**The Coconut Industry in Guyana**

Approximately 3 years ago there was a surge on the demand for coconut. A coconut revitalization program was developed. Assistance was granted by the FAO as well as Indonesian & Indian Experts had done some work.

A lot of the estates in Region 4 are abandoned due to majority of the person living overseas. A major constraint is labour, D&I and production and productivity.

Our varieties were mainly for dried nuts.

Two major issues were found:

Lack of fertilization (12:12:17:2 was supplied to farmers) – this led to an increase of about 25-30%. There was also an increase in water quantity after fertilizer was applied. Some insect pests were also dealt with. Monocrothophous was used; however this is a banned chemical. Triogophous was used instead.

Access to Plant Materials: Had to get the mother trees which were selected for seedlings. Producing 25,000 seedlings on an annual basis. Expansion was done specifically for water nuts. The 18 mths has been drawing interest.

Approximately 100,000 water nuts are required weekly to supply the local markets demand. Annual production (general) is about 240,000,000 nuts.

NAREI is promoting coconut as an industry. M&M is incorporating intercropping as well as value added; Small ruminants can be used on plantations.

* Hope Estate is where the nursery programme was started.
* Most of the estates are old (over 75 yrs) – majority of the owners are old and avoiding investing.
* The Industry will not be driven by the persons who own the estate. Demands will create a supply chain.
* We (MoA) have to drive the coconut industry
* The Guyana nut is one of the thickest kernel in the world.

We continue to implement the 2009 revitalization of the coconut industry. There has been increasing demand for coconuts both locally and internationally. The MoA via NAREI and GMC is further strengthening this plan for 2013 and we will convene a stakeholder meeting in January to discuss the further strengthening to supply the growing demands in the Region and further afield.

Major Players

Pomeroon and Maharajas are the main players. Vilma, Stoll, Garaway and East Dem and West Berbice