

SREE TELIA: A new short duration variety of taro for Odisha

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Taro (*Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott.), a carbohydrate rich tuber crop is popular in Odisha. Delicious cuisines are prepared from taro and it is a special item in 'Dalmah', which is a favourite dish of Odisha. In Odisha, taro is cultivated under rainfed conditions during kharif. However, due to climate change and early cessation of monsoon, most of the taro crops suffer terminal moisture stress due to long duration. Hence, the Regional Centre of ICAR-CTCRI, Bhubaneswar has developed a new short duration variety i.e. Sree Telia which can be harvested within 120 days after planting. This variety can also be planted during summer with protective irrigation. Sree Telia produces 7-9 numbers of cormels per plant. This variety is having good cooking quality and low acidity (calcium oxalate 12.6 mg/100 g). The average yield is 10-12 t/ha.



Sree Telia : A) Field view B) Plant structure C) Mother corms D) Cormels

Unique quality of Sree Telia

Sl. No.	Characters	Unique quality of Sree Telia
1	Crop duration	Short duration (120 days)
2	Pest and disease	No major pest. Escaping leaf blight disease due to early harvest
3	Cormel yield	Higher yield in short duration (10-12 t/ha)
4	Cormel nutrition	Starch 16.4% and sugar 1.2% on fresh weight basis
5	Cormel cooking quality	Cormels have good palatability, mealy and have aroma Cooked cormels are liked extremely by the consumers
6	Acridity	Very low acridity (calcium oxalate 9.2 mg/100 g)

Adaptability of Sree Telia

Sl. No.	Agronomic variables	Remarks
1	Growing cycle	Annual/Seasonal
2	Growing period	120 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 is 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 45-30-45 kg/ha
13	Water quantity	700-1000 mm rainfall. However, drought and submergence tolerant
14	Pest and disease	No major pest. Susceptible to leaf blight. However, it escapes leaf blight disease due to early harvest (120 days).