'NARITA 8' 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 8' is named after NARO and IITA, the institutes that jointly developed the NARITA hybrids[1].

Two crosses were performed to obtain 'NARITA 8'. The triploid EAHB cultivar 'Enzirabahima' was crossed with a wild source of disease resistance to produce a tetraploid. This tetraploid was then crossed with an improved diploid to produce the triploid hybrid 'NARITA 8' (see Breeding strategy below).

'NARITA 8' 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 juice type.

Contents

- Breeding strategy
- Agronomic performance
- Reaction to diseases and pests
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Breeding strategy

'NARITA 8' is a secondary triploid obtained by crossing a disease-resistant tetraploid (917K-2) with an improved diploid developed by FHIA (SH3217)[4].

The tetraploid female parent 917K-2 was obtained by crossing the triploid EAHB cultivar

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'NARITA 8' at a glance

Left to right: ‘NARITA 8’, its female parent 917K-2 and its female grandparent ‘Enzirabahima’

**Ploidy level**

3x

**Genome group**

AAA

**Status**

Synthetic hybrid

**Breeding institutes**

NARO and IITA

**Breeder’s code**

124685-18

**Pedigree**

‘Enzirabahima’ (AAA), Musa acuminata ssp. burmannica (Calcutta 4), ‘Sinwobogi’ (AA), ‘Tjau Lagada’ (AA), Musa acuminata ssp. malaccensis and ‘Guyod’ (AA)

**ITC code**

ITC1843
‘Enzirabahima’ and Calcutta 4, a genebank accession of the diploid wild species *Musa acuminata ssp. burmannica*, which provided a copy of the so-called A genome. Calcutta 4 provided the resistance to black leaf streak.

The diploid male parent SH3217 was the product of a cross between two improved diploids: SH2095 and SH2766. The parents of SH2095 were the products of a cross between ‘Sinwobogi’ (AA) and ‘Tjau Lagada’ (AA) and of a cross between *Musa acuminata ssp. malaccensis* and ‘Guyod’ (AA). The parents of the improved diploid SH2766 were ‘Tjau Lagada’ (AA) and the product of a cross between *Musa acuminata ssp. malaccensis* and ‘Guyod’ (AA).

**Agronomic performance**

The following agronomic data were collected during a preliminary yield trial carried out by IITA and NARO at Namulonge in Central Uganda[^4]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traits</th>
<th>NARITA 8*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant height at flowering (cm)</td>
<td>362.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudostem girth at flowering (cm)</td>
<td>58.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from flowering to harvest (days)</td>
<td>136.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunch weight (kg)</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hands</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of fingers</td>
<td>143.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit circumference (cm)</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit length (cm)</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of functional leaves at flowering</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of functional leaves at harvest</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of tallest sucker at flowering (cm)</td>
<td>298.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of tallest sucker at harvest (cm)</td>
<td>346.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngest leaf spotted at flowering</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngest leaf spotted at harvest</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival rate (%)</td>
<td>100</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
To browse accession-level information on 'NARITA 8' in MGIS
Official website of Uganda’s National Agricultural Research Organization, NARO and its banana
research program

Contributors to this page: Inge Van den Bergh.
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The original document is available at http://www.promusa.org/NARITA+8