

Coconut Climbing Device:

A Simple Yet Effective Tool for Palm Management Activities
in the Context of Andaman and Nicobar Islands



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2016



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Andaman and Nicobar Islands



A person climbing
a palm using climbing device

Further, in bigger plantations it could speed up the activities with available workers.

Most of the prototypes are designed to provide safety to the users. However, one need to ascertain the quality and safety features of the same at the time of purchase to reduce any risk involved. The product should always be purchased from reputed companies and authorized suppliers, which assure the quality of their products. It is commonly seen that a trained climber could climb about 15-20 palms in a day, however using such device a climber could climb up to 40-50 palms. Hence, in order to increase the profitability of the coconut cultivation, adoption of such small tools could be a boon.



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For further details about the device,
demonstrations and training, kindly contact:

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Background

Coconut is the major crop of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which occupies about half of the total cultivated area in the Islands. Being cultivated on large area, the palm plays a significant role in the lifestyle of the island dwellers and many of their food, oil, beverage, compost and religious needs are met from the palms. Climbing on the palms requires skilled work force and only properly trained labourers can perform the operation. However, in the absence of trained personnel, the climbing becomes difficult and desired operations could not be completed.

Operations requiring climbing of palms

Climbing the palms for harvesting of tender or mature

nuts is the basic practice in any coconut plantation and the total number of times one need to climb each palm largely depends on the purpose for which nuts are harvested. Apart from harvesting the nuts, climbing up on a palm is required for cleaning of crown and thereby reduces the incidence of diseases. For application of plant protection chemicals, especially for the control of diseases such as bud rot, climbing is a pre-requisite. In addition, the crown cleaning is advised to control the menace caused by rodents and for management of rhinoceros beetle, which are quite common in the islands.

Recently, the technique of inflorescence tapping for preparation of a refreshing drink-neera has gained popularity in some coconut growing regions and the practice necessitates frequent climbing up of the palms. In seed gardens for production of hybrid nuts, the crossing work also demands climbing to perform emasculation and pollination activities. After appropriate training from recognized institutes, nurserymen could produce seedlings of desired hybrid combination. However, a skilled worker who could climb up the palms is difficult to get and hence, one needs to pay large sums for getting these works done.

Coconut climbing device: relevance and importance

Use of simple and handy tools could not only reduce the drudgery involved in these farm operations but would also increase the efficiency of the available manpower. Coconut climbing device is one such tool, which comes handy under such circumstances. Various prototypes are available in the market and one could select any of these depending upon the requirement, prevalent price and availability in the region. Though initial investment is required, the saving on hiring of laborers is manifold. Most of the models are easy to handle and designed in a way that even women could use them easily. Even a farmer with a few palms in his field could afford the device and perform the crown management works efficiently.