

Integrated farming for productivity improvement

A programme covered in the length and breadth of the country

Leenamol MA

Technical Officer, CDB, Kochi

Integrated coconut farming is a scheme of the Board to improve production and productivity of the coconut holdings through an integrated approach and thereby increasing the net income from unit holdings. The programme consist of three components for improving productivity, viz; cutting and removal of less productive palms, following scientific management practices for rejuvenating the existing gardens and promoting the use of organic manure. Since cutting and removal of palms was included under the Replanting and Rejuvenation programme from 2009-10 onwards, this component was removed from the integrated coconut development programme.

Laying out of demonstration plots (LODP)

Financial assistance of Rs.35,000 per ha in two annual installments is provided for adoption of integrated management practices in disease affected gardens. The objective of the programme is to encourage the farmers to adopt the technology developed for the management of disease affected coconut gardens. Demonstration plots will help in motivating the farmers in adoption of result oriented production technologies.

Integrated Farming for Productivity Improvement on cluster basis:

The objective of the coconut clusters is increasing the production



A demonstration plot from Ernakulam district

and productivity of coconut from a farmer participatory mode. This unit holdings by proper and timely programme will facilitate the adoption of package of practices in adoption of appropriate coconut

Table-1. LODP programme implemented directly and through state governments in 2012-13

Sl. No.	States	First year (Area in Ha.)	Second year (Area in Ha.)
1	Kerala	2709.00	1147.13
2	Karnataka	1190.48	559.95
3	Tamilnadu	1094.46	1146.94
4	Andhra Pradesh	573.91	369.24
5	Odisha	257.00	150.00
6	Maharashtra	527.98	353.65
7	West Bengal	50.00	0.00
8	Bihar	0.00	0.00
9	Goa	25.00	50.00
10	Gujarat	25.00	15.00
11	Chattisgarh	0.00	0.00
12	Andaman & Nicobar	100.00	133.00
13	Pondichery	15.00	0.00
14	Lakshadweep	5.00	0.00
15	Assam	42.13	27.49
16	Tripura	10.00	10.00
17	Nagaland	10.00	10.00
18	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	10.00
19	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00
20	Mizoram	10.00	0.00
21	Others	0.00	0.00
	Kuttanad, Idukki Packages	3875.00	0.00
	Total	10524.96	3982.40

based farming systems and promote farm level processing for value addition on a community basis. The scheme is being implemented by the Board on cluster basis in a contiguous area of appropriate size of 25-50 ha irrespective of the individual size of the holdings. The selection of the cluster is based on criteria such as demonstration value, easy accessibility, availability of minimum infrastructure facilities for the adoption of average management practices, cohesiveness of the group and most importantly the readiness of the farmers in the cluster to assume responsibility and implement the programme in a farmer participatory mode as per Board's guidelines.

Assistance for organic manure units

To promote the use of organic manure like vermicompost, coir pith compost, ordinary compost and FYM in coconut holdings, financial assistance @ Rs.20,000 per unit or 50% of cost of production is provided.

Integrated farming programme

Coconut Development Board had earmarked Rs. 24.30 crores for the Integrated Farming for Productivity Improvement programme during 2012-13. For the establishment of demonstration plots in seventeen states, Rs. 24.10 crore is earmarked and for setting up 100 organic manure units Rs. 20 lakhs was allocated for the financial year 2012-13. Board directly and in association with state governments could implement the LODP programme in 14,507 ha. and could establish 68 organic manure units (Table1).

