The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is an archipelago state in the southern Caribbean, lying northeast of Venezuela and south of Grenada in the Lesser Antilles. It shares maritime boundaries with other nations including: Barbados to the northeast, Guyana to the southeast, and Venezuela to the south and west. The country covers an area of 5128 km² and consists of two main islands, Trinidad and Tobago, and numerous smaller landforms. Trinidad is the larger and more populous of the main islands; Tobago is much smaller, comprising about 6% of the total area and 4% of the population.

The economy is largely based on oil and gas, which accounts for 40% of GDP and 80% of exports. As a result, focus has been on this sector and inadequate attention has been paid to the agricultural sector (MALMR 2008). The agriculture sector has declined in importance as a source of employment, despite a 13% national unemployment rate. It also provides the lowest average income in the country. For decades Trinidad and Tobago has been a net importer of food, with the level of food imports being 181% of exports in 1999. Structural transformation of the economy with development, led to primary productivity having an ever reducing share of the GDP with an accompanying parallel reduction in the labour force, partly due to increased competition from new growth sectors (e.g. tourism, manufacturing and services) and loss of essential resources (e.g. land, capital and labour). Developments of international trade have also added to the current agricultural problems of reduced capacity, production, exports, income, profitability and competitiveness.

Under the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (MALMR), the Fruit Crops Unit undertakes research work on coconut, banana and other tree crops. Regarding coconut, its main current objective is to develop a coconut-water industry for small farmers.

Coconut farmers registered under the Farmers’ Registration Programme are eligible for incentives, for the establishment of new fields (25% of the cost up to $1200/ha) as well as for rehabilitation of old fields (25% of the cost up to $1000/ha). Applications for these incentives must be made on the form provided by the MALMR, and submitted with proof of interest in land, and receipts for goods and services.

References

Saint Vincent Tall (STVT)

Ratnambal MJ, Kumaran PM, Bashkara Rao EVV, Pillai RV

Conservation
Saint Vincent Tall (STVT) is conserved at the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute at Kasargod (Kerala) and at the research stations at Konark (Orissa), Moundouri (Madhya Pradesh) and Aliyarnagar and Veppankulam (Tamil Nadu), India.

History
This variety was introduced to India in 1960 from Trinidad and Tobago.

Identification
The palm grows up to 7.5 m and has 26 leaves on the crown. Leaves are long (557 cm) with 236 leaflets. Leaflets are 113 cm long and 6.1 cm wide. The palm flowers about eight years after planting. The inflorescence is long with a long and strong petiole. The palms are indirectly self-pollinating as there is inter-spadix overlap in about 24% of the inflorescences. The fruits are greenish yellow in colour and oblong in shape. The husked nut is somewhat angular with thick kernel and thin shell. The husk is thick.

Yield and production
Fruiting starts in 12 years after planting. The yield in Kasaragod is 40 nuts per palm as well in Konark; in Moundouri, 50 nuts; in Veppankulam, 22 nuts and in Aliyarnagar, 70 nuts. Fruits are heavy (1128g weight) with 50g nut weight. Fruits have high husk content. Copra content in Kasargod is 185g per nut; in Veppankulam, 152g and in Moundouri, 182 g.

Other information
Saint Vincent Tall is resistant to root (wilt) disease of Kerala and tolerant to leaf rot disease caused by Bipolaris halodes. This variety has not been used in the breeding programmes in India.

References
CPCRI. 1999. All India Coordinated Research Project on Palms (AICRPP) Annual Report Kerala, India.


### Saint Vincent Tall (STVT)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Big</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Small</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Coconut" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Coconut" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Coconut" /></td>
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- **Dimensions:** 20 cm

**Scale:** 20 cm