

Evaluation of tropical *Dendrobium* orchids under shade net conditions

Nagaland is rich in biodiversity and the climatic conditions prevailing in Nagaland favours the natural habitat for a large number of orchid species. More than 360 species of orchids from 87 genera which accounts 27.76 per cent of total orchid species of India is reported in Nagaland. The commercial cultivation of orchids in Nagaland is still in infant stage. There is no proper research is done to identify the suitable hybrids for commercial cultivation. Hence, an experiment was conducted during 2011-12 to evaluate the tropical *Dendrobium* orchids under shade net (50 %) for their performance at ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Nagaland Centre, Nagaland. Seven *Dendrobium* orchids namely Snow White, Genting Blue, Genting Red, Wooleng, Massaco, Pink Ruby and Juwita were evaluated for vegetative and flower characters. The experiment was laid out in Complete Randomized Block Design with three replications. Data on pseudobulb height, pseudobulb girth, number of pseudobulb per plant, number of leaves per pseudobulb, internode length, leaf length, leaf breadth, number of spike per plant, number of florets per spike, and spike length were collected. The data revealed that Snow White recorded maximum pseudobulb height (53.7 cm), internode length (6.3 cm), leaf length (17.8 cm), leaf breadth (4.1), and number of florets per spike (8.4), whereas Juwita recorded maximum number of pseudobulbs per plant (6.0) and Pink Ruby recorded the maximum spike length (39.7 cm). The results of this study concluded that the *Dendrobium* variety Snow white and Juwita were performed better at tropical zone of Nagaland under shade net condition.

