

'Kalpa Suvarna' and New Hybrid Cocoa Varieties

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Key Facts

'Kalpa Suvarna' and New Hybrid Cocoa Varieties

The government released a new dwarf coconut variety named 'Kalpa Suvarna' and two new hybrid varieties of cocoa, VTL CH I and VTL CH II, developed by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI).



[Ref: The Hindu]

About Kalpa Suvarna:

- 'Kalpa Suvarna' represents a breakthrough in **coconut cultivation**, primarily aimed at enhancing tender coconut and copra production.
- This variety is distinguished by its dwarf stature, making it an ideal choice for **efficient farming practices**.
- Remarkably, 'Kalpa Suvarna' begins to flower as early as **30-36 months** after planting.
- Each palm can produce **108 to 130 nuts** annually under optimal conditions, with each nut offering approximately **431 ml of water** and **186 grams of copra**.
- The copra extracted boasts a **high oil content of 64.5%**.
- This variety is recommended for cultivation in **Karnataka and Kerala**, owing to their climatic conditions and soil types being conducive to its growth.

About Cocoa Varieties:

VTL CH I:

- The VTL CH I **cocoa variety** is celebrated for its high fat and nutrient content, making it a valuable inter-crop in **arecanut** and **coconut plantations**.
- Its adaptability spans across **Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- Farmers can expect a yield of **1.5 kg to 2.5 kg** of dry beans per tree annually.

VTL CH II:

- VTL CH II stands out for its resilience against **black pod rot**, a common affliction in regions with high rainfall.
- This variety is not only suited for Karnataka and Kerala but is also planned for release in **Gujarat**.

and Tamil Nadu.

- Similar to VTL CH I, it yields **1.5 kg to 2.5 kg** of dry beans per tree per year, with **high fat and nutrient content**.