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SUCCESS STORIES

in Coconut Farming



नारियल विकास बोर्ड

(कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

Coconut Development Board

[MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA]

Success Stories in Coconut Farming

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Success Stories in Coconut Farming

part - i

Successful Coconut Farmers

part - ii

Successful Coconut Nurseries



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Multi cropping boosts the doubling of famer's income

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Shri. K. T Francis (64 years), a progressive farmer and National Award winner of CDB for the year 2016-18 under the category Best Farmer from South West Region, is one such farmer who is highly successful in mixed farming with a diversity of crops and other components. He hails from an agricultural family, with his forefathers who had migrated from central Travancore region in Kerala several years ago. Shri. K.T. Francis, after retirement as a physical education teacher from St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Maruthonkara, Kozhikode district has turned into a full time Coconut Development Board

farmer. He owns three acres of land and mainly coconut based mixed farming is practiced in the entire farm.

Shri. Francis has adopted coconut based multi storied cropping system in his plantation integrating a variety of horticultural crops. In his three acre garden he had planted 200 coconut palms of different varieties. The various intercrops are arecanut, spices, cocoa, coffee, tuber crops, medicinal plants, fruit plants, spices, fodder grass, upland rice and animal husbandry which includes goat rearing, poultry, aquaculture etc. His plantation is an excellent



example of judicious utilization of the natural resources, complementing to the enhancement of soil fertility through mixed farming and a sustainable system of cultivation and the intercrops and mixed crops add to his income. Main coconut cultivars include WCT, Kerasree, Malayan dwarfs etc. A total of 200 coconut palms including about 50 young palms are the main component of the farm.

Shri. Francis has adopted organic farming in his garden and the average yield of coconut palms is 200 nuts per palm per year. Major portion of annual production is sold as seed nuts and seedlings. A small portion of the harvest is used for domestic purposes and remaining nuts are sold as ball copra and coconut oil. Main coconut cultivars include WCT, Kerasree, Malayan dwarfs etc. Abundant Farm Yard manure available from his own farm is applied in plenty to all crops in his garden. Main interventions/ innovations practiced by farmer for productivity enhancement are contour terracing, mulching, application of coir pith in coconut basins, husk burial, water harvesting pits etc. which will conserve moisture and improve yield. He is a farmer identified by Krishi Bhavan to supply coconut seed nuts for seedling production.

He had availed Rs. 1 lakh subsidy from Coconut Development Board for establishing Small Coconut Nursery in his garden. Every year he is selling minimum 30,000 quality coconuts seedlings from his nursery except during current financial year. Due to low price of coconut, current year's demand is less and has sold 10,000 seedlings only. He is selling WCT and MCD varieties at the rate of Rs. 100 to Rs. 150.

In addition to copra, ball copra, coconut seed nuts and coconut seedlings are the main output from the farm. An electrically operated copra drier helps to produce quality copra at farm level. Another coconut ball-copra making unit with a capacity of 25,000 nuts helps to produce ball copra without firewood and enables farm level processing without environmental pollution from smoke and loss of fire wood. This helps to sell quality produce in the local market.

Annually he earns a net income of Rs 14 to 15 lakhs from his integrated farming system and major source of income is from coconut. As a full time farmer, he is able to use family oriented labour to a great extent. Pest and disease incidence is very low in coconut and subsidiary crops in his farm. The success story of Mr. Francis clearly indicates that farming



can be remunerative if we use the resources in an efficient and innovative manner and crop intensification and enterprise diversification is done scientifically.

Arecanut is another important component of the farm. The main cultivars are Mangala, Mangala inter cross, Mohitnagar, South Kanara types totalling about 750.

Black pepper is the main spice crop of the garden. A total of 500 vines in different growth stages are grown in the farm. He cultivates high yielding varieties like Sreekara, Subhakara, IISR Thevam, Panchami, Pournami and Panniyur 6. Local cultivars like Narayakkodi, Arakkulam Munda, Karimunda are also available. He has also planted bush pepper plants that yields throughout the year. The main standards of pepper are coconut and arecanut. Regular prophylactic spray of Bordeaux mixture is given to the vines to protect from deadly Phytophthora foot rot disease.

Other spices include turmeric (variety Prathibha), ginger (IISR Varada), Kasturi turmeric, nutmeg (IISR Vishwashree and elite local types), clove etc. Cardamom is grown on an experimental basis to evaluate its performance in low land areas. He also has an abundance of tuber crops as intercrops in the garden which fetches a reasonable income. These include amorphophallus, colocasia, yams, cassava, arrow root, coleus etc.

Another attractive feature of the garden is an array of various fruit crops. He collects all

the available fruit plants whenever he travels in different parts of the State and outside. In addition to common fruit plants, rare and exotic fruit plants are the highlight of his collection. Some of these include mangosteen, rambutan, pulasan, passion fruit, noni, carambola, durian, milk fruit, different citrus fruits, rose apple, West Indian cherry, and the list is endless. He also earns a good amount from Red Lady papaya cultivation by sale of fruits in nearby markets.

Self-sufficiency in household vegetable requirement is another remarkable achievement. He has all the tropical vegetables in his garden like okra, brinjal, bitter gourd, cowpea, amaranthus, chillies, snake gourd, leafy vegetables etc. He also has a good collection of medicinal plants. These include kacholam, lemon grass, vetiver, chethikoduveli, neela amari, chittaratha, nilapana, adapathiyam, asoka, pathimugham, koovalam, chittadalodakam, thulasi, Aloe vera etc.

In addition to crops, livestock and poultry are the other highlights of the farm. Cow breeds include Kasargodan, Holstein Friesian and local breeds. Goat breeds like Malabari and Jamunapari are other attractions of the farm. Milk, curd and ghee from these are sold providing him a reasonable income. To sustain them, fodder crops like Hybrid Napier Co-3 is also cultivated in the garden.

A wide variety of ornamental birds are also reared by him. These include swan, love birds, Kadakkanath hen, Guinea fowl, Japanese quail



etc. He also rears Gramasree breed of poultry and ducks and earns a fair amount through sale of eggs and meat.

A vertical farming model incorporating, ornamental birds above the edible fishes culture tank is another innovation. He cultures Pangasius, an air breathing fish commonly known as tiger shark. The nutrient rich water from the fish tank is used for irrigating various crops including vegetables and freshwater is added to fish tanks. Nearly 50 percent water is exchanged in 2-3 days interval there by benefiting vegetable crops and fishes.

Apiculture is also practiced in the farm. In addition to providing honey, it also helps in the pollination of the crops thereby improving yield. A total of 60 bee hives are maintained in the farm.

Irrigation is mainly through sprinkler system. Systematic contour terracing/bunds is the peculiarity of the farm which also have innumerable water harvesting pits that ensures percolation of rain water into the soil and avoids run off. A biogas plant installed near the dairy

unit provides cooking gas for the household needs.

The entire farm is maintained as an organic farm with recycling of farm waste and crop residues. Plentiful of poultry manure, biogas slurry, cow's urine, goat manure, vermicompost, green manure etc. is used in abundance to maintain a nutrient rich soil in the farm. The soil is rich in humus and innumerable number of earthworms in the periphery of the soil is a clear indication of the above. All crops management practices are carried out in organic methods. The entire farm operations is done by him and he engages only one additional labourer as and when required. The farm is a model of an organic farm maintained in a highly sustainable manner.

Shri. Francis is the recipient of Best Organic Farmer Award of Government of Kerala for the year 2022-23 and the Award ceremony was held on Farmer's Day (Chingam 1) with price money of Rs. 2 lakhs along with memento and certificate. Prior to that he received Kera Kesari Award of Government of Kerala (2017-18), Best Spice farmer from Kozhikode district award 2016 instituted by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Consolation award of Sarojini Damodaran Foundation Bangalore 2017, Best mixed farmer of ATMA 2016 of Government of Kerala and Best organic farmer award of Sarojini Damodaran Foundation, Bangalore for Kozhikode district for the year 2018. Besides he received Global Award for Best Farmer instituted by Catholic Congress and Asianet award for Best Farmer during 2022.

Coconut based mixed farming reaps better income

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Shri. Dominic Mannukusumbil, aged 64 hailing from Anakkampoyil, Thiruvambady, Kozhikode district is a National Award winner of CDB 2014-16 under the category Best Farmer from South West Region. His Father Shri. Mathew Mannukusumbil, is a migrated farmer from Kottayam district to Anakkampoyil, a fertile land for cultivation of all crops especially coconut.

Shri. Dominic maintains nine acre coconut farm in the sloping hilly terrain at Anakkampoyil with 340 coconut trees of West Coast Tall variety, out of which five acres are irrigated and

four acres rainfed. Besides, about 40 coconut trees of 'Kera sankara' TxD hybrid variety are also cultivated in his farm. There are about 300 nutmeg trees as the main mixed crop in the irrigated part of the coconut garden. Nutmeg has been planted in the centre of four palms. During 2017 he purchased two acre agricultural land in the nearby area with rubber trees. After purchasing the land he cut the top of rubber trees and pruned them and planted pepper vines of Panniyur-1 variety using the trimmed rubber trees as standards. The pepper vines have established very well. He has planted 105

coconut palms of 'Kuttyadi' local ecotype of WCT variety and about 200 arecanut palms of Mohitnagar variety.

According to him to make the coconut farming sustainable and remunerative the basic principle is 'not to leave any piece of land in the farm unused and adopt measures to conserve the basic natural resource viz soil and water. Shri. Dominic always repose good faith in coconut and carries out all the crop management practices in his farm according to the principle of efficient utilization and conservation of soil and water, even when the market price of coconut is not that much attractive.

He adopted a very innovative method for planting coconut seedlings. The innovation is pertaining to digging large pits for planting. Pits of one metre deep and 2.5 metres diameter are dug for planting coconut seedling. Another advantage of large pit size is that attack of wild boars can be avoided which is often a problem experienced by coconut growers.

He has adopted coconut based multi storied cropping system with various intercrops like nutmeg, pepper, clove, cocoa, banana, tuber crops like colocasia, yams, vegetables, fodder grass, various fruit plants, ornamental plants like anthurium, tree crops like teak, mahogany, wild jack, jack fruit tree and animal husbandry includes goat rearing, poultry, kennel, love birds etc.

On an average Mr. Dominic is able to harvest 175 coconuts per palm annually. Average yield obtained from nutmeg is 4 kg nuts and 500 g mace per tree. From arecanut as mixed crop he is getting an average yield of two kg chali per palm per year. He obtained 500 kg pepper from 350 vines during the last season. On average 15 litre milk is obtained per cow. Apart from the cultivation of crops, Mr. Dominic is also managing an agricultural nursery for the production and sales of planting material of coconut, arecanut and nutmeg. The nursery is approved by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Kerala. Coconut Development Board has supported Dominic for establishing a coconut nursery named Carmel nursery with



subsidy extended for an amount Rs. 1 lakh. He is selling WCT and MCD varieties of seedlings at Rs. 100 from his nursery. The farm is situated in a tourist area of Vellarimala, Thiruvambady panchayath, Kozhikode district.

