



Soil and Ecosystem Conservation



When the river banks are exposed, soil erosion makes the river wider and the farm smaller.



Establish Buffer Zones along river banks to prevent soil erosion.



Slashing and burning to open land destroys all plants and wildlife in the area. (Critical criteria 2.2 and 9.5)



Convert non-productive areas into conservation areas and plant native species.

Integrated Pest Management



Do not use banned chemicals, which are highly hazardous to the environment and human health. (Critical criterion 8.4)



Use biological control for pests and diseases.



Lack of pest monitoring will allow the pests and diseases to multiply and to become uncontrollable.



Monitor pests and diseases regularly, and take actions to prevent an outbreak.

Productivity



Planting trees too close to each other results in trees with low production.



Plant coconut at 10m X 10m. This allows sunlight and nutrient to be well distributed among the trees and increases productivity.



Excessive fertilization is costly and may lead to increased soil acidity and reduce fertility. Not fertilizing at all will stunt the trees and lead to low productivity.



Apply fertilizers based on soil analysis. Apply common salt or rock salt (NaCl) to increase copra yield. For bearing palms in areas of even rainfall, apply 1kg to 2kg of salt per tree once a year.

Copra Quality



Harvesting immature nuts results in rubbery copra with high moisture content and low oil content. Immature nuts are lighter compared to mature nuts.



For high copra yields and high copra quality, harvest mature nuts about 11 or 12 months old after flowering.



Drying on the tapahan or on pavement.



Producing white copra using a kukum dryer maximizes the potential of the nuts. Use coconut husks for the kukum.

Waste Management



Do not burn waste or throw them into rivers and streams. Burning of waste produces toxic fumes that are hazardous to human health. (Critical criterion 4.7)



Segregate wastes, and compost organic waste to produce organic fertilizer for your farm.



Planting only coconut makes farms vulnerable to the fluctuating prices of copra. Intercropping is recommended but be careful not to plant any GMO crop, such as BT Corn. (Critical criterion 8.6)



Intercropping with cocoa, coffee or fruits, such as papaya, pineapple and banana maximizes potential of the land and stabilizes farm income.