Harvesting Guidelines

Guidelines for Harvesting Coconut Palms in South Pacific Island Countries
• Harvest in Savusavu for peeling trial
• Guidelines for Harvesting Coconut Palms in South Pacific Islands Countries
Harvesting trial selections

A total of 96 x 6 m peeler quality logs were felled.

Harvest selections trail
Coconut palm harvesting trial near Savusavu, Fiji - June 2015

Advanced veneer and other product from coconut wood
Harvesting trial selections

- Harvest selections
- Felling
- Log handling & transportation
- Site rehabilitation

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Log Specifications:

- Lower diameters were measured before felling.
- Log sweep was estimated by eye before felling, then measured after felling.
Harvesting trial selections

Log specifications:

- Lower diameter range of 29 – 35 cm
- Log sweep less than 3 cm in any 2.5 m length.
- No presence or historical evidence of termites or other pests and disease.
Harvesting trial selections

Log recovery:

- Approximately 65% of standing palms would produce a peeler log to the required specification.
- Remaining stems were too large (mainly) or had excessive sweep (about 5%).
- Palms had to be cut at approximately 1 m above ground to avoid butt-sweep.
- Palms stems were about 35-40 m high.
Harvesting trial selections

Log handling:

• A landing was cleared for the harvested logs at a well drained location.
• A tractor front-end loader was used to forward logs to the landing and load logs on the truck.
**Log supply:**

Logs were forwarded to the veneer peeling mill at Labasa in northern Vanua Levu, Fiji and stacked on bearers. To prevent degrade, they were wet daily and covered.
2.2 Harvesting Guidelines

Guidelines for Harvesting Coconut Palms in South Pacific Islands Countries

Sections in the Guidelines include:

- LEGAL COMPLIANCE
- PRE-HARVESTING ARRANGEMENTS
- THE HARVESTING PLAN
- HARVESTING PERSONNEL
- COCONUT PALM HARVESTING OPERATIONS
- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- RESTORATION and REHABILITATION OF THE HARVESTED AREA

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2.2 Harvesting Guidelines

Harvesting Guidelines – LEGAL COMPLIANCE


2.2 Harvesting Guidelines

Harvesting Guidelines – PRE-HARVESTING ARRANGEMENTS

- STAKEHOLDER MEETING
- PLANTATION INSPECTION
- INVENTORY ASSESSMENT and SELECTIONS
- RECORD OF INVENTORY

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2.2 Harvesting Guidelines

Google Maps, Government Department maps and Geographic Information Systems software can all assist in developing the Harvesting Map.

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2.2 Harvesting Guidelines

Harvesting guidelines include requirements for:

- Harvest Supervisor
- Fellers
- Harvest Machine Operators
2.2 Harvesting Guidelines

Harvesting Guidelines detail requirements for:

- Harvesting machines and equipment
- Safety equipment
- Access roads, tracks and landings
- Felling
- Log preparation
- Log handling
- Salvaging windblown palms
The Harvesting Guidelines recommend practices to minimise the risk of:

- Spreading pests and disease in the plantation during harvesting.
- The spread of pests and disease in log handling.
- The spread of pests and disease at the log processors.
2.2 Harvesting Guidelines

The Stakeholders should decide future land use before harvesting options include:

- Site clearance for the replanting of coconut palms
- Site clearance for a single crop or stock pasture
- Site clearance for inter-row or multi-cropping systems
Options for using coconut log harvesting residues have been investigated

Biochar types from coconut wood pyrolysis

Wood chipping for coconut wood compost

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2.2 Harvesting Guidelines

Barriers exist to the practical acceptance of coconut harvesting guidelines.

- Community and estate owners view their rights differently to forest owners or operators.
- These owners are used to acting independently, and this is most likely to carry over to coconut harvesting.
2.2 Harvesting Guidelines

- Estates or communities own most coconut stands, and will control harvesting
- Regular log supply will likely result from:
  - Communities adopting coconut plantation renewal plans.
  - Offer of logs for sale at an agreed price at a set collection point.
  - Direct negotiation with the community land-owners.
Questions