A perennial stream Iruvanjipuzha flows through the farm which provides assured water for irrigating his farm where inter/mixed cropping is practiced. Irrigation is done through basin method using hose pipes.

Stone pitched bunds are constructed throughout the farm in the sloping terrain for soil and water conservation which are repaired/reinforced as and when required. Maintenance of very wide basins for coconut and mixed crops is a unique feature of agro techniques adopted by Shri. Dominic. Providing wide basin is important for effective moisture conservation. Coconut leaves, husks and other biomass available from the farm are used for mulching the basins.

He has adopted a package of practices with balanced application of nutrients to coconut and intercrops. During the month of May mulch materials spread in the basin are drawn back to the periphery to avoid surface root proliferation. After that lime @1kg per palm is applied in the coconut basin and forked in. After two weeks organic manure will be applied @ 40 kg cow dung per palm and will be covered using the loosened soil and mulch materials drawn to periphery of the basin. In alternate years bone meal @ 5 kg per palm or ground nut cake @ 2 kg per palm are being applied in place of cow dung. Liming and organic manure application to the coconut palms will be completed before



June. Chemical fertilizers are applied to coconut palms during September. About 1 kg muriate of potash, 500 g each of urea and rajphos are applied per palm. Whenever yellowing of coconut leaves is observed he applies Magnesium sulphate @ 500 g per palm. Besides, 100 g borax is also applied per palm.

About 1.5 kg muriate of potash and 750 g each of urea and rajphos are applied per nutmeg tree every year besides application of organic manure in the form of bone meal @ 5 kg per tree and cowdung @ 30-40 kg per tree. Only organic manures are applied to pepper vines @ 10 kg cow dung and 1 kg bone meal per vine per year. For arecanut palms organic manures are provided @ 10 kg cow dung and 1 kg bone meal. Besides, 250 g each of urea, rajphos and muriate of potash are also given to each arecanut palm per year.

According to Mr. Dominic nutmeg, is the most suitable mixed crop for planting in coconut garden because of its long economic life, low incidence of pests and diseases, low cost of cultivation and increasing yield and income every year. Soil is not disturbed in the basin of nutmeg tree. Manures and fertilizers are applied in the basin and just forked in. If root proliferation is observed in the surface of the basin, soil is brought from outside and spread in the basin.

Since coconut is planted with more than eight metres spacing he is able to get good yield from both coconut and arecanut. In the sloping terrain of the rainfed coconut garden where mixed cropping of arecanut is practiced

proper soil and moisture conservation practices including stone pitched contour bunds, mulching etc are adopted.

His family members' are also actively involved in all the farming activities which is an important factor for his success in farming. Shri. Dominic has received the prestigious 'Kerakesari' award during 2011 for his achievements in the scientific management of coconut. In 2015 he received the state level "Karshakothama" award for the best integrated farm instituted by Department of Agriculture. In 2016 he was bestowed with the national award instituted by Coconut Development Board for the best coconut farmer. In the same year, when ICAR-CPCRI organised the centenary celebrations, Mr Dominic was one among the 100 innovative and successful coconut farmers selected from various states of the country who were honored in the function. Mr. Dominic maintains regular contact with research institutions like CPCRI, IISR and extension agencies like Krishibhavan, ATMA etc. Video documentation on his innovative coconut farming methods are widely circulated through Krishi Darchan Programme of Doordarshan and also through social media. He is always happy to share his experiences with other farmers. Dominic's coconut farm serves as a farmer's field school and is often visited by farmers, extension personnel, students and other stakeholders.



Realizing higher income through coconut based mixed cropping and integrated farming system

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Sachithananda Gopalakrishnan aged 57, a leading coconut grower of Meenakshipuram area bordering Pollachi taluk

of Tamil nadu is a recipient Kera Kesari Award 2021 of Govt. of Kerala. His coconut garden is located at Kadamanpara in Moolathara village



of Perumatty gramapanchayat. He entered farming profession at the age of 16.

Sachithananda's coconut farm in 16 acres has around 1000 palms. The palms, belonging to West Coast Tall variety are mostly 25 to 30 years old and few are in the juvenile phase, planted five years ago. Black soil is the predominant soil type in the farm. Coconut is planted at a spacing of 7.5 to 8 metres. According to Sachithananda wider spacing is always better

for higher productivity of coconut palms and also for suitable for scientific intercropping.

Shri Sachithananda is the President of Kadamanpara Coconut Producers Society (CPS). He is actively involved in organizing the coconut growers of that locality. He had availed Coconut Board's LODP scheme during 2012-14.

Sachithananda is giving more prominence to mixed cropping system. He has planted various crops like nutmeg, cocoa, arecanut, banana etc in his coconut garden as intercrops.

Nutmeg: In five acres of his coconut orchard, nutmeg is planted as mixed crop. Each nutmeg tree is planted at the centre of four coconut palms. There are around 350 nutmeg trees which are of 22-25 years age. The nutmeg is unique among tree spices as it yields two distinct spices, nutmeg and mace. Nutmeg is a very compatible intercrop which can be very well accommodated in the interspaces of





coconut garden when it is planted at a spacing of 7.5 m x 7.5 m and more. Planting of nutmeg need to be done when the age of coconut palms attain 20 years and more since during that period light availability at the ground level is more than 40%. Besides, young nutmeg plants should be planted under 50% shade as coconut plantation act as natural shade to the young nutmeg plants. Tap root system and compact canopy architecture of nutmeg makes it more suitable as intercrop in coconut garden. The feeding activity of coconut with fibrous root system is mostly confined to one meter depth and more specifically to 15 to 60 cm depth, whereas nutmeg is having taproot system and its feeding area goes beyond one meter depth and there is little competition between coconut and arecanut. Further coconut + nutmeg cropping system improves the microclimate condition and promote diversified beneficial microbiological activity.

According to Shri Sachithananda, though there is fluctuation in the price of nutmeg in the market, it is a very compatible intercrop in coconut garden. No serious attack of pest and disease incidence is observed in nutmeg trees in his orchard, which is another advantage of nutmeg.

Cocoa: Around 1000 cocoa trees are being cultivated as a mixed crop in eight acres of his coconut orchard. Since cocoa is a shade

loving crop, it is grown as one of the best intercrops in coconut plantation. As cocoa is highly susceptible to drought conditions, the option of growing it as intercrop makes it more productive. Various other advantages of growing cocoa as intercrop in coconut garden include the improvement of microclimate, reduction in evaporation because of the canopy coverage and the regular litter fall which act as a natural mulching that improves the soil biological activity. Based on the physiology of cocoa, photosynthesis of cocoa leaves is saturated at 1/5th of the full day. Because of this reason cocoa perform better as intercrop compared to monocropping. The cocoa tree has tap-root system which grows straight if there is no physical obstruction. The success of intercropping of cocoa mostly depends on scientific and timely pruning. Pruning is an important operation in cocoa especially when it is grown as an intercrop. The main objective of pruning is to maintain the shape of the cocoa plant to make it more productive and efficient. According to Sachithananda, the price fluctuation and marketing issues are the major problems that he encounters in cocoa cultivation.

Arecanut: Though arecanut is not a recommended mixed crop in coconut garden, there are around 1000 areca palms planted in between coconut trees in his garden. These areca palms belonging to local variety are about 25 years of age. Areca seedlings were procured from local Krishibhavan.

Banana: Banana is intercropped in about one acre; mostly cultivated for selling the leaves. In the main season of marriages and similar occasions leaves are sold @Rs 3/leaf.

Integrated farming

A major source of income in Sachithananda's farm is from the cattle rearing component in the integrated farming system (IFS). 10 cross bred



cows are reared which produces around 10 litres of milk per cow per day

Fodder grass: Hybrid Bajra Napier Co-4 variety fodder grass is cultivated as intercrop in his coconut garden in three acres.

A bio-gas plant is installed as part of IFS unit since the last six years. Bio gas is used for domestic purpose and the slurry is recycled back to coconut palms, fodder grass and other crops in the system. Since the last one year a fish pond is also maintained in the IFS unit apart from dairy animals.

Crop management practices

Nutrient management

Since the last three years only organic manure is applied to coconut palms in five acres out of the total 16 acres of the coconut farm. According to Shri. Sachithananda there was a slight fall in the yield during the initial two years after changing to organic mode of



nutrient management. Subsequently yield of palms improved to the previous level. Manuring of coconut palms is done in two splits with the onset of South West monsoon during May-June and after heavy rains during August-September. Vermicompost, cow dung, neem cake, poultry manure and coir pith compost are the various organic manures applied in his garden. Neem cake is applied to the palms @ 1 kg per palm every year. Cow dung and poultry manure is applied @ 20 kg per palm and @ 10 kg per palm respectively applied during alternate years.

In the remaining 11 ha coconut farm, integrated nutrient management practices are adopted. Besides organic manures, chemical fertilizers are also applied to coconut palms in two splits @3 kg fertilizer mixture per split. Urea (1 kg), Muriate of Potash (2 kg) and Super Phosphate (2 kg) are the fertilizers used in the mixture. Cow dung and poultry manure are applied in alternate years @ 20 kg per palm @ 10 kg per palm respectively. Shri Sachithananda is planning to gradually reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and to fully convert to organic farming.

Cow dung @ 20 kg per tree twice a year is applied for nutmeg besides small quantities of Muriate of potash. One kg of chemical fertilizer mixture containing urea, MOP and super phosphate (in the proportion of the mixture given to coconut palms) is given for cocoa trees. Cocoa leaves obtained after pruning and also fallen dried leaves are recycled back to cocoa basin as organic manure. Areca palms are managed with organic manures like cow dung, vermicompost and poultry manure.

Mulching

All the dried fallen coconut leaves, bunch wastes and dried leaves are recycled to the palms as mulching in the basin as and when these materials are available. According to Sachithananda recycling of bio-mass available

in the farm by way of mulching greatly helps in moisture conservation and also improves soil health in the farm.

Irrigation

There are four open wells in the farm which are the sources of irrigation water and the coconut palms are provided irrigation during summer months using drip system. Tap type drippers are used in the drip system through which water is provided @100 litres per palm per day. According to Sachithananda, drip irrigation system helps in saving labour and also less weed growth is observed in the farm.

Crop protection

No serious pest and disease problems are experienced in the coconut based cropping system except for the recently observed root (wilt) disease like symptom appeared in 2-3 coconut palms which of course is a concern according to Shri Sachithanada.

