

Variability among drumstick (*Moringa oleifera* Lam.) accessions from central and southern Kerala

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Abstract

Twenty eight accessions of drumstick from central and southern Kerala were evaluated. Morphology, yield and quality attributes of these accessions were substantially different. Accessions from Thiruvananthapuram (MO 13, 24 and 26) showed three distinct flowering peaks in a year, while others showed one or two peaks. Fruits per plant (174 to 612), fruit yield (8.94 to 70.46 kg per tree), leaf vitamin A (8108 to 13216 I.U) and fruit vitamin A (95 to 185 I.U.) also showed considerable variations. Vitamin C content in leaf and fruit was highest for MO 18 (226 mg per 100 g leaf and 129 mg per 100 g fruit). Overall ranking showed the relative superiority of MO 26 and MO 28 over others.

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