

Popularization of TNAU Coconut Tonic and its impact

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ABSTRACT

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University released the TNAU Coconut Tonic during 2002. An impact assessment on coconut tonic was carried out during 2007 with 90 selected respondents of coconut growers. It was observed that 80 % of the respondents followed this new technology from 2004 onwards and applied full doses of tonic and adopted on continued basis. The root feeding of TNAU coconut tonic showed its supremacy in increasing yield gradually from 8612 nuts to 9830 nuts/year/acre after adoption of coconut tonic over a period of years. This effect led to gradual increase of gross income from Rs. 43060 to Rs. 49150 and additional net income from Rs. 6620 to Rs. 10208 per acre. Marginal benefit cost ratio also gradually increased from 1:2.49 to 1:3.04 over a period of time. Highly significant and positive correlation was observed between the socio-personnel characteristics of age group and adoption rate of coconut tonic. Similarly, the socio-psychological characteristics of economic motivation and adoption rate of coconut tonic were positively and significantly correlated with each other. Majority of the respondents had felt that there was an increased change in self-satisfaction (80.00%) and social status, extent of communication in society (100%) and ability of the respondents to take up new technology (55.55%). This study put an effort to show the full potential of newly released TNAU coconut tonic and an appropriate assessment of its strength and weakness and opportunities indicated the overall impact.

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INTRODUCTION

Coconut is referred to as “*Tree of Heaven*”, *Tree of Abundance* and *Kalpavriksha*. It plays an important role in socio-economic structure of the country. Coconut is extensively grown in about 80 countries of the world with a total production of over 49 billion nuts. India ranks first in the world with 13 billion nuts per year and accounting for 24.5 % of the world production. The productivity of the crop is the highest in India with 7572 nuts/ha with an area of 1.9 million hectares. Among the coconut growing states, Tamil Nadu ranks second in area as well as production and productivity. It is grown in an area of 3.45 lakh hectares and the total production was 3716 million nuts with an average yield of 11620 nuts/ha. In Salem district, Veerapandi, Nangavalli, Ayodhyapattinam, Pedanaickenpalayam, Thalaivasal and Kadayampatti blocks are major coconut growing areas. In recent times, the yield potential of coconut varieties has reached a plateau owing to several constraints like water stress, lack of nutrition, hormonal imbalance, pest, diseases etc. The most important among them is the deficiency of nutrients noticed through the length and breadth of the country. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University released TNAU

Coconut tonic during the year 2002 which played a vital role in reducing the nutritional disorders and in improving the nut production at a cheapest cost. It is also useful for rejuvenation of coconut palm affected by pest and diseases. Considering the proven success of this product in Coimbatore region, our Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Salem also taken initiation to popularize the TNAU Coconut Tonic during 2003.

METHODOLOGY

Method of TNAU Coconut Tonic root feeding:

- Dig the soil two feet away from the trunk
- Select a yellowish white or reddish pink pencil thickness root
- Give a slanting cut at the tip of selected root
- Insert the root into the polythene bag containing tonic solution (200ml)
- Tie the polythene bag using thread

The tonic solution will be absorbed from 30 minutes to 24 hours depending upon the moisture content in the soil.

Dosage:

600ml/tree/year (200ml/time-3 times/year/tree at four months interval). Tonic is

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