

ARECANUT VARIETIES



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The arecanut palm (*Areca catechu* L.) is one of the important commercial crops of India. The crop is mainly grown in the states of Karnataka, Assam, Kerala, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



Mangala

Systematic evaluation of exotic and indigenous accessions of arecanut and selection for high yield and its component characters have resulted in release of high yielding varieties and also identifying some of the promising cultivars for different agroclimatic conditions of the country.

Mangala (VTL-3)

Among the exotic collections, under evaluation for yield and its component traits, cultivar VTL-3 introduced from Beijing (China) possess desirable characters such as earliness in bearing, more number of female flowers per inflorescence, higher nutset, initial and cumulative higher yield, quicker stabilization of production and lesser height in comparison with local South Kanara variety. The average yield is 3.0kg



Mangala Bunch



Mangala Nuts

chali/palm/year. The cultivar was released for coastal areas of Karnataka and Kerala upto an altitude of about 800 metre in 1972 for commercial cultivation under the name 'Mangala'. The variety is characterized by semi-tall habits partially drooping crown with well spread leaves and having more number of leaflets as compared to South Kanara local. The leaflets are dark green in colour with characteristic crinkling at the tips. Fruits are medium sized with good chewing quality of nuts/acceptable to the consumer. It is very important to note that in this variety because of heterozygous nature of the crop and semi tall nature of its habit, about 2 per cent of the palms develop weak stem with lanky growth. These may be located and rogued out within two years after planting and replaced. Also Mangala palms suffer if underplanted in heavily shaded old areca gardens.

Sumangala (VTL-11)

The accession VTL-11 obtained from Indonesia was evaluated along with other indigenous and exotic accessions for yield and its component characters. Critical observations recorded showed number of desirable characters as compared to South Kanara local. There was an increase in yield of 64% over South Kanara local. In view of the substantial increase in yield, the variety was released for all areca growing areas in general and coastal Karnataka and Kerala in particular in 1985. Sumangala is a tall type with partially drooping crown. Under good management, palms flower in 4-5 years. The

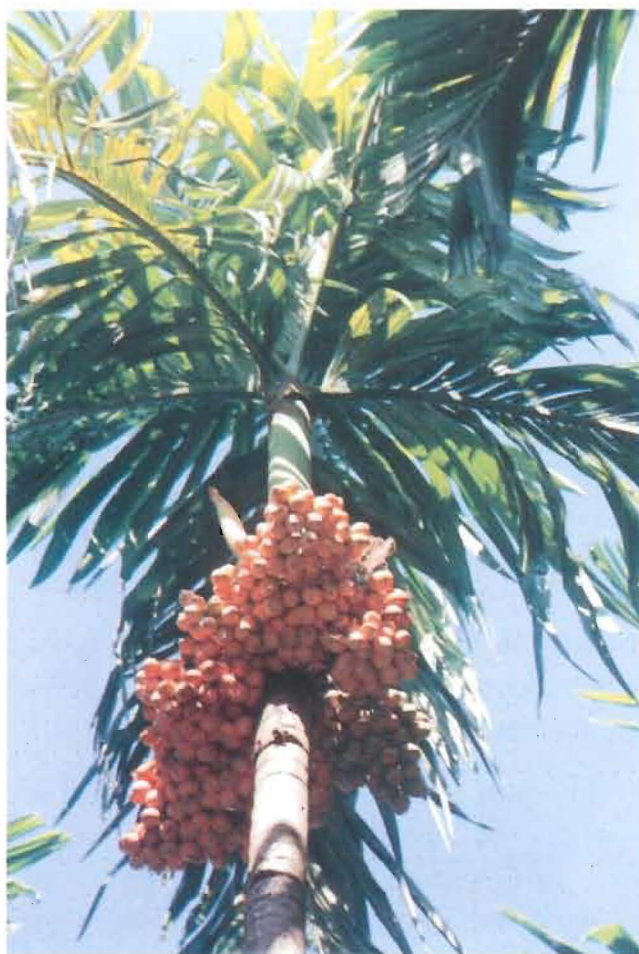
colour of the ripe nuts is deep yellow to orange and oblong to round in shape. The variety recorded an average yield of 3.28 kg. of chali/palm/year at the age of ten years.

Sreemangala (VTL-17)

The accession VTL-17 introduced from Singapore showed high yield potential compared to SK local and recorded 59% increase in yield over SK local. Arecanut palm is tall with partially drooping crown with longer internodes and sturdy stem. It starts flowering in 4-5 years. It is high yielder with an average yield of 3.18 kg chali/palm/year. Ripe nuts are usually oblong to round in shape with deep yellow



Sumangala



Sreemangala

our. Nuts of this variety is used only for chali making (ripe nut processing). This cultivar VTL-17 released in the name of Sreemangala during 1985 for coastal region of Karnataka and Kerala.

