

PROGRESS EVALUATION OF REPLANTING, NEW PLANTING AND UNDER PLANTING COCONUT SUBSIDY PROGRAMS IN KURUNEGALA DISTRICT

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Coconut is one of the major plantation crops in Sri Lanka. The coconut production has been declining during the last few decades. There are several institutions, namely, Coconut Cultivation Board, Coconut Development Authority and Coconut Research Institute involved in the coconut industry. Coconut Cultivation Board is providing several subsidy schemes to uplift the small holders.

This study was carried out to evaluate the progress of replanting, new planting and under planting subsidy programme for coconut cultivations in Kurunegala district within past ten years. The primary data were collected using a questionnaire based survey with a sample size of 90 with these three types of coconut growers in Mawathagama, Wariyapola and Polgahawela electorates in Kurunegala district.

The data were analyzed with qualitative descriptive analysis along with graphical and tubular analysis in the formats of frequencies, proportions and percentages. The results suggests that 67 % coconut palms from the distributed seedlings have survived and increased the coconut production from 1608 nuts/ha/year to 5936 nuts/ha/year. Further results indicate the plant density was increased from 68 palms /ha to 107 palms / ha due to under and replanting subsidy programme.

The results highlights the successfulness of coconut subsidy programmes with many constraints, such as adverse environmental conditions, improper management practices, pest and diseases and other socio- economic factors.

Key words: Coconut, Subsidy schemes, Small holders, Plant density