Labour management

Sachithananda is having three men and women permanent labourers from nearby areas of Tamil Nadu, for managing farm activities. He got a tractor for tillage and other works and a bush cutter for weeding. A chaff cutter is used for cutting the fodder grass to feed cattle

Productivity and income

On an average, the recorded yield in Sachithananda's farm is about 150 nuts per palm per year while few palms are having the yield of more than 200 nuts per palm. Coconut palms are harvested six times a year at 60 days interval. During the last few harvest Sachithananda could get on an average of Rs. 25 per kg of coconut. He feels the minimum price should be at least about Rs 40 per kg nut to make the coconut farming remunerative. Nowadays



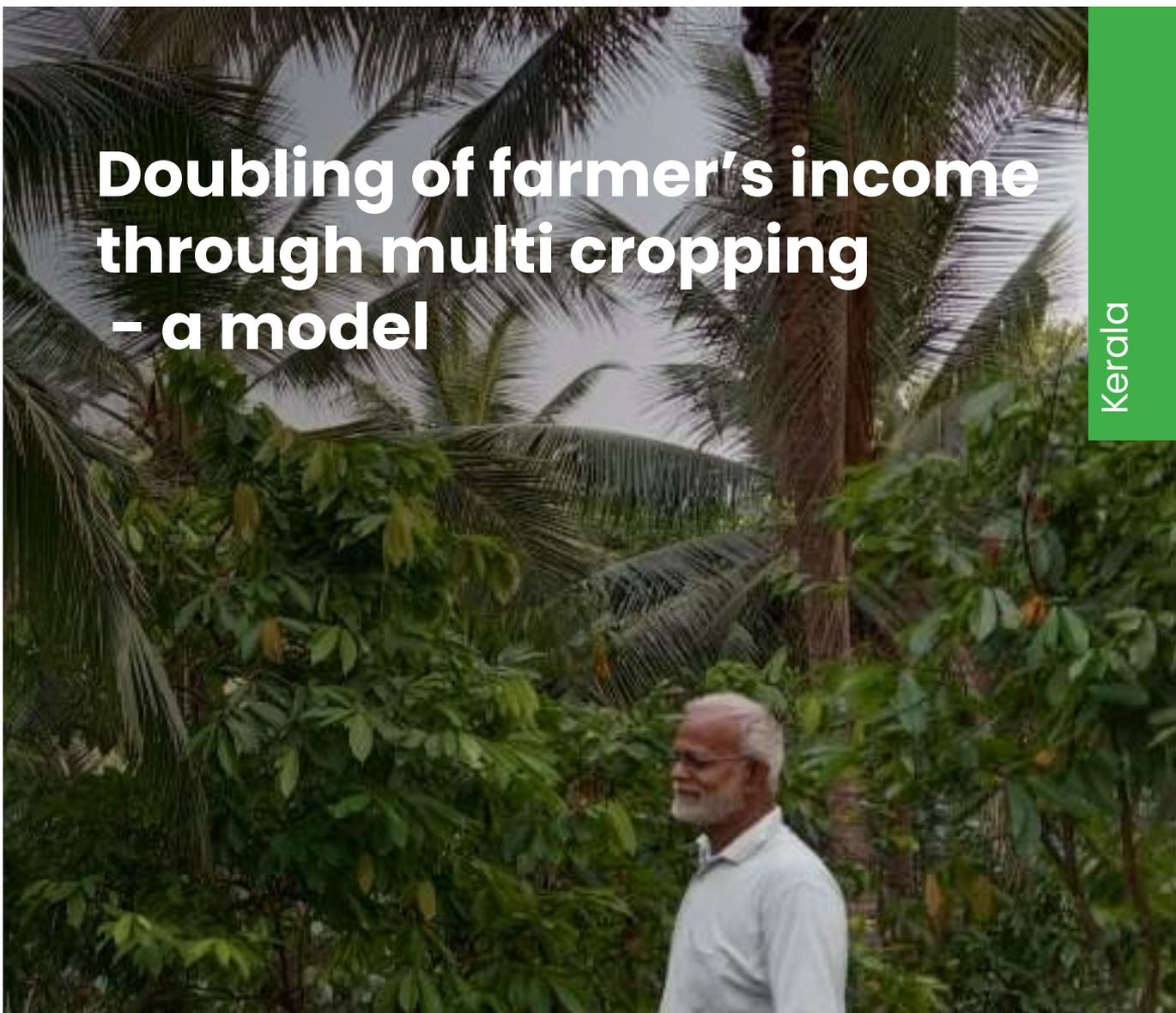
copra procurement is not fruitful through Krishi Bhawan and not getting remunerative prices. Presently his garden is infested with yellowing of leaves. 100 palms are affected severely out of 1000 palms.

Sachithananda has given 400 coconut palms for toddy tapping for which he is receiving Rs. 400 per palm per month which is realising a better income. Nutmeg is harvested twice in an year and he is getting on an average 4-5 kg fruits per tree. During the previous season he could get on an average Rs. 450 per kg nut and Rs. 1900 per kg mace. The average yield of cocoa from his farm is about 2-3 kg wet beans per tree. Cocoa beans are sold to the cocoa collection centre at Anamalai in Tamil Nadu. Arecanut is sold to local traders who collect it directly from the farm and unhusked fresh arecanuts are sold @ Rs 24-27 per kg. During the last season he could harvest about five tonnes of fresh arecanuts.

His family consists of his wife Smt Arunadevi and two daughters wholeheartedly supports him in managing his farm. Shri Sachithananda Gopalakrishnan is actively engaged in many social activities. He is the president of Moolathara Co-operative Milk Producers' Society and also acting as the Director Board member of Moolathara Service Co-operative Bank.

Doubling of farmer's income through multi cropping – a model

Kerala



Dr. D. Chandrasekhar Chowta

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Dr. D. Chandrasekhar Chowta, hails from Meeyapadavu village in Kasaragod district. In 1978 he got involved in the farming activities of Chowta family. His father, late Sri. Narayana Chowta was the Patel (village head having revenue authority of the village during the British regime) of the village and it was a

joint family. Prior to that he was engaged in teaching post graduate students and doing research in Cytogenetics and Radiation Biology in University of Bombay in the beginning and subsequently at University of Mysore (presently Mangalore University) for about ten years.



The Chowta family was following traditional farming practices in their farm land revolving around paddy as the main crop. Chowtas still pursues the joint family system and Dr. Chowta lives with his two brothers and one sister. His elder brother late Dr. D. K. Chowta was the head of the family who supported Dr. Chowta in the expansion and development of the farm. All the members of the Chowta family are actively involved in the management of farm.

Chowta's farm has about 2500 coconut palms comprising of different varieties. About 1200 trees are of West Coast Tall variety. 500 trees are of dwarf varieties like Chowghat Orange Dwarf, Gangabondam, Malayan Yellow Dwarf and Malayan Orange Dwarf. The farm also has 400 trees of hybrid coconut mainly Chandrasankara and Kerasankara. With the support of CPCRI Kasargod he introduced different coconut varieties. He had fruitful association with Coconut Development Board for expanding coconut farming in Chowta's farm. CDB supported him under the Nucleus Seed Garden scheme. The Nucleus Seed garden was planted with palm population of 350 WCT, 70 COD, 70 MYD, 70 Gangabondam and 140 Pratap cultivars. He is the first person in Kerala who had availed the subsidy for nuclear seed garden. This Scheme was introduced by CDB for extending technical and financial assistance for establishing Seed Garden in private sector to meet gap between demand and supply of quality planting materials. WCT palms are about 55 years old while hybrids and dwarfs are about 25 years old. Besides, eight years back in 2013 Dr. Chowta has also planted 400 coconut seedlings of different hybrid

and dwarf varieties which are mixed cropped with Rambutan fruit plants. Since Dr. Chowta adopts scientific crop management practices especially integrated nutrient management, irrigation and water management coconut palms in his farm has high productivity. On an average the WCT trees yield 100 nuts, dwarfs about 100-125 nuts and hybrids about 125 to 150 nuts per palm per year.

A very unique feature of coconut farming in Chowta's farm is that about 80 per cent of coconut yield is harvested for marketing as tender coconuts. For the last 20 years Chowta's farm is selling tender coconuts mostly at Meeyapadavu, the nearby small town in his village. When the coconut price was low they were able to get higher price for tender nuts sold. Presently they are able to sell tender coconuts for Rs 30 per nut; tender nuts of COD, MYD and MOD varieties are sold for Rs. 32 per nut. Of late, though there has been a favourable price trend in the market for mature coconuts the highest rate for mature coconuts he received in the recent times was only Rs 41.5 per kg which is not attractive compared to the price received for tender coconuts. According to Dr. Chowta the market rate for tender coconut is always attractive compared to mature nuts. He feels that there is an increasing trend in tender coconut consumption even in rural areas and coconut growers are to be made aware about the need to utilize the marketing opportunities in tender coconut sector which would essentially fetch them more income. Lack of availability of skilled palm climbers for harvesting tender coconuts would be a major constraint experienced by



the growers which needs to be addressed by effectively utilising the service of rural youths trained under the Friends of Coconut Trees programme implemented by CDB.

Chowta's farm is a rich showpiece of agrobiodiversity spread in about 50 acres. Apart from coconut, Chowta's farm comprises other crops like paddy, arecanut, cocoa, rubber, nutmeg, pepper, jack, and various fruits and vegetables. Paddy is cultivated in two acres in the valley near the small river flowing near his farm in the lower reach. It is not cultivated on a commercial scale but mainly aimed to meet the domestic requirement. Banana and pepper are grown mostly as intercrops in coconut garden. Of late, various exotic fruit crops like rambutan, mangosteen and avocado have been introduced in Chowta's farm as intercrops along with coconut and arecanut palms and also as pure crops.

Cocoa is raised as mixed crop in his five acre arecanut garden. His arecanut garden has all the important varieties released by ICAR-CPCRI; Mangala, Sumangala, Sreemangala and Mohitnagar apart from the south Canara Local or Kasaragod Local. The arecanut based cropping system in Chowta's farm was selected as a demonstration plot by the CPCRI Regional Station Vittal.

Fruit Crops

For many seasons banana was cultivated on a commercial scale in Chowta's farm. Banana varieties like Cavendish were raised as intercrops along with coconut and arecanut palms. Of late, intensity of banana intercropping has come down in his farm mainly due to the

shifting focus to new fruit crops.

Rambutan: The first exotic crop introduced in Chowta's Farm was rambutan. Dr. Chowta started rambutan cultivation in the year 2013 by planting 400 plants along with coconut in five acres. In the same year 100 rambutan plants were introduced in the existing coconut gardens with grown up palms.

