Plant a Good Seedling for a Better Yield

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When you intend planting a seedling in your home garden, you should at all times select a good seedling which would render you a higher yield. Its yield potential mainly depends on the type of seedling.

As coconut is a perennial, capable of continuous bearing, no frequent replacement will be possible like short term crops such as Paddy, Chillies or Brinjal. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to plant selected and high yielding variety of seedlings with the hope of obtaining a continuous higher yield up to 65-70 year period. It is customary for some land owners to obtain seedlings from the estate nuts for planting. But it should be kept in mind that the possibilities of such seedling turning out to be good palms are very limited. Therefore it is always advisable to obtain high quality seedlings issued by the Coconut Cultivation Board. For planting you will be able to obtain seedlings showing the following characteristics.

Selected Ordinary Seedlings

These seedlings are raised from seednuts which are harvested from selected mother palms in high yielding and well managed coconut estates.

As selection of mother palms are done on a scientific basis, seedlings raised from such seednuts possess the high yielding capacities. These selected ordinary seedlings start bearing 6-8 years after planting. They are also have tolerance to drought, and to different soil and climatic conditions. The effective life span will be about 60 years. These selected seedlings are priced at Rs. 3.00 each.

Dwarf x Tall hybrids (CRIC 65)

High yielding Dwarf and Tall parent palms are selected and planted them in a seed garden. Pollination is allowed to set in under controlled conditions between these parent types. Seednuts obtained from Dwarf parent are used to raise seedlings of this hybrid. Under good management these palms start bearing early at the age of about 4 years and yield heavily. These seedlings are suited only in areas where the soil is loamy and with a good distribution of rainfall. (Hybrid palms are very susceptible to drought). It is important that these palms are well looked after, and be given adequate doses of fertilizer if the expected yields are to be obtained. Seedling of this variety costs Rs. 6.00.

Tall x Tall improved variety (CRIC 60)

High yielding tall palms (parents) are selected and planted them in a seed garden. Pollination is allowed to take place only among selected parents. Seedlings raised from such seednuts are termed Tall x Tall or CRIC 60.

Under good management these palms start bearing between the 5-7 years after planting. As this variety is recommended for planting in all the coconut growing areas of the country, the Coconut Research Board has already taken steps to meet the entire requirement of this seedlings for re-planting, under planting etc. The cost of a Tall x Tall seedling is Rs. 4.

All seedlings, referred to above, can be obtained from nurseries belonging to Coconut Cultivation Board and the Coconut Research Board, for May-June and October-November planting seasons. You may obtain the relevant application forms from the Coconut Development Officer of your area. He will be in office on every working Wednesday.