SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Table 2. Annual yield and production cost of CS fertilization on coconut

NaCl Rate (kg/tree)	Average Copra Yield (kg/ha)	Gross Returns (PhP)	Production Cost (PhP)	Net Returns (PhP)
0	850	24,140.00	7,970.05	16,169.95
1.0	2,000	56,800.00	22,282.03	34,517.97
1.5	2,500	71,000.00	13,837.12	57,162.88
2.0	2,750	78,100.00	14,569.21	63,330.79

Net profits from coconut farming depend much on the fertilizer cost, yield, and copra price.

The use of CS as fertilizer at a rate of 1-2 kg/tree is estimated to give a net return of PhP34,517.97–PhP63,330.79/ha/year (Table 2).

Techno Guide on Fertilization No. 02/2019

PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY
DAVAO RESEARCH CENTER
Bago Oshiro, Davao City 8000
Tel. No. (082) 293-0113
Fax No. (082) 293-0571
E-mail: pca.drc2015@gmail.com

For more information, call, write, or visit
Agronomy, Soils and Farming Systems Division
Philippine Coconut Authority
Davao Research Center
Bago Oshiro, Tugbok District,
Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 293 0161
E-mail: pcadrc.asd12@gmail.com

Common Salt Fertilization on Coconuts

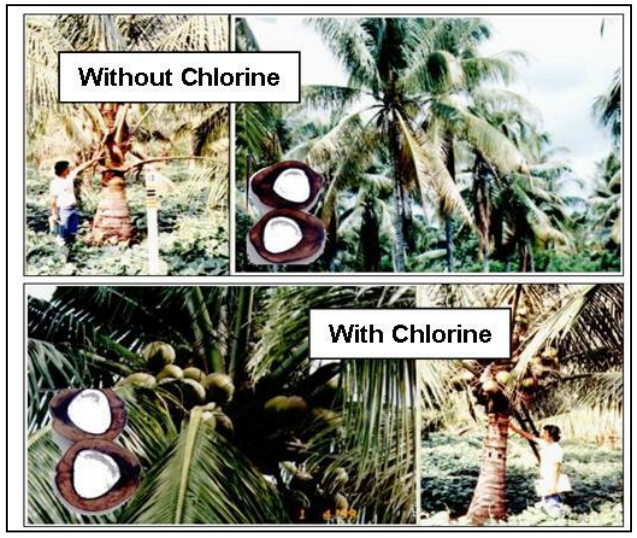
C0MM0N SALT (Sodium Chloride)

The use of sodium chloride (NaCl) or common salt (CS) as fertilizer is a practical means of increasing coconut production. Salt is the cheapest and best source of chlorine to increase copra yield.

Chlorine deficiency in coconut is widespread in inland areas. A PCA survey conducted nationwide showed that at least 40 coconut producing provinces are severely chlorine deficient.

Advantages

- Accelerates crop growth and development
- Increases copra weight and number of nuts
- Minimizes leaf spot damage
- Environment-friendly under judicious practice



Application

Salt may be applied in three ways:

- Broadcast (in flat to slightly sloping areas)
- Broadcast followed by fork-in at 2-3 inches depth of soil (preferably when salt is combined with nitrogenous fertilizers)
- Holing (for hilly-sloping areas distributed in 8-10 inches with 3-5 inches depth around the base of the tree).

In broadcast application, the fertilizer is placed uniformly over a weeded area around the base of the palm (1 m radius depending on the age of the palm).

Generally, bearing palms are fertilized annually in areas with almost uniform rainfall distribution (Table 1). In areas with distinct wet and dry seasons with uneven rainfall distribution, and those with sandy soils, fertilizers are best applied every six months. Split application is done at the pre-bearing stage (one to four years) of palms. This practice helps reduce loss of fertilizer nutrients through leaching and run-off and make fertilizer use more effective.

Table 1. Recommended CS rates for different ages/stages of growth of coconut palms

Age/Stage of palms	Rate of NaCl/ Tree/ year
Nursery	50 g
Field planting	100 g
Six months after planting	150 g
One year after planting	500 g
Two years after planting	750 g
Three years after planting	1.10 kg
Four years after planting	1.30 kg
Five years and above	1.50 kg