

## **OTHER OUTSTANDING FRUIT CULTIVARS IN ILOCOS NORTE**

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### **Introduction**

Diversity of fruits species and forms exists in great number in the Philippines. Among these are valuable outstanding fruit crops which when identified and collected could help boost the growing fruit crop industry.

Farmers engaged in fruit production generally generate higher income than those engaged in the production of many other crops. The area devoted to fruit crops in the country is almost 600,000 ha. This represents only 4.4% of the total crop land of the country, however, it produces 19% or ₱ 51.3 billion of the total production value of agricultural crops of ₱ 270 billion in 1998.

With its long dry season, the Ilocos Region is ideal for growing fruit crops with domestic and export potentials like mango, avocado, tamarind, otaheiti gooseberry, jambolan and others. 'Carabao' mango is considered as one of the best varieties in the world and is preferred both for the export and local markets. However, it has its own share of inadequacies such that there is a need to widen the genetic base for future improvement of the crop. Some of the fruit crops grown in the Ilocos Region are also indigenous, thus the need to identify and conserve the outstanding cultivars/varieties.

In view of this, a survey in Ilocos Norte to identify promising/outstanding fruit crops was undertaken. These were characterized using the Varietal Description for Fleshy Fruits prepared by the Fruit Crops Technical Working Group-National Seed Industry Council (FCTWG-NSIC). Outstanding cultivars and 'Carabao' mango accessions were selected based on the Varietal Selection Standard set by the FCTWG-NSIC. This effort resulted in the identification of (6 excluding MMSU Gold) outstanding fruit cultivars. Of these, three won in the annual search for Promising/Outstanding fruit crop varieties sponsored by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources and Development and the Philippine Fruit Association and now registered with the National Seed Industry Council. The 'Apple' mango was also adjudged the 'Most Promising Mango Selection' during the 1<sup>st</sup> Northern and Central Luzon Cluster Mango Congress.

## Characteristics

The outstanding fruit cultivars and their respective locations in Ilocos Norte are:

'Rambu' Avocado	-	#1 Banna
'Rabanal' Caimito	-	#32 Batac
Mango 'Apple'	-	Suabit, Batac
Giant Duhat	-	Batac (2 accessions)
Jackfruit	-	MMSU, Batac
Sweet Tamarind	-	MMSU, Batac

### 'Rambu' Avocado



Its fruits have long shelf life and very firm flesh, with nutty and buttery flavor. The seed is small and tight and the seed coat does not adhere to flesh and it easily peels. Following is its varietal description:

#### Tree

Location	-	#1 Banna, Ilocos Norte
Owner	-	Isabelo Ramos
Age at date of registration	-	13 years old
Height	-	6.5 m
Growth habit	-	erect
Growth and vigor	-	strong
Fruiting season	-	July-September
Regularity of bearing	-	annual
Yield	-	105 kg

#### Fruit

##### *Whole Fruit*

Shape	-	Pyriiform
Weight	-	446 g
Length	-	14.65 cm long
Width	-	8.79 cm
Thickness	-	8.27 cm

##### *Skin*

Thickness	-	1.5 mm
Color	-	purple
Texture	-	medium to rough

##### *Flesh*

Color	-	yellow
Texture	-	firm and smooth
Flavor	-	nutty and buttery

Fiber	-	none
Edible portion	-	72.64%
Juiciness	-	medium

**‘Rabanal’ Caimito (*Star apple*)**



The tree is fruitful, regular bearer with big purple fruits that are very sweet, smooth and creamy.

**Tree**

Location	-	# 32 Batac, Ilocos Norte
Owner	-	Sixto R. Pascua, Jr.
Age at date of registration	-	54 years old

Height	-	20 m
Growth habit	-	spreading
Growth and vigor	-	vigorous
Fruiting season	-	March-May
Regularity of bearing	-	annual
Yield	-	1,000 fruits

**Fruit**

*Whole fruit*

Shape	-	Globuse
Weight	-	379.9 g
Length	-	87.7 cm
Width	-	79.5 cm

*Skin*

Thickness	-	3.7 mm
Color	-	purple
Texture	-	smooth and shiny

*Flesh*

Color	-	creamy white to purple
Texture	-	smooth and fine
Juiciness	-	juicy
Taste	-	very sweet (18.91 <sup>0</sup> Brix) and creamy
Fiber	-	none to scanty
Edible portion	-	69.64%

