



Teknologi *Top Working* pada Tanaman Jeruk *Top Working Technique* on *Citrus*

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Teknik *top working* adalah menyambung atau menempel pada batang bawah tanaman yang berupa pohon besar dengan diameter batang bawah antara 5-30 cm. *Top working* jeruk merupakan teknologi mengganti varietas tanaman jeruk yang sudah ada di lapang dengan varietas baru sesuai selera pasar secara cepat, tanpa harus membongkar tanaman.

Metode *top working* pada tanaman jeruk, dapat dilakukan secara *bark grafting/sambung kulit*, *cleft grafting/sambung celah*, okulasi/penempelan maupun *shoot grafting/sambung tunas*. Hasil penelitian yang sudah dilakukan menunjukkan bahwa persentase keberhasilan cara sambung kulit dan sambung celah adalah 86,66%, sedangkan cara okulasi adalah 95,55%.

Keunggulan *Top Working*: (a) mengganti varietas jeruk di lapang secara cepat tanpa membongkar/mematikan tanaman, (b) kualitas produksi jeruk relatif seragam, dan (c) tanaman berbuah 1-2 tahun setelah *top working*.

The *top working* technique is an activity to put on top the cut tree of current citrus variety with another orange stem of different variety. The base part of the current citrus variety has a diameter of 5-30 cm. A bigger size of the bottom tree will make the preparation of *top working* difficult. The objective of developing this technique is to replace the current variety with new citrus variety well accepted in the market. The superiority of this technique is that the top plant is able to grow fast by making use the old tree of previous citrus variety. It is because the old citrus trees are not totally destroyed.

The technique of *top working* can be done through a *bark grafting*, *cleft grafting*, or *shoot grafting*. It has been demonstrated that the most successful technique is by means of *shoot grafting* (96%) followed by *cleft grafting* (87%). The new citrus variety starts to produce fruit about 2 year after grafting. The quality of the fruit is uniform, and the cost to replace the old citrus variety with the new one is cheap.