



CPCRI Introduces New Varieties for Coconut and Cocoa Cultivation

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The **Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI)** recently developed a new variety of coconut along with two new varieties of [cocoa](#) aimed at revolutionising coconut and cocoa cultivation in India.

- **Kalpa Suvarna**, the coconut variety is ideal for tender coconut and copra production, with specific characteristics **like large-sized fruits, high water content, and oil content.**
- The cocoa varieties, **VTL CH I and VTL CH II**, have high fat and nutrient contents, with VTL CH II being tolerant to **black pod rot.**
 - Black pod rot is a fungal disease that affects Cocoa Trees. It is majorly caused by fungal species belonging to the **genera Phytophthora.**
- VTL CH I is suitable for growing in **Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh**, while VTL CH II is recommended for high rainfall regions in **Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.**
 - Both cocoa varieties yield 1.5 kg to 2.5 kg of dry beans per tree per year.
- CPCRI was founded in 1916 by the Government of Madras and was later incorporated into the Indian Central Coconut Committee in 1947.
 - In 1970, it became part of the National Agricultural System (NRS) under the [Indian Council of Agricultural Research \(ICAR\).](#)
 - It focuses on researching and developing genetically superior planting materials for coconut, arecanut, cocoa, cashewnut, and spices.

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