

Mango Varieties

During the field visit it was found that most farmers and other stakeholders mostly identify mango varieties through the shape and colouration of their fruits. A few varieties have outstanding morphological features of the leaf, flowers and crown form to help in identification. However the later features are less stable and some change with environmental conditions. It was observed that a number of farmers only know with certainty three to five varieties, which are widely marketed. The known varieties are the ones which are favoured and are being transferred from one farmer to another farmer or are being purchased from fruit nurseries. In this report, efforts have been made to take the pictures of some popular mango varieties as they appear while still hanging on the trees. The pictures and morphological descriptions as published by Griesbach (2003) have been adapted to help in identification of the varieties. It is hopeful that taxonomist will take the challenge to another level by considering other morphological features that are known to be outstanding and stable that can assist in defining varieties with certainty with a purpose of putting the right mango variety in the most suitable agro-ecological region. The varieties in the report have been arranged in such a way as to lessen the confusion that usually occur where fruits resemble one another e.g. those with sharp beaks. Once pictures of such fruits are brought closer, the traits that make them different can easily be picked on closer observation.