

21 CGDxWCT hybrid - an ideal planting material for root (wilt) disease endemic areas - P.M. JACOB, R.D. IYER, R.V. NAIR and K.U.K. NAMPOOTHIRI, *Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod 671 124*

Surveys conducted in hotspots have revealed the occurrence of elite and disease-free West Coast Tall (WCT) and Chowghat Green Dwarf (CGD) mother palms. CGD was also found to be relatively resistant (75%) to root (wilt) disease as against 80 to 90% disease incidence in WCT. Observations on 31 CGDxWCT hybrid progenies raised by crosses involving disease-free elite CGD and WCT mother palms and planted at CPCRI (RS), Kayangulam during 1991 have shown that only 25% (8/31) of the progenies showed the characteristic symptoms of the disease in the ninth year of planting. They came to flowering in 30-40 months after planting and recorded an yield potential of cover 100 nuts/palm per year in the fifth year of planting. The cumulative per palm yield was 187 nuts. They have recorded a high copra content of 215 g/nutt. On the other hand the percentage of disease incidence was 60% in CGDxWCT hybrid progenies brought from a disease-free area (Kasaragod) in the fifth year of planting itself. This clearly indicates that CGDxWCT hybrid raised by crossing elite disease free CGD and WCT in hotspots, is the ideal planting material for the disease endemic areas.