'NARITA 18' is a high-yielding and disease-resistant hybrid that is related, through its female grandparent, to a group of cooking and beer bananas called East African highland bananas (EAHB). ‘NARITA 18’ is named after NARO and IITA, the institutes that jointly developed the NARITA hybrids\[^1\].

Two crosses were performed to obtain ‘NARITA 18’. The triploid EAHB cultivars ‘Kabucuragye’ and ‘Enzirabahima’ were both crossed with a wild source of disease resistance. The resulting progenies were then intercrossed to produce the triploid hybrid ‘NARITA 18’ (see Breeding strategy below).

‘NARITA 18’ has been tested on station in Uganda\[^2\] and is being evaluated in a broader range of end-users environments (including farmers’ fields), to assess its potential for adoption by farmers and consumers\[^3\]. Its primary use is as a cooking type.

Contents

- Breeding strategy
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Breeding strategy

'NARITA 18' is a secondary triploid obtained by crossing 365K-1 and 660K-1\[^4\].

The female parent 365K-1 was obtained by crossing the triploid EAHB cultivar ‘Kabucuragye’ with Calcutta 4, a genebank accession of the diploid wild species *Musa acuminata ssp. burmannica*,

\[^1\]\footnote{Breeding strategy of ‘NARITA 18’}

\[^2\]\footnote{Pedigree of ‘NARITA 18’}

\[^3\]\footnote{ITC code ITC1795}
which provided a copy of the so-called A genome. Calcutta 4 provided the resistance to black leaf streak.

The male parent 660K-1 was obtained by crossing the triploid EAHB cultivar ‘Enzirabahima’ with Calcutta 4.

**Agronomic performance**

The following agronomic data were collected during a preliminary yield trial carried out by IITA and NARO at Namulonge in Central Uganda:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traits</th>
<th>NARITA 18*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant height at flowering (cm)</td>
<td>309.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudostem girth at flowering (cm)</td>
<td>59.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from flowering to harvest (days)</td>
<td>140.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunch weight (kg)</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hands</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of fingers</td>
<td>155.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit circumference (cm)</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit length (cm)</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of functional leaves at flowering</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of functional leaves at harvest</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of tallest sucker at flowering (cm)</td>
<td>182.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of tallest sucker at harvest (cm)</td>
<td>136.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngest leaf spotted at flowering</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngest leaf spotted at harvest</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival rate (%)</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data are averages for 10 plants evaluated over three crop cycles.

**Reaction to diseases and pests**

The scores for number of functional leaves and youngest leaf spotted at flowering and harvest indicate good resistance to black leaf streak.

**References**

1. IITA press release on the first ever high-yielding matooke hybrids.
2. Preliminary results of NARITA hybrids trials show high yield potential to increase banana production
3. Website of the Breeding Better Bananas project.
See also on this website

Photos of NARITA hybrids in Musarama
Articles on NARITA hybrids in Musalit

Musapedia pages on NARITA hybrids:
Kabana 6H
Kiwangaazi
M9
NARITA 1
NARITA 10
NARITA 11
NARITA 12
NARITA 13
NARITA 14
NARITA 15
NARITA 16
NARITA 17
NARITA 18
NARITA 19
NARITA 2
NARITA 20
NARITA 21
NARITA 22
NARITA 23
NARITA 24
NARITA 25
NARITA 26
NARITA 27
NARITA 3
NARITA 4
NARITA 5
NARITA 6
NARITA 7
NARITA 8
NARITA 9

Musapedia pages on improved materials:
BITA-2
BITA-3
BRS Platina
CRBP-39
FHIA-01
FHIA-02
FHIA-03
FHIA-17
FHIA-18
FHIA-20
FHIA-21
FHIA-23
FHIA-25
FLHORBAN 916
FLHORBAN 920
Formosana
GCTCV-105
GCTCV-119
GCTCV-218
Goldfinger
Kabana 6H
Kiwangaazi
M9
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NARITA 10
NARITA 11
NARITA 12
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External links
To browse accession-level information on 'NARITA 18' in MGIS
Official website of Uganda's National Agricultural Research Organization, NARO and its banana research program

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