Abstracts of Ph. D. Thesis

Diagnostic Survey Study of Coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.) for Cultural Practices and Economics in Valsad District (South Gujarat)

Submitted to Gujarat Agricultural University

Name of Student — *K. V. Kalathia*

Major Guide — *S. K. Dave*

Department of Horticulture, N. M. College of Agriculture, Gujarat Agricultural University, Navsari

A diagnostic survey study was carried out on coconut cultivation in South Gujarat to study the existing farming, cultural practices and economics, selecting 50 respondents from 6 talukas. Mostly the coconut cultivar 'West Coast Tall' was in use for planting and the growers were aware of Dwarf Green. Almost half of the respondents had adopted recommended spacing and purchased seedlings from private nurseries. Most of the respondents had adopted regular planting method, two third respondents had obtained bearing stage in coconut which belonged to medium group. Most of the respondents had adopted basin method of irrigation and plant protection measures. The miximum 96 and 84 per cent of the respondents had applied FYM and chemical fertilizers to coconut palms, respectively. Nearly three fourth of the respondents had applied common salt around coconut stem. About 59.32 per cent respondents sold their coconuts in retail market. It was interesting to note that though most of the coconut garden holders faced the problem of marketing, 94 per cent of them were of the positive opinion for adopting coconut cultivation.

Majority of the respondents were from middle age group, literate upto secondary level and possessed coconut garden holding < 2 ha. Age was found to be significantly related with the level of coconut cultivation knowledge. Nearly 44 per cent respondents were motivated by other farmers for coconut cultivation.

The total investment including maintenance of coconut garden and cost of cultivation per hectare amounted to Rs. 12000 and Rs. 9200, respectively. The overall average yield per hectare was obtained 5700 nuts and profit worked out at Rs. 10280/ha (average of 1996-97 and 1997-98). The highest costs were observed for fertilizers and lowest for plant protection. Input wise cost of cultivation did not show much variation among different size of coconut holdings.

The results based on two years summerized that the coconut cultivation seems to be a profitable in Valsad district. So this study justify farmers investment in coconut cultivation.

(Received on 11th July, 2000)