

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2644

ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012

PRODUCTION OF ARECANUT

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the steep fall in arecanut price and the low yield of arecanut due to various diseases including yellow leaf disease;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total loss to the farmers due to such diseases, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is undertaking any research to find out the causes for the diseases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned for the research work; and
- (e) the other measures taken by the Government to address the problems being faced by the arecanut growers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): The mean price of arecanut is 12,456 (Rs./qtl) during 2012-13 (upto July, 2012) as against 12,553 (Rs./qtl) during 2011-12. The production of arecanut has increased during the last three years as is evident from the table given below:-

Year Production
(000 tonnes)

2009-10	527.5
2010-11	520.1
2011-12	535.3

(c) & (d): Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) is undertaking research to find out the causes of the diseases affecting the arecanut crop which are as under:-

- # Breeding for YLD tolerance
- # Identification of resistant/tolerant hybrids/accessions.
- # Molecular characterization of YLD resistance in arecanut palms.
- # Survey and identification of elite disease free palms in YLD affected areas.
- # Mass multiplication YLD tolerant palms through tissue culture.
- # Management of YLD in arecanut.
- # Creating awareness programmes among the farmers and developmental agencies on various technologies for economic cultivation of the crop.

The regional station Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Vittal, Karnataka under ICAR is under taking research primarily on arecanut. The budget of the station is Rs.620.98 lakh for the year 2012-13.

(e): The following measures have been taken by the Government to address the problems of arecanut growers:-

(i) Under National Horticulture Mission, an amount of Rs.705.08 lakh was provided for rejuvenation including Yellow Leaf Disease (YLD) affected gardens of arecanut.

(ii) Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance has formulated a scheme for providing financial relief to the farmers in Karnataka for implementation through NABARD.

(iii) Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (ICAR), Kasaragod is undertaking various research and extension activities to promote alternative uses of arecanut and for affected control of Yellow Leaf Disease of arecanut.

(iv) During the year 2011-12, MIS was implemented for procurement of 8000 MTs White and 4000 MTs Red variety of arecanut from 06.04.11 to 31.05.11 with a Market Intervention Price of Rs.75,900/- per MT for white and Rs.97,900/- per MT for red variety of

Areca nut in Karnataka.