

SAHANA

A MULBERRY VARIETY TO GROW AS INTERCROP IN COCONUT PLANTATIONS

Mulberry is cultivated mainly as monocrop. However, growing mulberry as intercrop in coconut plantations is an age old practice in traditional sericultural belts of Karnataka state. As the coconut trees are planted more than 8 m apart, there is scope for growing mulberry as intercrop, which helps in better utilization of land and additional income to the farmers.

Presently, Kanva 2 & V1 are being cultivated as intercrop in coconut plantations. The Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Mysore has developed a variety SAHANA, a hybrid of Kanva-2 and Kosen, which is found to be more suitable to grow as intercrop in coconut plantations.

The variety is characterized by medium branching, fast growth, slightly spreading posture, short internodes, cordate leaves that are entire, thick, glossy and dark green in colour. The variety is tolerant to shade (40%) and yields up to 40 – 44 mt/ha / year when planted as intercrop in coconut plantations.

AGRONOMICAL DESCRIPTIONS

Leaf yield	40 – 44 mt/ha/year under irrigated condition.
No. of shoot/plant	6
Total shoots length	684 cm
Inter nodal distance	4.81 cm
Leaf size and shape	Leaf area- 238 cm ² , entire, cordate; Length: 17 - 21 cm Breadth: 14 – 17 cm
Leaf surface	Smooth, glossy, dark green
Leaf thickness	155 - 160 µm
Weight of 100 leaves	397 – 420 g
Resistance to diseases	Tolerant to leaf spot, moderately resistant to leaf rust and tukra infestation.
Regeneration	13 – 15 days after pruning during winter season. 9 – 10 days after pruning during other seasons.
Sprouting (at 30th day)	95%
Rooting (at 90 th day)	80%

PACKAGE OF PRACTICES

Age of coconut tree	Initial period of 5 years after plantation and after 20 years of plantation.
Spacing of coconut trees	> 8 x 8 m
Manure (FYM)	25 mt/ha/year
Chemical fertilizer (N:P:K)	For mulberry: 350:140:100 kg/ha/year in 5 split doses. For coconut: 500:320:1200 g / tree/ year in two split doses.
Form of chemical fertilizer	Straight
Irrigation	1.5 acre-inch at an interval of 6-7 days.
No. of crops/year	Five

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MULBERRY BREEDING & GENETICS LABORATORY

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