Table-2. Direct Implementation of LODP (Statewise-2012-13)

A. First year clusters						
Sl. No	State	Districts	Area (Ha)	No of Clusters	No of Beneficiaries	No of Palms
1	Kerala	10	2709.00	99	7616	469176
2	Karnataka	5	840.48	18	1088	115110
3	Tamilnadu	3	844.46	27	1226	140321
4	Andhra	5	473.91	14	1111	70036
5	Orissa	3	207.00	4	825	36225
6	Maharashtra	2	527.98	25	1621	86101
7	W.Bengal	1	25.00	1	68	4375
8	Assam	2	42.13	4	710	7372
	Subtotal (A)	31	5669.96	192	14265	928716
B. Second year clusters						
1	Kerala	5	847.13	32	4522	128827
2	Karnataka	5	359.95	6	634	51503
3	Tamilnadu	3	455.94	15	836	79790
4	Andhra	5	277.24	9	645	41735
5	Orissa	1	50	1	97	8750
6	Maharashtra	2	203.65	7	440	31563
7	Assam	2	27.49	2	436	4811
	Subtotal (B)	23	2221.4	72	7610	346979
	Total		7891.36	264	21875	1275695

Programmes implemented through various state governments

Board had allocated Rs. 9.35 crores for the establishment of demonstration plots in 17 coconut growing states through the state agriculture/ horticulture departments. This includes the Kuttanad and Idukki package. It was planned to implement the programme in 3,301 ha. during the

first year and in 4,193 ha. during the second year.

As per the schedule the programme was implemented in association with the respective agriculture/ horticulture departments in Kerala, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Goa, Gujarat, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal



Integrated pest and disease control measures

Direct implementation of LODP in 2012-13

Table-3(a) Kerala

A. First year clusters					
SI No	District	Area (ha)	Number of clusters	Number of beneficiaries	Palms (Nos)
1	Kasaragod	389.46	15	930	68134
2	Kannur	416.49	15.00	945.00	76160.00
3	Kozhikkode	522.38	21	2143	90508
4	Malappuram	471.01	19	1477	82426
5	Palakkad	459	12	652	80304
6	Ernakulam	113.83	3	282	14760
7	Idukki	21.52	1	36	3079
8	Kottayam	96.63	3	242	16904
9	Alappuzha	196.81	9	836	33016
10	Pathanamthitta	22.23	1	73	3885
Subtotal(A)		2709.36	99	7616	469176
B. Second year clusters					
1	Kozhikkode	160.79	7	939	24665
2	Malappuram	158.43	5	491	25979
3	Palakkad	125.39	5	275	21842
4	Alappuzha	384.3	14	2553	53804
5	Ernakulam (Kumbalangi)	18.217	1	264	2537
Subtotal(B)		847.13	32	4522	128827
Total		3556.49	131	12138	598003

Pradesh, Assam and Mizoram in 4855 ha. during the first year and in 1,761 ha during the second year in 2012-13. Rs. 9 crore was expended for the same. Apart from this 36 organic manure units were established in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in association with the respective agriculture/ horticulture departments. Rs.7.2 lakhs was incurred for the same.

Integrated farming programme directly implemented by the Board

During 2012-13, Coconut Development Board directly implemented the LODP programme in eight states in 5,670 ha. during the first year and in 2,222 ha. during the second year through its head quarter, regional offices and state centers incurring Rs.10 crores.

Table-3(b) Karnataka

A. First year clusters					
SI No	District	Area (ha)	Number of clusters	Number of beneficiaries	Palms (Nos)
1	Chamarajanagara	227.68	7	320	33690
2	Chitradurga	117.2	2	128	17565
3	Mysore	55.35	1	66	7,407
4	Ramnagara	140	3	205	19650
5	Tumkur	300.25	5	369	36798
Subtotal(A)		840.48	18	1088	115110
B. Second year clusters					
1	Chitradurga	57.88	1	84	8514
2	Mandya	51.62	1	77	7592
3	Mysore	59.88	1	98	8229
4	Ramnagara	118.57	2	195	16368
5	Tumkur	72	1	180	10800
Subtotal(B)		359.95	6	634	51503
Grand Total		1200.43	24	1722	166613

Apart from this 32 organic manure units were set up in Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam and Nagaland. Rs.4.86 lakh was incurred for the same. From the first year project, 9.28 lakh palms in eight states received assistance and during the second year 3.47 lakh palms received assistance. (Table-2).