Yield: Rambutan starts flowering about two years after planting and commercial yield can be obtained three years after planting; sometimes even two years after planting. From five years onwards stabilised high yield level can be expected. Normally the flowering season of rambutan is from December to April and fruits become ready for harvest during the period April to September. Harvesting is either done as whole bunch or as individual loose fruits as per the market demand. It is better to harvest before 8 am to improve keeping quality of fruits. If delayed colour of fruits will fade. In Chowta's Farm yield obtained from rambutan, on an average, is 50 kg fruits per tree.

Dr. Chowta has not experienced any difficulty so far in marketing of rambutan. Wholesale traders come to Chowta's Farm and purchase the fruits. Rambutan fruits from Chowta's farm is sold in the markets in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. During the last season they could sell rambutan fruits at Rs 200 per kg.

Other exotic fruits: Based on the successful experience of raising rambutan, other exotic fruits like mangosteen, avocado and dragon fruits were also subsequently introduced in Chowta's Farm.

Mangosteen (*Garcinia mangostana*) : Mangosteen is a tropical evergreen tree with edible fruit native to island nations of Southeast Asia and Thailand. Dr. Chowta has planted about 200 mangosteen in his farm; 100 nos planted in 2014 and the remaining 100 planted in 2016. Out of these, 75 mangosteen are planted as mixed crop along with coconut palms, 45 as mixed crop along with areca palms and remaining 80 as mono crop.

Avocado (*Persea americana*): Avocado is a fruit tree native to Mexico and Central America. This exotic fruit crop has been integrated in



Chowta's Farm on a commercial scale. In 2017 about 100 plants of avocado were introduced in the existing coconut garden (40 nos along with 18 years old coconut palms and 60 nos along with 3 years old coconut palms). Again two years ago another batch of 500 avocado saplings were planted as monocrop in the laterite quarry in the farm after putting sufficient quantity of soil and applying lot of organics. Though few avocado trees were there earlier in the Chowta's farm they were raised only for house consumption.

Dragon Fruit (*Selenicereus undatus*): The latest addition to the exotic fruit crops in Chowta's Farm is dragon fruit. It is a species of Cactaceae and is the most cultivated species in the genus. It is used both as an ornamental vine and as a fruit crop. In 2019 about 20 units of dragon fruit plants were planted with granite stones as support. Dr. Chowta feels that dragon fruit, which is a hardy crop, would be quite suitable for planting as mixed crop in coconut gardens located in the laterite tract with low water availability.

Dr. Chowta feels that Coconut Development Board agencies like should formulate and implement appropriate development/

extension interventions to popularise intercropping of fruit crops in coconut gardens. This would strengthen the food and nutritional security and enhance income of coconut growers.

Later Dr. Chowta took interest in growing papaya and initiated a commercial papaya cultivation unit in the year 2005 with 125 plants of Taiwan Red Lady variety. There was no problem in marketing of papaya and it was a very remunerative enterprise and he was able to sell about half a tonne papaya every week. Papaya cultivation was continued for about 10 years.

Dr. Chowta has received many awards and recognitions for his outstanding achievements in farming. He got the 'Innovative Farmer Award' from ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi in the year 2010. He was one of the 100 coconut farmers selected from various states in India who were honoured during its centenary celebration of CPCRI in 2016. Dr. Chowta was selected by Department of Agriculture as one of the governing body members of ATMA Kasaragod. He also received the 'Alva's Nudisiri Prashasthi' award instituted by Alva's Sikshana Prathistana, Moodabidri in the year 2016 for his achievements in the field of agriculture. He was also included as a farmer representative in various committees constituted by different government departments and development organisations.

Dr. Chowta and members of Chowta family have been very keen in sharing their farming experiences with other farmers and providing guidance for scientific cultivation. Dr. Chowta was actively involved in organising FPOs of coconut growers in his village. 'Chowtara chavadi' was built by Chowta family at Meeyapadavu as a meeting place for farmers. It has building and infrastructure facilities for conducting training, seminars and meetings besides dormitory accommodation facility for the visiting farmers' groups. Various extension programmes including Krishimelas, exhibitions, training programmes and seminars are being regularly organised in 'Chowtara chavadi' in collaboration with different agencies to benefit farming community.

Strategies for Success in coconut farming – a model

Raam Mohan

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Shri. Raam Mohan, a mechanical engineering graduate with post graduation in Enterprise and Business Growth

had started working in Umapathy farms during his college days itself. Raam Mohan had a passion for agriculture since his childhood as



he was born and brought up in an agricultural family. He started his agriprenurship as manager for marketing of coconut seedlings.

Raam Mohan's family has been in farming activities for generation. Coconut was always a part of it. His father Shri Umapathy after completing his studies started a poultry farm on a small scale. Coconut was always a major part of their life and income. The family started focusing on coconut more around early 1990's. They were guided by OVR. Somasundaram in every step of their activity which helped them to move forward confidently in coconut ventures. Today Raam Mohan's Umapathy farms owns the most modernised coconut breeding farm which is controlled by softwares and barcodes and monitored by excellent staff. Umapathy

Farms is a family owned set up with 35 years of legacy in the field of Coconut farming – started by Shri Umapathy with the objective to Cater the coconut farmers requirement with one breed that gives early yield, high yield, sweet tender coconut and more copra content.

Umapathy farms deals with various agro related products. The Farm is producing premium quality coconut seedlings, coconut sugar, quality poultry composite, commercial lemon, commercial white eggs, poultry feed, free range organic eggs etc. The farm is working with a vision to bring out the best variety and quality seedlings available to customers. Umapathy's flagship breed is **Ramganga** which has proved to be a very successful variety to the farmers commercially.

Ramganga – (DxT) (Ganga bondam X West coast tall)

The Ramganga hybrid variety is the perfect solution for farmers aspiring to develop a farm in which their coconut trees should deliver high nuts per palm, sweet tender coconuts, high quality copra and high yields of coconut oil.

Ramganga Features

- Ideal hybrid for the purpose of commercial coconut farming.
- First flowering starts anywhere between 24-30 months of planting. This makes it early yielder.
- When harvested for tender coconuts, it produces 275-350 nuts.
- If not for tender coconut, it can yield up to 250-300 nuts per year per tree.
- Tender coconut contains 500-750 ml of coconut water.
- Copra content is around 16-18 kgs for 100 nuts.

Hybridization is done through pollination method, so that risk of cross pollination is eliminated. The best performing mother palms are pollinated with the pollen which is taken from high yielding and best performing male tree (west coast tall) under closed pollination, for getting the best quality seedlings.



Raam mohan's Farm is the first company in Tamilnadu to start coconut sugar production using icebox technology. They are successful in tapping neera and producing coconut sugar from Neera. They are producing sugar based sweets. Raam Mohan is hopeful that the industry will grow as the awareness for natural, chemical free product is growing. Umapathy's sugar is available in leading supermarkets and organic shops in Tamilnadu under the brand name "Farm Made Foods". Raam Mohan has already expanded his markets into Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra and Maharashtra. Shri Umapathy is also supplying their products in bulk directly to high end sweet, cake manufacturers and exporters. The quality of Umapathy's products are appreciated by the customers.

Presently Raam Mohan is the head of finance and strategy planning of Umapathy Farms. He is very happy to see his satisfied customers "We don't need to speak for our product, the performance our products speaks for itself", says Raam Mohan. During his post graduate studies in Glasgow he worked in a packed tender coconut water company as an Intern which helped him a lot. He feels there is



lot of opportunities in agro based industries than any other industry.

In Umapathy farm all are equipped with modern technologies, with the most advanced droppers. Fertigation is given to the palms weekly once. All the farm activities are maintained using software. Raam Mohan spends a lot of time and resource in research and development as his vision is to produce the best variety coconut seedlings to farmers. Umapathy is the first farm in coconut breeding to introduce barcode system, to help track its parents, pollinators etc. it helps to trace all the information about the available seedlings. This also helps to provide the highest quality seedling to customers. The farm maintain records of all the parent trees performance and the best one is only selected for breeding.

Any customer who would like to see Ramaganga can directly approach Umapathy and Umapathy will introduce them to other farmers who have already planted the Ramganga variety. Raam Mohan urge all the fellow farmers to buy seedlings only when their parent line is known and decide only after seeing the performance of the variety in farmer's field. Ramganga is only supplied from Umapathy's nursery and doesn't have any dealers or distributors.

Doing agriculture keeps Raam Mohan happy, satisfied and interested. When people are happy by getting benefited by the genuine agro products he supplies, it keeps him moving in the direction of creating better performing and quality products



A Successful coconut farmer with a Vision and Mission

O.V.R. Somasundaram

Odayamkulam, Pollachi,
Coimbatore
Mob : 98422 06515

Mr. O.V.R. Somasundaram, is a Leading coconut planter and innovative coconut farmer who has made intercropping of nutmeg and cocoa in coconut plantation to

perfection and profitable. He had a spectacular way of optimal use of his garden space and his garden is an open text book for anybody who wishes to practice systematic cropping system.



He is rendering service to the farmers by sourcing them the best progeny planting material of coconut, nutmeg and pepper. A Botany graduate from Madras Christian College, O.V.R is an experienced nutmeg producer in India with scientific approach and has vast experience in crop production. He also disseminates knowledge and shares experience with fellow farmers and scientific community. One of his major achievements was the controlling measures taken during the outbreak of coconut leaf eating caterpillar, *Turnaca acuta* in Kinnathukadavu area with the help and guidance of TNAU, CPCRI, CDB, Kochi, Dept of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu and farmer friends in the year 1996.

He owns 75 acres of land with coconut intercropped with nutmeg and cocoa in the ratio

1:1:2 (coconut: nutmeg: Cocoa). Predominantly planted with WCT, he also planted T x D (WCT x COD) and (WCT x MYD) hybrids and the coconut palms are aged about 45 years. He believes that mother palm selection and quality seedlings are the basis of excellent palm health and productivity. Besides selection of feasible and suitable intercrops are very crucial.

He revealed that his success as a renowned coconut farmer is mainly focusing on mother palm selection and crop diversification. He also opined that efficient water management is another important strategy for successful farming. He adopts drip irrigation and nutrients are delivered through drip lines based on soil-test crop response formula. He also gives adequate stress for need based application of micronutrient, which according to him is very crucial. He follows systematic mulching of crop residues and incorporates Jeevaamirtham and fish amino acid as organic amendments. Palms and intercrops are adequately spaced and all scientific practices are well practiced. He highlighted that coconut oil is the best multi-purpose oil in the world and he has a small kitchen garden raised under drip system for the day to day vegetable requirements. His palms are high yielding hybrids (250 nuts / palm / year) and Tall (180-200 nuts / palm / year). His





farm is a model farm and visitors from all over the country as well as from abroad undertakes experiential learning. He has been instrumental in evolving appropriate strategies for the management of coconut eriophyid mite and leaf eating caterpillar outbreak in Tamil Nadu.

