



Research Article

Scientific rationalization of indigenous technology knowledge on nutrient management in lateritic soils of Palakkad district in Kerala

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SUMMARY : A suite of 164 traditional practices (indigenous technical knowledge, ITK) were documented in different cropping systems of which 39 were pertaining to coconut cultivation at Palakkad district in Kerala. In case of coconut production system, aspects such as seed selection and treatment (23.1%), nursery and seedling selection (15.4%), plant protection (15.4%) and yield and harvest (17.9) constituted the dominant categories of indigenous knowledge. All practices were analyzed for their scientific rationality. Of the 39 practices, 34 were found to be rational, while the rest five were adjudged as irrational. The scientific rationale/operational principles behind 34 rational ITK were also elucidated in this study. The different ITK practices which were collected clearly indicate that the farming community has developed these practices over generations through careful observation, trial and error methods weighing the pros and cons.

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KEY WORDS:

Coconut, Indigenous practices, Rationality, Traditional knowledge, ITK

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