

AICRP ON PLANTATION CROPS

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1. Scheme brief information(1-2 pages)

Palmyrah palm (*Borassus flabellifer* L.) is one of the most valuable multipurpose tree species of the dry and coastal regions of India, providing food, beverages, fiber, timber, handicraft materials, and livelihood opportunities to rural communities.

Natural populations of Palmyrah exhibit considerable variability in traits such as fruit size and quality, pulp characteristics, sap yield, sugar content, sex expression, growth habit, drought tolerance, and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses. However, much of this valuable diversity remains undocumented and is at risk of being permanently lost before it can be identified and utilized.

The climatic conditions of the Telangana are highly suitable for the cultivation of Palmyrah. In Telangana, Nalgonda, Rangareddy and Mahaboobnagar districts are congenial for the cultivation of Palmyrah palm. However, there is no commercial cultivation of this palm owing to many problems like.

- a) Non availability of improved seed material for the cultivation of the Palmyrah palm.
- b) Lack of proper package of practices in Palmyrah palm
- c) Lack of value addition products in Palmyrah palm.

Therefore, a comprehensive survey and in situ characterization of existing Palmyrah populations are urgently needed to identify elite palms possessing unique and economically important traits.

In the undivided state of Andhra Pradesh, the AICRP on Palms (Palmyrah) was located at Horticultural Research Station, Pandirimamidi, which was catering to the needs of the palm farmers of the entire state with more emphasis on the location-based research, specific to Andhra Region. Therefore, after the bifurcation of the state, there is a need to establish and maintain palm specific to Telangana State and a volunteer centre was established to strengthen in Telangana.

2. Mandate crops : Palmyrah crop

3. Thrust areas : crop improvement and post harvest technology

4. Research accomplishments :

- Acc No. HRSTSK - 20 had recorded the highest neera yield (14.96 litres per palm per day) followed by Acc No. HRSTSK – 10 (14.50 litres per palm per day) and Acc. No. HRSTSK -21 (14.12 liters per palm per day).
- The time taken for each tree 10.56 min by using climbing machine when compared to traditional method whereas the easy of climbing and safety features are tough and poor in case of climbing machine

- P^H was found to be neutral (7.0) and maximum TSS (13 °B) was recorded in CPCRI pot.
- palm sugar is having total sugar content is 91.04-92.56 (g/100g) and non reducing sugar content is 5.64-5.14 (g/100g).
- Pams jaggery is having sugar content of 87.25 mg and total sucrose content is 62.85 mg
