

## Republic Act 11524 known as Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) Act

The **Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) Act**, which created the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan was signed on February 26, 2021. The program seeks to (1) Increase the productivity and income of coconut farmers' (2) Poverty alleviation, education, and social equity; and (3) Rehabilitation and modernization of the coconut industry toward farm productivity.

The CFITF shall be maintained for 50 years and used for the coconut farmers' benefit and the coconut industry's development.



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# COCONUT TECHNOLOGY GUIDE COCONUT-CORN INTERCROPPING



## Corn

Corn, especially white varieties remains a staple food to a number of Filipinos especially in the Visayas. Likewise, there is a great demand of corn as livestock feeds in the country. Hence, corn planting is a popular and major agricultural activities.

Where there is a scarce land resource for planting corn, coconut lands offer a good opportunity for this purpose as the interspaces between rows of coconut can accommodate about 6 to 9 rows of corn depending on the planting distance of coconut (i.e. 8 x 8 to 10 x 10 m sq).

Corn is best intercropped when coconuts are young (1-5 years old and >10)

### Land Preparation

- Plow the field once when soil moisture permits and harrow twice
- Make furrows at 0.75 m apart and 2.0 m away from base of coconut
- Practice conservation tillage using herbicide in appropriate areas



### Selection of Planting Materials

Use high yielding corn variety or hybrids with good quality seeds.

Some of the varieties tested under coconut and their yields are:

- 1) USM varieties (2.3-3.6 t/ha)
- 2) IPBs (2-4 t/ha)
- 3) SMC (2.8-3.6 t/ha)
- 4) Pioneers (3.7-4.0 t/ha)

## Planting

Plant 2 seeds per hill on furrows at a distance of 20 cm between hills or 5.0 hills/ linear meter (about 30,000-48,000 plots/ha). This should be thinned to one plant per hill two weeks after germination.



### Fertilization

Soil test is a very good basis for fertilizer program. However in its absence, basal fertilizer application: apply fertilizers in furrows at 3 bags/ha of 14-14-14 and cover with thin layer of soil before planting

### Maintenance

- Off-bar (plowshare away from furrows) on the 14th day after planting (DAP)
- Sidedress the remaining half of the fertilizer at two bags ammonium sulfate or one bag urea around 5-6 cm away from the corn plants just before hilling-up.
- Hill-up (plowshare towards the furrows) at 45 DAP to cover the fertilizer and to control weeds
- Monitor the plants for occurrence of pests (mostly corn borer) and diseases (downy mildew). Uproot and burn affected plants immediately. For pest infestation spray with any insecticide available
- Perform line weeding when necessary



### Harvesting

Harvest the ears at appropriate time usually 95-100 DAP when husks are already dried.

## Coconut

Separate fertilization by broadcast and fork-in method is necessary according to the following rates (per tree):

### Fertilization Recommendation

Component Crop/Stage	NaCl	+AS	or MNF
	Rate/Tree (kg)	Rate/Tree (kg)	Rate/Tree (kg)
Nut-bearing Coconut			
Year 1-10	1.70	1.5	3.00

### Socio-Economic Analysis

Profitability analysis revealed that coconut-corn cropping model is a beneficial investment. This cropping model is more feasible at a higher market price.

### Economic Analysis per Cropping Season

	Season 1	Season 2
Gross Returns	45,649.00	24,192.00
Production Cost	13,932.53	13,932.53
Net Returns	31,716.47	10,259.47

