

# A youth with a motto to work independently

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“I want to be my own boss and want to work independently without any dictatorship. That’s why I have chosen agriculture as my profession and now am enjoying my work” says Shri Joshi M. Joseph, 34 of Kattipara, Kozhikode district. It is more than 60 years since his family has migrated from Pala, Kottayam to Kattipara.

fertilizer applied is cow dung. He is having a biogas plant. The slurry is pumped to the field through channels. Once in a year chemical fertilizer is mixed with the slurry and pumped to the crop. The uniform application of slurry to the palms help in increasing the production as it is properly mixes with the soil and reaches to the system. Some palms

Kattipara oil mills run by his brother. Since tender coconut is fetching a higher price, Joshi is planning to sell his nuts as tender nuts.

Besides coconut, crops like arecanut, black pepper, tapioca, nutmeg (100 no), cocoa (300 no), banana (Poovan) and vegetables are grown as intercrops. Harvested cocoa is given to Cadbury under



*Joshi in his coconut garden*



*Coconut intercropped with nutmeg and banana*

In his 8 acre garden, he has mainly planted coconut palms. Initially he planted 160 palms and now there are 272 palms. All are naturally crossed TxD variety. 2000 arecanut and 2000 black pepper vines are also grown in the farm. The productivity of the farm is 160 nuts per palm per year and the total production is around 45,000 nuts per year.

Joshi is strictly following various management practices. Both organic and inorganic fertilizers are applied for coconut as well as for the intercrops. The main organic

infected with stem bleeding disease were cut and removed and is replanted.

Irrigation is done through sprinklers. Mulching is done with dry and green leaves and with coconut husks. He has also done different soil conservation measures like bund for easy irrigation purpose and for conserving the soil moisture. Joshi is also doing the management practices by himself without availing anybody’s help. Harvesting is done six times in a year. Harvested nuts are sold in local markets and is supplied to the

buyback system. From other crops Joshi is getting an income of more than Rs.1.00 lakh. He also grows fodder grass for his milch animals. The milk after his personal use is supplied to MILMA. Joshi is having a poultry farm which is looked after by his wife Shinsky. Eggs are sold @ Rs. 5/-. He is cultivating vegetables to cater to the need of the family.

Shri Joshi is keeping a very cordial relation with all government agencies particularly with Krishi bhavan and Coconut Development

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*Solar tunnel drier*



*Drying of copra inside the drier*

from the drier. Inside the drier the cement flooring was coated with black paint to improve its performance. The drier is provided with metallic racks for keeping the coconuts in layers for drying. The capacity of the drier was to dry 5000 coconuts per batch.

From the experimental work

conducted for the drying of copra in the natural convection solar tunnel drier, it was found that the copra can be dried from an initial moisture content of 52.3% (w.b.) to the required moisture level of 7% (w.b.) in 52 and 78 hours respectively with and without using the heat storage material (sand). The open sun drying takes 172

hours for reducing the moisture content of copra to the same level. The use of heat storage material provided continuous drying and reduced the drying time considerably compared to open sun drying. The copra obtained from the solar tunnel drier is of high quality.

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Board. He has applied for subsidy from Krishi Bhavan under ATMA for mulching with coconut husk in nutmeg. He was the convenor of the cluster programme implemented by the Board during 2006-08. He is of the opinion that the programme helped the farmers to make the practice of cultivating various intercrops along with coconut, which makes farming more profitable.

Shri. Joshi Joseph's advice to other coconut farmers is that multiple cropping/mixed cropping may be adopted for making coconut cultivation profitable. Good quality seedlings especially dwarf and hybrid varieties may be planted to get a good crop and yield. Maximum

tender nuts may be harvested for making better income. More dwarf varieties may be planted for the same. After cutting and removing the old senile and disease affected palms, new seedlings must be planted with proper spacing. Try to raise one's own nursery by selecting quality seed nuts from selected mother palms so that we don't need to depend on others for quality seedlings.

In the opinion of Joshi, Board's programme of Friends of Coconut Tree provides employment to many unemployed youths and makes them self-dependent. Besides, they have learned the scientific cultivation practices of coconut. Joshi is the president of the Chembrakunda

Coconut Producers Society registered with Coconut Development Board.

Joshi's role model is his father, Joseph who is also an active farmer. Joshi is supported by his mother Mary and his wife Shinsy. He is planning to purchase a mini Hitachi for making coconut planting easy. His advice to youngsters is to opt agriculture as a profession as it makes one self-dependent and independent. For further details Contact: Joshi M. Joseph, Manimala (H), Kattipara (PO), Thamarassery (Via), Kozhikode 673573, Ph: 9446953185/0495-2270237.

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