

Demonstration of Coconut Tonic Feeding Technology

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Tirunelveli: Coconut tonic feeding technology was demonstrated to farmers at Kurukkalpatti of Melaneelithanallur block in the district recently.

According to E Rajan Ravichandran, Deputy Director of Horticulture, the coconut tonic designed by the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU), Coimbatore is fed to coconut trees through roots.

“Coconut tonic feeding would increase the size of the nuts and in Tirunelveli district, around 100 hectares in all the 19 blocks are being covered,” he said.

Large numbers of farmers eagerly participated in the demonstration held at a coconut farm in Kurukkalpatti.

The coconut tonic consists of macronutrients, micronutrients and hormones.

It also protects the coconuts from pest and disease attacks, enhances the emergence of spathe and increases the chlorophyll content.

“Tonic could be fed to co-

conut trees twice a year at six months interval and the coconut tonic is a boon to coconut farmers,” S Raja Mohamed, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Melaneelithanallur block informed.

He further added that the tonic was provided to coconut farmers at 25 percent subsidized prices.

Under this method, active roots should be selected by digging a small pit and a slanting cut is done to the rear end of the root.

“The small polythene pouch filled with 40 ml of coconut tonic mixed with 160 ml of water should be tied tightly with a twine to the root where a cut was made in such a way that the root is inside the pouch fully,” Raja Mohamed explained.

It may be noted that the root would absorb the tonic solution within two hours and around 20 coconut trees can be infused with tonic in an hour.

This is expected to not only enhance the nut size but also benefit the farmers greatly, in the process.