

Oil from Coconut Shell

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During earlier days coconut shell was either thrown out as a waste material or was used only as a fuel. Shri. Anantha Krishna Hebbar, a farmer from Kalmanjada Parari in Belthangadi, Dakshina Kannada, who expired at the age of 90 years in May 2014 tried an experiment at extracting oil from coconut shell. Shri. Anantha Krishna Hebbar after his intermediate course started innovations in preparation of various organic manure and many other things. He observed that coconut shells which was either thrown or used as fuel can be used for extracting oil. He started experimenting and finally he became successful. The extracted oil is supplied to different medical shops from the last seven years. Shri. Hebbar was successful in his innovation and after the death of Shri. Hebbar, his son Shri. Rajashekar Hebbar (President, Dharithri Krishikara Sangha, Belthangady) S/o. Late Ananthakrishna Hebbar who is now continuing this work.

For extracting oil from coconut shells, the raw or dry coconut shell is made in to coarse powder. Then this coarse powder is filled into a mud pot.

With the help of a wooden piece, the powder is put into the mud pot to reach it half way in the mud pot. This wooden piece or stick should extend to about six inch above the neck of the mud pot. Then the pot is covered with a raw beetle leaf or any other suitable large leaf to the size of the neck of the mud-pot and tie it tightly with rope, so that the shell pieces do not fall out.

Then, take a big metal vessel with a wide mouth and make a small cut at the bottom of the vessel.

Keep this big vessel on the oven and put the shell filled mud pot upside down, to align with the cut part of the big vessel. Then cover the small mud pot inside the big vessel with beetle nut shells and burn them with fire inside the big vessel and again cover the remaining place in big vessel with coconut shell all around, so as to cover the beetle nut shell. Fire is put inside big vessel. Keep a vessel in the oven to collect the oil.

In 45 minutes the shells start boiling. After boiling for two hours, the oil is collected in the vessel kept underneath drop by drop. It takes six to seven hours to extract oil. 400 ml oil can be extracted from five kg coconut shell removed from 40 coconuts. After extracting oil the shells turn to red colour and after cooling it becomes black in colour.

Any body can try and extract oil at their home itself from coconut shells which remain as waste in most of the houses. This does not need any investment.

USES

This oil is used in Ayurvedic medicines and there is great demand for this oil. It is a good medicine in



healing wounds, cracks in feet, ring worms and animal diseases especially dog and calf.

Marketing

The oil is sold at Rs.30/-for 50ml at Ayurvedic shops. Its demand is growing day by day. People from different places come to learn the technique and to buy the product. Shri. Anantha Krishna had received the second price in the new Innovation-Competition in 2012. Oil extraction from shells can be done at households also. As this does not need any investment, this can be a source of additional income to farmers. If more research findings on the advantages of shell oil are coming up, the demand for this oil will definitely rise which in turn will benefit the coconut farmers.

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