He is well recognized for his outstanding farming activities and he is a member/special delegate of most of the coconut policy making bodies/forums. He has received a wide array of awards which includes Velanmai Chemmal award -2005, certificate of recognition -2011 and best coconut grower award -1991. He is Member of Agricultural Advisory Committee, Doordharshan, Chennai, Member of RAC, IFGTB, Coimbatore, Member of Organic Policy, Former Member of RAC, ICAR-CPCRI and other distinguished forums. His farm model has already won global recognition on crop cafeteria and systematic coconut farming.



Impact story of an empowered woman in coconut

Kamachi Chellammal

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Mob : 99332 38898

Smt. Kamachi Chellammal who hails from the remote village in South Andaman, always reposed good faith in coconut based cropping system for sustainable livelihood. She is 61 years old and studied upto class six. She is maintaining coconut based cropping system by effectively utilizing interspaces in her garden for growing different inter/mixed crops and integrating animal husbandry, fisheries and apiculture in a sustainable and profitable manner. Smt. Chellammal has got 3.5 ha of land in which she maintains 2 ha coconut plantation with 465 palms of Andaman Ordinary Tall variety

under rainfed condition. The coconut palms are 40-45 years of age and are planted at a spacing of 6.5 m x 6.5 m. Interspaces are effectively utilized by a judicious selection of compatible intercrops like pineapple, banana, elephant foot yam, groundnut, chillies, sweet potato, tapioca, vegetables, etc. Glyricidia is grown as live fence, the leaves and twigs are periodically cut and heaped in the field covered with banana leaves which helps for partial decomposition. If there is enough moisture in the soil, she adds green manure at the rate of 25 to 30 kg per annum. Different forms of organic manures like compost and farmyard manure are used by the farmer and



she does not apply any chemical fertilizer. Clove and nutmeg are planted as mixed crops at the centre of four palms and black pepper is trailed on the coconut and arecanut palms. Besides these perennial crops, banana, elephant foot yam, ginger, turmeric, broad dhania, pineapple, papaya, cassava, sweet potato and vegetables like brinjal, chillies and leafy vegetable are cultivated as intercrops. She also grows tube rose, gladiolus and marigold in a protected structure. The animal husbandry component of his farm includes two cows, six goats, ducks (60 nos.) and backyard poultry birds (50 nos.), 2 fish ponds in which Indian major carps (Rohu, Catla & Mrigal) are reared. In addition, she maintains 15 honey bee boxes to enhance pollination and earn additional income by sale of honey. Irrigation is done

through drip system. A unique feature of agrotechniques adopted by her is the use of coconut leaves and husks as mulching in the plantation. Pest and disease incidence is very low in coconut except rhinoceros beetle incidence. She adopts IPM strategy, in which pheromones play a vital role in controlling the pest population. According to her, it is a simple method in which Jute cloth or thread is stuck to the exterior side of the bucket to provide grip to the attracted beetles, which climb on them and enter into the trap. Beetles attracted by the RB-lure fall into the water in the bucket and get drown. Her innovative indigenous technique of controlling rodent and squirrel is praise worthy. She harvests 27,550 coconuts per annum and spends around Rs. 2 lakhs towards the cost of cultivation for different components earns Rs. 1.65 lakhs from coconut alone while from round the year cultivation of broad dhania fetches her Rs 2.5 lakhs per annum. The other promising intercrops are ginger (Rs. 1.12 lakhs), chillies (Rs. 76,800), banana (Rs. 52,000), Papaya (Rs. 54,000), Tapioca and elephant foot yam (Rs 30,000 each). Daily, she could sell 6 litres of milk @ Rs. 40 per litre. From fish ponds, she earns Rs. 40,000 annually. Net income from the coconut based integrated farm is about Rs. 7.75 lakhs per ha per annum. Effective utilization of family labour is one of the key factors for success in farming. She has received various awards/recognition like, Certificate of Merit in the State level exhibition in 1999, best farmer award in Kisan Mela organized by ICAR-CIARI in 2012, and first prize for Flower, fruit and vegetable show organized during the State level Island tourism festival (2013-14). She always keeps in touch with research and extension agencies to update the developments in farm technologies. She is always happy to share her experiences and expertise with other farmers.



Doubling of farmer's Income through Nucleus seed garden

Nanjegowda

Nanjegowda Seed Garden,
President of Bharathinagara CPF,
Boppa Samudram, Menesegere,
K. M. Doddi, Mandya district,
Mob : **9980289868**

Shri Nanjegowda, a passionate coconut farmer & resident of K. M. Doddi of Mandya district, had realized the potential of Maddur Tender coconut Market, Asia's biggest market for tender nut long back itself. After seeing the performance of Chowghat Orange Dwarf palms in DSP, Farm, Mandya, he ventured into the cultivation of dwarf varieties. When he came to know that the CDB, RO, Bangalore was extending technical and financial assistance to farmers for establishing Coconut nucleus seed garden, under the scheme 'Aid to establishment of Nucleus Coconut Seed Garden, he took up the seed garden project for future hybridization. He was also

having the intention to make available quality seednuts of dwarf varieties to the local farmers. He was successful in establishing a seed garden in an area of 10 acres during 2008-09 with the assistance of CDB, RO, Bangalore.

Now Nanjegowda's garden is a successful model seed garden where he has 450 Chowghat Orange Dwarf palms, 50 Malayan Yellow Dwarf palms and 400 Tiptur Tall palms with an average yield of 200 to 250 nuts /palm and production of 2.75 lakh to 3.00 lakh nuts. He also cultivates intercrops like Pepper, Arecanut, Banana, Coffee and some fodder crops as multitier cropping system along with Coconut trees. Being an entrepreneurial farmer, he also



made an effort to introduce Cardamom in the shades of Coconut palms. Furthermore, he has integrated Sheep rearing (with 10 nos. of Sheeps) and Dairy farming (with 2 nos. of cows) in addition to the Coconut Nursery established with CDB assistance.

In order to efficiently utilize the available water resources, he has adopted drip irrigation system and mulching with green manure crops and coconut husks. The entire farm is managed without any application of chemical fertilizers, but through zero tillage practice & application of organic manure occasionally, a technique that has improved productivity and reduced costs significantly. He has also adopted *in-situ* recycling of farm residues there by enriching the soil fertility. The incidence of insect pests and diseases are also very minimum in the seed garden.

The tall seed nuts from his garden fetch around Rs. 18 to Rs. 22 per nut, while the dwarf seed nuts fetch around Rs. 24 to Rs. 26 per nut. The balanced nuts from tall variety are also utilized for conversion to ball copra. During summer season, tender nut price will go up to Rs. 30 /nut with increase in demand and he utilized this opportunity for tender nut sale. With his timely decisions, he is effectively mitigating the obstacles in marketing and managing a





sustainable income generation source from seed garden.

The farm typically generates revenue to the tune of Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 12 lakhs per year from the sale of seed nuts alone. Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 lakhs per year from sale of tender nuts, Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 lakhs per year from ball copra and Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 lakhs per year from intercrops. The Seed garden also supplied dwarf seed nuts to DSP, Farm, Palghar, facilitated by CDB. The seed garden is a source of quality nuts for private nurseries in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

During 2013-14, when CDB was supporting the farmers to form FPOs, he was in the forefront to sensitize the farmers in forming a Coconut Producer Federation called Bharathinagara CPF in K. M. Doddi. Influenced by his federation, two more CPFs were formed by the Coconut farmers in the locality. The Federations in the area also facilitated the celebration of 'World Coconut Day' on 2nd September, 2023. With his leadership the farmers in the area successfully utilized many of the CDB Schemes like LoDP, Block level seminars, Field day programmes etc. Now they are in the process of forming a CPC by grouping all the FPOs in the locality and to venture into Neera and other value added products.

Applying the acquired expertise and experience he could successfully enhance the income of his garden, transforming himself into a model farmer, entrepreneur, and also serving as an inspiration to others.

A photograph of a man in a light pink shirt and blue jeans standing in a coconut plantation. He is positioned in front of a large coconut tree trunk. The background shows several other coconut trees and a smaller green bush. The ground is reddish-brown soil.

Adaptable model for doubling farmer's income

Eshansh Singh Rathore

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The Bastar Plateau including Jagdalpur region in Chhattisgarh state where the majority of rural residents rely on paddy, millet, and maize and minor floret produce for their livelihood. The tribal people initially had a hard time deciding whether to add a new crop. Majority of farmers are tribal's who are not financially stable, and they are in need of consistent revenue from their fields. With the advent of time, the farmers were trained as to how they can utilize the vacant space between two consecutive trees for getting better yield

and regular livelihood from other intercrops until regular yield from coconut is obtained. Initially, the coconut trees were planted in the field's bunds, but as the farmers began to reap benefits from their coconut trees, they were interested in incorporating coconut plantation in their cultivable land area. Meanwhile, intercrops help in the generation of income until the fruiting of coconut. As a result of the ongoing efforts of the Coconut Development Board DSP Farm Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh., the area expansion of coconut is under progress, and



more farmers are coming forward to include it in their cropping system.

In Bastar District, Shri Eshansh Singh Rathore an MBA graduate aged 36 resides in the Bakawand block. He is one of the most forward-thinking farmers, who has around 2500 nos. of coconut palms supplied by the Coconut Development Board DSP Farm Kondagaon and around 500 nos are getting yield. 90 % of his garden is planted with dwarf varieties.

He is cultivating so many inter crops like mango, citrus, dragon fruit, Banana, Litchi, Papaya, Coffee, pineapple, Guava, and Strawberry and also with seasonal vegetable crops like Peas, Tomato, Brinjal, Chili, Okra, and leafy vegetables. His ancestors were engaged in farming field. He worked for an MNC After

taking his engineering degree and MBA from a reputed university. But after learning the crop management techniques, he could profitably boost the productivity of his farm. He contacted the Coconut Development Board DSP Farm Kondagaon for getting idea about the planting methods and to enhance income from his garden. He adopted multitier cropping system model in his farm in order to increase net returns per unit area. The original goal was to produce Coconut as the major crop, with many other fruiting trees, seasonal vegetable, and flowers, as intercrops.

Shri. Singh is getting around Rs. 5 to 6 lakh from Coconut and about 10 Lakh from inter crops. Under the coconut plantation he has grown about 4000 nos. of pineapple around





800 dragon fruit, 1000 mango trees and 600 citrus tree. In addition to this his field also has banana, sapota, guava, papaya, strawberry, coffee and litchi and other inter crops. Now he is optimistic that he will be able to generate more

revenue. Majority of the farmers in Bastar area now consider him as a successful farmer and following his activities as a good model that can be emulated.



