

## *Operational Guidelines for Coconut Development Board Schemes*

### **Integrated Farming for Productivity Improvement in farmers' gardens**

The objective of the programme is to improve the production and productivity of coconut holdings through an integrated approach with two component programmes, viz., "Laying out of Demonstration Plots" and "Establishment of Organic Manure Units."

#### **1. Laying out of Demonstration Plots:**

The scheme is implemented through state Agriculture/Horticulture Department and also directly by the Board. The scheme is implemented on cluster basis covering a minimum of 25 hectares and a maximum of 200 hectares of coconut in a contiguous area with a definite boundary. The selected area shall have 80% of coconut coverage compared to the state average palm population. A base-line survey will be carried out in a farmer participatory mode covering all holdings in the project area. Based on the information collected in the base line survey the project is formulated.

#### **Financial Assistance:**

The subsidy is limited to Rs. 35,000/- per hectare in two equal annual installments, depending on the activities undertaken in the coconut gardens, with a view to demonstrate technologies for improving productivity and income through Integrated Farming. This should be done with all possible convergence with other suitable schemes to create visibility among the farming community.

#### **Components:**

The financial assistance covers the cost of critical inputs, planting materials of intercrops, green manure seeds, plant protection chemicals, etc., as part of demonstrating integrated management practices for improving productivity. Expenses on labor components, other rental services, development of infrastructure, etc., are not covered under the scheme. Demonstration of productivity improvement through the application of critical inputs is the primary activity under the scheme, and the funds for this purpose shall not be diverted to other inputs/components.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Any farmer with a minimum of 10 palms aged 5 years or more within the cluster area is eligible for availing the benefits of the scheme. Palms that have started yielding but are less than 5 years old can be considered for the scheme. Assistance will be limited to a maximum area of 1 hectare per beneficiary (150-175 palms/ha, as per the plant population being followed in the respective State/UT).

- All eligible coconut holdings in the area should be covered to ensure a cluster-level approach to implementation and better visibility of the impact of the technology adopted.
- Political/administrative boundaries like wards/villages/blocks may be taken as a whole, covering a minimum area of 25 hectares and a maximum area of 200 hectares per project.
- Farmers who have already availed benefits under the LoDP or R&R schemes of the Board, either directly implemented by the CDB or through the State Department, during the past 5 years, shall not be eligible for financial assistance under this scheme.
- All eligible farmers in the selected area should be encouraged to undertake the programme, emphasizing its advantages, collective action, etc.
- If any eligible farmer in the selected area expresses unwillingness to be part of the cluster, this should be recorded for future reference.

#### **Extending Benefits:**

- Adopting technological interventions such as timely application of inputs (manures & fertilizers; chemicals & biological agents for plant protection; other agricultural chemicals; seeds & planting materials of green manures/green leaf manures/intercrops, etc.) as per the local need.
- The total value of the benefits extended shall not exceed Rs. 17,500/ha/year for two years.
- The funds required over & above this, if any, has to be incurred by the farmer. The eligible subsidy is calculated proportionate to the no. of yielding palms / the area under these yielding palms whichever is less.

## **2. Establishment of Organic Manure Unit**

Under this scheme, financial assistance is extended to popularize the use of organic manure in coconut holdings.

Vermicompost units: Maximum assistance is Rs.60,000/- towards 100% of the cost for unit of size 1200 cubic ft (dimension of tank 60ft x 8ft x 2.5 ft or two units of 30 ft x 8ft x 2.5ft ) with production capacity of 80 tons per year in 4 cycles and of permanent structure and to be administered on pro-rata basis. Smaller units are also promoted and the minimum volume shall be 150 cubic feet (dimension of tank 15ft x 5ft x 2 ft) with production capacity of 10 tons/ year in 4 cycles and financial assistance may be reduced accordingly. Roof of convenient size is also required for considering financial assistance.