

Cocoa at a glance



Areca + cocoa

VTLCC1

VTLCS 2

Coconut + cocoa



Cocoa nursery



Shade net



Grafting



Grafts

- Cocoa** : Chocolate tree (*Theobroma cacao* L.)
Family : Sterculiaceae/ Malvaceae, 2n= 20
Species : *Theobroma cacao* subsp. *cacao* (Criollo populations)
Theobroma cacao subsp. *sphaerocarpum* (Forastero & Trinitario populations)
 22 species available
- Types** : Criollo: red pod, fine cocoa
 Forastero: green pod, bulk cocoa
 Trinitario: natural hybrid Criollo x Forastero
- Economic part** : Dry beans
Economic cropping period : 35 years
Climatic requirements : Western Ghats Hills and plains
 Altitude 300-1200 m msl
 Rainfall 1500-2000 mm/ year
 Maximum temperature 30-32°C, minimum- 18-21°C
- No. of trees/ ha** : Under 2.7 m x 2.7 m spaced arecanut garden, Cocoa 2.7 m x 5.4 m (680 trees/ ha)
 Under 7.5 m x 7.5 m spaced coconut garden, Cocoa 2.7- 3.0 m x 7.5 m (single hedge), Cocoa 2.7 m x 2.7 m (double hedge)
- Nursery** : 4 months for seedlings
 6 months for grafts
- Pollination** : Cross-pollination
 Self-incompatibility
- Tree habit** : Branching in tiers, systematic canopy architecture at single tier with annual pruning is compulsory in intercropping system
- First harvest** : Seedlings 4th year, grafts 2nd year
Yield : 1 - >1kg dry bean/ tree/ year
No. of pods : >50 pods/ tree/ year
Pod weight : >350 g/ pod
No. of beans : >35 beans/ pod
Single dry bean weight: >1 g (Bean index)
Husk: Bean/ : 3: 1
Wet: Dry ratio
- Shelling** : 10- 15%
Nib recovery : 85- 90%
Fat content : >50%



Beans



Nibs



Campco bars and chocs



For further details, please contact or write to:
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