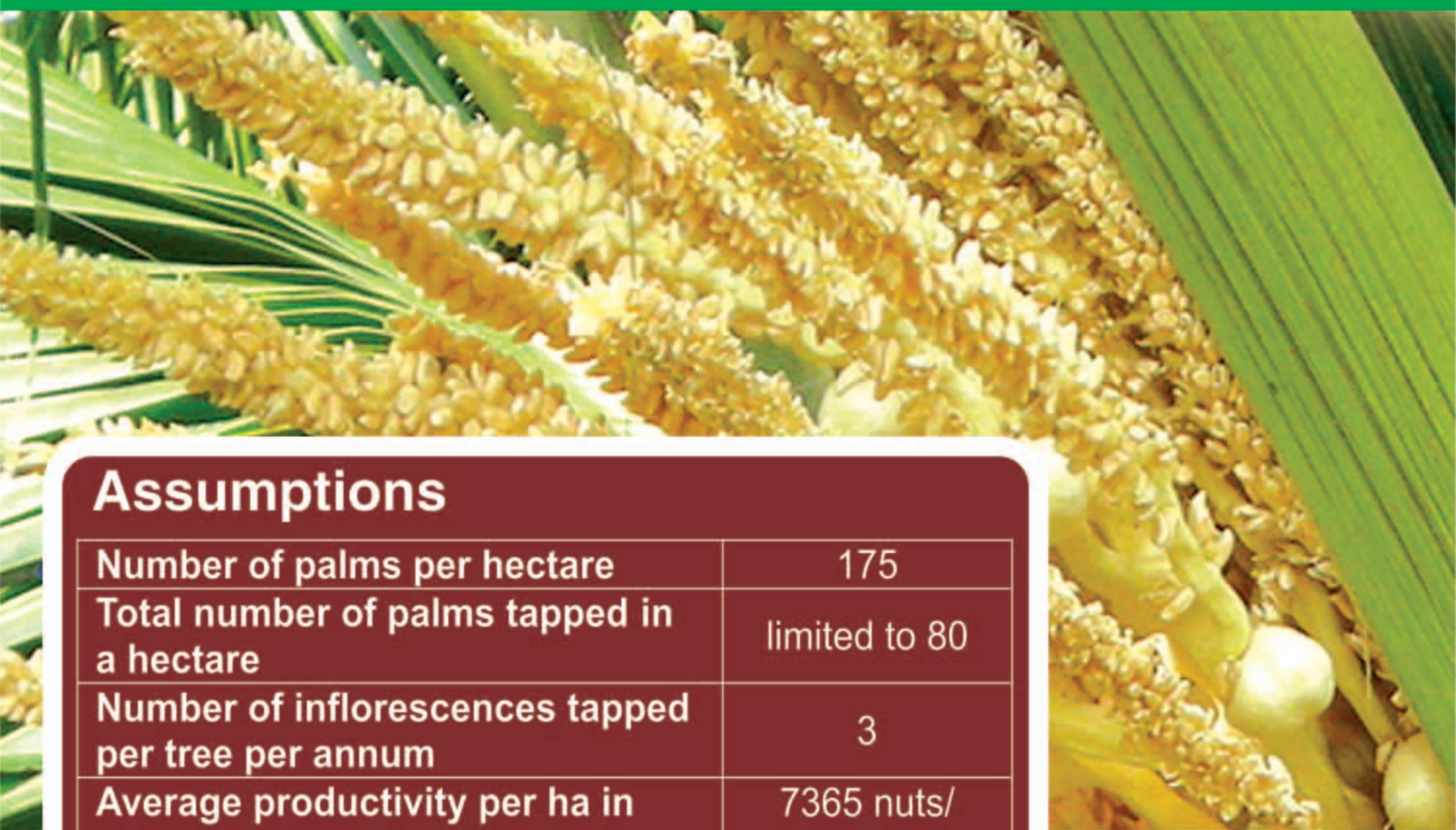


Economics of production of Neera* and value added products from Neera



Assumptions

Number of palms per hectare	175
Total number of palms tapped in a hectare	limited to 80
Number of inflorescences tapped per tree per annum	3
Average productivity per ha in Kerala	7365 nuts/year
Approximate cost of one litre of Neera	Rs. 50/-
Conversion ratio from Neera to jaggery	6:1
Approximate cost of one kg of coconut palm jaggery	Rs. 250/-

Estimated returns from Neera

Item	Yield of Neera		
	@ 1 litre/tree/day	@ 2 litre/tree/day	@ 3 litre/tree/day
Yield of Neera in litres			
Yield of Neera from 80 palm tapped for 3 months	7200 litres	14400 litres	21600 litres
Returns from Neera @ Rs. 50 per litre	3.6 lakhs	7.2 lakhs	10.8 lakhs
Returns per palm	Rs. 4,500/-	Rs. 9,000/-	Rs. 13,500/-
Returns to farmer in the proportion of 75 % of production	2.7 lakhs	5.4 lakhs	8.1 lakhs
Returns to tapper in the proportion of 25 % of production	0.9 lakhs	1.8 lakhs	2.7 lakhs

Estimated returns from coconut palm jaggery

Item	Production of Neera at		
	@ 1 litre/tree/day	@ 2 litre/tree/day	@ 3 litre/tree/day
Yield of jaggery in kg	1200 kg	2400 kg	3600 kg
Returns from jaggery @ Rs. 250 per kg	3.0 lakh	6.0 lakh	9.0 lakh

Tapping of 25% of inflorescences (3 inflorescence) in a palm for production of Neera will yield additional income to the farmer and to the tapper, without much reduction in yield. The Coconut farmer communities in the Federations of CPS can work out a viable proportion of production of Neera and jaggery so that the products can cater to defined segments of the society. Neera being a sweet and nutritious health drink can be promoted among all sections of the society. Coconut palm jaggery owing to their low Glycemic Index can be positioned as a safe and healthy alternative sweetener. If we convert jaggery further to coconut palm sugar, value addition is still better.

* Commercialisation of Neera is possible only after amendment of Abkari Act

COCONUT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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