the ratio of bulb height to diameter. Therefore, this experiment was conducted during *maha* 2013/14 to estimate the bulb shape index in different local cluster onion cultivars (Vethalam, Jaffna Local, Thinnavelly Red, Thelulla Selection and Rambawa White) at the Regional Agricultural Research and Development Centre, Aralaganwila. Variety Jaffna Local with highest polar diameter and variety Vethalam with highest equatorial diameter. When compared with others, variety Thinnavelly Red showed higher shape index and lowest equatorial diameter than others. Variety Vethalam showed lowest shape index than others. The shape index of all the varieties and cultivars take more than one value and variety Thinnavelly Red takes more than two. All the estimated cultivars go under greater than 1 and 1.5 value of shape index, they can be categorized in-to 'torpedo' shape and to oval shape.