
Success Story about Role of Coconut Climber in Drudgery Reduction in Coconut Cultivation Supplied under SC-SP Scheme

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ABSTRACT

KVK, Namakkal has been adopted Naraikearu village as a DFI and SC-SP village located at Namagiripettai block, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu since 2019. After the completion of survey regarding agriculture and its allied activities, various interventions like integrated crop management practice includes agronomic package of practice, integrated nutrient, pest & disease management, integration of all enterprises like dairy, goat farming and fish farming and vermicompost technology were taught and needed critical inputs were supplied. At the same time coconut is plantation crop cultivating in and around the border of fields for income generation and culinary purpose. Labour shortage

for timely harvesting of nuts is the major issue faced by the farmers and paid Rs.40-50/tree/harvest. Hence farmers requested to suggest alternate options and suitable machineries to do the above said operations. KVK, Namakkal under the sponsorship of Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur SC-SP budget, purchased 10 multi-tree climbers and distributed the same to SC farming community. By using climber, farmers could save Rs.300/tree/ year/six harvests as one of the expenditure involved in cost of cultivation of coconut.

DOMAIN OF THE STUDY / RATIONALE

Naraikinaru is situated at 11.46 N latitude and 078.27 E longitude with mean sea level of 261 MSL. Tapioca, Groundnut, turmeric, vegetables, coconut, and mulberry are the major crops grown in an area 160 ha under both irrigated and rainfed condition. Bore well and well is the main source of irrigation. 35 % of the farmers used drip irrigation whereas 65 % of the farmers followed flood irrigation. The experimental soil type was red and black in colour, sandy loam in texture and non-calcareous. Annual rainfall of Namagiripettai was 810 mm with 22 rainy days. Maximum monthly mean temperature was 33.9°C and minimum was 25.8°C.

Inadequate supply of nutrients without soil testing leads to poor soil fertility (N 69%), Zn (97 %), B (10.2%) resulted in less yield of many crops. Coconut is an important oilseed and cash crop. In Namakkal district coconut is cultivated in an area of 9024 ha both as main and intercrop in many parts of the district. Button shedding is the common problem associated with nutrient deficiency. KVK has implemented FLD and method demonstration with nutrient management practice in coconut. Slowly problems are getting solved and on average they are getting 270-310 nuts/tree/year and selling Rs.7-15/nuts.

The problem oriented with coconut cultivation is labour shortage to harvest nuts whenever needed. Also they asked Rs.40-50/- tree for climbing on the tree to harvest matured nuts and clean the tree seasonally. Also farmers have to wait their arrival to collect the nut. Simultaneously matured nuts shelled down and sometimes missed out from the farms. These are the problems that trigger the farmers to ask alternate option for harvesting nuts from the coconut trees.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY KVK TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM

Farmers approached KVK Namakkal and asked their demands. Then it was decided to give solution to solve the issues in harvesting. Many firms invited to showcase the machineries involved in coconuts harvest. Two firms were participated, demonstrated their technologies and then decided to purchase Multi tree climber from Coimbatore firm Ws. R Tech Engineering, 3/940, Vetivelava Nagar, Poochiyur, Narasimhanaicken Palayam, Coimbatore-641 031, Tamil Nadu.

10 tree climbers purchased under CICR SC-SP budget and distributed to 6 nos. to DFI village farmers and 4 nos. to other villages farmers. Periodical visits made and assessed the performance of climber.

OUTPUT OF THE INTERVENTION

The working efficiency of multitree climber supplied under SC-SP details as follows

Particulars	Manual (Manual)	Multi-tree climber – Manually operated sitting type
Accessibility	Seasonal	Any time
Dependency	100% labour	Independent
Safety	Unexpected	100%
Harvesting Efficiency	Depends on the speed of labour's engaged	15-30 minutes/tree
Gender preference	Male	Any one who interested
Cost required (Rs.)	40-50/tree/harvest	Free of cost Initial investment only
Life	NA	10-15 years

OUTCOME

- Farmers could save Rs.300/tree/year for engaging labour to harvest nuts in total cost of cultivation.

IMPACT

- Nearby farm families utilized the climber to harvest the nuts for their family consumption and selling outside for income generation.
- Farmers felt that harvesting with climber was highly helpful to sold the harvested nuts during festival time and fetching more price than normal times (Rs.15/nut). An average Rs.7/nut was getting extra.





CONCLUSION

In Namakkal district, 10000 ha being cultivated coconut as cash crop. Button shedding due to boron deficiency and labour shortage for harvesting of nuts in coconut is the major issue quite disturbing farmers who involved in coconut farming. Hence KVK supplied Multitree climber for drudgery reduction in coconut nut harvesting. By using, machinery farmers could harvest the nuts timely by their own effort and could sell the nuts especially at festival times. For that they can get Rs.7/nuts extra than normal situation. In and around the village farmers, using the climber for harvesting of nuts. Totally 50 ha covered.

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