

Cocosap “Neera and its Value Addition”–Prospect and Possibilities in Eastern Region

Dipak Kumar Ghosh (Sr.)¹, Suddhasuchi Das², Apurba Bandopadhyay³ and K.B. Hebbar⁴

^{1,4}Principal Scientist and Head, ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod, Kerala
^{2,3}Department of Spices & Plantation Crops, B.C.K.V. Mohanpur, Nadia
E-mail: ¹drdkghosh@yahoo.in

Abstract—In India, coconut is grown in more than 18.95 lakh ha area. [It](#) plays an important role in the national economy. But coconut farming gradually becoming non-profitable due to frequent fluctuation in price, severity of pests and diseases, higher input cost, land fragmentation etc. To make it profitable, Neera and Neera based milk made sweets, sugar are the latest additions which holds the potential to revitalize the prospects of coconut farmers and diabetic patients. Neera is the sweet, oyster white colored unfermented sap, obtained by tapping the unopened inflorescence of coconut. It is delicious and rich source of sugars, minerals and vitamins. Neera contains very low Glycemic Index (35).The global demands for low GI sugar are increasing for diabetic patients. Hence Neera, palm sugar and sweets can fill up this gap. Presently “Neera” collection work has started in Balagarh, Hooghly, with the support of CPCRI and BCKV. At present per day Neera Production is 1.80liter/inflorescence. If 1% of the non productive plants are utilized for Neera, then without hampering the nut yield, besides employment generation of 3431 numbers /day, average 102.92 lakh liters of sap will be produced /year, return will be around Rs. 6175.2 lakh. A farmer can also earn Rs 21 lakh per year from one ha which will be much higher than the nut income of Rs185500. Value added products like jaggery, sugar, and vinegar can also be prepared which are having high domestic and international demand. Milk based Neera sweets are also being prepared commercially in W.B. As a result it can generate a good daily return to the farmer, the tapper and sweet makers and will contribute to the Gross Domestic Production (GDP) of the coconut growing states of Eastern Region.

Keywords: Coconut, Neera, Value addition, Low GI sugar, Diabetic patients, Bengali sweets, More Profit,