

Performance of semi-Dwarf banana Cultivars in Taiwan

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Abstract : Reduction of plant height in banana is urgently needed in Taiwan for 2 reasons : to Reduce yield loss by labor cost . Since 1986 . a series of experiments were conducted to evaluate the potential of 5 exotic semi-dwarf cultivars . Among them , Cavendish B.F. from Barbados and umalag from the Philippines were the best cultivars which gave similar yield potential as the local cultivar , Pei-Chiao . in 1988 and 1991 , further studies were carried out in farmer's field in the southern and central regions to verify their performance in different environments . Results indicated that the yield of the Cavendish B.F. was higher than that of Umalag and was similar to the check cultivar . But the plant of Umalag was the shortest and the bunch shape was uniform . Semi-dwarf cultivars had demonstrated better wind tolerance than the local check . The percent age of lodging caused by strong wind in the last 2 years was 1.6 to 28.4% in semi-dwarf cultivars while it was 10.4 to 48.1% in the check cultivar . Farmer's response to these semi-dwarf cultivars was positive.