



Kahikuchi Coconut Hybrid-1

A newly developed coconut hybrid for North East Region

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Assam is one of the non-traditional coconut growing states of the country. However, coconut could be grown successfully in sub-tropical, high humid and high acidic soils of Assam. At present, area under coconut cultivation has gone up to 19,000 ha in Assam with an average productivity of 46 nuts/palm/year. The crop is gaining popularity due to its easy adaptability as well as better economic returns. The cultivation of coconut has also been extending to the neighbouring states of Assam like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur etc. in the plains as well as in the foot hill of the regions. Generally, local types of

coconut are widely grown by the farmers in the state. However, presently the demand for the dwarf or hybrid coconut is also increasing particularly among the urban community because of its early bearing, fascinating ornamental look with dwarf character and higher productivity.

Horticultural Research Station, situated at Kahikuchi (Guwahati) under Assam Agricultural University has been maintaining a large number of germplasm including exotic as well as local types under All India Coordinated Research Project on Palms. Based on the germplasm evaluation trials conducted at

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A bearing palm of 'Kahikuchi Coconut Hybrid-1'

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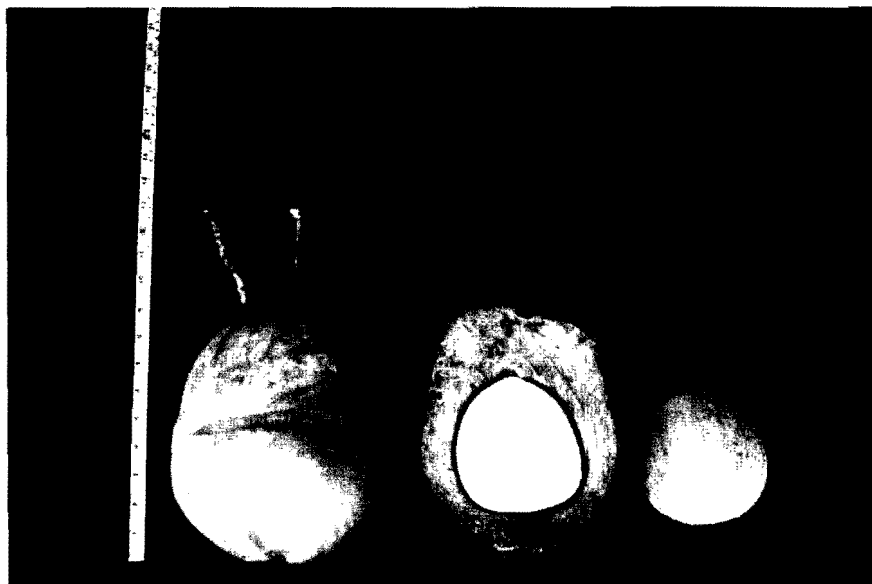


Kahikuchi centre a promising hybrid 'IND 058 x IND 069' named as Kahikuchi Coconut Hybrid-1 was recommended for release for commercial cultivation in Assam state in the Biennial Workshop of All India Coordinated Research Project on Palms held at Hyderabad during November, 2007.

This hybrid is considered suitable for cultivation in Assam as well as in the adjoining states. It has some added benefits over local tall cultivars. The hybrid is precocious in bearing, comes to bear at 5 years, semi tall type, high yielder (104 nuts/palm/year), moderately tolerant to stem bleeding, crown choking disorder and red weevil. The hybrid is moderately tolerant to drought compared to other hybrid tested. It offers an excellent potential for tender nut use with 265 ml of nut water. Sweetness of its tender nut water as well as meat is good. It contains 6.5 g/100 ml of total sugar, 2350 ppm of potassium and 1.9 mg/100 ml of amino acid. The hybrid yields, 17.8 kg of copra/palm/year leading to a copra yield of 3.1 tonnes/ha. The average oil content in the copra is 68.0% leading to an oil yield of 2.1 tonnes/ha.

Some characteristics features of 'Kahikuchi Coconut Hybrid-1'

- ❖ High yielding ability (average: 104 nuts/palm/year; highest yield of 138 nuts/palm/year at
- ❖ Better fruit quality:
 - Copra yield : 3.1 tonnes/ha
 - Oil content : 68.0%
 - Oil yield : 2.1 tonnes/ha
 - Tender nut water : 265 ml
- ❖ Moderately tolerant to stem bleeding, crown choking and red weevil.
- ❖ Moderately tolerant to drought compared to other hybrid tested.
- ❖ Tolerant to high rainfall (more than 2000 mm) semi-water logged condition.



Whole nut, splitted & dehusked nut of 'Kahikuchi Coconut Hybrid-1'

- ❖ It can be grown in acidic soils of Assam (pH: 4.5 -5.5).
- ❖ Highly responsive to major nutrients like NPK as well as micro nutrient more particularly boron.

Moreover, the hybrid comes to bearing at 5 years with semi-dwarf growth habit. At present Horticultural Research Station, Kahikuchi has been producing limited number of seedlings of this hybrid because there are only a few mother palms. However, a seed garden for the female parent has been developing at the station for large scale multiplication and distribution of the seedlings of this hybrid to popularize it among the farmers of this region.

Medicinal Benefits of Coconut Water

In terms of the medicinal qualities, coconut water has been found through research to have a wide range of benefits and these are applicable to old and young alike. For example, even with infants, being given coconut water will help those who might be suffering from 'intestinal disturbances.' Coconut water is also beneficial for use in connection with a number of ailments. These include the treatment of kidney stones, control of diabetes and eradication of eczema. Furthermore it can also prove useful in the elimination of pinworms, intestinal worms and osteoporosis, as well as aiding the performance of the thyroid and fighting viruses that cause flu and colds and other infections.

(<http://www.hellum.com>) Source: The Cocommunity