

Awareness creation essential for introducing coconut products in Bihar

● Shyamlal, Assistant Director, State Centre, CDB, Bihar

Coconut is one of the ten most useful trees in the world, providing food for millions of people, especially in the tropics. Regardless of its origin coconut has spread across much of the tropics and coastal areas. Every part of coconut in every stage of its development, the tender nut water, tender kernel, mature coconut water, kernel, coconut milk etc. can be made use for production of an array of products. Apart from this, the byproducts like shell, husk, fronds and wood also can be put to a multiple usage. Initially coconut was introduced to Bihar by the pilgrims who visited Jagannath Temple Puri in Orissa and nearby historical places. On their way back home they carried coconut and planted it in homestead garden as utility and ornamental plants. At present coconut cultivation is mainly confined to the Kosi command area and Northern Bihar, and there is sporadic distribution of the crop mostly along the northern bank of Ganges in Central Bihar and some areas in and around Patna. Coconut is mainly grown as homestead utility plant or planted along the borders of the farm. Regular commercial cultivation of coconut has so far not been attempted by the farmers of Bihar.

Status of value addition of coconut in Bihar

Coconut is mainly used for religious purposes particularly in Chat festival and many people are using coconut for hair and massage purpose in Bihar. A survey was conducted in shops and malls in Patna on the availability of various value added products of coconut. The major products identified are coconut juice, coconut hair oil, coconut oil, coconut biscuits, desiccated coconut powder, coconut milk, coconut cream etc.



Since, most of the population are not aware of coconut products available in the market of Patna, awareness creation is very much essential for introducing coconut products in Bihar. As very few value added products are available in the market, there is a huge scope of value addition in coconut in the state. ■