2009

December

Inclusion of Parthenocarpic Fruits in Bunch Analysis Procedure and Its Relevance in Oil Palm Breeding Programmes

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Low oil was the consequence of including measured proportion of parthenocarpic fruits in the analytical procedure of the oil estimation in an oil palm bunch. The mean difference of the value of oil to bunch analysed with and without parthenocarpic fruits in 433 bunches was about 17.36 per cent. The remaining bunch component ratios comprising of fruit to bunch, oil to wet mesocarp, shell to fruit, kernel to fruit, kernel to bunch and the sample fruit weight were negatively correlated, while the ratio of mesocarp thickness to the fruit was positively correlated to the quantity of parthenocarpic fruits in a bunch. The significance of including parthenocarpic fruits in the bunch analysis and the influence of parthenocarpy in the oil palm breeding programme is examined in this paper.

Keywords: Parthenocarpic fruits, oil analysis, oil palm breeding.