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5. Possibilities of Increasing Productivity of Coconuts from  
Non-Monetary Inputs

by

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Considerable scope exists for increasing the productivity of coconuts in India by adopting proper spacing and correct method of planting; transplanting healthy and hybrid seedlings; following regular cultural practices, microirrigation and phytosanitary measures.

In certain parts palms are close spaced and in some other parts they are widely spaced. Both the systems are detrimental to productivity as close spacing leads to stresses in moisture, nutrients, light and air; while wide spacing gives rise to unexploitation of these resources to the fullest extent. For this crop 7.5m × 7.5m spacing is considered as optimum. Surface planting, which is a common practice in the East Coast, should be avoided as this zone is prone to both drought and cyclone resulting to severe casualties. On the other hand, in waterlogged areas, the seedlings need to be planted on mounds made of soil. Thin, lanky and stunted seedlings should be discarded for transplanting as they will not give good yield whatever after care is given to them.

Coconut hybrids are characterised as early bearing-cum-high yielding-cum-high stability-cum-disease tolerant cutivars whereas, the local tall are deprived of these attributes. It is therefore, advisable to plant hybrids.

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The growing of hybrids in village environment is often contested for their supposed lack of adaptation to environment and management of smallholders. The Out-Research-Programmes have revealed beyond doubt their adaptability to wider range of ecosystems and management.

Being a perennial tree crop, coconut needs regular and continuous cultural operations in right manner and right time for assured high productivity. Care of young palms gives a long lasting effect and therefore there should not be any neglect at that stage, even though the crop only yields after a long gestation period.

Adoption of microirrigation system by buying unserviceable earthen pots, old tins, bamboo pipes etc. around the basins of palms and filling water as and when needed serves as drip without involving any monetary inputs and influence the productivity of palms considerably.

Phytosanitary measures in coconut gardens can reduce the disease and pest menaces to a considerable extent.

If the farmers can be properly educated about the merits of the adoption of these technology there is no reason why the coconut productivity will remain as low as it is today.

## **6. A Study on Statistical Assessment of Intercropping**

*by*

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In dryland areas the intercropping system helps in improving the productivity of the land per unit of time. Additionally, this provides employment for a longer period, utilises the available resources such as sun light, soil moisture etc., provides protection to the soil from rain, weeds etc. and provides greater stability in production over different seasonal fluctuation. To identify the suitable system and the practice within a system, number of suitable statistical designs and their method of analysis have been identified in the past. The statistical designs suggested for the investigations on this aspect are more or less similar to those adopted under single crop experimental programme. The methods suggested in the past, are principally converting the data obtained from both the crops into uni-variate either converting the yield data into calorific value or monetary value or land equivalent ratio (LER). In the present paper, the concept of LER and its uses have been discussed through the detailed analysis of the experiments planned during 1982-83 under All India Coordinated Agronomic Research Project at Parbhani (Maharashtra) for studying the method of planting for the main crop and fertilizer schedule for the intercrop.