

**TWO BATCH OF NEERA TECHNICAIN TRAINING HELD AT THEJASWINI-2016-17**



### Neera Technician Training- Activity Report 2016-17

#### Second Batch

The Second batch of Neera technician training was held at Thejaswini CFPC Ltd from 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at Thejaswini Training centre, Udayagiri CPF, Kannur. The inauguration programme was conducted at Udayagiri with the presence of eminent personalities and dignitaries. Sri, Jose Paraynkuzhi (President, CPF confederation, Kannur) inaugurated the function. Sri. K.A Sebastian (Rtrd. Assi. Director of Agriculture) presided over the training. Jose paraynkuzhi said at the inaugural address that Neera production will streamline the farmers in to a better tomorrow. He also distributed the Master technician training appreciation certificates to Sri. Manoj TR, Sri. Mohanan S R, Sri. Lakshmanan, Sri. Pradeep and to Sri. Tomy poulose.

Sri. Dinesh kumar (Agriculture Officer, Cherupuzha) Sri. Rajagopal (Branch Manager, Federal bank, Cherupuzha), Sri. Joseph Mullanmada (Local head) Sri. Satheeshan karthikappalli, Mrs. K P Sunitha (Member, Cherupuzha Grama Panjayath) Sri. Thomas C U (President, Alakode CPF) were felicitated the training programme. Sri. C U Thomas (Retd. Deputy Excise commissioner) distributed the climbers to the trainees. 19 trainees were registered in the first batch for participating in the Neera technician training.

The training is of a 6 week intensive programme which includes theory and practical sessions. Sri. P M Sebastian (Director, Thejaswini CFPC Ltd) was the coordinator of the training. The brief report of the second batch Neera technician training held at Udayagiri is as follows.

## **First Week**

The main concentration in the first week training was to impart basic knowledge to know the specialties of coconut tree. The sessions were introductory in nature. The classes covered:

### **Introduction on coconut palms**

- Type of coconut palms.
- Identifying a healthy potential Neera coconut palm
- Selection of Inflorescence.

Sri, C.U Thomas (Rtrd. Depty. Commissioner of Excise) delivered the introductory classes and the trainees were fully understood the basic things regarding coconut trees and Neera tapping. The company arranged food and accommodation for the trainees, master trainers and help them to identify good palms from member farmers of the company. The company also distributed Neera knives and specially designed packs for knife to the trainees.

In the first week, Trainees were divided in to five groups and got training under one master technician at the field level. The trainees were taught the climbing of coconut trees with using husk and coir. The selection of inflorescence from a healthy palm, cleaning and maintenance of tapping tools and Neera collecting vessels are the other key areas which the trainees got trained. The trainees were got training at the land by getting training on a banana stem.

## **Second week**

In the second week trainees were taught the basics of personal hygiene for better performance. The theory class was held on the topic:

## **Palms Preservation and Management**

- Manage and maintain a Neera tapping palm
- Application of fertilizer.
- Identification of palm disease and Pest management.
- Effect of pesticides on Neera tapping.

The lecture was delivered by Sri. Jose parayankuzhi (President, CPF Confederation ). In this week the trainees were given tapping training on the top of the palm tree.

### **Third Week**

The third week training was mainly to impart knowledge in demonstration and training on preliminary and preparatory steps involved prior to Neera tapping. It includes the full management of coconut stump to tap Neera. The theory session was delivered by Sri. K.A Sebastian (Rtrd.Assi.Director of Agriculture) and Sri. Sunny George (Chairman Thejaswini CFPC Ltd.) The session covered the topics on:

#### **Introduction about Tapping and Neera Production**

- Features of Healthy palms.
- Steps involved in tapping process.
- Modern method of Neera tapping
- Tapping tools/vessels involved in Neera collection
- Technique to improve quality and yield of sap

In third week trainees were started to maintain their own palms under the control of their master trainer. Sri. Manoj T R and Sri. Mohanan SR were helped the trainees to get involved in production of Neera.

