

## VTL 6: A semi-tall, non-lodging, and high yielding rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) variety for the coastal saline zones of Kerala

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### Abstract

To evolve a lodging resistant, abiotic stress tolerant, and high yielding rice variety for the *pokkali* areas of Kerala, F1 of the cross between 'Cheruvirippu' and IR 5 was crossed with 'Jaya'. Based on evaluation of the promising cultures at local, regional, and national levels, VTL 6, the first saline tolerant, semi-tall, non-lodging high yielding rice variety of Kerala was released for cultivation in the coastal saline areas of Kerala in October 2004. This variety has multiple tolerance to abiotic stresses like salinity, acidity, and submergence, and is a medium duration, red kernelled variety with good cooking quality. Average yield under close planting without chemical fertilizers and plant protection chemicals is about 4500 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>.

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