

## Neem trees get fantastic growth

Amazing growth in Neem Tree has been observed in a trial set up at Village Baharpur of Baliaakandi Upazila in Greater Faridpur by the Bangladesh Neem Foundation with assistance from the Bangladesh office of the Belgium based TerraCottem soil conditioner.

Neem tree, which is a tropical evergreen tree and lives upto 200 years has miraculous powers and has enormous benefits to countries both rich and poor. Researchers say that Neem deserves to be called a 'wonder plant'. In particular, Neem may be the harbinger of a new generation of soft pesticides that will allow people to protect crops in benign ways. In addition,

Neem kernels have about 45% oil which have shown diverse positive effects including repellent, growth regulating, sterility and impairing hatching of eggs. Neem seed cake in purified form is a good protein supplement in livestock feed. The termite resistant neem timber is used as a building material in making furniture, its amberhued gum is used as dye in textiles and traditional medicines and leaves are used as fodder and green manure.

Medicinal properties of Neem have been known since time immemorial. The Neem tree brings joy and freedom from various diseases and have proven beneficial or preventative for abrasions, AIDS, Bronchitis, Chicken Pox, Diabetes, Leprosy, Snake Bites, Tuberculosis among hundreds of others.

The trial started on 25th February, 2004 and a total of 300 Neem saplings were planted, three treatments — control, 5 gm. TerraCottem per plant and 10 gms.

TerraCottem per plant were applied on 100 saplings each.

Observations after 3 months on 25th May, 2004 showed that plants treated with 5 gms. of TerraCottem showed the best growth in comparison to control and 10 gms. of TerraCottem. A few of the noticeable observations were:

\* Neem saplings treated with 5 gms. of TerraCottem showed a survival rate of 99% whereas in control the survival rate was only 69%.

\* 5 gms. TerraCottem treated saplings showed a tremendous growth in height. On an average they measured 100 cms. at the end of 3 months whereas control saplings measured only 65 cms. on an average.

\* The average collar diameter in saplings treated with 5 gms. of TerraCottem was 4.2 cms. whereas in control the average collar diameter was 1.93 cms.

In addition plants treated with TerraCottem showed better and extensive root growth and the soil looked more fertile in comparison

to control. All these observations prove beyond doubt that investment in a small quantity of TerraCottem soil conditioner can improve the growth of the Neem tree which means more fruits and seeds resulting in higher yield and more profit for the planters. Moreover, this investment in TerraCottem soil conditioner is quickly recovered as a result of the increased survival rate and having remarkably higher trees.

TerraCottem is a proprietary mixture of more than 20 components that work in a synergy to significantly increase the capability of soils and growing media to retain and provide water and nutrients to improve plants and root growth, and to reduce the amount of after necessary to create high quality plants.

TerraCottem when added in minor quantities to the soil, around the new and existing flora, creates a protective shield — providing a "rootosphere" around the root structure of the plant, thus, intelligently defending it against harmful conditions such as salinity, drought and water logging, while simultaneously providing the plant with essential nutrients required for a healthy growth and increased crop yield.

TerraCottem creates a conducive environment without altering the physical characteristics of the soil thereby providing stress free growth environment to the plant. TerraCottem in no way acts on the plant directly nor effects the intrinsic characteristics of the final produce. It's basic role is to promote the root growth. In Bangladesh TerraCottem trials are being conducted on various vegetables, plants and flowers on a large scale and extremely encouraging results are being reported from all applications.

These amazing results achieved using TerraCottem soil conditioner are very encouraging for Bangladesh planters. Bangladesh Neem Foundation which is a voluntary non-profit apex body for all Neem activities nation-wide is of the strong opinion that these encouraging results, should motivate more and more people to plant

Neem and benefit from untapped business potential that Neem offers.