

Effect of sok sok bagging on yield and quality of banana (var. Cavendish)**BVN Priyadarshana¹, Kosala Wathulanda² and KKIU Arunakumara¹**
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Sok sok bagging, a recently introduced practice in banana cultivation has gained substantial attention as it produces cleaner bunches with no point scars and external blemishes on banana fingers. However, information on the use of sok sok bagging under local condition is still lacking. Therefore, the present investigation was carried out to assess the effect of sok sok bagging on bunch characters, their grading and wastage. In addition, attention was also paid to determine the correct stage for bagging under double hedge row planting system.

Bagging after two, three, four and five weeks of shooting were considered as treatments. A randomized complete block design was used with 5 replicates. Deflowering, male bud removal and normal bunch covering were also done as the standard practices. Special measures were taken to remove the fruit obstructions during the experimental period to minimize possible external damages to the bunch. Although stage of bagging was found to have no effect on the harvesting time, sok sok bagging increased the weight of export quality graded banana by 25.84 % while decreasing the total wastage by 50.78 %. Sok sok bagging did not have any effect on bunch characteristics such as, weight of bunch and hand. However, bagging was found to improve the external appearance of fingers. Sok sok bagging reduces the number of point scars by 82.15 %. Time of the bagging was not found to have significant impacts on any of the parameters tested. However, inserting the bag after fourth and fifth week of shooting was found to be difficult. Cost of the bagging per bunch was estimated to be Rs 48.13. As sok sok bagging results in cleaner bunches, it could be recommended as a sound technique to enhance the export quality of banana.

Key words: banana, sok sok bagging, wastage, point scars