



Consolation Award

Coconut Harvesting Tool and Eri Cocoon Opener

Budheswar Pamey
Dhemaji, Assam
Scout: Direct

Budheswar Pamey (50), a tribal farmer from Dhemaji, has been innovating several small agricultural tools useful for the farmers. He has participated in many exhibitions in Assam and won a few awards.

Harvesting coconut fruit from the tree is tedious once it attains sufficient height. Using rope or barefooted technique for coconut harvesting is risky, and the availability of skilled labourers for the task is drastically declining. The toil in manual coconut harvesting, the lack of climbing labourers and the operational and safety issues in availing manual climbers have necessitated the mechanization of coconut harvesting. To overcome this difficulty, Budheswar developed a small tool which helps to efficiently selective harvest the coconut without climbing the tree.

It is a small cylindrical tool with three outwardly bent finger-like projections on three with two knobs inside each finger. This

help to hold the target fruit properly. A bamboo stick is fixed to the tool to act as a handle (the stick size can be up to the desired length). The target fruit is held with the help of the fingers, and the tool rotated anticlockwise to pluck the fruit. The tool is unique and available at a low cost. The tool's harvesting capacity is around 70-80 units/h. It weighs 2kg without a handle and with the bamboo stick about 10-12kg. The innovation was verified by KVK Dhemaji, whose report mentions that this tool helps harvest the selected coconut from a bunch without requiring it to harvest the entire bunch. Also, using this tool, harvesting can be done without affecting the germinating bud.

Traditionally Eri cocoons are processed by boiling, followed by the removal of pupa, which affects the quality of yarn. Budheswar's cocoon opener makes a hole in the cocoon to take out the pupa. Removing the pupa without boiling does not deteriorate the yarn quality and colour and saves time.