Survival story of a Successful Coconut Farmer

Rajanikanta Parida

Sahadevpur, Gopinathpur,
Krishnadaspur block
Puri District, Odisha
mob : 94371 77126



Shri. Rajanikanta Parida, aged 55 of Sahadevpur village, Krishnadaspur block of Puri was not in a position to decide his future life plan after the completion of his bachelor's degree. But then he had the idea to use their

10.5 hector ancestral property for planting coconut, banana, fruit crop floriculture instead of traditional farming. Because of his leadership quality, he established one Coconut Producer society registered under CDB named (MAA



BABADURGA CPS) in his locality and accordingly he was recognized by the coconut farmers. He started coconut farming with intercropping like mango, fish, banana, flori culture and soon started to get profit. He is having a plot of 500 coconut trees wherein he has maintained 2 fish ponds also. Both from coconut farming and pisciculture his annual income was 9 lakhs. Due to super cyclone FANI 2019 he had suffered a huge loss and his 400 bearing palms were damaged. Even though agricultural activities including agri business was affected by Covid's restrictions, he did not give up hope. He enlisted the help of family, and all of them worked together on their farm. Their fortunes started to change because of the hard work of his family. Rajanikanta Parida is now selling his crops for

more than Rs 2 lakh every season. Fruit crop only brings in roughly Rs 0.4 lakh per year for the household. Rajanikanta Parida says that the Coconut Development Board's subsidy grant was extremely helpful in planting 750 coconut trees in his garden. Previously his garden area was covered under LODP scheme. He has undergone Friends of coconut tree training programme of CDB and presently he is carrying out harvesting and plant protection activities of his garden using the climbing device. Rajanikanta Parida success story is admired by local horticulture officer. Farmers should make use of various irrigation and maintenance schemes of state & central Govt Depts for the prospects of cultivation, Parida says.



Success story of a Coconut Farmer

Nabaghana Behera

Kankanadua village,
Teispur subdivision of Puri
Mob : **9090342331**

Shri Nabaghana Behera of Kankanadua village, Teispur subdivision of Puri was unable to decide his future plans after completion of his bachelor's degree. But then he had the idea to utilize their ancestral 8 hector land for cultivating coconut, banana, fruit crop floriculture instead of traditional farming. He started coconut farming with intercropping like banana, flori culture and soon started to get profit. Even though Covid's restrictions had an impact on his agribusiness. he did not give up hope. He enlisted the help of family, and all of them worked together on their farm. Their fortunes started to change. Nabaghana Behera is now selling his farm produces for more than Rs 1 lakh every season. Fruit crops bring in

roughly Rs 3 lakh per year for the household. They have a poultry farm infrastructure of 2,500 square meters on their property from which he gets Rs 3 lakh per year. Nabaghana Behera told that the Coconut Development Board's subsidy grant was extremely helpful in planting 400 coconut trees. He had also undergone Friends of coconut tress training programme conducted by Coconut Board and he himself harvests coconut from his garden using the palm climbing device received free of cost as part of training. Nabaghana's success story is admired by local horticulture officer. He claims that farmers should make use of various irrigation and maintenance schemes available from state/central govt departments.

Remarkable journey of a successful farmer

Jayant Ganpat Vartak

Sahadevpur,
Krishnadaspur block
Mob : **98348 2872**



Shri Jayant Ganpat Vartak, a 68-year-old resident of Mahim Village in Palghar, holds a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering but has a deep passion for agriculture. He embarked on a remarkable journey of planting coconuts on his four-acre land in Mahim Village in a systematic manner between 1992 and 2002. He followed the instructions from Balasaheb Sawant Konkan

Agricultural University, for adopting and planting good varieties of coconut in his garden with a spacing of 7.5 m X 7.5 m. The planting was done in the month of May, with pits filled using eight to ten sacks of well-rotted cow dung mixed with one kilogram of single superphosphate. In June, one-year-old coconut plants sourced from the Agriculture Research Station in Palghar, under



Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Agricultural University in Dapoli, were planted. In total, he planted 280 coconut trees, ensuring that water did not accumulate around the tree trunks.

Shri. Vartak's comprehensive agricultural practices included the application of chemical fertilizers such as 500 grams of urea, 1 kilogram of single superphosphate, 500 milligrams of muriate of potash, 5 kilograms of neem cake, and vermicompost before and after the monsoon, twice a year. The coconut production began approximately seven to eight years after planting. His land has two borewells and one well, enabling him to provide drip irrigation to the trees, ensuring a consistent water supply. Each tree received around 50 to 80 liters of water daily. In addition to coconut cultivation, his garden is intercropped with banana, papaya, drumstick, betelvine, and black pepper, thereby generating substantial income from his garden.

Shri. Vartak's dedication to sustainable agriculture led him to establish a self-help group for farmers in the area. This group offers

guidance on organic farming, horticulture, chickpea cultivation, fish rearing, goat rearing, poultry, and pest & disease management. He adopted the pest and disease control technologies recommended by Dr. BSKKV University.

By adhering to a harvest schedule of 45 to 60 days, Shri. Vartak consistently earns an annual net profit of Rs 80,000 to Rs 90,000 from his coconut plantation, yielding an impressive 80 to 90 nuts per palm per year. He sells mature coconuts for Rs 10 to Rs 20 per nut and tender coconuts for Rs 25 per nut. Shri. Vartak hopes to encourage other farmers to consider coconut cultivation due to its perennial nature, emphasizing the importance of proper planning for fertilizer, water management, and pest control. He believes that coconut farming has the potential to significantly improve the economic status of farmers, particularly in the Konkan region, given its favorable climate and soil conditions. In conclusion, he urges farmers to explore the vast opportunities for expanding coconut cultivation in their gardens.



Success story of an Agripreneur in coconut

Prafulla Kalita

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Nalbari, Assam- 781312
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Shri. Prafulla Kalita, is a 51-year-old farmer from Khudradadhi village, Panch Gaon panchayat, Kamrup district, Assam. He hails from a long line of agricultural practitioners and owns 1.3 hectare of land. Shri. Prafulla is a dynamic and enterprising farmer who initially cultivated a variety of vegetables for personal consumption.

Shri. Prafulla is a prominent figure in the Kamrup district of Assam for his expertise in coconut farming over the past 22 years. He recognized the potential in the Hajo area, known as a major coconut hub in Assam, where

every household recognises coconut palms with excellent yields. Seeing an opportunity to generate income, he began collecting coconuts from various locations, including Hajo, Goalpara, Morigaon, and Goreswar in Assam.

Shri. Prafulla accumulates and stocks between 20,000 to 30,000 mature coconuts at a time which he sells in bulk at the Guwahati Wholesale market at the rate of Rs. 25 per nut. Furthermore, he supplies tender coconuts as per the request and has established a small coconut warehouse along the Hajo road, near the State highway of Kamrup district, Assam. His



entrepreneurial spirit extends to selling coconut husks to the Coir industry in Nalbari district.

In the past, Shri. Prafulla also raised 2000 coconut seedlings, turning a profit through their sale. Unfortunately, the production was halted due to monkey-related damage. His commitment to the craft led him to attend the “Friends of Coconut Tree” training in 2013 at DSP farm Abhayapuri, where he learned about climbing devices and crown cleaning techniques provided by the Coconut Development Board. Nowadays, he employs 2-3 young, unemployed individuals for harvesting coconuts in different villages.

Not only he contributes to the industry, but Shri. Prafulla also supplies quality seed nuts from selected mother palms for nursery raising at DSP farm Abhayapuri and Horticultural Research Station, Assam Agricultural University, Kahikuchi.

His family is actively engaged in making coconut based handicraft items, which they exhibit and sell at state sponsored fairs and exhibitions. They also generate income ranging from Rs. 10,000 to 15,000 by selling traditional coconut pitha and Ladoo, prepared by his wife during festivals like “Bihu.”

Shri. Prafulla has benefited from the Coconut Development Board’s Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement through Laying Out of Demonstration Plots scheme in 2015-16. He reports increased coconut production in his area after applying

inputs such as urea, SSP, and MOP. In addition to his farming endeavors, Prafulla works as a contractual employee at HRS, AAU, Kahikuchi.

His diversification extends to the flower business, where he collects flowers from Horticulture Research Station, Kahikuchi, and local farmers to sell at the Guwahati Wholesale flower market. This venture earns him approximately Rs. 1.50 lakhs annually, with Marigold, Tuberose, and Hibiscus being his primary offerings.

In addition to coconuts and flowers, Shri. Prafulla cultivates field crops like paddy and mustard, contributing to his annual net profit of Rs. 7-8 lakhs. However, the major share of his income comes from coconut and flower sales. He effectively employs family labor to manage his agricultural activities.

The Coconut Development Board has recognized Shri. Prafulla as a master trainer for the Friends of Coconut Tree (FoCT) training program, where he imparts practical knowledge to more than 1200 participants. His dedication and expertise were further honored when he received the Best Farmer Award from Assam Agricultural University in 2023-24.

Shri. Prafulla Kalita is a progressive farmer and entrepreneur, dedicating 22 years to the coconut industry. His success story has inspired unemployed youths in his village to venture into coconut farming and climbing, ultimately improving their livelihoods and raising their standard of living.

Organic Farming – a Hallmark in Coconut Cultivation

Manobendra Ray

Vill- Tulungia, Bongaigaon,
Assam - 783383
Mob - **9435483025**

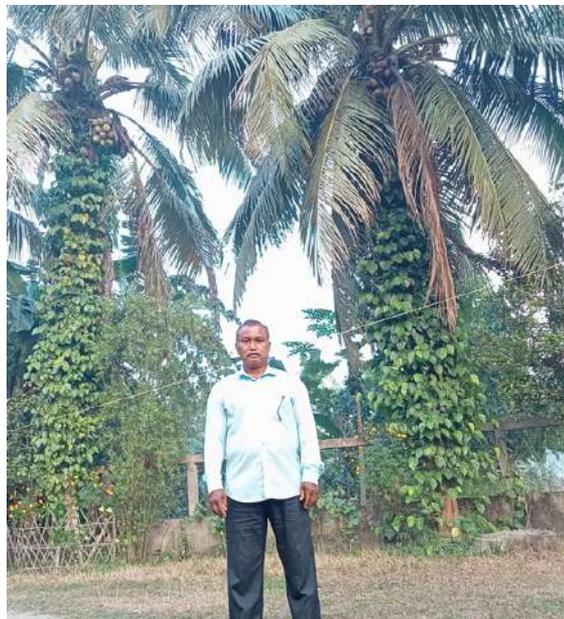


Shri. Manobendra Ray, a 56-year-old progressive coconut farmer hailing from the village of Tulungia in Bongaigaon district, Assam. In addition to being a dedicated teacher at the local lower primary school in his locality, Shri. Ray is having a deep passion for agriculture. He owns a total of 10 hectares of land, two hectare which are exclusively planted for coconut palms.

