

Title Post harvest characteristics and qualities of selected local banana cultivars in Oman

Author A.S. Al-Hosni, K. Al-Farsi, K. Al-Busaidi, M. Al-Jabri and H. Al-Azri

Citation Program and Abstracts, Banana 2008, Banana and plantain in Africa: Harnessing international partnerships to increase research impact, Leisure Lodge Resort, Mombasa, Kenya, 5-9 October 2008. 198 pages.

Keyword banana; postharvest

Abstract

Five local banana cultivars ('Somali', 'Malindi', 'Fard', 'Williams' and 'Negal') were compared at private farm at Al-Swaiq. Yields, fruits morphology, post harvest characteristics and qualities were evaluated. Somali produced the heaviest bunches and there were no significant differences between 'Fard', 'Malindi' and 'Williams'. 'Williams' recorded highest number of hands. No significant differences were recorded between the cultivars in number of fingers except 'Negal' cultivar. Results showed that there were no significant differences between the local cultivars in lightness 'L' level of the fruits peel. 'Williams' cultivar showed poor standard at 'a' scale compared to the remaining cultivars. There were no statistical differences between the cultivars at 'b' scale. In respect of pulp firmness, 'Malindi' had the firmest pulp and 'Negal' had the softest. 'Negal' followed by 'Fard' significantly gave the most acidic taste as compared with the other cultivars. Fard was significantly the sweetest cultivar followed by 'Malindi' and 'Somali'. 'Negal' reduced the lowest TSS/acid ratio as compared with the other cultivars. All the local cultivars (apart from 'Negal') involved in this study had given less than 5 pH% content. The results showed that Somali harvested at $\frac{3}{4}$ full stage had the longest green life with 20 days. As compared to 'Fard', 'Somali' and 'Williams', 'Negal' had shortest shelf life after ripening.