

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1537
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29TH JULY 2025

CHALLENGES FACED BY ARECANUT FARMERS

1537. SHRI B Y RAGHAVENDRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Arecanut farmers in Shivamogga district, Karnataka, face serious challenges in harvesting due to labour shortage and expensive equipments such as telescopic poles;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the present subsidy under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) 4,000 for general and 5,000 for SC/ST and women farmers for telescopic harvesting poles is well below market rates, limiting affordability;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to revise and enhance subsidy limits under SMAM to make arecanut harvesting tools more affordable and accessible; and
- (d) whether the Government is considering models similar to drone support schemes such as assistance for procuring harvesting tools through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Cooperative Societies, Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Rural Entrepreneurs to promote shared ownership and rental-based services for arecanut harvesting?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): Arecanut farming involves several labor-intensive activities, including harvesting. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) through the State Governments as one of the Centrally Sponsored component of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Under SMAM, financial assistance is provided to the farmers for purchase of various agricultural machines and equipments including the harvesting and post-harvest and processing technologies on individual ownership basis.

As per the revised SMAM guidelines (revised in May 2025), the financial assistance on the telescopic harvesting pole (carbon) up to 80 feet height is provided to the Small and Marginal, Women, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe farmers and the farmers of the North Eastern States @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 40,000/- and to other farmers @ 40% of the cost limited to Rs. 32,000/-. The financial assistance on Aluminium Poles as per SMAM Guidelines @ 50% is limited to Rs. 13,000 and @ 40% is limited to Rs. 10,400/-. The financial assistance on the telescopic poles other than above are provided financial assistance @ 50% limited to Rs. 5000 and @ 40% limited to Rs. 4000. This financial assistance to farmers is provided by the State Governments upon verifying the types of harvesting poles under appropriate categories.

Under SMAM on the similar pattern of Namo Drone Didi scheme, financial assistance for establishments of Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs) of the project cost up to Rs. 30 Lakhs per project is provided @ 80% of the project cost to the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) Cluster Level Federations (CLF) and Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under them, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Panchayats, Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies/ Cooperative Societies of Farmers (Agriculture/ Horticulture/Makhana etc.). The rate of financial assistance for establishing FMBs in the North Eastern States is @ 95% of the project cost. These FMBs are established to provide rental based crop specific mechanization services to the farmers in the region including processing, value addition and crop by-product management.
