Peanut Based Farming Systems in the Rupununi Region of Guyana.

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Peanut is an important cash crop for farmers in the rural interior of Guyana in the Rupununi Region. Peanuts are sold to the Georgetown market for roasted whole peanuts and also to the local regional peanut butter cottage industries. These cottage industries are responsible for producing peanut butter and cassava bread snacks that are distributed to over 3,500 students daily via a government-run school snack-feeding program. Maintaining sustainable peanut production in this region is vital to the continuance of the school snack-feeding program. Disease management of peanut in this area is a problem; therefore new varieties of peanut with disease resistance and yield potential are desirable. In 2011, 13 peanut genotypes were evaluated in the village of Aranaputa Velley in the North Rupununi of Guyana. Genotypes were grown in two row plots with four replications in a randomized complete block design. Peanuts were grown under rainfed conditions and no fungicides were applied. Nine of the genotypes were identified to have good disease resistance (to leaf spot and leaf rust) with yields comparable to the locally grown variety. Additionally, these genotypes had more desirable growth habits for potential mechanization of harvesting, which would greatly reduce the cost of harvesting for peanut producers. These genotypes will be evaluated again in 2012 in two locations.