

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1579**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020

**CARDAMOM CULTIVATION**

1579 SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON: SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:  
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR: SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR: SHRI SELVAM G.:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the area under cardamom cultivation along with the average total annual production in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the farmers cultivating cardamom have been affected due to COVID-19, if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to assist the cardamom cultivators;
- (c) whether the Government is implementing any Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the holistic development of cardamom in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance provided during each of the last three years and the outcome thereof;
- (e) the reason for inability to boost cardamom cultivation even though the country has large potential for its growth; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government to increase the production of cardamom in the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री ( SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) The area under Cardamom cultivation along with the annual production in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise, is at Annexure-I.
- (b): Directorate of Arecanut & Spices Development (DASD) has reported that the Cardamom plantation sector has been affected due to the outbreak of COVID 19 and consequent lockdown and restrictions imposed to contain the spread of the pandemic. The major issues faced by the sector were the non- availability of migrant labourers, and marketing facilities including logistics due to the restrictions in movement coupled with the decline in the commercial activities across the globe. As the restrictions are relaxed by the Government the situation is coming back to normal.

....contd..2/-

In order to support the Cardamom farmers for selling their produce, the Spices Board India under Commerce Ministry has initiated steps and restarted the e-auction for cardamom by following the covid protocol. The Board has formulated standard operational procedures (SOP) for the small and large Cardamom sectors covering all aspects from production to marketing, to ensure the safety of stakeholders.

The Spices Board has released an advisory on the diligent use of pesticides and practicing the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the cardamom farmers. In view of the COVID situation, social media group of farmers were created for online dissemination of information on scientific cultivation practices and other cultural operations. Online webinars are being conducted at the field level to help the farmers and to address the issues in the sector.

(c) & (d): DASD has reported that the Spices Board is implementing two schemes viz., for Small Cardamom and Large Cardamom. In the Small Cardamom scheme, assistance is provided for Re-planting (upto 8 Hectare) Irrigation and Land Development, Improved Cardamom Curing Devices, Supply of kits, Bee-keeping Boxes, Mechanization and Extension Advisory Services.

Under the Large Cardamom scheme, assistance is provided for Re-plantation of large Cardamom plantations, New planting, Production of Quality Planning Material, Curing, Supply of Vermi Compost Unit, Mechanization and Quality improved training programmes, Extension Advisory Services, etc. The year-wise details of assistance provided under both the schemes as reported by Spices Board are at Annexure-II.

(e): The DASD has reported that Cardamom production in the country has declined in 2018-19 and 2019-20 due to the unprecedented flood and subsequent prolonged dry spell experienced in the major Cardamom growing regions in the country, especially in the States of Kerala and Karnataka. Idukki, Wayanad, Palakkad and Kottayam Districts of Kerala and Kodagu, Hassan, Madigeri, Chickmagalure, Shimoga Districts of Karnataka were among the worst affected districts.

Further, Cardamom is a highly climate sensitive and location specific crop. Pest and disease incidence is also very high in Cardamom. Cardamom is grown mainly in high altitude areas and hence the scope for area expansion is limited.

(f): DASD has reported that the Spices Board is encouraging farmers for area expansion of Cardamom in non-traditional areas. Large Cardamom has been cultivated in non-traditional areas like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur with much more efforts of the Board. New extension offices have been opened in North-East to assist the farmers. More emphasis is given to produce certified Cardamom seedling in flood affected areas of Cardamom belt of Karnataka. Rejuvenation scheme is implemented in the flood affected Cardamom growing areas of Kerala and Karnataka.

It is further reported that every year, the Spices Board is giving award with cash prize (Rs 1 lakh for first prize and Rs 50000 for second prize) and citation to the best Cardamom farmers to encourage the farmers in the field. Last year the Large Cardamom productivity award was won by a lady farmer from the border district of Arunachal Pradesh. Due to the efforts by the Spices Board for area expansion in NE region, large areas in the border district of Arunachal Pradesh has been brought under Large Cardamom cultivation.

**State-wise Area and Production of Cardamom****A: Area in '000 Ha****P: Production in '000 Tonnes**

Sl. No.	STATES	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20 (3rd Adv.Est.)	
		A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P
1	KERALA	38.00	18.00	39.08	18.35	38.88	11.54	39.70	10.08
2	SIKKIM	18.00	5.00	18.00	5.00	21.80	5.23	23.31	4.78
3	NAGALAND	4.05	2.02	3.62	2.02	4.09	2.30	4.09	2.31
4	ARUNACHAL PRADESH					7.41	1.87	10.91	1.61
5	WEST BENGAL	2.96	0.76	2.96	0.76	3.31	1.07	3.31	1.09
6	TAMIL NADU	4.01	0.35	3.86	0.35	3.82	0.35	3.79	0.35
7	KARNATAKA	17.66	1.53	16.68	1.76	1.80	0.21	1.77	0.21
8	MANIPUR							0.15	0.0043
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84.68</b>	<b>27.66</b>	<b>84.20</b>	<b>28.24</b>	<b>81.11</b>	<b>22.57</b>	<b>87.02</b>	<b>20.42</b>

**Financial Assistance provided by Spices Board under Small and Large Cardamom Schemes**

**Small Cardamom (Kerala, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu)**

Year	Subsidy disbursed (Rs. in lakh)	Total number of farmers benefited
2017-18	123.54	964
2018-19	321.37	2327
2019-20	628.93	4353
<b>Total</b>	<b>1073.84</b>	<b>7644</b>

**Large Cardamom (Sikkim, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland & Manipur)**

Year	Subsidy disbursed (Rs. In lakh)	Total number of farmers benefited
2017-18	173.750	2746
2018-19	431.940	6011
2019-20	655.259	6619
<b>Total</b>	<b>1260.949</b>	<b>15376</b>

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