



Chicacole CPC Ltd.

for ensuring a better socio-economic status to coconut farmers

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Chicacole CPC plans to initiate production and marketing of coconut Neera and its value added products once the excise rule is amended in Andhra Pradesh

Chicacole Coconut Farmers Producer Company Limited (CHICOF) is the first coconut producer company registered in Andhra Pradesh and the sixth CPC in the country. The company is established by forming 109 CPSs and 10 CPFs with 4959 small and marginal coconut farmers covering 10 lakh coconut palms in 12239 acres of land in the districts of Srikakulam. The prime objective of the company is to help the farmers achieve

high price to their agricultural commodities by way of organic production and processing and value addition of products without changing the inherent quality of the products, satisfying the consumer's expectation at its high level.

The company was registered during April 2014 under Indian Company Act 1956 with a total authorized capital of Rs. five lakhs and paid-up capital of Rs.three crores by way of farmer equity



Farmers Meeting - Borivanka

and with the help of Central and State Government institutions. For the effective functioning of the company, farmer equity is proposed to mobilize with a matching equity from the State Government as assistance. Company collected Rs. 80 lakhs as farmer equity out of the target of Rs. 1.75 crores.

The head quarters of the company is at Kavity, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh. Srikakulam, is covered with a thick layer of traditional coconut plantation and is one of the coastal districts of the state with frequent occurrence of cyclones. During 2013-14, most of the coconut gardens were severely damaged by Phylone cyclone. Majority of the farmers look forward to CDB for getting assistance under ongoing schemes particularly LODP scheme. Since the collectives were formed and integrated to CPF, CDB has approved a special package to the farmers in Srikakulam during the financial years 2013-14 to 2014-15. The majority of the farmers in the CPC have been covered and so far assistance to the tune of Rs 3.72 crores has been utilized for distribution of inputs under LODP thereby benefitting 3678 farmers.

Farmers are interested in cultivating tall varieties in Srikakulam district. The size of nut is bigger when compared to other coconut growing areas of the state. Coconut Development Board has already selected mother palm gardens in the jurisdiction of their CPC, because of the good quality seed nuts. Company is promoting the cultivation of dwarf varieties and took the initiative to supply 37,500 seedlings including 5000 dwarf varieties to the farmers of Srikakulam from DSP farm, Vegiwada and Kondagaon by linking with AEP through the area expansion programme during this financial year. In order to solve the shortage of quality seedlings, Company has already initiated a survey for preparing a data bank



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of mother palms in addition to the existing gardens selected by CDB. The selected nuts will be utilized for establishing three coconut nurseries which will help the farmers for getting good quality seedlings.

The company further plans to take up the production and marketing of neera and its value added products after the amendment of new excise rule in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Company will ensure an active work force by conducting FoCT trainings to CPS sponsored trainees.

Better functioning and monitoring of company has been carried out by distributing works on de-centralized basis to each CPF presidents. Company is getting technical assistance and guidance from experts like chartered accountants, Agricultural Scientists etc. The company already received queries for exporting coir based products to China and France. Since Srikakulam nuts are superior in weight, the CPC will explore the possibility of exporting raw coconut to Arab countries. Company is making necessary arrangements to collaborate with financial institutions like NABARD and already conducted meetings with the officials. Company is encouraging the farmers in production and export of organic coconut and its value added products, which have high

prospects in international market. Establishment of an integrated processing unit is the ultimate aim of the company for which a project will be submitted to CDB for availing assistance under TMoC. The CPC has already initiated discussions with Coir Board for assistance for units for extracting fibre. Company also plans to introduce bore-wells with solar pump sets and solar energy units in coconut farming by converging with the NHM and state level agencies.

Company Bank is the forthcoming initiative of the CPC for the development and welfare of the member farmers. Through Company Bank, a farmer with one hectare area will be eligible for getting an agricultural loan of Rs. ten thousand to Rs. one lakh with 4% annual interest. Company Bank will also provide financial assistance to the children of farmers for their higher education with the help and guidance of NABARD.

Company believes that the establishment of networked coconut industrial cluster involving participation of competitive forums and working groups with the support and association of Government departments with backward and forward linkage will help the farmers reap maximum returns from coconut farming. ■