In 2012-13, Board directly implemented the LODP programme in 7891 ha benefiting 21,875 farmers. 12.75 lakh coconut palms from 264 clusters received assistance for following scientific management practices. During the first year of the project 14,265 farmers received the assistance for 9.28 lakh palms and during the second year 7,610 farmers received assistance for following scientific management practices of 3.47 lakh palms in 2,221 ha. Unlike the previous years, 2012-13 witnessed the short fall of organic manure supply.

Kerala

The novelty about the implementation of the programme in Kerala was that unlike the

previous years, Board prioritized the newly formed in farmer collectives, Coconut Producers Societies in the implementation of its various programmes. Applications were invited from 10 districts exempting the three districts where the Replanting and Rejuvenation programme is being implemented. Even though 400 CPSs had submitted application, 99 CPSs

Table-3(c) Tamilnadu

A. First year clusters					
SI No	District	Area (ha)	Number of clusters	Number of beneficiaries	Palms (Nos)
1	Theni	53.91	2	65	9434
2	Thanjavur	704.66	23	1056	123317
3	Dindigul	85.89	2	105	15031
Subtotal(A)		844.46	27	1226	147782
B. Second year clusters					
1	Theni	125.28	3	142	21925
2	Madurai	34.86	1	37	6101
3	Thanjavur	245.8	9	607	43015
4	Dindigul	50	2	50	8750
Subtotal (B)		455.94	15	836	79791
Grand Total		1300.40	42	2062	227573

Table-3(d) Andhra Pradesh

A. First year clusters					
SI No	District	Area (ha)	Number of clusters	Number of beneficiaries	Palms (Nos)
1	East Godawari	261.88	7	618	39485
2	Visakapatnam	25	1	50	4000
3	Srikakulam	39.02	1	86	4356
4	West Godawari	129.47	4	317	19279
5	Vizianagaram	18.54	1	40	2916
Subtotal (A)		473.91	14	1111	70036
B. Second year clusters					
1	East Godawari	69.01	2	168	11028
2	Guntur	44.91	1	95	6854
3	Srikakulam	124.12	4	276	17691
4	West Godawari	22.34	1	65	3537
5	Vizianagaram	16.86	1	41	2625
Subtotal (B)		277.24	9	645	41735
Grand Total		751.15	23	1756	111771

Table-3(e) Odisha

A. First year clusters					
SI No	District	Area (ha)	Number of clusters	Number of beneficiaries	Palms (Nos)
1	Puri	50	1	119	8750
2	Ganjam	132	2	402	23100
3	JSPur	25	1	304	4375
Subtotal		207	4	825	36225
B. Second year clusters					
1	Puri	50	1	97	8750
Grand Total		257.00	5	922	44975

Table-3(f) Maharashtra

A. First year clusters					
SI No	District	Area (ha)	Number of clusters	Number of beneficiaries	Palms (Nos)
1	Sindhudurg	298.02	10	722	49140
2	Ratnagiri	229.96	15	899	36961
Subtotal		527.98	25	1621	86101
B. Second year clusters					
1	Sindhudurg	203.65	7	440	31563
Grand Total		731.63	32	2061	117664

were selected for the implementation of the programme in 2012-13. During the first year, the programme was implemented in 2,709 ha. benefiting 4.69 lakh palms and during the second year, the programme benefited 4,522 farmers from 32 clusters. (Table-3.a.)

