

Germplasm bank of Date palm in Northeast Brazil

QUEIROZ, M. A. de; NUNES, R. F. de M.; MELO, N. F. ; ASSIS, J. S.

Centro de Pesquisa Agropecuária do Trópico Semi-Árido (CPATSA)

EMBRAPA-CPATSA, C. P. 23, 56300-000 Petrolina, PE-BRASIL

Fone: (081) 861.44.11; Fax: (081) 861.5681

Summary

Brazil has no Date palm production and all its consumption is imported. Date palm was introduced in Brazil several years ago, but very little systematic studies were performed. However, recent introductions through the National Research Center for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (CENARGEN) and the Agricultural Research Center for the Semi-Arid Tropics (CPATSA), both from the Brazilian Enterprise for Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA) were studied at the Experiment Station of Bededouro from CPATSA, 9°S and 40°W in a semi-arid environment, under irrigation. A collection of sixteen cultivars, from Africa and United States, were established. A sample of nine varieties from Africa were studied in detail. Production, fruit and seed characteristics were determined. Zahdi gave the highest yield per plant (40 kg), and Bahree the lowest (less than 10 kg). Harvest and post harvest studies were performed as well as *in vitro* propagation. Shoot tip growth and lateral bud have been observed. Callus formation has been obtained when zip was added.

Key-words: Date palm, germplasm, propagation, post-harvest.