ECONOMICS OF GOOD COCONUT FARMING

Coconut farming in India has come of the age. In recent times farmers in states like Tamilnadu and Karnataka, have realized the need for new varieties of hybrid commercial coconut plants. These need special attention to crop management and large areas of cluster planting, to make the effort more commercial and economical.

Over the years the price for coconuts, especially, tender coconuts has been constantly on the upward trend. The demand for tender coconut from the domestic market and as well as for processing has seen tremendous increase. This change of market trend is demanding the farmer to opt for highly productive coconut planting material rather than settling for traditional types. Today the average farmer is not averse to providing the required inputs to the high yielding coconut plants in terms of regular irrigation and fertilizers’ to extract maximum from the trees in the shortest period of time.

While the regular tall varieties starts flowering from the seventh year and giving an average of 80 nuts per tree per year, good quality commercial (Hybrids) coconut seedlings have the potential of flowering from the second year and giving up to 300 nuts per tree per year. One can see the difference in revenue generation from both varieties. Regular tall varieties provide revenue of about Rs. 85000/- per ha, whereas the good commercial coconuts varieties provide revenue of about Rs. 500,000/- per ha.

This is possible because of the right genetic material and the right type of management that goes into managing the commercial coconut varieties. Deejay Farms in India is the biggest organisation supplying such high quality commercial (Hybrid) coconut seedlings to the farming community. www.deejayfarm.com provides further information about their product performance. In today’s economic world, every farmer is looking for value for money and this is possible only through cultivating scientifically developed commercial coconut varieties.
Current demand for tender coconut water has gone ‘through the roof’ with the emergence of a number of very popular coconut water products. Sales of coconut energy or protein drinks have sky rocketed in the last three years increasing what might be an unobtainable requirement in future, unless more High yielding seedlings are planted. However, the industry's ability to meet demand may be considerably jeopardized by its inability to replace older trees and due to the insufficient number of high yielding commercial seedlings being produced.

(Source: Mr. M. Murali)