

11 Screening of Coconut varieties against root (wilt) disease –
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A field trial involving 8 exotic and 2 indigenous coconut varieties was laid out with 4 replications during 1988. The plot size was 6 seedlings per replication. Two replications consisted of inter-se materials and the other two replications consisted of selfs. Varieties tested were Karkar, SS Apricot, Kappadom, FMS, Zanzibar, Philippines Lono, Fiji rotuma, King Coconut, Chowghat Green Dwarf (CGD) and West Coast Tall (WCT). One year old seedlings brought from CPCRI Kasaragod were planted in a heavily root(wilt) affected garden with more than 80% disease incidence at CPCRI (RS), Kayangulam. The spacing adopted was 7.5m X 7.5m. Observations were recorded at six monthly intervals on the appearance of the characteristic symptoms of the root (wilt) disease. Data collected after six years of planting indicated that all the cultivars contracted the disease ranging from 25 to 92 percent, the maximum being recorded in King Coconut and the minimum in Chowghat Green Dwarf. There were no significant differences between inter-se and selfs, with regards to resistance. This information highlights the scope for utilizing the elite disease free palms of the Chowghat Green Dwarf variety for producing disease resistant/tolerant planting materials for the disease endemic areas.