Shri. Manobendra Ray's journey in coconut farming is truly inspiring. In 1995, he initiated his venture with 180 Assam tall variety coconut palms, nurturing the seedlings from his own sources. Over the years, he has integrated various horticultural crops like seasonal

vegetables and betelvine into his plantation, forming a holistic coconut-based cropping system. According to him, the path to success in society is closely linked to the environmental conditions of the area, and his deep interest in farming led him to adopt this integrated approach, which effectively doubled his income.

A hallmark of Shri. Manobendra Ray's farm is his commitment to organic farming practices. His coconut palms yield an average of 80-90 nuts per palm, with some exceptional trees producing up to 150-180 nuts annually. He engages in multiple harvests each year, utilizing an abundance of organic manure from his own farm and irrigating the palms using solar



energy during dry seasons. Furthermore, he sells coconut seedlings and coconut leaves, generating additional income.

Under the Coconut Development Board scheme in 2016-17, Shri. Ray is benefited from Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement through Laying Out of Demonstration Plots scheme (LoDP). By applying inputs such as urea, SSP and MOP, he increased his coconut production to 80-90 nuts per palm per year. He primarily sells his harvest to local vendors and markets, earning an impressive income of Rs. 3 - 4 lakhs annually from coconut alone.

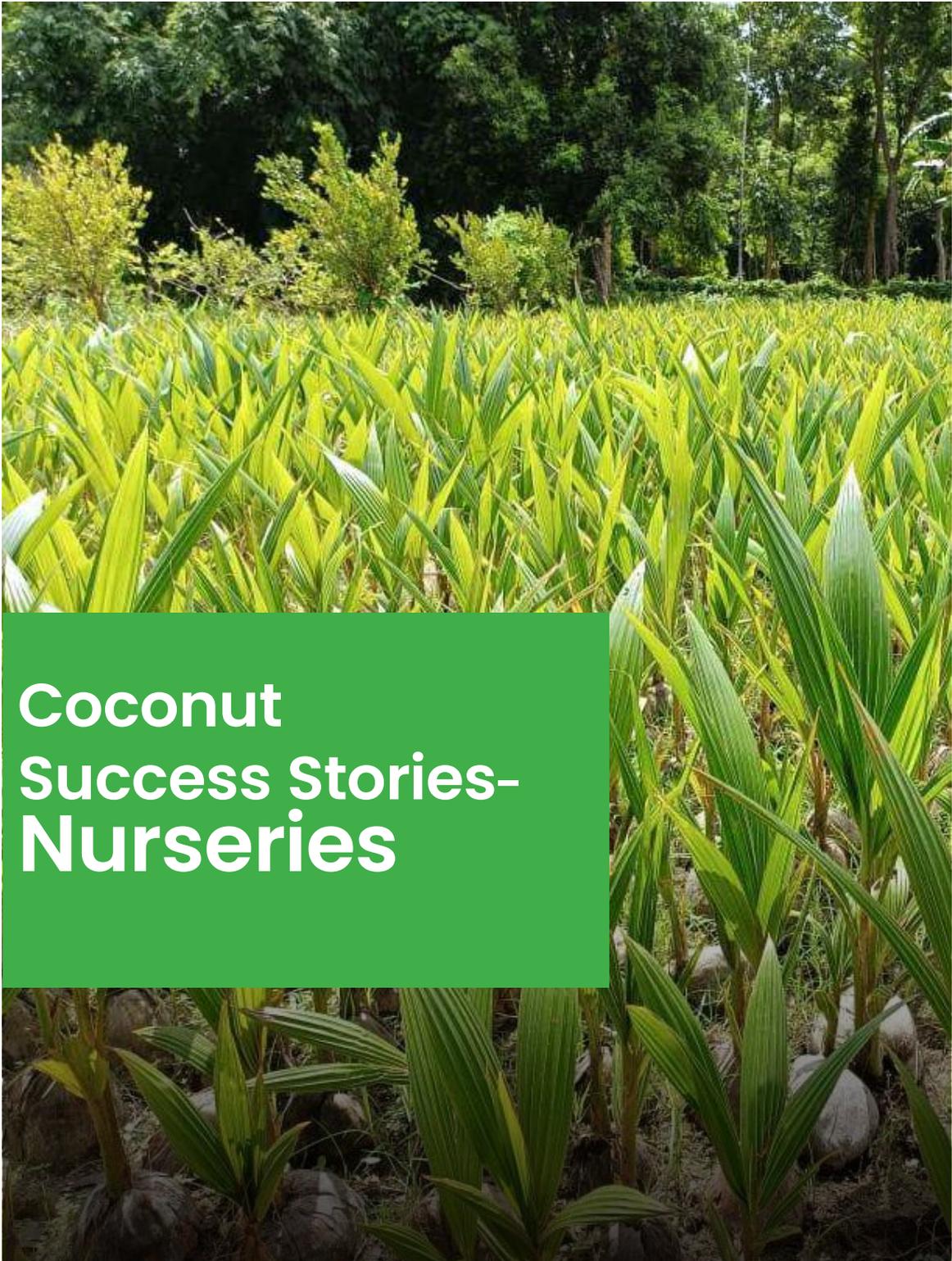
Shri. Manobendra Ray's integrated farming system, which includes pisciculture, contributes significantly to his annual net income of Rs. 10 - 12 lakhs. Low pest and disease incidence in his farm is a testament to his effective farming practices, and he is an exemplary model of success in agriculture. He believes that with the right investments and knowledge, agriculture can lead to sustainable development, encouraging the younger generation to explore this field.

Beyond coconut, pisciculture plays a crucial

role in his income, as he cultivates a variety of local fish, earning Rs.1.50 to Rs.2.00 lakhs annually. He has also ventured into arecanut cultivation and betel vine, further diversifying his income sources. The farm also have a variety of fruit trees like Jamun, Guava, Mango, and Jackfruit, which contribute to his family's consumption.

Shri. Ray is not only a dedicated farmer but also practices scientific coconut management and maintains self-sufficiency in household vegetable production. In addition to this, he is actively involved in commercial goat farming, rearing goats for meat purposes, ensuring substantial profits in a short time frame. His commitment to recycling farm waste, poultry manure and goat dung into organic manure exemplifies his dedication to sustainable practices.

In his endeavor, Shri. Ray receives support from his wife and daughter, who actively participate in the farm's maintenance. His remarkable journey as a progressive farmer sets an example for those aspiring to make a mark in agriculture and realize the potential for sustainable success.



Coconut Success Stories- Nurseries



K. Mohan Raj

S/o. Mr. R. Kalimuthu
 K.J. Coconut Hybrid Nursery
 3/388, T.V.K. Nagar,
 Chinna Kalayamuthur, Palani
 Dindigul - 624 615.
 Mob : **9894198542, 967775762**

Shri. K. Mohan Raj, a farmer with a unique journey that took him from a career in chemical engineering to a profound interest in agriculture, particularly coconut cultivation. His father, an experienced farmer, specialized in certified seed production for various crops, working closely with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Seed Certification and Inspection, Government of Tamil Nadu. His family tradition itself laid a foundation for Shri. Mohan Raj's coconut cultivation.

Today, Shri. Mohan Raj's farm, known as KJ

Coconut Hybrid Nursery, spans an impressive 80 acres. Within this vast expanse, he is cultivating to 1500 West Coast Tall (WCT), 300 Ethamozhi Tall (ET), 550 Tiptur Tall (TT), 1400 Malayan Yellow Tall, and 450 Chowghat Orange Dwarf (COD) coconut palms. His diligent efforts have yielded exceptional results, with Tall and Dwarf cultivars delivering between 150 to 200 nuts and 250 to 300 nuts per palm annually. The age of these palms varies, with the Tall ones ranging from 10 to 35 years, and the Dwarf palms around 15 years old.

Shri. Mohan Raj is an enthusiastic learner,



continuously updating his technical knowledge. His pursuit of knowledge leads him to esteemed institutions, including ICAR - Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CPCRI) in Kasaragod, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in Coimbatore, and the Coconut Development Board (CDB), Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Coconut, Demonstration-cum-Seed Production (DSP) Farm in Dhali. He has actively participated in various training programs, including Hybridization Techniques in Coconut at CPCRI, Kasaragod.

He is thankful to the unwavering motivation and support from the Scientists of CPCRI, Kasaragod and Officials of CDB. Mr. Mohan Raj successfully initiated the production of Hybrid Coconut Seedlings on his farm.

In the realm of hybridization, Shri. Mohan Raj achieved two significant parental combinations: Malayan Yellow Dwarf (MYD) x West Coast Tall (WCT) and Chowghat Orange Dwarf (COD) x West Coast Tall (WCT), released as "Chandra Sankara" and "Kalpa Samrudhi" by CPCRI, Kasaragod. He carefully selected 1100 MYD palms and 400 COD palms as mother palms from the 1400 MYD and 450 COD palms, respectively. Additionally, he maintained 100 Tall palms as mother palms for pollen source and Tall seed coconuts. He acquired a license from the Directorate of Seed Certification and Seed Inspection, Government of Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore, for his coconut nursery.

Shri. Mohan Raj's commitment doesn't stop

there. In the year 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 (up to September 2023), he produced 50,000, 1,50,000, 50,000 coconut seedlings and sold with prices set at Rs. 70/-, Rs. 100/-, and Rs. 550/- per seedling for Tall, Dwarf, and Hybrid varieties, respectively. His efforts in this endeavor yielded impressive revenues of Rs. 40 lakhs, Rs. 150 lakhs and Rs. 40 lakhs during 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 (up to September 2023) respectively.

In his quest for sustainable and productive farming, Shri. Mohan Raj frequently seeks advice and guidance from CPCRI and CDB, addressing concerns such as drought management, soil moisture conservation, organic manure application, in-situ vermicomposting, bio-fertilizer utilization, integrated pest management, integrated disease management, integrated nutrient management, integrated weed management, and more. He has also implemented mulching techniques as advised by CPCRI, which involves using pulverized un-germinated nuts, dried coconut leaves, petioles, stipules, inflorescence, spathe, and other materials to retain soil moisture effectively.

His farm is not limited to coconut cultivation; it also includes two milch cows and seasonal goat penning. Moreover, he actively provides employment to 12-15 agriculture laborers from landless backgrounds, contributing to their socio-economic betterment.

KJ Coconut Hybrid Nursery has benefited from subsidies offered by the Coconut Development Board during 2019-2021 under the "Establishment of Small Coconut Nursery" scheme, enabling the production of 50,000 seedlings over two years. Mr. Mohan Raj and his family express their sincere gratitude to both CPCRI and CDB for their invaluable guidance in advancing his hybrid seed production program in the world of coconuts. His journey is a testament to how dedication, learning, and passion can drive success in agriculture, ultimately benefiting the community and the agricultural industry.



