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Coconut as a promoter in Indian coastal management

A. Janarthana Boobalan and N.Ramanujam

Department of Disaster Management, Pondicherry University, Port Blair, India

ABSTRACT

India's coastal region extends to about 7517km. Most of these coastal areas are unused. What if we use these unused lands and convert them into an environment and ecology-rich area. So in this article I have discussed how these areas could be used wisely and usefully.

INTRODUCTION

India's coastal region extends to a region of about 7517km. With the exception of Andaman and nicobar islands and Lakshadweep its coastal region extends to about 6100km. In this, if we leave the harbor regions and delta regions with 100km, we will be left out with remaining 6000km area unused. According to Coastal Regulation Act, the coastal region from the sea to a distance of about 500metres cannot be used for any construction (i.e.) prohibited from any human settlement. These unused coastal areas can be used for coconut plantation. By planting coconut tree in these sea-shore regions, these unused regions can be used for the economic and ecological development of our nation.

By planting one tree per square meter, 30crore coconuts can be planted at a region of about 300crore square meter area of coastal regions. By entrusting this work to the central forestry department and appointing a forest-guard per kilometer, these coconut trees can be supervised. In this way many employment will be created in our nation.

By planting coconut trees within the coastal region of about 500metres from the sea there is no necessity for frequent watering of these plants as the groundwater level in these regions will be within a depth of about 5 to 10meters from surface level.

Cost estimation:-

First, for the completion of this project it is necessary to invest a suitable amount of money at the rate of 30Rupees per coconut plant development. For instance if we want to plant 30crores coconut, a tentative amount of 900 crores (30 crores x 30 Rupees) will be needed initially. For fencing these coconut plants with barbed wires for an area of about 8000kms (7000 km+ 1000km for an additional area including fencing around the harbor area) we will need 700 crores approximately. So total cost needed for this will be 1600 crores approximately. The cost estimation is as follows:-

Expenditure for coconut planting development	
30 crores x 30	- 900 crores
To build barbed wires	
7000 x 10 lakhs	- <u>700 crores</u>
Total cost	<u>1600 crores</u>

This plan starts to bear fruits within 5 years. Once this starts to give benefits, the income from this source can be shared as open tender on contract basis to central, state and to Gram panchayat in the ratio of 30:30:40 respectively. The annual income from this source to the government will be 3000 crores approximately.

Benefits:

- A) Since the area of plantation extends in kilometer and by appointing more forest guards in supervision it may be expected that more than 6000 employment can be created.
- B) Soil erosion in coastal regions can be protected. The understanding of all the factors which effected to the soil could be starting new way of improving any soil model [1]. The mixture soil is the cost-effective way[2]. In the Suffolk coast around Dunwich and sizewell has experienced major changes during past 2000 years with significant loss of land caused by marine erosion [3].
- C) Disasters such as tsunami can be watched over and warned.
- D) Indian foreign exchange rate compared with other foreign countries will be increased.
- E) Central and state government will earn an annual income of about 3000 crores per year.
- F) Since the coconut production increases in our country, the prices of coconut and coconut products will be available for less price sales in our country.
- G) The production of coconut by-products such as coir, coconut leaves and handicrafts made from these by-products will increase.
- H) Similarly, the decayed by-products shedding from these trees will increase the organic content of the soils in this coastal region.
- I) Since the ratio of these trees to human population is in the ratio of 1:4(30crores:120crores)air pollution resulting from human population can be reduced.
- J) Global warming can be changed (REDUCED) drastically.
- K) Planting more trees will result in more rainfall which further results in environmental rich India.
- L) Tourism will get developed resulting in indirect income
- M) Minerals in sea-shore soils will be protected.
- N) Coastal encroachment will be prevented.
- O) More fuels from coconut products such as their branches will be available
- P) Coastal protection will be an added advantage since it will prevent sea-side smuggling and sea-side anti-social intrusions.

The above said procedures can be implemented as follows:-

The above said procedure should be planned kilometer-wise and can be implemented with the help of central, state, sea-side Gram panchayats, coastal villages and with the help of NGO's(Non-Governmental Organisation).

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