

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2437
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21/03/2025

PROMOTION OF HORTICULTURE CROPS IN TAMIL NADU

2437. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

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

- (a) whether Government has identified specific horticultural crops in Tamil Nadu for export promotion;
- (b) if so, the details of such crops and the districts where they are predominantly grown;
- (c) the steps taken to establish cold storage and processing facilities for horticultural produce in Tamil Nadu;
- (d) whether Government has provided any financial assistance or subsidies to horticulture farmers for adopting modern farming techniques; and
- (e) the efforts made to connect Tamil Nadu's horticulture farmers to national and international markets?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): The State Government of Tamil Nadu has identified Moringa (*Moringa oleifera*) as specific horticulture crop having immense market potential for exports for which Moringa Export Zone & Special Export Facilitation Centre for Moringa at Madurai has been established. The district wise details are given at **Annexure-I**.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) under Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) has identified Coconut of Pollachi district in Tamil Nadu to leverage its geographical specialization and promote integrated and market led development of pre-production, production, post-harvest, logistics, branding, export oriented and marketing activities in its Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP).

(c): DA&FW is implementing MIDH for holistic development of horticulture where financial assistance is available for various horticulture activities including creation of cold storage facilities for storing the horticultural produce. One Farmer Producer Organization

(FPO), Sri Kenga FPO- Gujiliyamparai at Dindigul district has been facilitated to establish one minimal processing unit for moringa under MIDH during 2024-25.

National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing a scheme namely “Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management of Horticulture Crops” for integrated commercial horticulture projects in project mode including components viz. planting materials, plantation, irrigation, fertigation, mechanization etc. for projects having area over 5 acres and over 2500 square meter in protected cultivation.

NHB also provides assistance under “Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/ Expansion/ Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Products” where credit linked back-ended subsidy @35% of the capital cost of the project in general areas and @50% in case of North East, Hilly States & Scheduled areas for Cold storage capacity above 5000 Metric Ton (MT) and upto 20000 MT is sanctioned for construction/ expansion/ modernization of cold storage and Controlled Atmosphere (CA) store, as per cost norms prescribed for various sizes/ types of cold storages/ onion storages. The scheme is demand driven and being implemented across the country.

In Tamil Nadu, cold storage facility with installed capacity of 399690 MT has been established under MIDH.

(d) & (e): Financial Assistance/ subsidies under MIDH provided to horticulture farmers of Tamil Nadu for adopting modern farming techniques are given at **Annexure-II**.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) organized participation of its member Farmer producer organization from the country including Tamil Nadu in events and Buyer Seller Meets such as World Food India, Sial Food, Indus Food, BioFach India , AAHAR exhibition etc. for export promotion in national & international markets including trainings in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification.

Further, Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Agricultural Export Promotion Corporation (TNAPEX) has also provided pavilion facilities for participation in National and International Fairs at Noida for export market promotion to Moringa entrepreneurs of Tamil Nadu.

Annexure-I

Details of Districts under Moringa Export Zone in Tamil Nadu

S.No.	Name of the District	Area (Ha.)	Production (Tonnes)	Productivity (Tonnes/ Ha.)
1.	Dindigul	5625	253125	45.00
2.	Karur	3247	136392	46.59
3.	Theni	2822	131477	40.13
4.	Tiruppur	2242	89963	34.99
5.	Thoothukudi	1887	66028	35.12
6.	Ariyalur	1356	47623	30.27
7.	Cuddalore	910	27549	38.00
8.	Madurai	552	20976	31.39
9.	Thirunelveli	534	16762	38.00
10.	Other Districts	1566	51912	31.37
Tamil Nadu Total		20741	841807	40.59

[Source: Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Tamil Nadu (2023-24)]

Annexure-II

Financial Status: (As per Utilization Certificates received from the state)

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Central Share	Release	Expenditure*
2021-22	103.50	75.00	60.93
2022-23	102.50	102.40	103.73
2023-24	120.00	120.00	101.92
2024-25	80.00	50.00	60.00

*Expenditure includes unspent balance of previous year also.

(Source: MIDH Section, DA&FW)
