

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE CHALLENGES TO THE SURVIVAL OF COCONUT
PRODUCTION INDUSTRY IN ZANZIBAR (1964-2005)
WEST URBAN REGION AS A CASE STUDY**

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ABSTRACT

An analysis of the challenges to the survival of coconut production industry in Zanzibar is intended to provide basic fundamental understanding on the aspect about coconut production and the challenges it faced from 1964 to 2005. Secondary and primary data have been collected in this study. Various methods have been used to collect data, among them are participatory group discussions, questionnaires and observation checklist. These have been done according to nature and the importance of the respondents. Moreover SPSS and XL, have been used as sophisticated tools for analyzing data in this study. The study has shown a multitude of reasons, why the coconut plantation in West Urban region and Zanzibar in general faced very critical conditions. Coconut production has shown a downward trend since 1960's. The major causes of the decline were inadequate agricultural extension Services, unattractive price, over-aged palms, pest attack, shortage of improved seed and planting material, degradation of coconut trees through coconut timber and bee hives, the settlement expansion lead by over population and migration from near by regions of Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland had its impact to the industry. Despite the efforts carried out by the government under the ministry of agriculture in (1980s), the industry showed the downward trend experienced yearly. The most effected area is West district at Zanzibar town. It is absolutely necessary for the government to allocate the land for expansion of Urban areas and industry in areas with coral rag and infertile soils, Moreover it is the time now for the revolutionary government to engage herself or to welcome investors to build blocks instead of low level unplanned slum settlements. This would allow more space, for rehabilitation and replanting of the coconut crop.