



Coconut Success Stories- Nurseries



K. Mohan Raj

S/o. Mr. R. Kalimuthu
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Shri. K. Mohan Raj, a farmer with a unique journey that took him from a career in chemical engineering to a profound interest in agriculture, particularly coconut cultivation. His father, an experienced farmer, specialized in certified seed production for various crops, working closely with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Seed Certification and Inspection, Government of Tamil Nadu. His family tradition itself laid a foundation for Shri. Mohan Raj's coconut cultivation.

Today, Shri. Mohan Raj's farm, known as KJ

Coconut Hybrid Nursery, spans an impressive 80 acres. Within this vast expanse, he is cultivating to 1500 West Coast Tall (WCT), 300 Ethamozhi Tall (ET), 550 Tiptur Tall (TT), 1400 Malayan Yellow Tall, and 450 Chowghat Orange Dwarf (COD) coconut palms. His diligent efforts have yielded exceptional results, with Tall and Dwarf cultivars delivering between 150 to 200 nuts and 250 to 300 nuts per palm annually. The age of these palms varies, with the Tall ones ranging from 10 to 35 years, and the Dwarf palms around 15 years old.

Shri. Mohan Raj is an enthusiastic learner,



continuously updating his technical knowledge. His pursuit of knowledge leads him to esteemed institutions, including ICAR – Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CPCRI) in Kasaragod, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in Coimbatore, and the Coconut Development Board (CDB), Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Coconut, Demonstration-cum-Seed Production (DSP) Farm in Dhali. He has actively participated in various training programs, including Hybridization Techniques in Coconut at CPCRI, Kasaragod.

He is thankful to the unwavering motivation and support from the Scientists of CPCRI, Kasaragod and Officials of CDB. Mr. Mohan Raj successfully initiated the production of Hybrid Coconut Seedlings on his farm.

In the realm of hybridization, Shri. Mohan Raj achieved two significant parental combinations: Malayan Yellow Dwarf (MYD) x West Coast Tall (WCT) and Chowghat Orange Dwarf (COD) x West Coast Tall (WCT), released as “Chandra Sankara” and “Kalpa Samrudhi” by CPCRI, Kasaragod. He carefully selected 1100 MYD palms and 400 COD palms as mother palms from the 1400 MYD and 450 COD palms, respectively. Additionally, he maintained 100 Tall palms as mother palms for pollen source and Tall seed coconuts. He acquired a license from the Directorate of Seed Certification and Seed Inspection, Government of Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore, for his coconut nursery.

Shri. Mohan Raj’s commitment doesn’t stop

there. In the year 2021–22, 2022–23, and 2023–24 (up to September 2023), he produced 50,000, 1,50,000, 50,000 coconut seedlings and sold with prices set at Rs. 70/-, Rs. 100/-, and Rs. 550/- per seedling for Tall, Dwarf, and Hybrid varieties, respectively. His efforts in this endeavor yielded impressive revenues of Rs. 40 lakhs, Rs. 150 lakhs and Rs. 40 lakhs during 2021–22, 2022–23 and 2023–24 (up to September 2023) respectively.

In his quest for sustainable and productive farming, Shri. Mohan Raj frequently seeks advice and guidance from CPCRI and CDB, addressing concerns such as drought management, soil moisture conservation, organic manure application, in-situ vermicomposting, bio-fertilizer utilization, integrated pest management, integrated disease management, integrated nutrient management, integrated weed management, and more. He has also implemented mulching techniques as advised by CPCRI, which involves using pulverized un-germinated nuts, dried coconut leaves, petioles, stipules, inflorescence, spathe, and other materials to retain soil moisture effectively.

His farm is not limited to coconut cultivation; it also includes two milch cows and seasonal goat penning. Moreover, he actively provides employment to 12–15 agriculture laborers from landless backgrounds, contributing to their socio-economic betterment.

KJ Coconut Hybrid Nursery has benefited from subsidies offered by the Coconut Development Board during 2019–2021 under the “Establishment of Small Coconut Nursery” scheme, enabling the production of 50,000 seedlings over two years. Mr. Mohan Raj and his family express their sincere gratitude to both CPCRI and CDB for their invaluable guidance in advancing his hybrid seed production program in the world of coconuts. His journey is a testament to how dedication, learning, and passion can drive success in agriculture, ultimately benefiting the community and the agricultural industry.