

RKVY / NADP PROJECT (2019-2021)

Project	: Demonstration of production Technologies of lesser known fruits- Avocado and Litchi in lower pulney hills and Jamun & Manila tamarind in arid zones of Tamil Nadu.
Centre	: HRS, Thadiyankudisai.
Objectives	: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To establish the quality planting material production unit and mass multiplication of Avocado, Litchi, Rambutan, Jamun, Manila Tamarind and Bael for area expansion• To enhance the productivity of Avocado, Litchi, Rambutan and minor fruits (Jamun, Manila Tamarind and Bael) through popularization of improved production technologies.

Success stories

1. Th.K.Mani, Aundipatti

He is one of the progressive farmers to introduce the dry land fruit crops at Aundipatti block of Theni district. Through this project established a demonstration unit for an area of 1.00 acre by planting of manila tamarind and jamun. A newly developed promising variety of underutilized fruits viz., manila tamarind (PKM 1 & PKM 2) and Jamun (Konkan Bahadoli) were introduced. Distribution of planting materials and Dissemination of production technology motivated the farmers for commercial exploitation of minor fruits in this area. The establishment and the performance of varieties are good and it will giving additional income to the farmer.



Th.K.Mani



Field view of introduced manila tamarind varieties and technology

The demonstration farm is immensely helpful to motivate other farmers to cultivate manila tamarind and jamun under commercial scale. The farmer expect the potential yield from 2023.

2. Th. A. Vengatesh, Nagalapuram

Th.A.Venkatesh is an innovative farmer in Nagalapuram village, Theni block. Through this project he developed manila tamarind orchard for an area of 2.50 acre as demonstration unit. The grafted plants are in vegetative stage with canopy. By seeing his field with performance of manila tamarind more than 15 farmers were came forward to cultivate manila tamarind at Koduvilarpatti village in commercial scale. Organized four off campus training programmes at Nagalapuram village with dissemination of innovative technology. More than 300 farmers were participated and benefitted.



B. Impact of trainings and demonstrations

S.No	Title	Venue	Beneficiaries
1	Training on cultivation of manila tamarind and jamun	HC&RI, Periyakulam	65
2	Scope and importance of Manila Tamarind and Bael fruit crops for commercial exploitation	HC&RI, Periyakulam	100
3	Training on manila tamarind	Aundipatti	50
4	Training on Jamun	Kadamalaikundu	45
5	Demonstration and training of minor fruits	Aundipatti	60
6	Field demonstration of manila tamarind and jamun	Aundipatti and Nagalapuram	200



The training programmes for the benefit of farmers and distribution of planting materials

The popularisation of technologies and improved promising varieties of manila tamarind and jamun reached more than 500 farmers in Theni and Dindigul districts. The NADP project on minor fruits is helpful for popularising the fruit crops particularly underutilized fruits most suitable for drought prone areas.

Multiplication and distribution of quality planting material in avocado for higher production and profit in coffee based cropping system- A success story

Coffee is a predominant plantation crop occupied around 26,500ha in lower Pulneys and the entire cropping system followed in this region is based on coffee (*Coffea arabica*) only. More than 50% of the populations are totally depending on coffee plantation for their livelihood. Coffee is not cultivated as a mono crop. In coffee plantations horticultural crops such as mandarin orange, hill banana, jack, black pepper, cinnamon and other minor fruit crops are also being cultivated as mixed crops in order to provide shade to coffee and additional profit to the growers. At present, the area under the traditionally cultivated crops such as mandarin orange and hill banana is being reduced considerably due to greening disease (mandarin orange) and intrusion of wild animals such as bison, elephant and wild boar. This threat is forcing the coffee growers to choose an alternate remunerative crop and started cultivating avocado along with coffee. As avocado is fast growing and provides shade to coffee apart from producing highly nutritious fruits which fetches higher market price.

To avoid the spread of the pest and disease, replanting of the existing plantations, new planting in young coffee plantations supply of pest and disease free quality planting material is absolutely essential. Hence, Horticultural Research Station started production of quality planting material in avocado as grafts and elite seedlings utilizing the funds released through the State Government's NADP programme.

The programme was started during August 2019 and completed during March 2021. Infrastructures required for propagation such as shade net houses, screen houses and polyhouses were renovated and planting materials were produced and distributed as detailed below:

Details of Avocado planting materials distributed during 2019-20 to 2020-21	
Type of planting material	Quantity
Grafts	5500
Elite seedlings	25000

In addition to the above, 500 TKD 1 avocado grafts supplied to eight State Horticulture Farms, as a mother source for further multiplication and area expansion at sub tropical regions of Tamil Nadu. The multiplication is being continued.

Distribution of Avocado planting materials and inputs to the beneficiaries

