

The Response of Dwarf Banana Cavendish Growth and Production under Natural Shade

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Abstract : Banana is important commodity in Indonesia as source of food and energy. Naturally, banana grows in open areas. Planting dwarf banana *cavendish* under natural shade are is limited, because the growth of plant is inhibited due to the low light intensity. Developing dwarf banana *cavendish* that tolerant to shade is important. The tolerant cultivar can be planted on the stand either in the form agroforestry or plantation crops as interplanting. The dwarf banana *cavendish* were collected from various places in Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. The research was arranged in a split plot design with three replications. Two factors are considered (i) the existence of natural shade or without shade, and (ii) plant genotype. The parameters observed were the vegetative and the generative character. The results showed that there was different characteristic of the dwarf banana *cavendish* under shade condition base on the vegetative growth. On the generative character showed some variation but still below the threshold of acceptable tolerance. Therefore, it is recommended that dwarf banana accessions selected can be used as source to develop dwarf banana shaded tolerant.

Key word: Banana, Cavendish, Staple food, Shading.

Muhidin *et al*/International Journal of ChemTech Research, 2016,9(12): 541-548.
