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# Farmers Pereference Towards Replantation and Rejuvenation Scheme by Coconut Development Board

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***Abstract***

*The Replantation and Rejuvenation (R&R) scheme introduced by the Coconut Development Board (CDB). The scheme aims to replace old, unproductive, and diseased coconut palms with high-yielding varieties while promoting rejuvenation practices to enhance productivity and sustainability. Conducted in Coimbatore, this research investigates farmers' awareness, willingness to participate, and satisfaction with the scheme. A mixed-methods approach involving surveys and statistical analysis (Simple Percentage Analysis, ANOVA, t-tests, Friedman Rank Test, and Chi-square Test) was employed on a sample of 166 farmers. Findings reveal that while the scheme improves productivity, income, and sustainability, challenges such as delays in subsidy disbursement, lack of awareness, and short-term income loss hinder participation. The research concludes with recommendations for better outreach, timely financial support, and enhanced technical guidance to optimize the scheme's impact on coconut farming.*

***Key Words:*** *Coconut Development Board, Replantation and Rejuvenation Scheme, Farmers' Preferences Coconut Farming, Agricultural Productivity.*

## Introduction

The Coconut Development Board (CDB), which was established in 1981 to promote coconut cultivation and development in India. In 2016-2017, the scheme was implemented in Tamil Nadu with an allocated budget of ₹20 crores. In 2022-2023, the scheme was extended in Tamil Nadu with a project cost of ₹1,315.63 lakh. This scheme aims to enhance coconut production and productivity by replacing old, unproductive, and diseased palms with high-quality seedlings. It provides financial assistance for cutting and removing old palms, replanting new seedlings, and rejuvenating existing plantations. Palms selected for removal must produce fewer than 10 coconut per year and should be clearly marked. The approval for palm removal will be granted by the Agricultural or Horticulture Officer from the respective State Department of Agriculture or Horticulture.

## Statement Of The Problem

The Replantation and Rejuvenation (R&R) Scheme initiated by the Coconut Development Board aims to enhance coconut cultivation by improving the health and productivity of coconut palms through scientific nutrient management and replanting of senile and unproductive trees. However, the success of the scheme largely depends on farmers' awareness, acceptance, and willingness to adopt the recommended practices. Several factors, including financial constraints, lack of technical knowledge, labour availability, and market conditions, may influence farmers' preference for the scheme

## Scope Of The Study

The scope of the study for the Replantation and Rejuvenation Scheme covers various critical aspects to ensure sustainable and effective implementation. The study focuses on the selection of plant species, prioritizing high-yield, disease-resistant, and climate-resilient varieties. It examines the use of organic and sustainable practices, such as organic fertilizers and integrated pest management, to reduce environmental impact. Nutrient and pest management strategies are developed to enhance plant health and productivity

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**Objective Of The Study**

To identify factors influencing farmers decision to adopt the replantation and rejuvenation scheme

**Research Methodlogy**

This study aims to identify and analyse the key factors that influence farmers decision to adopt the replantation and rejuvenation scheme. The data was collected from both primary and secondary data. Primary data is collected using Questionnaire method. The data was collected in Coimbatore city. The study has been under taken December 2024 to February 2025.

**Review Of Literature**

**Swapna P. (2013),** examined a study on **"**Replanting and Rejuvenation of Coconut Gardens in Oachira and Kottarakkara Block Panchayat in Kollam District", had been made with the objective to examine the process of implementation of the programme and its time frame and to analyse the achievement of the scheme in the total removal of disease-affected palms. The study was carried out with 30 members from each block panchayat and percentage analysis was used for analysing the data. Suggestion of the study is to improve the availability of hybrid seedlings and ensure timely distribution of subsidies. The findings of the study is to rejuvenation efforts were inadequate, and the distribution of subsidies was unequal and about 73% of disease-affected palms in coastal areas and 66.6% in midland regions were removed. The study concludes that the replanting and rejuvenation programme had some positive effects but fell short of achieving its intended targets

**N. Narmadha, K.R. Karunakaran, and A. Kandeepan (2024),** research paper entitled a study on **"**Determinants of R & R Programme Participation among Coconut Producers in Tamil Nadu: A Heckman Two Stage Selection Approach", had been made with the objective to investigate the factors influencing coconut farmers' participation in Tamil Nadu's Replanting and Rejuvenation (R & R) scheme. The study was carried out with 120 coconut farmers and multi stage sampling technic was used and Heckman tow stage model was used for analysing the data. The findings of the study includes participation include the farmer's age, education level, farming experience, awareness of the R & R programme, age of coconut trees, pest and disease incidence, availability of irrigation facilities, and access to credit for farm inputs. Suggestions and Conclusion of the study recommends large-scale implementation of the R & R program with support from the Coconut Development Board. Efforts should focus on removing old, unproductive, and diseased palms, replanting with quality seedlings at subsidized rates, and rejuvenating existing gardens through integrated practices.

