

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 374

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 04/04/2025

SUBSIDY TO FARMERS FOR PLANTING CASHEW TREES

*374. SHRI DHAIRYASHIL MOHAN PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified the problem of low production of cashew in Konkan, Maharashtra despite the growing international demand for cashew;
- (b) if so, the plans being formulated by Government to provide special subsidy to farmers for planting cashew trees to promote cashew cultivation; and
- (c) whether Government is formulating any policy to release the said subsidy within a stipulated time frame so that the farmers can avail its benefits on time and production can be boosted?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 374 FOR 04/04/2025 REGARDING SUBSIDY TO FARMERS FOR PLANTING CASHEW TREES.

(a): The average productivity of cashew in the country is 674 kilogram (kg)/ hectare (ha) while the productivity in the state of Maharashtra is 1003 kg/ ha which is higher than the average productivity of the country. However, All India Coordinated Research Project on Cashew under Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)- Directorate of Cashew Research (DCR), Puttur informed that severe occurrence of fog in the Konkan Region in current year leads to lesser fruit set and consequently low production in cashew. ICAR-DCR, Puttur, has developed and released cashew varieties i.e. Nethra Jumbo-1, Netra Ubhaya and Nethra Jumbo-2, specifically suited for the agro-climatic conditions of the Konkan region. These varieties are characterized by high yield, bold nuts and resistance to biotic & abiotic stresses, making them suitable for commercial cultivation in the region.

(b) & (c): The cost norms and subsidy pattern have been revised for cashew, with incorporation of new high density plantation for cashew to improve the production & productivity through Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare for holistic growth of the horticulture sector including cashewnut from 01.04.2025. The details of cost norms and pattern of assistance for area expansion under cashewnut are given at **Annexure- I**.

Programmes for the development of cashew under MIDH are also implemented through Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development (DCCD), Kochi. The Directorate is implementing various programmes for improving production and productivity through new planting programme by using high yielding varieties, various training programs in Maharashtra, including the Konkan region. These initiatives focus on improving farmers' knowledge of advanced cultivation techniques, pest and disease management, post-harvest processing, and value addition. Details of the training programmes implemented by DCCD in Maharashtra are given at **Annexure- II**.

During 2024-25, DCCD initiated to plant 1000 ha of cashew area in Raigad and Palghar districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra by providing 2.00 lakh quality cashew grafts of Vengurla-4 and Vengurla-7 varieties.

State Government of Maharashtra is also implementing programmes for area expansion of cashewnut under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee and Bhausaheb Fundkar Fruit Plantation Scheme. Under the schemes, a total area of 2752.97 ha has been covered under cashewnut in 2024-25.

Details of cost norms and pattern of assistance for area expansion under cashewnut

Item	Cost Norms	Pattern of Assistance
Plantation crops (For a maximum area of 2 ha per beneficiary)		
Cashew		
(a) Without drip Irrigation (i) Regular Spacing (drip should be in converged with other schemes)	Rs 75,000 /ha.	Assistance @40% in general areas for an area upto 2 ha. on pro-rata basis for meeting the expenditure on planting material and other input cost of in 2 instalments of 60:40 subject to survival rate of 80% in 2nd year. In the case of North-Eastern (NE) & Himalayan States, Scheduled areas, vibrant villages, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, assistance will be @ 50% for an area upto 2 ha. on pro rata basis
(ii) With Intercropping	Rs 50,000 /ha.	Assistance @40% in general areas for an area upto 2 ha. on pro-rata basis for meeting the expenditure on planting material and other input cost of in 2 instalments of 60:40 subject to survival rate of 80% in 2nd year. In the case of NE & Himalayan States, Scheduled areas, vibrant villages, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, assistance will be @ 50% for an area upto 2 ha. on pro rata basis.
(iii) High Density (Minimum 400 plants per hectare) (Cashew Only)	Rs. 1.5 lakh/ha	Assistance @40% in general areas for an area upto 2 ha. on pro rata basis for meeting the expenditure on planting material and other input cost of in 2 instalments of 60:40 subject to survival rate of 80% in 2nd year. In the case of NE & Himalayan States, Scheduled areas, vibrant villages, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, assistance will be @ 50% for an area upto 2 ha. on pro-rata basis.
(b) With drip irrigation	As per Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) norms	In addition to basic cost i.e. without drip irrigation as mentioned above, assistance for establishment of drip irrigation system would be available as per the PDMC norms to all States including NE & Himalayan States, Scheduled areas, vibrant villages, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands.

Training Programs Conducted by DCCD, Kochi in Maharashtra from 2022 to 2024

Training Program	No. of Batches	Farmers Trained
Cashew Apple Utilization Training	6	50
District-Level Seminar on Cashew	6	750
Farmers Training on Latest Cashew Cultivation Technology	10	500
Exposure Visit	1	50
Total	23	1350
