SREE HIRA: A new elite variety of taro for Odisha

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Taro (Colocasia esculenta (L.) Schott.) is one of the most important starchy tuber crops. Taro is known as Arvi in Hindi, Chembu in Malayalam, Cheppan Kizangu in Tamil, Chemalu in Telugu, shama gadde in Kannada, Saru in Oriya, and Kachu in Assamese and Bengali. It is believed to have originated in South Central Asia, perhaps India or Malaysia. In eddoe type, cormels are mostly preferred as vegetable. Relatively large size cormels are arising from the side of mother corm. Cormels and corms are used as planting material.

The Sree Hira, a new elite taro variety is developed from the Regional Centre of ICAR-CTCRI, Bhubaneswar. It is suitable for rainfed upland and irrigated medium and low land under Odisha conditions. This variety is tolerant to leaf blight which is very prevalent in traditional varieties of Odisha. Sree Hira also produce 12-16 numbers of cormels with each measuring 14-18 cm length. This variety is also having good cooking quality and low acridity.

Sree Hira: A) Kharif crop field view B) Rabi crop field view C) Plant structure D) Cormels E) Cormels clump with corm F) Harvested cormels G) Mother corms

Unique quality of Sree Hira

Sl. No.	Characters	Unique quality of Sree Hira
1	Pest and disease	No major pest. Tolerant to leaf blight
2	No. of cormels	More number of cormels (12-16 numbers)
3	Cormel length	Longer cormels 14-18 cm
4	Cormel yield	Higher yield of 18 t/ha
5	Cormel nutrition	Starch 17.4% and sugar 1.2% on fresh weight basis
6	Cormel cooking quality	Cormels have good palatability, mealy and have aroma. Cooked cormels are liked extremely by the consumers.
7	Acridity	Very low acridity (calcium oxalate 9.2 mg/100 g)

Adaptability of Sree Hira

Sl. No.	Agronomic variables	Remarks
1	Growing cycle	Seasonal
2	Growing period	180 days
3	Light	Day neutral plant
4	Temperature	28-32˚C optimum. However, tolerant to high temperatures
5	Rooting	Adventitious root system, mostly spread on upper 40 cm soil depth
6	Aeration	Aeration is required. However, tolerate submerged conditions
7	Soil	Sandy loam and loamy soil. However, clay soil also it can be grown
8	pH	5.5-7.0
9	Acidity	Tolerant
10	Salinity	Tolerant
11	Sodicity	Susceptible
12	Manures and fertilizers	FYM 10 t/ha N-P-K 80-60-80 kg/ha
13	Water quantity	700-1000 mm rainfall. However, drought and submergence tolerant
14	Pest and disease	No major pest. Tolerant to leaf blight

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