**Findings Of The Study**

**Table – 1 Demographic Profile Of The Respondents**

**Table1.1**

| Demographic | Classification | No of respondents | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Age | 20-30 years | 41 | 24.7 |
| | 31-40 years | 51 | 30.7 |
| | 41-60 years | 54 | 32.5 |
| | Above 60 | 20 | 12 |
| Gender | Male | 94 | 56.6 |
| | Female | 72 | 43.4 |
| Marital status | Married | 199 | 71.7 |
| | Unmarried | 47 | 28.3 |
| Residential area | Rural | 78 | 47 |
| | Urban | 31 | 18.7 |
| | Sub urban | 57 | 34.3 |
| Education level | Illiterate | 9 | 5.4 |
| | School level | 50 | 30.1 |
| | Diploma | 26 | 15.7 |
| | Under graduate | 53 | 31.9 |
| | Post graduate | 28 | 16.9 |
| Monthly Income | Upto 25000 | 38 | 22.9 |
| | 25000-50000 | 53 | 31.9 |
| | 50000-100000 | 65 | 39.2 |
| | Above 150000 | 10 | 6 |

**Interpretation**

The above table reveals that 24.7 percent belongs to the age category of 41-50 years, 56.6 percent of them are male respondents, 71.7 percent of the respondents are married, 47 percent of respondents are belonged to rural area, 31.9 percent of the respondents studied under graduate, and 39.2

percent of the respondent's monthly income is between Rs. 50000-100000.

**To Identify Factors Influencing Farmers Decision To Adopt The Replantation And Rejuvenation Scheme**

**Table-2 Relationship Between Demographic Variables And Study Variable – Chi Square Test**

**2.1 Residential Area Of The Respondents And Types Of Fertilizers**

**H0:** "There is significant relationship between the residential area and types of fertilizers"

**Table 2.1**

**Relationship relationship between the residential area and types of fertilizers**

| Residential area | Types of fertilizers | | | | | P value | Sig | S/NS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Organic fertilizers | Chemical fertilizers | Mixed fertilizers | None | Total | | | |
| **Rural** | **22** | **6** | **46** | **4** | **78** | 28.925 | 0.001 | S |
| Urban | 7 | 14 | 8 | 2 | 31 | | | |
| Semi urban | 21 | 6 | 25 | 5 | 57 | | | |
| **Total** | **50** | **26** | **79** | **11** | **166** | | | |

Source: Computed Data

S – Significant NS – Not Significant

Significant at 5 Percentage Level.

**Interpretation**

The above table indicates that there is no significant relationship ($\chi^2$= 28.925, P= 0.001) between the residential area and types of fertilizers**.** As the significant value is less than 0.05 it shows that there is significant relationship between the residential area and types of fertilizers. **Hence the null hypothesis was rejected.**

***2.2 Relationship Between Residential Area And Types Of Irrigation***

**H0:** "There is no significant relationship between the residential area and types of irrigation."

**Table 2.2**

**Relationship between residential area and types of irrigation**

| Residential area | Types of irrigation | | | | | P value | Sig | S/NS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Well | Borewell | Canal irrigation | Other | Total | | | |
| **Rural** | **44** | **19** | **9** | **6** | **79** | 10.903 | 0.091 | NS |
| Urban | 12 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 31 | | | |
| Semi urban | 18 | 23 | 9 | 7 | 57 | | | |
| **Total** | **74** | **55** | **23** | **14** | **166** | | | |

Source: Computed Data

S – Significant NS – Not Significant

Significant at 5 Percentage Level

**Interpretation**

The above table indicates that there is no significant relationship ($\chi^2$=10.903, P= 0.091) between residential area and types of irrigation. As the significant value is more than 0.05 it shows that there is no significant relationship between residential area and types of irrigation. **Hence the null hypothesis is accepted.**

### 3.1 Factors Influence To Choose Replantation And Rejuvenation Scheme - Friedman's Rank Test

**Table 3.1**

**Factors influence to choose replantation and rejuvenation scheme**

| Factors influencing | | Mean Rank | Rank | N | 166 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | **Financial support** | **2.11** | **I** | | |
| 2 | Reduction in pest problem | 2.60 | II | Chi- Square | 269.663 |
| 3 | Improve soil quality | 2.98 | III | | |
| 4 | Control of disease | 4.32 | IV | df | 5 |
| 5 | Improvement in coconut yeild | 4.36 | V | | |
| 6 | Availability of organic farming | 4.63 | VI | Asymp.sig. | <.001 |

Source: computed data

**Interpretation**

The above table predicts the mean rank of factors influence are the lowest mean of 2.11 was obtained by Financial support so that is considered as the first preferred factors, it is followed by reduction in pest problem with (2.60 2nd rank ), them by Improve soil quality with the score of (2.98 3rd rank), Control of disease as fourth preferred career with a mean score (4.32 4th rank), followed by Improvement in coconut yield with the mean score of (4.36 5th rank) and the least influenced factor is Availability of organic farming having mean score of 7.73.

**Suggestions**

- The government should arrange and conduct more awareness programs for farmers to educate them about the benefits and procedures of the Replantation and Rejuvenation Scheme
- Agricultural officers to visit farms regularly, offering hands-on guidance on tree removal, replanting, and rejuvenation techniques, ensuring farmers receive practical support throughout the process.
- Educate farmers about the benefits of the R&R scheme, including increased productivity, financial assistance, and improved farm sustainability.

***Conclusions***

Replantation and Rejuvenation (R&R) Scheme by the Coconut Development Board plays a crucial role in improving coconut productivity and sustainability. By encouraging the removal of old and unproductive trees and replacing them with high-yielding varieties, thereby enhancing productivity and income for farmers the scheme enhances farm income and ensures long-term agricultural availability. However, several challenges, including subsidy delays, lack of awareness, emotional attachment to old trees, and financial constraints, hinder its full adoption.

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**Conflicts of interest**

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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