Distinguished characters of released varieties of arecanut

Variety	Growth habit	Shape & Size of nut	Yield Chali (kg/palm)	Year of release	Recommended agro-climatic area
Mangala	Semi tall early bearing	Round & small	3.0	1972	Coastal Karnataka and Kerala
Sumangala	Tall	Oval & medium	3.28	1985	Karnataka and Kerala
Sreemangala	Tall	Round and Oval	3.18	1985	Karnataka and Kerala
Mohitnagar	Tall Homogeneous	Oval to round medium	3.67	1991	West Bengal Karnataka and Kerala

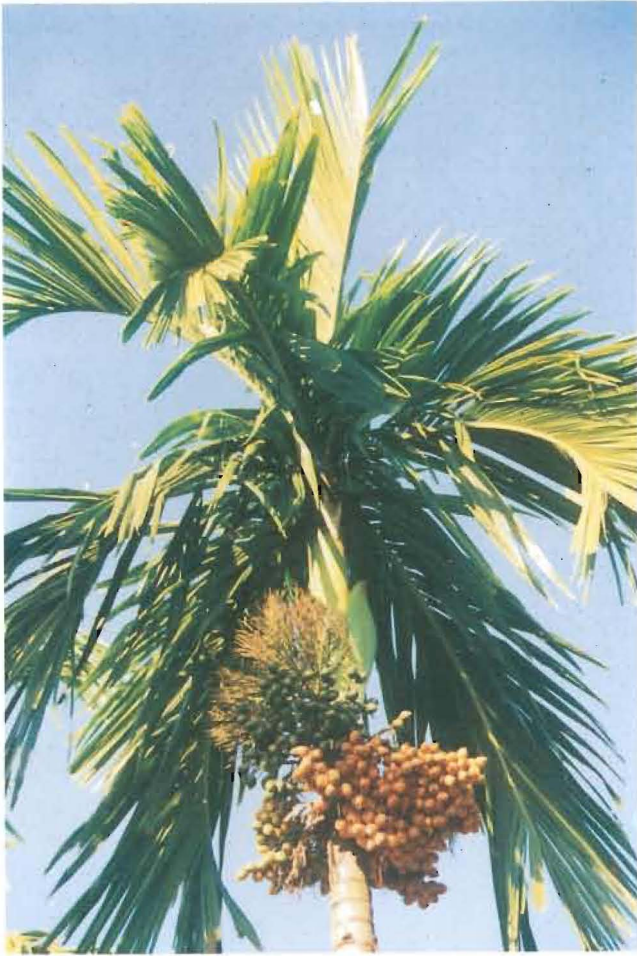
Mohitnagar

Mohitnagar, an indigenous (Mohitnagar, West Bengal) arecanut variety with a high yield potential has been



Mohitnagar

recommended for release during 1991. The variety has recorded and increase in yield of 23% and 84% over Mangala and SK local, respectively. The important feature of this variety is its greater uniformity. The bunches are well placed and nuts are loosely arranged on spikes which help in their uniform development of nuts and also enable efficient plant protection measures. Early stabilization of yield as compared to Sumangala and Sreemangala was also noticed. The variety is consistent high yielder with an average yield of 3.67 kg chali/palm/year. This variety was released for cultivation in West Bengal and Coastal areas of Karnataka and Kerala.



South Kanara Local

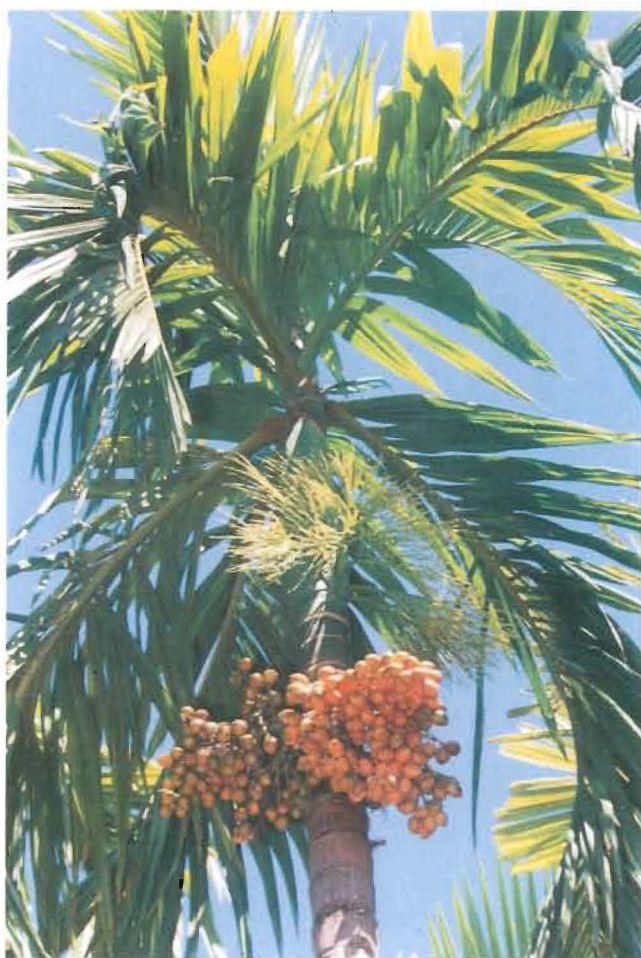
South Kanara Local/Kasaragod Local

It is largely grown in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala. Varieties tall in habit with partially drooping crown with hard stem. It is characterised by large sized nuts with uniform bearing. Average chali yield is 2.0 kg/palm/year. Ripe nut is mainly used for

oking chali. This variety is suitable for interplanting in old areca gardens.

Hirehalli Local

It is a tall type and mainly cultivated in maidan parts especially, very popular in Tumkur, Mandya and parts of Hassan and Bangalore districts of Karnataka. Palms of this variety possess medium thick stem with partially drooping crown. The nuts are medium sized, round to oval which are



Hirehalli

placed in erect bunches. Nuts of this cultivar is used both for tendernut processing and making chali. Average yield is 3.20 kg. chali/palm/year.

It is important to note that the performance of varieties/cultivars will vary depending upon agro climatic conditions where they are grown and attention given to them by the growers. The potentiality of above varieties/cultivars can be explained only when they are grown under good management conditions following the recommended practices.

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