

Hardships faced by coconut growers

1292. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems faced by the coconut growers due to drought, disease and lack of proper irrigation facilities, resulting in withering of coconut trees, if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) the mechanism put in place by the Coconut Development Board to mitigate the hardships faced by the coconut growers;

(c) the other measures proposed to be taken by Government for the same;

(d) the total number of Coconut Research Centres in the country and their status; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to commercialise and promote Neera parallel to soft drinks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Due to severe drought and lack of proper irrigation facilities, the health of coconut palms has been affected resulting loss of production in major coconut growing States.

Coconut Development Board (CDB) has been implementing various schemes/programmes and take other measures for improving production and productivity of coconut in the country to mitigate the hardships faced by the coconut growers. The detail of ongoing schemes/programmes is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) is being implemented in collaboration with Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC) and respective State Governments for providing insurance coverage for coconut palm affected by natural perils like drought, cyclone, pest and disease.

(d) The details of Coconut Research Centres in the country is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(e) CDB is giving thrust for processing and marketing Neera as health drink through Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) in the country. Two units, viz. (i) Kaipuzha Coconut Producers Company, Kollam and Thrukochi Coconut Producers Company, Ernakulam have started commercial production of Neera. CDB has also taken initiative to popularize the promotion of Neera as a healthy alternative to soft drinks through print and electronic media on account of its health benefits and nutritional value.

The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kerala has also developed a neera extracting and bottling technology to supply fresh, hygienic and unfermented Neera from coconut.

Statement-I

The detail of ongoing schemes/programmes of Coconut Development Board for improving production and productivity of coconut in the country

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- I. Production and distribution of planting material
 - II. Expansion of area under coconut
 - III. Integrated Farming for productivity improvement
 - IV. Replanting and Rejuvenation of coconut gardens
 - V. Technology Mission on coconut
 - VI. Marketing, market intelligent services, statistics and strengthening of Export Promotion Council
 - VII. Information and Information Technology
 - VIII. Extension and Publicity
 - IX. Establishment of Research & Development Centres
 - X. Three tier Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) in coconut sector
 - XI. Skill Development Training Programmes (Friends of Coconut tree (FoCT))
 - XII. Promotion of Neera production and marketing
 - XIII. Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS)
 - XIV. 'Kera Suraksha' Insurance Scheme for Coconut Tree Climbers (CTC)
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Statement-II

Details of the coconut centres functioning under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI)

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Location of the centre	State
1.	CPCRI, Kasaragod	Kudlu, Kasaragod	Kerala
2.	CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam	Krishnapuram, Kayamkulam, Alappuzha District	Kerala
3.	CPCRI, RS, Vittal	Vittal, Dakshina Kannada District	Karnataka
4.	CPCRI, RC, Kidu	Kidu, Nettana, Dakshina Kannada District	Karnataka
5.	CPCRI, RC, Kahikuchi	Kahikuchi, Guwahati	Assam
6.	CPCRI, RC, Mohitnagar	Mohitnagar, Jalpaiguri	West Bengal
7.	CPCRI, RC, Minicoy	Minicoy	Union Territory Lakshadweep

Details of the coconut centres functioning under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Palms

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Location of the centre	University/ICAR Institute
Coconut			
1.	Aliyarnagar	Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar - 642 101, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
2.	Ambajipeta	Horticultural Research Station, Ambajipeta - 533 214, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh	Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem, Andhra Pradesh
3.	Arsikere	Horticultural Research Station, Arsikere-573 103, Hassan District, Karnataka	University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Karnataka
4.	Bhubaneswar	Department of Horticulture, Bhubaneswar - 751 003, Odisha	Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
5.	Goa	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute, Goa	ICAR Research Institute
6.	Jagdalpur	Saheed Gundadhoor College of Agriculture & Research Station, Kumharawand Farm, Jagdalpur - 494 005, Chhattisgarh	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
7.	Kahikuchi	Horticultural Research Station, Kahikuchi, Guwahati-781 017, Kamrup District	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam
8.	Kasaragod	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod-671 124.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI)

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Location of the centre	University/ICAR Institute
9.	Mondouri	Directorate of Research, P.O. Kalyani - 741 235, Nadia District, West Bengal	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, West Bengal
10.	Navsari	ASPEE College of Horticulture & Forestry, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari - 396 450, Gujarat	Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat
11.	Pilicode	Regional Agricultural Research Station, Pilicode P.O. Kasaragod - 670 353, Kerala	Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala
12.	Port Blair	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair	ICAR Research Institute
13.	Ratnagiri	Regional Coconut Research Station, Bhatye - 421 612, Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra	Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra
14.	Sabour	Bihar Agricultural College, Sabour, Bhagalpur District - 813 210, Bihar	Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, Bihar
15.	Veppankulam	Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam - 614 906, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu