Chapter 13
Harvest and Postharvest Technology

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Abstract This chapter enlists salient harvest and postharvest technologies of coconut. Various harvesting and postharvest gadgets, tools, machineries and equipments developed by different institutions are described. Technologies related to storage of nuts, processing of fresh coconut kernel and coconut water into different edible products, processing of dry kernel/copra, extraction and refining of coconut oil and processing of coconut sap (neera/sweet toddy) are explained in detail. The industrial and nonedible applications of coconut husk, coconut shell, coconut wood and coconut leaf are also described. Various sections that include harvesting and processing, technologies on food products as well as non-food products to future strategy in relation to harvest and postharvest technologies of coconut are concisely illustrated. A complete value chain information from harvesting to consumption and industrial utilisation from farm to fork is narrated. The need for refining some of the important equipments and technologies is indicated to make them more cost-effective and eco-friendly.

13.1 Introduction

Postharvest processing ensures effective utilisation of harvested produce and the quality of the end product, which ultimately tells upon the consumption and acceptance of the produce. It has been estimated that there is considerable loss in many of the agricultural products after harvest. This is either because the postharvest technology has not been developed to the desired extent or because of the special problems in the marketing of the produce.

Edible copra (milling copra) for the extraction of coconut oil, desiccated coconut powder, fermented sap and jaggery from the sap is the important edible products

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