

CHARACTERIZATION OF MANGO GERMPLASM IN THE BRAZILIAN SEMI-ARID REGION¹

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Mango (*Mangifera indica*) is one of the main crops in the irrigated areas of Northeast Brazil, mainly in the São Francisco River Valley. Most of the orchards are planted with only one variety, which makes the crop vulnerable. Thus, the characterization of germplasm becomes essential for identification of new cultivars with acceptability in the external market and/or holding characteristics which can be transferred to commercial cultivars, reducing the risks to the mango business. This study had the objective of providing information about mango germplasm characteristics in the Brazilian semi-arid region, using data from the Germplasm Bank of the Mandacaru Experimental Station, Embrapa Semi-Arid, Juazeiro-BA. The following IBPGR mango descriptors were used: flowering period; starting of the first yield; yielding time; number of fruits per plant; mean fruit weight; fruit weight per plant; fruit color; morphological characteristics of fruit and seed; fruit and seed dimensions; flesh consistency; acidity; °Brix, and °Brix/Acidity ratio. It was found the existence of a great phenotypic variation among mango accesses, showing that they can be useful in future breeding programs.