Niu Fella Tall (NUFT)
Ratnambal MJ, Kumaran PM, Bashkara Rao EVV, Pillai RV

Conservation
Nu Fella Tall (NUFT) is conserved at the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute in Kasaragod (Kerala), India.

History
The variety was introduced to India from New Caledonia in 1968.

Identification
The palm grows up to 6.5 m with 32 leaves on the crown. The leaves are long (4.9 m) with about 180 leaflets. The leaflets are 111 cm long and 5.4 cm wide. The palm flowers eight years after planting. There is inter-spadix overlapping. Fruits are medium-sized, oval-shaped and green-collared. The husk is concentrated towards the posterior end. The husked nut is almost round.

Yield and production
The palm starts fruiting nine years after planting. It produces 40 nuts per year. The fruit weighs 613g with 378g nut. The husk is 38% per cent of fruit weight. The kernel is thick. The copra content per nut is 98g with 64% oil.

Other information
NUFT is a poor yielder but may be tried for toddy tapping to produce coconut water. It is not being used in breeding work in India.

Reference
Niu Fella Tall (NUFT)

Big  Medium  Small

20 cm
Mayotte Tall (MYOT)

Bourdeix R, Vallée G, Manguin G, Dader O.A.

Conservation

In 2002, the Mayotte Tall (MYOT) was only conserved at the Lycée Agricole in Coconi, in the center of its island of origin. Around 150 palms are planted in a design intended for local Tall or hybrid seednut production, under a project funded by France.

History

The Comoro Islands are located in the middle of the Mozambique Channel between the African coast and Madagascar. The archipelago comprises four islands and covers an area of 2236 km². Three independent islands form the Comoros Federation; the fourth, Mayotte, is attached to France. It covers an area of 376 km² and comprises two principal islands: the isle of Pamandzi and the main island of Mayotte, in the form of a seahorse separated by a 2-km wide stretch of sea.

Identification

The Mayotte Tall resembles the Comoro Moheli Tall. Its main characteristic is its spreading stem that forms a broad bole at the base. The stem of some palms exceeds 80 cm in diameter 20 cm from the ground; in average, all the Tall varieties recorded in the Coconut Genetic Resources Database have a diameter of 53 cm at 20 cm from the ground level. It has strong vertical growth and starts bearing late six to seven years after planting. The fruits vary considerably in shape and composition. There is great diversity within each farmer’s field, although little difference from one location to the next. Molecular biology studies show that, while the Comoro Moheli Tall is similar to Indian and African coconut palms, it stands out from those of East Africa through its greater diversity, due to an input of genes from Southeast Asia. It is known that seafarers in this region reached the island of Madagascar, probably around the sixth century AD, and settled there. Some probably imported coconut seednuts with them, like the ancestors of the Polynesians who come from the same region. In the following centuries, Arab trading between India and East Africa facilitated the introduction of coconuts from India, giving the palms in the region their current genetic structure.

Yield and production

An exhaustive study of Comoro coconut plantings in 1971 (Delorme 1973) estimated the nut production of each island of the Federation. On Mayotte, analyses carried out in 2002 by the Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry showed that a fruit weighs 1169g on average, and a nut 645g with 321g of kernel.

Other information

In Mayotte Island, MYOT is always intercropped with banana, citrus fruits, and aromatic plants. The photo at the bottom right in the opposite page was taken in an ylang-ylang plantation, a typical landscape from which Mayotte derives its name as the island of perfumes. In 1971, Mayotte had around 358 000 coconut palms. Over the entire archipelago of the Comoro Islands, coconut accounted for 28% of the total food energy value of the local diet. Today, the diet of the inhabitants of Mayotte has changed and the share provided by coconut has decreased.

References


Mayotte Tall (MYOT)

Big  Medium  Small

20 cm


**Nu Quawen Tall (NUQT)**

*Ratnambal MJ, Kumaran PM, Bashkara Rao EVV, Pillai RV*

**Conservation**

Nu Quawen Tall (NUQT) is conserved at the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute in Kasaragod (Kerala), India.

**History**

Nu Quawen Tall was introduced to India from New Caledonia in 1968.

**Identification**

A semi-Tall palm, it grows to a height of about 6.8 m with 36 leaves on the crown. Leaves are 5.4 m long with 203 leaflets. The leaflets are 122 cm long and 5.6 cm wide. The palm flowers seven years after planting and produces 9-10 inflorescences per year. The inflorescence is 101 cm long with strong, short peduncle of 56 cm length. This variety is said to be semi-direct self-pollinating type as there is an overlap of the male and female phases (5.6 days duration) between the inflorescences. The fruits are green and medium-sized with oval shape. The fruits have medium husk content. The nut without the husk is oval in shape with some projection towards the bottom.

**Yield and production**

Fruiting starts about 8.5 years after planting and the palm produces 52 nuts per year. The fruit weight is about 634g with nut weight of 400g. The proportion of husk to whole fruit weight is 37%. The copra content is 135g per nut with 65% oil. The palms give 1.2 t of copra and 0.8 t of oil per ha.

**Other information**

This variety may be planted for toddy tapping. It is not being used in any of the breeding programme.

**Reference**
