

TRAINING FOR NEERA TECHNICIANS
(NON TRADITIONAL /FOCT)

TRAINING SCHEDULE AND COURSE COVERAGE

Training duration : 6 weeks

Number of participants : 20

Number of Master Technicians : 5 (at the rate of one technician for four persons)

Guidelines for the conduct of Neera technician trainings

1. The training will be divided into two sessions –
 - Technical and managerial sessions
 - Practical sessions on tapping
2. The topics detailed in the table are to be covered in the technical and managerial sessions.
3. Each technical session may be of 2-3 hour duration.
4. Services of subject matter experts from CDB/Department of Agriculture/ Management/other relevant fields can be utilized for handling the sessions
5. The training is not residential.
6. There will be a course coordinator for the training who will ensure that the sessions start in time, the areas are fully covered in the training and the Neera technicians and the Master Technician strictly abide to the rules of the training
7. The training centre will identify 20 palms (preferably dwarf palms) for tapping practice.
8. The Master technicians will coordinate the practical sessions of the training.
9. The initial tapping practice can be given in cut inflorescences kept at the ground
10. Tapping in inflorescence in the palm can be initiated once the Master Technician is fully confident that the tapping skill has been developed
11. The Master technician will maintain a day book on the progress achieved by the 4 trainees under him and the quantity of Neera tapped by them from the palm allotted to them
12. Training should start daily with Yoga/breathing exercise.

Table 1- Technical and Managerial sessions

Session No.	Topic
I	Introduction of coconut palm, different varieties of coconut, criteria for selection of palm for Neera tapping, varieties suitable for Neera, selection of inflorescence etc
II	Management of palms – cultural operations and plant protection of palms used for tapping, integrated pest and disease management, cultural operations conducive for Neera production
III	Neera - What is Neera, nutritional composition and health attributes of Neera, Importance of Neera and Neera tapping, economic value of Neera, contribution to income of farmer, Neera technician and the state, Neera in other countries
IV	Tapping and Neera production – Process of tapping, steps involved, tapping tools and vessels – familiarization, modern methods of Neera tapping, techniques to improve quality and quantity of Neera tapped
V	Microbiological aspects in Neera tapping – personal hygiene of Neera technician, need for quality and hygiene in tapping, collection and storage, hygiene in tapping, transportation and storage of Neera
VI	Technology for Neera collection – application of disinfectant and anti fermentation solutions during Neera tapping – need for application of the solution and mode of application – time and method
VII	First aid, Importance of social security
VIII	Communication skill development and interpersonal relations

Table III- Practical sessions

Sessions	Topic
Day 1	Introduction to the training and the objective - why they are here
	Identification of healthy palms (Field level)
	Selection of inflorescence suitable for Neera tapping
	Demonstration of preliminary and preparatory steps in Neera tapping
	Cleaning and preparation of tapping tools/vessels and technology
	Personal hygiene
Day 2-8	Tapping practice in a cut inflorescence at the ground
Day 9-16	Dividing the group into 5 batches of 4 each and allot Master technicians
	Allotment of the selected 20 palms(preferably dwarf ones) to the Neera technicians
	Tapping practice in the selected inflorescence in a palm
Day 17	Storage and handling of collected Neera at tapping site
Day 18-35	Tapping practice, collection and handling of Neera and preliminary processing of Neera till the Neera technician achieves a yield of 2 litre/palm
Day 36	Familiarisation with processing of Neera, screening of video film on Neera tapping
Day 37-41	Continue Tapping practice, collection and handling of Neera and preliminary processing of Neera
Day 42	Tapping competition, Valedictory function, distribution of certificates

ESTIMATE FOR NEERA TECHNICIAN TRAINING

Assumptions

Training duration : 6 weeks

No. of Neera technician trainees : 20

Master technicians : 5

CAPITALCOST

SI No	Heads/Particulars	Cost	Units/ mandays	Amount
1	Tools for tapping	1500	20	30000
2	Consumables	10000	Lumpsum	10000
	TOTAL			40,000

REVENUE COST

SI No	Heads/Particulars	Cost	Units/ mandays	Amount
1	Food for trainees @ Rs. 100/- per person	100	840	84000
2	Remuneration to experts @ Rs. 500/- per session	500	8	4000
3	Fee for master technician @ Rs. 300/- per person per day	300	210	63000
4	Fee for One Coordinator @ Rs. 300/- per day	300	42	12600
5	Awards to trainees			1000
6	Contingencies			2000
	TOTAL			1,66,600

Fixed costs : Rs. 40,000/-

Variable cost : Rs. 1,66,600/-

Source of funding

CDB will extend full support for 3 trainings ie., Rs. 5,39,800/- (Rs. 1,66,600/- each for 3 trainings and Rs. 40,000/- one time support)