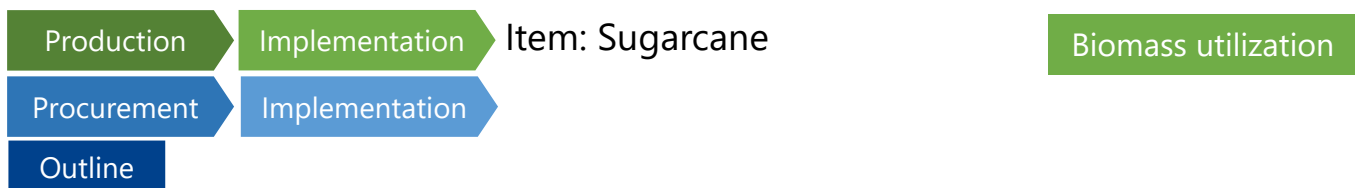


TPJ04-768: A new sugarcane cultivar with high fiber (bagasse) productivity



A new sugarcane cultivar with high fiber production and the same amount of sugar production as conventional cultivars was developed in Thailand. The use of this cultivar is expected to increase the production of bioenergy and other products using fiber.

Background/effect/note

In the sugarcane industry, electricity generation using fiber is increasing along with sugar production. To expand the utilization of fiber, a new cultivar (TPJ04-768) was developed in Thailand using an interspecific crossing between sugarcane and its wild species (*Saccharum spontaneum*) (new cultivar number 0317/2558, Department of Agriculture, Thailand). The sugar yield of this cultivar was comparable to that of the conventional cultivar KK3 although the sugar content was slightly lower. Moreover, the production of fiber (bagasse*) in this cultivar is approximately 1.5 times higher than that in KK3 in Northeast Thailand (Figs. 1 and 2). Thus, TPJ04-768 is a suitable raw material for biofuel and other biomass applications. TPJ04-768 is more suitable than KK3 for multiple ratoon cultivation based on its decreased yield reductions in ratoon cropping. Machine harvesting may be required due to the thin and large number of stalks of the cultivar (Table 1). Breeding of similar cultivars can be applied to other Asian countries to promote fiber utilization in the sugar industry.

* Bagasse is the fibrous material that remains after crushing sugarcane stalks to extract the juice. This material is used as a raw material for electricity production.



Fig. 1. The growth at second ratooning in Kosum Phisai of Northeast Thailand (December 2014)

Left: TPJ04-768, Right: KK3

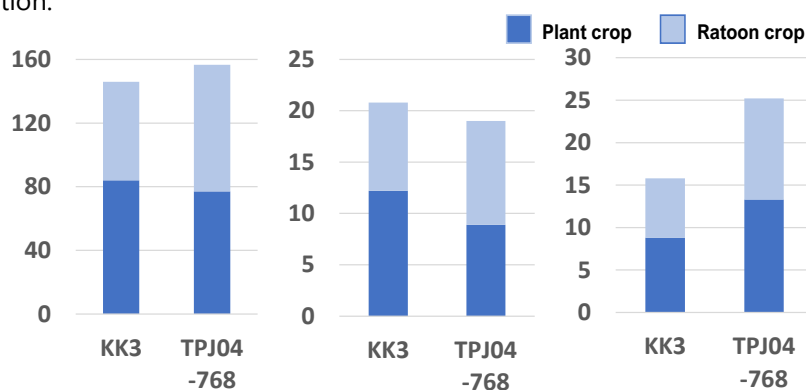


Fig. 2. Yield of TPJ04-768 at plant and ratoon crop (t/ha) in Khon Kaen of Northeast Thailand
Left: Cane yield, Middle: Sugar yield, Right: Fiber yield

Table 1 Characteristics of the yield components of TPJ04-768 (at harvesting of ratoon crop of Fig. 2)

| Variety | Stalk no. (no. /ha) | Diameter (cm) | CCS (%) | Fiber (%) |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------|---------|-----------|
| KK3 | 42468 | 2.84 | 14.0 | 11.3 |
| TPJ04-768 | 51282 | 2.22 | 12.7 | 15.0 |



Technical details:
https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/publication/research_results/2015_b10

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