V. Duraisamy

S/o. Mr. R. Kalimuthu
K.J. Coconut Hybrid Nursery
3/388, T.V.K. Nagar,
Chinna Kalayamuthur, Palani
Dindigul - 624 615.
Mob : 9245285749, 9245143339

Shri V. Duraisamy, a dedicated farmer with a basic school education but a profound passion for coconut cultivation. His farm spans an impressive 39 acres and is home to 750 Tiptur Tall (TT) coconut palms, 550 Malayan Yellow Tall palms, and 1500 hybrid palms. His remarkable efforts have resulted in robust yields, with the Tall cultivars producing between 150 to 175 nuts per palm annually and the Dwarf cultivars yielding 70-100 hybridized nuts per palm each year. The Tall palms have been thriving for 30 years, while the Dwarf palms are around 15 years old.

Shri Duraisamy's commitment for updating his knowledge in coconut farming has led him to regular visits to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in Coimbatore and the Coconut Development Board (CDB), Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Coconut, Demonstration-cum-Seed Production (DSP) Farm in Dhali. During these interactions, he shared that his motivation and the valuable support from the Coconut Development Board inspired him to initiate the production of Hybrid Coconut Seedlings on his own farm.



In his quest for hybridization, Mr. Duraisamy successfully created a parental combination of Hybrid (D x T), specifically the Malayan Yellow Dwarf (MYD) x Tiptur Tall (TT), which was released as “Kalpa Shreshta” by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) in Kasaragod. He carefully selected 500 MYD palms as mother palms from his 550 MYD coconut palms and retained 180 Tall palms as the source for pollen. He acquired a license from the Directorate of Seed Certification and Seed Inspection, Government of Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore, to operate his coconut nursery.

Annually, Shri. Duraisamy produces and sells



an impressive number of coconut seedlings. He offers 10,000 to 12,000 Hybrid coconut seedlings and 13,000 to 15,000 Dwarf coconut seedlings, priced at Rs.100/- and Rs.600/- per coconut seedling for Dwarf and Hybrid, respectively.

In his journey, he consistently seeks guidance and advice from the Coconut Development Board (CDB) on various aspects, including soil moisture conservation, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Disease Management (IDM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), and Integrated Weed Management (IWM), whenever necessary. His contributions extend beyond his own farming, as he provides employment opportunities for 4 - 5 landless laborers, helping them improve their socio-economic status.

Shri. V. Duraisamy’s dedication to coconut farming and his efforts in hybridization and seedling production make him a shining example of how knowledge and passion can drive success in agriculture, while also benefiting the community through employment opportunities and improved livelihoods.



A. Shajahan

No. 151-A, Jinkalkadirampatti,
Pochampalli Taluk,
Krishnagiri – 635201
Mob : 99656 52485.

Having high-quality planting material is essential for the success of crop production. This Tamil Nadu farmer, Shri. A. Shajahan from Jinkalkadirampatti village, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu transformed himself to a nursery entrepreneur with an aim to supply good quality coconut seedlings to his fellow farmers.

Shri. A. Shajahan was cultivating Coconut, Mango and Paddy in his 10 acre land with his own knowledge and experience. He has produced 5000 to 6000 coconut seedlings from the seednuts of his own garden for few years and selling to nearby farmers.

Shri. A. Shajahan came to know about the provisions of the Coconut Development Board's scheme 'Establishment of Small Coconut

Nursery' and wished to carry out the coconut nursery activities in a larger scale. Despite his education only up to the seventh standard, he dreamt big. He sought guidance from Coconut Development Board officials on mother palm selection and scientific nursery management practices. In 2019-20, his proposal to establish a nursery with an annual production capacity of 25,000 seedlings (Arasampatti Tall) was approved by the Board. An amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh during 2019-20 and Rs. 1.00 lakh during 2020-21 were released as financial assistance under the scheme.

With the technical support of experts from the State Agriculture Department and ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Krishnagiri District, Thiru. Shajahan identified mother palm gardens of



the Arasampatti Tall variety in nearby areas and selected quality seed coconuts. In 2019-20, he invested approximately Rs. 9.35 lakhs for nursery establishment, including expenses like sand cost, irrigation, fertilizer, and seednut costs. This effort resulted in the production of 25,000 seedlings. The satisfactory profit he earned encouraged him to continue nursery operations in subsequent seasons.

Currently, he is selling the seedlings @ Rs. 30-40/- each. The Board's officials are also in regular contact with him and informed about the provisions of 'Area Expansion Programme' under which subsidy is extended for taking up coconut cultivation in new areas. This also helped him in disposal of seedlings. His civilized nature and demeanor lead to word-of-mouth publicity among farmers who buy seedlings from him. Through this he got customers from various districts of Southern India. At present he produces Arasampatti Tall, MYD and COD

varieties.

Shri. Shajahan's initiative not only supports his own livelihood but also provides employment for around 10-15 people regularly engaged in nursery activities. He has planted 4 lakh seed nuts in 4.00 hectares, producing 300,000 coconut seedlings with an impressive germination rate of 75%.

He takes great care while selecting the seed nuts as the crop has been generating income for the farmers for more than 6 decades. Along with him, his family is also showing interest in increasing the production of coconut seedlings. To ensure the continuity of this endeavor, he encouraged his son to pursue a degree in horticulture. His goal is to groom his son into an expert and dedicated worker in the field of coconut seedling production. He has also obtained a license to sell seedlings from the Department of Seed Certification, Government of Tamil Nadu.



Uppalapati Sathyanarayana Raju

Pedda Theernala,
Nakkapalli Mandal, Anakapalli Dist.,
Andhra Pradesh PIN 531081
Mob : **95735 63557**



Quality planting material is the prime requirement for the success of crop production. Shri. Uppalapati Sathyanarayana Raju, a progressive farmer from Pedda Theernala village of Anakapalli Dist, (part of Vishakapatnam Dist. earlier), Andhra Pradesh transformed himself to a nursery entrepreneur with an aim to supply good quality coconut seedlings to his fellow farmers.

Shri. Raju was cultivating coconut (about 500 no.), mango (50 no.), citrus (40 no.), guava (60 no) and jackfruits (6 no.) in his 7.5 acre land. With his own knowledge and experience he was making 3000 to 5000 coconut seedlings from Coconut Development Board

the seednuts from his own garden for few years and selling to nearby farmers.

As part of intensification of Board's activities in the State of Andhra Pradesh from 2013-14, wide propaganda were given about programmes of Coconut Development Board benefitting the coconut farming sector. Shri. Raju came to know about the provisions of the scheme 'Establishment of Small Coconut Nursery' and wished to carry out the coconut nursery activities in a larger scale. The literacy level upto 10th standard did not stop him in thinking big. The mother palm selection and scientific nursery management practices were explained



to him by the CDB officials. During 2019-20, his proposal for establishing a nursery with annual production capacity of 25000 seedlings (East Coast Tall) was approved by the Board. The subsidy amount of Rs. 2 lakhs was released in 2 annual installments i.e Rs. 1 lakh each during 2019 – 20 and 2020 – 21 as financial assistance under the scheme.

Shri. Raju with the technical assistance of experts from State Horticulture Dept. and BCT-Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the District could identify mother palm gardens of East Coast Tall variety in nearby areas and selected quality seed coconuts of, raised the nursery. In 2019-20 he had incurred about Rs. 6-7 lakh towards procurement of seednuts and field operations for raising the nursery for production of 25000 seedlings. Along with his savings, Shri. Raju also mobilized money from his friends and relatives as loan will be a high demand for coconut seedlings and timely disposal of all the seedlings during the next season. The satisfactory profit what he earned encouraged him for continuing the nursery operations in the next seasons also. He is getting an average germination of 82 % and a seedling recovery of about 70%.

Currently he is selling the seedlings @ Rs. 80/- each. His polite nature and character also attributes added word of mouth publicity among the farmers who bought the seedlings from him. This earned him customers from various districts

of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha too. Shri. Raju is also running a business of micro irrigation systems/ accessories. With that link also he is more connected with the farming community and offices and organizations related to farmers in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, which aids in widening his market. The Board's officials are also in regular touch with him and informed about the provisions of 'Area Expansion Programme' under which subsidy is extended for taking up coconut cultivation in new areas. This also helped him in disposal of seedlings. He could repay all his loans in time.

This venture could also make him proud to extend livelihood to about 8-10 people who are regularly engaged in the nursery for various activities. Sometimes he is engaging 15 persons also based on the need.

He is taking utmost care while selection of seednuts as the crop will fetch income to the farmers for more than 6 decades. With four years experience of stable large scale coconut seedling production business, Shri. Raju is currently planning to reduce the sale price with the motto of 'Low Profit – High Business'. He is also willing to share his nursery experience to persons interested to enter in coconut nursery business.



Ashok Tamuli

Mugkuchi, Tilana
Dist- Nalbari, P.o-Mugkuchi
Assam, -781334
Mob : **9394517213**



Shri. Ashok Tamuli, son of Lt. Khagen Tamuli, a 48 years old farmer from Tilana village Nalbari district of Assam. He has completed graduation in the year 1995. After completion of graduation he decided to take up agriculture and allied activities as profession. He owns 1.6 hectare of land.

He is a hard working farmer who has spotted an opportunity to generate income through selling of coconut seedlings. He has been

associating with coconut nursery business since 2012. He has started his journey for production of coconut seedlings after receiving training on Nursery management from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nalbari, Assam.

Initially he started his nursery programme by raising approximately 2000 no of coconut seedlings at his own land during 2012 and sold his total coconut seedlings to different merchants, farmers of different places of Assam.



He was gaining fair amount of profit from this small coconut nursery business.

He was advised to produce more coconut seedlings by following scientific coconut nursery management practices by the State department during his visit to State Agriculture Department, Assam. He visited Coconut Development Board, Regional Office, Guwahati in the year 2017 for gathering more knowledge about raising coconut nursery and further availed technical knowledge related to this from RO, Guwahati.

Mother palms are being selected from different villages of Nalbari, Baksa and other

districts of Assam and collecting seed nut for raising nursery. Around 30,000 to 35,000 seedlings have been raised in his nursery every year. Besides nursery business, he is also trading mature coconut in various districts of Assam.

He was assisted by Coconut Development Board during 2017-18 under Board Scheme "Establishment Small Coconut Nursery".

According to Shri. Tamuli, he is earning nearly about Rs. 10 - 15 lakh annually by selling coconut seedlings to the farmers as well as in local market. He is also supplying coconut seedlings to other North-Eastern States as per the demand from the State Department.

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