Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease in Weligama:
A Promising Solution for Southern Coconut Growers

The coconut palm is the tree of life of Sri Lanka. It is an important commodity crop due to its unique blood with the lives of four people both socially and commercially. However, a commodity, coconut products such as food and beverages, materials to a variety of industries, and a natural resource for the tourism and real estate industry. The coconut is the main plantation crop in the southern part of Sri Lanka, with an area of about 15,000 acres. The disease, known as leaf wilt disease, is a serious threat to the coconut industry in the region. This disease is caused by a pathogen that affects the leaves and stems of coconut palms, causing them to wilt and die. The disease has been observed in several areas of the country, particularly in the southern provinces.

Organisation. The coconut breeding programmes in Sri Lanka have made significant progress in developing disease-resistant coconut palm varieties. The government and research institutions have invested heavily in breeding programmes to develop disease-resistant coconut varieties. The breeding programmes involve selecting coconut palms that are resistant to the disease and then cross-breeding them to develop new varieties with improved resistance.

Producers. The coconut industry in Sri Lanka is supported by both large and small-scale producers. Large-scale producers typically have their own breeding programmes and are involved in the development of new coconut varieties. Small-scale producers rely on the government and research institutions for the development of new coconut varieties. The government and research institutions provide seedlings to small-scale producers who are then responsible for planting and growing the coconut palms.

Coconut breeding programmes in Sri Lanka have produced several disease-resistant coconut palm varieties. These varieties have been distributed to small-scale producers, who are now growing them in their coconut plantations. The disease-resistant coconut varieties are helping to reduce the impact of leaf wilt disease on the coconut industry in Sri Lanka.

The coconut industry in Sri Lanka is facing a significant challenge due to the outbreak of leaf wilt disease. However, the government and research institutions are putting in place measures to address this issue. The breeding programmes have produced disease-resistant coconut varieties, and these are being distributed to small-scale producers. The disease-resistant varieties are helping to reduce the impact of leaf wilt disease on the coconut industry in Sri Lanka.