



Application of Tank Silt for Improving Arecanut Productivity in Karnataka

R. Srinivasan¹, N. Maddileti¹, S.P. Maske¹ and V. Kasthuri Thilagam²

¹ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Regional Centre, Bangalore-560024, Karnataka, India

²ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute (SBI), Coimbatore- 641007, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

Tank silt is a by-product of the desilting process carried out in irrigation tanks in Karnataka. The silt contains essential nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, which can be utilized as a soil amendment to enhance the productivity of crops. This article discusses the application of tank silt for improving arecanut productivity in Karnataka. The study evaluates the effectiveness of tank silt application on arecanut yield, soil fertility, and economic returns. According to the findings, farmers in Karnataka can greatly increase their arecanut output, soil fertility, and financial gains by using tank silt.

Introduction

Arecanut is an important cash crop grown in the Malnad and coastal regions of Karnataka. The state contributes to 70% of the country's arecanut production, making it a vital crop for the state's economy. However, the productivity of arecanut cultivation in Karnataka is declining due to various factors like soil degradation, nutrient depletion, and climate change. Hence, there is a need for sustainable practices that can improve the productivity of arecanut cultivation.

Tank silt is a by-product of the desilting process carried out in irrigation tanks in Karnataka. It is abundant in nutrients that are necessary for plant growth, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. The application of tank silt can improve soil fertility and enhance crop productivity. However, the use of tank silt in agriculture is limited due to the lack of awareness and knowledge among farmers. Hence, this study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of tank silt application for improving arecanut productivity in Karnataka.

Methodology

The study was conducted in the arecanut growing regions of Karnataka. Two groups of farmers were selected, one group used tank silt as a soil amendment, and the other group did not. The



arecanut yield, soil fertility, and economic returns were compared between the two groups. Soil samples were collected and analyzed for nutrient content, and statistical analysis was carried out to evaluate the significance of the results.

Results

The results indicate that the application of tank silt significantly improved the arecanut yield, soil fertility, and economic returns for farmers. The arecanut yield was found to be higher in the group that used tank silt, with an average yield of 1.7 tons per hectare compared to 1.2 tons per hectare in the control group. Soil analysis showed that the tank silt application significantly increased the nutrient content of the soil, with an increase in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium levels. The economic analysis revealed that the use of tank silt was economically viable, with a net return of Rs. 46,000 per hectare compared to Rs. 35,000 per hectare in the control group.

Discussion: The study findings suggest that the application of tank silt can improve soil fertility and crop productivity in arecanut cultivation. The nutrient content in tank silt varies depending on the location, type of soil, and vegetation cover around the tank. Therefore, the nutrient content of tank silt needs to be analysed before application to avoid over or under-application of nutrients. Additionally, the application of tank silt may not be suitable for crops that are sensitive to high levels of certain nutrients. Hence, the crop and soil requirements need to be considered before deciding on the application of tank silt.

The application of tank silt can also provide an alternative solution for the disposal of silt from irrigation tanks. The desilting process of tanks is essential for maintaining their water storage capacity and avoiding floods during the monsoon season. The silt removed from the tanks is usually dumped in nearby areas, causing soil erosion and environmental degradation. The utilization of tank silt in agriculture can provide an eco-friendly solution for the disposal of silt and improve soil fertility simultaneously.

Conclusion

The study highlights the potential of tank silt application for improving arecanut productivity in Karnataka. The application of tank silt was found to increase arecanut yield, soil fertility, and economic returns for farmers. The study suggests that the use of tank silt can be promoted as a sustainable soil amendment practice in arecanut cultivation. The government and agricultural extension agencies can play a significant role in creating awareness and promoting the use of tank silt among farmers. Further research is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of tank silt application in other crops and regions to explore its full potential as a sustainable soil amendment practice.



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