

Traditional bananas

1. Matti (AA)

Its distribution is restricted to southern tips of Tamil Nadu particularly Kanyakumari of Tamil Nadu. Recently GI tag has been given to this unique variety. Fruits are larger-than-human finger-sized with a sweet aroma and honey-like taste and are being used as weaning food for babies. Immune to Fusarium wilt disease.

2. Semmatti (AA)

This has restricted distribution in southern parts of Tamil Nadu. Semmatti is also called as Sanna Chenkadali, which indicates their slenderness of the fruits with red skin. Immune to Fusarium wilt diseases and tolerant to leaf spot diseases (*Mycosphaerella eumusae*). Hence being used as both male and female parent in banana improvement programmes. Fruits are considered to have therapeutic values and rich in carotenoids.

3. Amritsagar (AAA)

Amritsagar is a unique member of the Cavendish sub-group with good aromatic fruit pulp. This has high carotenoid content (Pro Vitamin - A) compared to other members. Owing to the fragrance and excellent fruit quality, it has been elevated from a backyard to commercial variety in North eastern states of India like Tripura, Mizoram and Nagaland by the name Mizo Cavendish. This performs well in sandy loamy soils. This is susceptible to Sigatoka leaf spot diseases and scarring beetle.

4. Bhatmanohar (ABBB)

Bhatmanohar is a natural tetraploid (ABBB) reported for the first time in India. It has been collected from the Namsai forest range of Arunachal Pradesh. This has been classified as a member of Pisang Awak subgroup. Fruits are very sugary and tasty like other Pisang Awak members. It is resistant to leaf spot diseases, female fertile, used in banana improvement programme. Flower bud is used as vegetable and used in the preparation of pickles, figs and wine etc. It performs well in the Pisang Awak grown areas.

5. Borchampa (AAB)

Borchampa belongs to Mysore subgroup. It is the shortest variety of all the members of Mysore subgroup with 1.8 to 2.2 m height. Fruits are very bold Like Maio Popoulu, 9 to 10 cm long with 16 to 18 cm circumference at the middle. Fruit weight ranged from 120 – 130g. It is the most fragrant type among the members of Mysore sub-group. This has a very short duration of 9-10 months when compared to other Mysore group members.



Matti

Semmatti

Amritsagar

Bhatmanohar

Borchampa

6. Borkal Baista (ABB)

Borkal Baista which grows in the forest ranges are also nurtured by the tribal communities of Assam, Manipur and Tripura in their backyards. This is more or less parthenocarpic in nature with occasional seed setting. Fruit pulp is very sweet with 30 – 32 ° Brix. Resistant to major pest and diseases. It is valued for its therapeutic uses by North Eastern Indian tribes as coolant. Central core and male flower bud are used as vegetable. Tribal people prepare pickles from the male bract and flowers. Although it exhibits more of *M. balbisiana* traits, ploidy analysis using flow cytometry revealed its triploid nature.

7. Kechuleppa (ABB)

Kechuleppa is one of the unique ABB accessions found in the homestead gardens of Assam and Tripura of North Eastern India. It has the potential to yield upto 25 kgs. Fruit pulp is very tasty with TSS of 32° Brix. Fruits do not easily drop off from the pedicel. This set seeds when crossed with suitable male parents. Fruit peel is very thick. Keeping quality is appreciable. Suitable for making value added products like banana wine, juice and figs. Droopy leaves, propping is not required, resistant to shattering even at full ripeness. It is susceptible to Fusarium wilt (race 1), pseudostem borer and rhizome weevil.

9. Nutepong (ABB)

Nutepong is one of the lesser exploited landraces of India. It is being grown by the tribal community of North Eastern India in their backyards. It is a high yielding landrace, yields upto 30 – 35 kgs bunches. This is more suitable for marginal cultivation and tolerant to cold and snowstorm. Matured and unripe fruits are most preferable for making banana snacks like *bajji* (a special snack in south India). Fruits are meant for mainly for cooking and sometimes as a dessert when no other banana varieties are available in the market. No incidence of Fusarium wilt is recorded under field conditions. This valuable accession should be exploited for their better yield and quality through commercial cultivation.

