

Production and distribution of planting materials

A thrust area of Board

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In a perennial crop like coconut palm which exhibits considerable genetic variations and is capable of being propagated only through seed, the selection and use of planting material of high intrinsic value assumes considerable significance. The palm contributes to yield for over 80 years and the full bearing capacity becomes known only 10 to 15 years after planting. If the planting material happens to be inferior in quality, the garden will prove to be highly uneconomical and a continuous source of loss to the grower. Since coconut culture involves substantial pre-bearing investment, greater emphasis must be given to the selection and use of the right type of planting material.

The coconut palm is a monocot and can be propagated only through seed. The fact that coconut is a cross fertilized palm and that it does not bred true, makes the selection of seed nuts and then of seedlings in the nursery all the more difficult and important. By means of a series of selection made at different stages, it is possible to eliminate poor quality seed nuts and seedlings. The age old apprehension that coconut has a pre bearing period of 6-7 years has proved to be a fallacy. Now it is scientifically proved and established that under good management practices, tall coconut yields within four years, the hybrids within 3-5 years and the dwarfs within 3 years.

Coconut Development Board is implementing the Production & Distribution of Planting Material programme with the objective of enhancing the production and supply of good quality planting materials.

Board directly and in association with state governments is implementing various schemes for planting material production. Establishing regional coconut nurseries, production of hybrid seedlings, production of seedlings at DSP farms and financial assistance for private nurseries are a few of the programmes of the Board under this head. The year 2012-13 witnessed remarkable achievements in Board's

programme on producing high quality seedlings.

Regional Nurseries

Board is implementing this programme with the equal participation of the state governments in Kerala, Tamilnadu, Odisha, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. During 2012-13, Rs.79.57 lakhs was utilized for producing 6 lakh seedlings.

Production of hybrids

This programme is implemented in the hybrid production units established in various states with the equal participation of state governments. Rs. 2.80 lakh was distributed to seed production units in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu.

Private seed production farms and nurseries

Even though government nurseries, DSP Farms of CDB and agriculture research institutions are

producing coconut seedlings, the demand is not fully met by the seedlings procured by these agencies. Board is extending financial assistance to private nurseries for filling the demand supply gap of planting materials. In 2012-13, 10 nurseries and seed production farms were established in the private sector. The second installment of subsidy was distributed to six nurseries during 2012-13.



Sowing of seednut at the DSP Farm of the Board

DSP Farms of the Board

The seven DSP Farms of the Board spread across seven states have produced above eight lakh seedlings during 2012-13. Apart from this, farmers were acquainted with intercropping and scientific management practices. A month long training in hybridization and coconut product manufacturing was also given to the farmers.

During 2012-13, Board could produce 25 lakh coconut seedlings through these programmes. For planting in 15,000 ha. Let us hope that the programmes of the Board will further safeguard the interests of the coconut sector.