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13. IND 331-Laccadive Mini Micro Tall (IC0598222; INGR13064), a Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) Germplasm with Distinct Character of Extremely Small Nuts with Very Low Copra Content, not found in any other Coconut Variety

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Mini Micro Tall is a unique coconut type present in Minicoy Island of Lakshadweep, known for its smallest fruits. This unique type was collected through selection from the original coconut population of Minicoy Islands and conserved at National Gene Bank at CPCRI research centre, Karnataka. The palms in the gene bank were developed through embryo culture of nuts collected from the original mother palms available at CPCRI Regional station, Minicoy. The trait of smallest nuts in all bunches of the palms is unique and not present in any other accession in the gene bank. The nuts of this type do not germinate under natural conditions. The germplasm has academic and scientific value besides the potential for ornamental planting. This could be of interest to breeders trying to increase the number of nuts per bunch.

Morpho-agronomic Traits: This type is a tall coconut type with morphological traits similar to other coconut accessions but differing in the nut component traits. The female flowers develop into small fruits recording lower values for most nut component traits. The average fruit weight was about 31 g with copra content of 5 g. The accession was observed with lowest husk content also. The colour of the fruits in this accession is green or greenish brown with round shape. The kernel sometimes fills the entire cavity with the embryo completely

embedded in the kernel. The cavity has very less water of about 1.1 ml and the copra has 73% oil.

Cultivation Practices: As the Mini Micro nuts do not germinate under natural conditions owing to the less nut water and quick drying of nuts, they need to be multiplied through embryo culture. The vegetative growth of Mini Micro Tall palms is normal with similar morphological traits compared to other coconut accessions. They can be grown with the regular recommended package of practices with summer irrigation.

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