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A Safe Technique for Leaning Tall Oil Palms for Breeding Programmes

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Breeding programmes have identified proven dura (mother) palms and pisifera (father) palms. These palms are very valuable with high economic values. Such palms will get taller with age, making them difficult to collect the pollen or to carry out seed production work. FELDA Agricultural Services Sdn Bhd (FASSB) has developed a safe technique for leaning these tall, high value palms with minimal risk of palm damage. Essentially, trenches are dug around the palm, and the angle and position where the palm will rest after the leaning are predetermined. A crane is then used to secure the palm with a strong cable before being pushed down to the predetermined spot using an excavator. By skilful maneuvering, the rate of descent for the palm is controlled and the palm is brought to rest on the predetermined spot with minimal damage to the fronds. This technique ensures that the palm trunk will not snap, as can happen if the rate of descent is not controlled. With this safe technique of leaning the palms, they can be reused again for breeding and seed production purposes.

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