

Lorena, new improved avocado variety

The National University of Colombia has managed to create a new variety of avocado, called Lorena, which yields fruits that have a greater durability with properties that don't suffer deterioration with the passage of time.

The investigation began with the analysis of the durability and loss of properties of 40 avocados taken from the same tree located in Mariquita, Tolima. When they collected the fruits, researchers evaluated their fresh weight, firmness and color, ethylene production, respiration rate and fatty acid content, among other things.

The harvested fruits were taken to the Post-harvest Laboratory of the Faculty of Agrarian Sciences of the National University, Colombia, to evaluate the changes of different physiological parameters throughout time supported by their genetic expression.

Together with the consultancy of the Center for Genomics and Bioinformatics of the Purdue University, in Lafayette (USA), researchers extracted and sequenced the RNA from pulp samples to identify the genes expressed at each stage of maturity.

These processes allowed them to obtain the necessary information to generate a model that explains the maturation of the Lorena variety and allows knowing what its longevity will be or the time the fruit will take to mature based on the analysis of the fruit's ethylene production rate and measurement of respiration.

The measurement of the variables of color, firmness, extensibility, dry mass, content of fatty acids and their types showed that the parameters of color and texture are different in each of the maturation stages (pre-climacteric, climacteric and



post-climacteric), so they can serve as morphological indicators to determine the state of the fruit.

The industry should be able to take advantage of these results to develop value-added products.

Lorena Avocado

The Lorena variety is undoubtedly the best avocado selection, of commercial importance, obtained in Colombia. Its presentation is unbeatable due to its shape, color, size, and internal quality.

It gathers the greatest number of characteristics that consumers look for in avocado fruits. The plant is delivered in a black bag. Its height varies between 1 meter and 1.5 meters. This plant already has had an advanced period of development, which allows it to start producing in less than a year and a half.

The Lorena avocado yields elongated fruits that are slightly oblique, with a smooth, glossy skin, with abundant punctate or number of nucellus; the fruits have a big size, weight 400 g, and a 9% fat content, are green and have a long pendulum. The seed is of medium size, ovoid and symmetrical with medium adherence to the pulp.

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