

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1911
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003
CULTIVATION OF COCOA AND VANILA
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to encourage the cultivation of plantation crops like Vanilla and Cocoa in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a small beginning has been made in Kerala and some other parts of the country in growing and developing vanilla plantations;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up a separate board to encourage large scale cultivation of vanilla and cocoa which has a great international market; and
- (e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a.) & (b.): For encouraging cultivation of vanilla and cocoa in the country following programmes are implemented:

(i.) Vanilla: For promoting vanilla cultivation, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementing/ Complementing the State Efforts through Work Plans, following programmes are implemented: (i.) Production and distribution of quality planting material at 25% subsidy; and (ii.) Establishment and maintenance of demonstration plots in the farmers' field in potential vanilla growing States by providing assistance @ 25% of cost of inputs limited to Rs.500/- per plot. Department of Horticulture, Karnataka provide technical guidance regarding cultivation aspects, plant protection etc. to the farmers at taluk and district level.

Besides, the Spices Board under Ministry of Commerce is implementing following programmes to promote vanilla cultivation:

Programme

Incentive/assistance provided

1. New planting

Maximum of Rs.5/- per cutting or 50% of the cost of quality rooted cuttings of vanilla.

2. Setting up of processing units

Rs.2,500/- per unit to farmers towards 25% of the cost of setting up vanilla curing unit.

The Spices Board so far has supported new planting in 570 ha. and set up 280 curing units.

(ii.) Cocoa: For promoting cocoa cultivation, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementing/ Complementing the State Efforts through Work Plans, following programmes are implemented:

(i.) New plantation development with clones of high yielding varieties;

(ii.) Replanting/rejuvenation of uneconomical gardens;

(iii.) Establishment/strengthening of regional nurseries for generation of high yielding planting materials of cocoa;

(iv.) Farmers participatory demonstration cum training areas;

(v.) Training to farmers and field level workers;

(vi.) Plant protection campaign; and

(vii.) Development of infrastructure for processing and marketing.

(c.): Spices Board in association with private sector nurseries proposed to produce and supply 27 lakh tissue culture plantlets which will be hardened, stocked and distributed by Kudumbhasree Project of Government of Kerala. The Board's departmental nurseries have programmes to produce conventional planting material to the tune of 7 lakh per annum. The Board has also planned and contracted with Farmers' Groups to produce around 4 lakh rooted cuttings during 2003-04 and 8 lakh rooted cuttings during 2004-05. The Board under its programmes proposes to cover an area of 5,000 ha. under vanilla during X Plan period.

(d.) & (e.): All aspect of vanilla and cocoa, such as, research, development, post harvest management and exports are taken care of by Indian Council of Agriculture Research; Directorate of Arecanut & Spices Development, Calicut, Directorate of Cocoa and Cashewnut Development, Kochi under Ministry of Agriculture; and Spices Board under Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Therefore, at present, there is no proposal to set up a separate board for vanilla and cocoa.