Karnataka

The LODP programme was implemented in 1200 ha. in Chamarajanagar, Chitradurga, Mandya, Mysore, Ramnagar and Tumkur. 1,722 farmers from 24 clusters were benefited by this programme. (Table-3.b)

Tamilnadu

In 2012-13, the programme was implemented in 1300 ha. 2062 farmers from Theni, Madura, Thanjavur and Dindigul received the assistance for undertaking scientific management practices for 2.27 lakh palms. (Table-3.c)

Andhra Pradesh

In 2012-13 Board implemented the LODP programme in 751 ha. in East Godavari, Visakapatnam, Guntur, Srikakulam, West Godavari and Vijayanagari. 1,756 farmers in 751 ha. from 23 clusters were benefited by this programme. 1.12 lakh palms received assistance for scientific management practices (Table 3.d).

Odisha

922 farmers formed part of the LODP programme implemented by the Board in Odisha. 44,975 palms in 257 ha from six clusters from Puri, Ganjam and Jagadeeshpur district benefited by this programme (Table-3.e).

Table-3(g) West Bengal

A. First year clusters					
SI No	District	Area (ha)	Number of clusters	Number of beneficiaries	Palms (Nos)
1	North 24 Pargana	25	1	68	4375

Table-3(h) Assam

A. First year clusters					
SI No	District	Area (ha)	Number of clusters	Number of beneficiaries	Palms (Nos)
1	Morigaon Dt.	14.90	2	291	2607
2	Karimganj Dt.	27.23	2	419	4765
	Subtotal(A)	42.13	4	710	7372
B. Second year clusters					
1	Nalbari Dt.	20.14	1	250	3524
	Darrang Dt.	7.35	1	186	1287
	Subtotal(B)	27.49	2	436.00	4811
	Grand Total	69.62	6	1146	12183

Maharashtra

Through the Thane office of the Board, LODP programme was implemented in 732 ha. in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri district. 2061 farmers from 32 clusters received inputs for 44,975 palms in 2012-13 (Table-3.f).

West Bengal

Kolkata state centre of the Board implemented the cluster programme in 25 ha. in 24 North Parganas district. 65 farmers received the input for 4,375 palms (Table-3.g).

Assam

In 2012-13 Regional Office Assam implemented the cluster programme in 70 ha. in 6 clusters in four districts viz. Morigav, Karimganj, Nalbai and Darang. 12,183 palms of 1,148 farmers were benefited under this programme (Table 3.h).

India's present status in coconut production as world leader is the visible example to prove that the initiatives of the Board to improve coconut productivity are reaping success. As per 2010-11 statistics, India becomes the global leader in coconut production with 1,694.3 crore nuts. Remarkable improvement in India's productivity is also achieved with 8,965 nuts per ha. Let us hope that India will reach greater heights in coconut production in future.

Alzheimer's: Could coconut oil treat the illness?

Family tell of amazing results of natural remedy

Vrajlal Parmar, 68, from Harrow, Middlesex was diagnosed with the late stages of Alzheimer's in 2007. By the next year he no longer recognised even his daughter Rashi. Yet miraculously, just after two years, Vrajlal recognizes his daughter. His



daughter believes it's due to the daily dose of coconut oil he takes to treat his illness because doctors say his condition is too advanced for conventional drugs.

"I lost my dad to Alzheimer's five years ago and I thought I would never get him back," said Rashi. "But somehow I have, and it's the most amazing thing. He missed my wedding because I was a stranger

to him. Then three months ago he suddenly started asking for me again and recognising me."

But in 2007 Vrajlal, who lives with his wife Taramati, 64, began to behave strangely. Within a year he could barely do anything for himself. The real blow came when he no longer recognized his own daughter. Desperate for a cure, Rashi's brother Kal, 31, found a

YouTube video posted by a doctor in Florida who was treating her husband's Alzheimer's with coconut oil. They decided to try it on Vrajlal, who now takes six tablespoons a day. "Within a month his mood completely changed," said Rashi. "He became calmer and relaxed."

The family is now campaigning for a full medical trial into the benefits of coconut oil, which is believed to encourage the body to produce organic matter to provide an energy source for brain cells. But Kal, who is making a film about his father's story, says: "We're certain this has helped Dad, so I know it can help others."

Source:www.mirror.co.uk