10. Pagar Banana (ABB)

Pagar Banana is yet another lesser exploited landrace of India. It is being grown by the tribal community of North Eastern India in their backyards. It is high yielding landrace producing 10-15kgs bunches. This is more suitable for marginal cultivation. It is a dual purpose variety used as dessert when no other varieties are available in the market. It is tolerant to cold. This should be exploited for their better yield and quality through commercial cultivation.



Borkal Baista

Kechuleppa

Krishnavazhai

Nutepong

Pagar Banana

11. Thiruvananthapuram (AAB)

The distribution is restricted to Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Immune to leaf spot diseases. Excellent fruit retention even at full ripeness. Used in Siddha medicine. Nutritional banana with good carotenoid content.

12. Pacha Bontha Batheesa (ABB)

Pacha Bontha Batheesa is one of the lesser exploited landraces of India. It is being grown by the people of Bihar and West Bengal in their backyards. It is high yielding landrace, yields up to 30 – 35 kgs bunches. Matured and unripe fruits are more suitable for making vegetable. Bunch is very long with more than 25 hands of fruits, towards the terminal end, the fruit size is drastically reduced.

13. Manoranjitham (AAA)

It is a unique AAA type endemic to Kulithalai and Kolli hills of Tamil Nadu. Grown by Malyali tribes in their backyards and offered to Kongaiyye Amman. This is nearing extinction due to the rampant spread of bunchy top virus disease. It is a fragrant banana smelling like Manoranjitham flowers (*Atrabotrys odoratissimus*). Immune to leaf spot disease.

14. Peyan (ABB)

The distribution is restricted to Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Fruits are very tasty fruit with Sapota flavor. Immune to leaf spot disease and Fusarium wilt (races 1 and 2), fruits remain persistent even at full ripeness. Suitable for perennial cultivation.

15. Dudhsagar (AAB)

Restricted distribution in North-Eastern part of India, Karnataka and Kerala. Fruits are dessert, aromatic, and flavored fruit. Immune to both Fusarium wilt (race 1) and Sigatoka leaf spot diseases. Maintained in backyard for its quality fruits and freeness from major biotic and abiotic stresses.



Thiruvananthapuram

**Pacha Bontha
Batheesa**

Manoranjitham

Peyan

Dudhsagar

16. Kunnan (AB)

Distributed in Southern Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Used for the preparation of infant foods. Field tolerant to Sigatoka leaf spot disease. Pulp is starchy when unripe but turns very sweet after ripening. Tolerance to leaf spot diseases and suitability for marginal cultivation, has made it popular in homestead gardens.

17. Poovillachundan (AB)

Distributed in Southern Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Very long fruits, Dessert. Used for the preparation of infant food. Field tolerant to Sigatoka leaf spot disease. Usually male flower bud is absent. When the plant grows under stress the male flower bud appears.

18. Kadali (AB)

Distributed in Southern Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Revered as sacred fruit, this variety is mainly nurtured in sacred grooves and village temples. Offered to Lord Ayyappan and used in the preparation of Pancharmirtham. This has so many synonyms viz., Neyvediya Kadali, Ney Kadali, Devan Kadali and Pooja Kadali etc.

19. Padali Moongil

Distributed in Southern Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Very long fruits used as dessert and for the preparation of infant food. Each fruit weighs 130-140 g. Field tolerant to Sigatoka leaf spot disease. Usually male flower bud does not appear but if the plant grows under stress, the male flower bud appears.

20. Chinali

Distributed in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. Carotenoid rich pulp. Pulp is juicy, orange yellow, very sweet in taste with good aroma. Rarely seen under cultivation.



Kunnan

Poovillachundan

Kadali

Padali Moongil

Chinali