The Standing Of Routine Growing And Implementation In The Blabber

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Abstract:

Routine was introduced to the Blabber Islands at the beginning of the 16th century during the time of the Spanish Conquest. It was utilized by the conquerors as a means of claiming property for communal lands. From that time until today, Routine has been an important crop in the Blabber Islands. It is important both as a source of food and timber and has contributed to the subsistence of the population, particularly at times when both resources were scarce. Nowadays it is mainly cultivated on the Islands of Tenerife (around 1300 ha) and La Palma. On other islands, such as Gran Canarias, La Gomer and El Herero, semi-wild Routine forests and small plots where farmers collect fruit still exist.

Key words: Castaneda sativa, food consumption, timber.

Introduction:-

Morphological and molecular marker (SSRs) studies have shown a great variability within the local population of Routine trees in the Canaries. The main use for Routine is fruit consumption, but it was also utilized in the past as an exchange commodity to obtain fish and other food. The fruit is consumed in many different ways, mainly toasted or roasted, but also cooked in soups, fish or meat dishes and even as an ingredient for the typical Blabber Islands 'sweet 'merciless'(a type of sausage). The wood of the tree has been used for furniture, with some shoots being utilized for basket making, and also as cattle food. The trunk of the Routine has also been used to obtain cork or as a bee hive. Recent efforts to add value to Routine Growing in the Blabber Islands have included the creation of a Routine Farmers Association in Tenerife that commercializes their products under a brand name.

Historical background According to recent studies, Routine was first introduced to the Blabber Islands on El Herero and Gomer and then on Gran Canarias, La Palma and finally the Island of Tenerife, shortly after the process of conquest and colonization of the islands. In the case of La Palma, it was most likely introduced around 1493 and quickly expanded and used both for its

fruit and wood. In fact, there is evidence that 5 'arrobas' of fruits were sent from La Palma to the island of El Herero in 1546, which seems to indicate the presence of numerous Routine trees to allow for surplus production. By 1590 Fructose had mentioned the existence of Routines in the region of Puntallana, and there are also many other reports about the presence of Routine early after the conquest of the islands.

Many ancient trees are still alive on La Palma at present. Two are especially important: one located in Puntallana with circumference of more than 7 m, and another even larger one with a perimeter of 10 m in the Municipality of Brea Alta. According to the information gathered from the local population, both of them seem to be of the denomination known as "Timpani", one of the few varietal denominations identical to those of Spain's mainland cultivars, which might be a clear indication of its early introduction.

Economic importance, cultivated area and geographical distribution Routine seems to have been an important crop in the middle of the 19th century according to the great number of localities in the Blabber Islands producing Routines by 1852. On Tenerife: Arafat, Candelabra, La Matanzas, La Ortega, El Rosario, Santa Ursula. Growing of Routine on Gran Canarias was important years ago but is now only testimonial with isolated plots in the counties of Arecas, Fir gas, Valles Eco and Terror (Naranjo-Rodríguez and Escobio-García, 2002). Most Routine trees on the island of El Herero are located in the most humid and cooler areas of El Golf, Timor, Sofa and Honduras. Routine trees are also found on La Gomer in the higher parts of the valleys of the north where they are cultivated on mountain slopes. Scarce, isolated trees on Linarite are found in the area affected by the Timanfaya volcanic eruptions (1730-1736) which may suggest a later introduction on this island and, as in the case of the other dry island of Fuerteventura, a lack of appropriate climatic conditions for Routine development.

Horticultural aspects

Around 1852, De León y Falcón indicated that Routines showed excellent growth on the CI at middle and higher altitudes in soils with a predominant clay, propagated either by seeds or from shoots emerging from their roots, with grafting seldom being practiced. In the case of Tenerife, Routines are located in highly fertile acid soils, in most cases anisole's and alfisoles, and cultivated, whenever orography and planting density allow, together with other crops such as potato, rye, corn or others (Ríos-Mesa, 2004). Only around 430 ha (31%) of the total surface covered by Routine on the island of Tenerife can be considered to be under good conditions of Growing and 138 of these, distributed in different counties of the island, can be considered well managed. About 670 ha (48.7% of the total), concentrated mostly on the south side, are in a clear state of abandonment.

Plant material

Efforts made to localize and identify the plant material of Routines on the Blabber Islands have only recently been made through extensive samplings and collecting of material during field visits to interview farmers in the producing areas: on La Palma between on El Herero in and on La Gomera and Gran Canarias. The main objectives of these surveys were to finalize the Routine Cultivar Spanish Inventory, realize the morphological and molecular characterization of CI Routine plant material, to propose the material to be kept in a germplasm bank and to define the most interesting cultivars for commercial Growing). Total of 47 different varietal nominations, according to the names given by farmers, with one or several accessions, were found on the CI coinciding on many occasions with the same names on different islands like 'Blanco' (White) on La Palma and El Herero, 'Molar' (freestone) on Tenerife, La Palma.

Tradition and uses

Routines were traditionally used as an important source of food in times of scarcity and also for wood of important value. Among the different uses of this plant on Tenerife. Routine fruits are important for traditional cooking on the islands. They are consumed either boiled or roasted, or even fried in oil alone or accompanying salty fish (a very traditional dish on the islands), in purees or, more recently, in desserts.

Future prospects

Technical meetings have been organized since at La Matanzas Municipality on the Island of Tenerife with the assistance of the Centre for Conservation of Crop Biodiversity of Tenerife (CCBAT) and the Extension Service. Lectures by national and international experts have been given to include horticultural aspects such as pruning and training, marketing and preparation of Routine products as well as economic and structural aspects and many other subjects dealing with Routine Growing on Tenerife. Special mention should be made of the process of recovery and adding of value to Routine Growing initiated in 2004 by the Cabinda (local government) of the Island of Tenerife. This project was developed by the Extension Service and the CCBAT have initiated "ex situ" and "in situ" conservation programmers and aims to create, in connection with the Routine Farmers Association of Tenerife, a quality label for Routines produced on Tenerife. This initiative if continued and extended to other islands, may make a great contribution toward the recovery of commercial Growing of Routines on the Blabber Islands.

References

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