

HARVESTING

Harvest 10 to 15 months after planting or when the following are observed:

- Fruits are full, plum, round and light green
- Angles of the fingers are rounded
- Leaves turn yellow

COCONUT FERTILIZATION USING EITHER MULTINUTRIENT FERTILIZER (14-5-20%) OR (NaCl+AS)

Component Crop/Stage	NaCl	+ AS	or MNF
	Rate/tree (kg)	Rate/tree (kg)	Rate/tree (kg)
Year 1-10	1.70	1.50	3.00

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Banana intercropping in coconut farms is highly profitable shown by its high net returns

Price	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Gross Returns	134,139.68	149,169.91	161,622.36	168,869.26	175,811.13
Production Cost	49,657.56	54,133.69	58,025.12	60,695.79	63,337.93
Net Returns	84,482.12	95,036.23	103,597.23	108,173.47	112,473.20

Table 1. Economic analysis for year 1-5

Price	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Gross Returns	185,959.38	194,858.80	204,381.77	214,901.30	225,516.90
Production Cost	66,834.53	70,079.48	73,530.03	77,279.49	81,112.03
Net Returns	119,124.84	124,779.32	130,851.74	137,621.81	144,404.87

Techno Guide on Coconut Intercropping No. 06/2019



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Coconut-Banana Intercropping

THE COCONUT

BIO-PHYSICAL BASIS FOR INTERCROPPING

In monocrop coconut, much area is left unproductive throughout its life span. The effective root area per coconut palm is only 12.5 sq m and the functional roots are concentrated between 30 and 130 cm depth, which give ample space for intercrop.

In intercropping with banana, fertilization of coconut should be separate from banana according to the following:

WHY BANANA?

- Banana is best planted under 1 to 3 years old coconut palms and/or 25 years and above
- Their basic climatic requirements are almost the same.
- Banana needs less water than coconut
- Banana is high in nutritive value (i.e. carbohydrates, potassium, calcium, vitamin C and B6)
- Banana is a fast-growing plant that bears fruit in less than a year
- There is a high demand for banana locally and abroad
- Banana is a very profitable intercrop

LAND PREPARATION

After clearing the interspaces of coconut, mark the required distance: 3 x 3 m for Lakatan and Latundan; 5 x 5 m for Cardaba/Saba.

PREPARATION OF PLANTING MATERIALS

- Bole out corms with 1-3 live buds/sword suckers/maiden suckers and cut all roots leaving 1-2 cm long from the head
- For corms, treat with 50 gm Dithane M45 + 30 ml/Basudin 60 EC + 1.5 ml sticker + 20 liters water or soak in 130°F hot water for 10 minutes
- For suckers, retain 2 youngest leaves
- For tissue cultured planting materials, purchase ready to plant seedlings

PLANTING

- Dig hole depending on size of planting materials
- Plant corms in slanting position with growing point on top.
- For suckers, plant in upright position and cover with soil up to the collar and press gently.
- For tissues cultured seedlings, removed polybags before planting on planting holes.

MAINTENANCE

- Fertilize banana with the following fertilizers and rates under two options: 100% inorganic fertilizer (IF) or 75% inorganic + 25% organic fertilizer (OF).

Option 1. 100%IF

Age/ Stage	Urea (g/plt)	Solophos (g/plt)	KCl (g/plt)	14-14-14 (g/plt)
a. Planting	70	50	80	-
b. 3months	104	65	106	-
c. 6months	114	79	129	-
d. 9months	114	79	129	-
e. bearing (2x)	-	-	-	500

Option 2. 75%IF + 25% OF

Age/ Stage	Urea (g/plt)	Solo-phos (g/plt)	KCl (g/plt)	14-14-14 (g/plt)	chicken dung (g/plt)
a. planting	52	38	60	-	322
b. 3 months	78	49	80	-	478
c. 6 months	86	59	97	-	524
d. 9 months	86	59	97	-	524
e. bearing (2x)	-	-	-	375	700

- Ring-weed banana at one meter radius
- Remove dry leaves regularly
- Allow only one sucker per hill at a time
- Do either bud injection or pre-emergence bud spray/ bunch spray.
- Debud and wrap developed fruits of Lakatan with plastic bag. Wrap fruit bud with sack and remove when bunch are fully developed.