#### **Fourth week**

The fourth week training was mainly to teach the application of collecting vessel, technology details of Central plantation crops research institute (CPCRI) which is using at Thejaswini CFPC Ltd. Field level demonstration and training was held and trainees were well understood the steps involved in Neera tapping and collection. All the trainees were produced good quality Neera by their own effort. The trainees were congratulated at a ceremony conducted at Thejaswini training centre, Thirumeni. The theory session was held on the topics:

##### **Introduction about Neera**

- Nutritional value of Neera.
- Composition of Neera.
- Economic value of Neera
- Importance of Neera and Neera tapping
- Neera in other countries

The lecture was by Mr. Sunny George (Chairman Thejaswini CFPC Ltd.) and the second session was by Sri. Shebi Zacharias MBA ( CEO of Thejaswini CFPC Ltd.) The trainees were fully acknowledged the lessons and analyzed that Neera is one of the most nutritious health drinks in the world.

## **Fifth week**

In the fifth week of Neera technician training at Thejaswini training centre, Thirumeni, more trainees were produced Neera from their own palms. The master trainers like Tomy Paulose, Pradeep and Lakshmanan were congratulated the trainees and they were awarded with special prizes. The theory session was by Sri. K A Sebastian (Retd. Assistant Director of Agriculture). The second lesson was by Sri. Abdul Razak (MBA, Management intern, CDB Kochi)

The topics covered are:

### **Microbiological quality aspects in Neera tapping**

- Personal Hygiene of Neera Technician
- Need for quality and hygiene in tapping, collecting and storage
- Hygiene in tapping method
- Hygiene in transportation of Neera
- Hygiene in storage of Neera

Mr. Jose Vettam was the supervisor to collect and transport the collected Neera in the event of more Neera produced by the trainees.

## **Sixth Week**

The last week of the training focused on production of maximum quantity of Neera with full quality. The application of disinfectant and anti ferment solution in Neera tapping was taught in the sixth week to ensure quality of Neera. The lecture was made by Sri. Jose Parayankuzhi (Neera committee head, Thejaswini CFPC ltd).

- Meaning and Importance of disinfectant and anti-ferment solution
- How to apply disinfectant and when to add anti-ferment solution

In the sixth week of training, trainees were visited to Neera processing lab at Thirumeni and familiarized with storage and processing of Neera. All trainees were got an average of 1.7 liters of Neera per palm. As part of the training the trainees got practical sessions including group discussions, drama plays and creative activities to improve their communication skills, interpersonal skills and social security objectives. Sri. Shibu Kuzhinjalil (Yoga Guru) took lectures on breathing exercise and first aid practices to communicate the need for a mental and physical health to become a successful Neera technician.

Some of the Neera technicians in the batch were interested to become Neera master trainers in future. To become a successful master trainer it is important to have teaching ability with thorough knowledge. Thejaswini CFPC Ltd. arranged a teaching practice session to face this challenge. Sri. Sebastian PM (District resource person, SSA Kannur) took a class on teaching practice. The final evaluation test to examine the knowledge level of trainees was held on the 41<sup>st</sup> day of training. The criterion of the evaluation test was:

Theory Part (Viva) – 25 marks

Practical Exam -- 50 marks

Seminar -- 25 marks

**Total Marks --- 100 marks**

All the 19 trainees were passed out and qualified for getting the approved certificate from Coconut Development Board.

The closing ceremony of first batch Neera technician training was held at Udayagiri on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Sri. Sunny George (Chairman, Thejaswini CFPC Ltd) presided over the ceremony. Sri. Jobin Mathew (Vice Chairman, Thejaswini CFPC ltd.) Inaugurated the programme. Sri. Jose Paraynkuzhi (President, CPF Confederation), Sri. Baby Jacob (Director, Thejaswini CFPC Ltd) and Sri, C.U.Thomas (Rtrd. Depty. Commissioner of Excise) were felicitated the program. Sri. George Thannickal and Jobin Kuruvila were awarded the best Neera technician awards and distributed the cash prizes to both. Sri. Sunny George distributed the certificates to the trainees at the function. Sri. Abdul Razak (Executive Officer, Thejaswini CFPC Ltd.) delivered the vote of thanks.

