

Report on Friends of Coconut Tree (FoCT) Training Programme at DSP Farm, Pitapally from 22.07.2013 to 27.07.2013



Coconut Development Board, State Centre, Pitapally, Odisha conducted Friends of Coconut Tree (FoCT) training programme at DSP farm, Pitapally from 22nd July .2013 to 27th July 2013. Dr S. K. Beura, Associate Professor, Dept of plant pathology, College of Agriculture, OUAT, Bhubaneswar inaugurated the FoCT training programme by lighting the lamp followed by inaugural address where he praised the attempt of CDB in Odisha for conducting such a relevant programme and handed over the palm climbing machines to the two master trainers. Sri Nabakishore Tada, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Sakhigopal, Puri, was the Guest of Honour in the inaugural function. Twenty unemployed youths from Puri district participated in the 6 day residential FOCT training programme.

After the inaugural session, the theory session was handled by Dr. S. K. Beura, Dept of plant pathology, College of Agriculture, OUAT, Bhubaneswar on “Integrated Disease Management in Coconut” where he explained the major diseases like bud rot, stem bleeding etc and its control measures. Sri. Nabakishore Tada, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Sakhigopal, Puri, dealt about the State Sector schemes in Odisha for the over all development of horticultural crops particularly in the district of Puri.

In the afternoon session, Sri. Khokan Debnath, Deputy Director i/c, Coconut Development Board, State Centre, Pitapally described about the “Prospects of Coconut cultivation and its production technology in Odisha”. Then the master trainers explained in detail about the various parts of the climbing machine followed by the practical session on climbing up to 15 feet height.

Second day (23.07.2013) :

The second day of the training started in the early morning with jogging followed by breathing exercise. After the warm up, two of the trainees shared important lesson learnt yesterday. The morning practical session on climbing upto 25 feet was held for more than 2 hours.

In the morning theory session Prof. C. R. Satapathy, Dept.of Agrl. Entomology, College of Agriculture, OUAT, Bhubaneswar delivered a lecture on “Integrated Pest Management in Coconut with emphasis on Eriophyid mite” and gave a detailed description about important pests of coconut like Eriophyid mite, leaf eating caterpillar, Rhinoceros beetle, Red palm weevil and its control measures. Prof.A.K.Das, Head of Department, Fruit Science, College of Agriculture, OUAT, Bhubaneswar took a class on “Coconut Cultivation Technology

with special reference to raising of coconut nursery” where he covered all the aspects of coconut cultivation technology and about scientific way of raising coconut nursery.

In the afternoon session the trainees had a practical exposure by visiting the DSP farm for familiarizing various varieties of Coconut, identification of various pest and diseases, scientific coconut cultivation technology, raising of nursery and its management etc. The practice session on climbing upto 25 feet continued in the afternoon after the practical exposure. The second day was concluded with experience sharing and light entertainment.

Third Day (24.07.2013)

The third day of FoCT starts with the jogging and breathing exercise followed by practiced palm climbing upto a height of 35 feet. In the theory session, Dr. Kalyan Sahoo, Professor, Mahindra Institute of Management and Technical Studies, Pitapally, Khurdha, Odisha handled an interesting session on “Communication skill, time management, decision making and leadership qualities”. Prof. K.K. Rout, PhD, Dept. of Soil Science, OUAT, Bhubaneswar delivered a lecture on “Integrated Nutrient management in Coconut and biofertilizers” in which he dealt in detail about fertilizer dosage, method of fertilizer application, benefits of organic manuring, nutrient deficiencies and remedial measures etc. In the afternoon session Sri. K. Debnath, Deputy Director i/c, Coconut Development Board had an interactive session on “Coconut Development Board Schemes in Odisha”. After the theoretical Session, practical climbing session up to 35 feet continued upto late evening. The third day was concluded with experience sharing and light entertainment.

Fourth Day (25.07.2013)

The fourth day of FOCT starts with the warm up by jogging and breathing exercise. After the breakfast, trainees practiced palm climbing upto a height of 40 feet. The morning theory session was handled by Mrs. Babita Mishra, SMS (Hort), KVK, Puri described in detail about “Integrated farming in Coconut and Organic farming” in which she had an interactive session on mixed cropping, intercropping, mixed farming etc. Sri. Ashok Kumar Mishra, DM(RBD), SBI, Khurda deals with “thrift/savings management, credit facilities, Kissan Credit Card etc”

In the afternoon theory session Prof.D.K.Das, AICRP on Cashew, OUAT, Bhubaneswar described about “Cultivation technology of Cashew” in which he described about cashew cultivation practices, IDM and INM in cashew and cashew as intercrop in coconut garden. After the theoretical Session, practical climbing session up to 40 feet continued. The fourth day was concluded with experience sharing and light entertainment.

Fifth Day (26.07.2013)

The fifth day of the FoCT training started with jogging and breathing exercise in the early morning, followed by practical session on climbing upto 40 ft. In the morning theory session Dr. H.N. Senapathi, Ex-Dean, OUAT, Bhubaneswar handled an interesting session on “Positive thinking and healthy way of living”. In the afternoon session, the trainees had an Exposure visit to Central Horticultural Experimental Station (CHES), Botanical Garden, Bhubaneswar and Central Tuber Crop Research Institute (CTCRI), Bhubaneswar. The trainees were exposed to different horticultural crops like mango, guava, cashew, pineapple etc at Central Horticultural Experimental Station (CHES), Bhubaneswar and the Head, CHES, interacted with the trainees and discussed on mango cultivation aspects. Then visited the Central Tuber Crop Research Institute (CTCRI), Bhubaneswar where they were exposed to different tuber crop which can be grown as intercrops in coconut garden. After visiting CHES and CTCRI, trainees visited the Botanical Garden at Bhubaneswar. After reaching the training centre, trainees shared their experience during field visit and prepared an action plan by the group of trainees.

Sixth Day (27.07.2013)

The final day of the FoCT training starts with jogging and breathing exercise. The final theory test was conducted for evaluating the knowledge of the trainees covering the entire FOCT programme in objective type mode. Then the practical test was conducted for all the trainees by noting the time taken to climb 40 feet height.

The Valedictory session started with the welcome by Sri. K. Debnath, Deputy Director i/c, Coconut Development Board, Odisha. Dr. H.S. Singh, Head, CHES, Bhubaneswar was the chief guest in the function. During the function, Dr. H.S. Singh, Head, CHES, Bhubaneswar awarded the cash prize to the best trainees, certificates and a palm climbing machines to each trainees. The award distribution is followed by experience sharing by the trainees. The function was wind up by vote of thanks to the house by Smt. Vincy Varghese, Technical Officer, Coconut Development Board, State Centre, Pitapally.