

PRESERVED NEERA IN GLASS BOTTLES

INTRODUCTION

The major problem facing the coconut plantations in India is the ‘mite’ disease. The state governments are taking necessary steps to contain/eliminate this problem by various means. In the meantime, the coconut farmers are put into a lot of hardship by way of loss of yield of the produce. To sustain the loss of revenue, the farmers have resorted to tapping the trees for collection of **neera** and selling it to realize some revenue for their livelihood. It is well known that the freshly tapped **neera** ferments very quickly to become ‘toddy’. It is in this context a process has been developed to preserve **neera** thermally in glass bottles.

RAW MATERIAL

Coconut sap

PROCESS

Process consists of collecting the coconut sap early in the morning in a hygienic condition, transporting immediately to the laboratory in a chilled condition, clarifying the sap, adjusting the pH of the sap, blending with certain additives followed by filling in glass bottles, sealing with crowns and pasteurization.

PLANT & MACHINERY

Major equipments required are Chiller room, filling machine, and Crown corking machine, Pasteurizer, Boiler, and Stirrer etc.

PROJECT COST – FIXED COST – WORKING CAPITAL (in Rs. ‘000)

(Estimate for a model project)

a) Land & Land development (500 m ²)	125.00
b) Building and civil works (300 m ²)	1200.00
c) Plant and machinery	3800.00
d) Miscellaneous fixed assets	150.00
e) Pre-operative expenses	500.00
Total fixed capital	5775.00
Working capital margin	1350.00
Total Project cost	7125.00

Means of finance

- Promoters contribution	2793.75
- Term loan	4331.25

PRODUCTION CAPACITY- (estimate)

Suggested economic capacity: 1000 Liters/day (5000 bottles per day)
 Working : 300 working days/year
 Capacity : 300000 Litres /annum
 Optimum utilization capacity: 70%

TECHNOLOGY/MANUFACTURING PROCESS – Availability

The technology for the manufacture of preservation of Neera in bottling has been developed at CFTRI, Mysore, using appropriate equipment for optimal product recovery of right quality. The CFTRI has the necessary expertise to provide technical assistance and guidance for setting up the project. The CFTRI can offer further technical assistance for project implementation under technical consultancy arrangements.