The Latanye Mauby Project in St. Lucia.

Background:

Latanye (Coccothrinax barbadensis) is a palm native to St. Lucia; its leaves are used to make craft and brooms. Mauby (Colubrina elliptica) is a tree also native to St. Lucia; the bark is used to make refreshments.

Introduction:

In St. Lucia success has been achieved in :

1. Identifying Latanye as vulnerable and Mauby endangered in terms of presence abundance and distribution on the island.

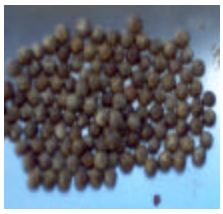
2. Doing research and documentation of the appropriate and successful methods to propagate, establish cultivated plantations and sustainable harvest the leaves of latanye.

3. Collaboration of agencies that impact in the Latanye Mauby Project.

A socio economic study by Lyndon John (1) of the Forestry Department detailed the vulnerable nature of the Latanye Broom Industry. That study detailed the over harvesting of Latanye Leaves to maintain livelihoods of rural people, because of the available market and demand for leaves for making brooms.

Brooms are bought locally and are also sold in other islands of the Caribbean including Barbados, St. Vincent, Venezuela, US Virgin Islands and St. Marteen. (2) The Forestry Department and the Corporate Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture have been involved determination of cost of production and calculation cost benefit analyses. (3)

Research at the Forestry Department also resulted in determination of a method that gave 90 to 100 % germination.


Seeds of Latanye


1 – 2 months


3 to 4 months

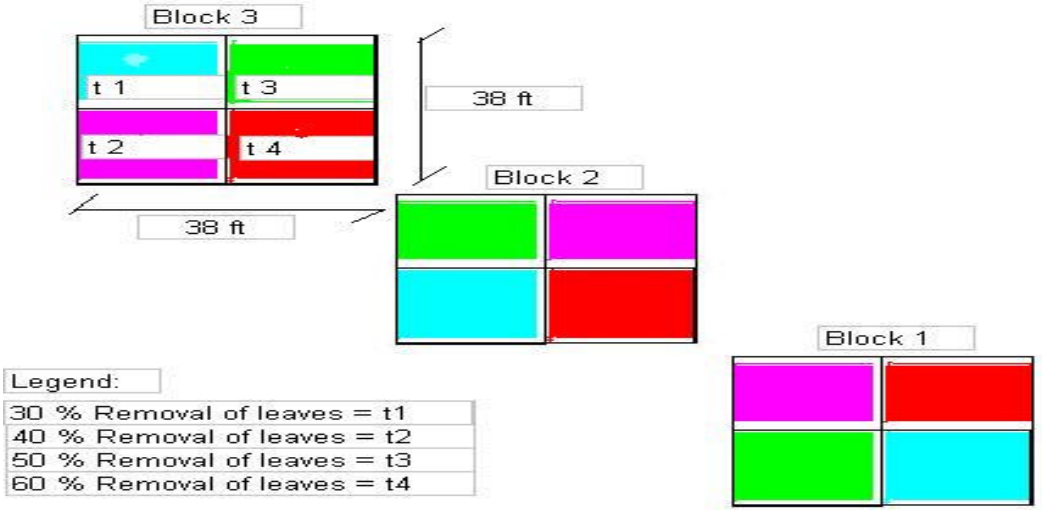

2 years


3 years old


Mauby obtained from 4 year old Plantation

The Forestry Department was also involved with Extension services in the successful establishment of 30 plantations of pure and mixed plots of Latanye and Mauby on farmers' holdings. The average size of a plantation is 1 acre.

There is ongoing research to determine the optimum harvesting regime for leaves. The results indicate that it is possible to sustainably harvest leaves from Latanye using a 40 to 50% removal of the leaves every 3 months. (4) The diagram below shows the experimental design of this experiment.



In St. Lucia there is also collaboration with the government services- Forestry and Extension, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Planning, St. Lucia Bureau of Standards, Broom Producers and Exporters, Agro-processing organization- Baron Foods and Non Governmental Organization. These organizations cooperate and plan activities of the task force. The objectives and activities are guided by a mandate.

Figure# 2: Task Force Meetings

Summary of Success of Latanye Mauby Project

Obstacles Encountered	Factors that determined success	Method to Implement Activities	Indicators use to measure	Remarks
Few plants available in the wild and low germination rates	Research and documentation	Experiments and establishment of plants on farmers holdings	No of seedlings germinated and distributed to farmers	10000 latanye and Mauby plants were distributed 2004-5
Over harvesting of leaves	Research and documentation	Experiment		40 50 % removal of leaves every 3 months.
Adoption of Latanye and Mauby as alternative crop	Collaboration with other agencies working on a task force	The Participatory Approach. Video and promotion of Latanye and Mauby to public	Request for plants from Nursery No of plantations of Latanye and Mauby	Nursery cannot supply demand for Latanye and Mauby plants

Bibliography

1) The Latanye (Coccothrinax barbadensis) Craft Industry in St.Lucia. Lyndon Cecil John 1999.

2) The Latanye Broom Industry in St. Lucia, Donatian Gustave, 2004

3) Cost Benefit Analysis for Latanye (Coccothrinax barbadensis), Lench Fevrier, 2005.

4) Determination of the Optimum Harvesting Regime in a Latanye Plantation, Donatian Gustave, Brent Charles and Margaret Severin 2005.