## Apple Mango



### Tree

Location	-	Piddig, Ilocos Norte
Owner	-	Roque Corsino
Age	-	30 years old
Height	-	12 m
Growth habit	-	spreading

Growth and vigor	-	strong
Fruiting season	-	April-June
Regularity of bearing	-	regular
Yield	-	high

### Fruit

#### *Whole Fruit*

Weight	-	310 g
Length	-	9.79 cm
Width	-	8.1 cm
Thickness	-	6.6 cm
Shape	-	Globuse

#### *Peel*

Thickness	-	2 mm
Color	-	yellow orange
Texture	-	smooth
Weight	-	54.2 g

#### *Flesh*

Color	-	yellow orange
Texture	-	smooth
Juiciness	-	juicy
Fibers	-	moderate
Aroma	-	mild
Total soluble solids	-	14.87°Brix
Flavor	-	sweet
Edible portion	-	68%

## 'Giant Duhat' (*Jambolan*)



Two promising accessions were identified. Both are high-yielding with very big and sweet fruits.

		Accession #1	Accession #2
<b>Tree</b>			
Location	-	MMSU, Batac, Ilocos Norte	Batac, Ilocos Norte
Owner	-	MMSU	Eugene Carrasca
Age	-	20 years old	20 years old
Height	-		5 m
Growth habit	-	spreading	spreading
Growth and vigor	-	strong	strong
Fruiting season	-	April-May	April-May
Regularity of bearing	-	regular, annual	regular, annual
<b>Fruit</b>			
<i>Whole Fruit</i>			
Weight	-	15.7 g	20.41 g
Length	-	3.53 cm	4.07 cm
Width	-	2.6 cm	2.93 cm
Shape	-	ovoid	ovoid
<i>Skin</i>			
Color	-	black	black
Texture	-	smooth	smooth
<i>Flesh</i>			
Color	-	white	white
Texture	-	smooth	smooth
Juiciness	-	juicy	juicy
Fibers	-	none	none
Aroma	-	mild	mild
<i>Total soluble solids</i>	-	16.25° Brix	14.65° Brix
<i>Edible portion</i>	-	82.8%	91.255%

## Jackfruit



### Tree

Location	-	MMSU, Batac, Ilocos Norte
Owner	-	Mariano Marcos State University
Age	-	10 years old
Height	-	2.5 m
Growth habit	-	upright
Growth and vigor	-	strong

Fruiting season	-	March-April
Regularity of bearing	-	regular, annual
Yield	-	heavy
<b>Fruit</b>		
<i>Whole Fruit</i>		
Weight	-	11.65 kg
Length	-	34.8 cm
Width	-	27.2 cm
Shape	-	oblong
<i>Skin</i>		
Color	-	light green
Texture	-	rough
<i>Flesh</i>		
Color	-	bright yellow
Texture	-	smooth
Juiciness	-	juicy
Fibers	-	none
Aroma	-	intermediate
Total soluble solids	-	28° Brix
Flavor	-	very sweet
Edible portion	-	11.2%

### Sweet Tamarind



<b>Tree</b>		
Location	-	MMSU, Batac, Ilocos Norte
Owner	-	Mariano Marcos State University
Age	-	20 years old
Height	-	

Growth habit	-	spreading
Growth and vigor	-	strong
Fruiting season	-	February-March
Regularity of bearing	-	heavy
<b>Fruit</b>		
<i>Whole Fruit</i>		
Weight	-	7.27 g
Length	-	5.29 cm
Width	-	2.13 cm
Thickness	-	1.71 cm
Shape	-	straight to slightly ovoid
<i>Skin</i>		
Color	-	brown
Texture	-	smooth

*Flesh*

Color	-	dark brown
Texture	-	smooth
Juiciness	-	moderate
Fibers	-	few
Aroma	-	intermediate
Total soluble solids	-	10°Brix
Flavor	-	sub-acid
Edible portion	-	60.83%

**Benefits**

Identification, conservation and mass propagation of outstanding fruit crops contribute to the attainment of the government's goal of food security, global competitiveness and saving biodiversity.

Food security and sustainable agriculture is impossible to achieve without a sufficiently wide genetic base for food and agriculture (IPIGRI, 2000). The outstanding fruit crop cultivars are now mass produced and conserved in a genebank. Part of the produce are also for sale to interested growers.