

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2548
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2025

DAMAGE TO ARECANUT CROP

2548. 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 of the severe and widespread damage caused to the Arecanut (Adike) crop in the Malnad region including Shivamogga District in Karnataka due to recurring disease such as Fruit Rot (Koleroga), Leaf Spot disease and the debilitating Yellow Leaf Disease (YLD);

(b) the specific details of the estimated financial loss (in Rs. crores) and the total affected area (in hectare) in Shivamogga District due to these diseases during the last three years;

(c) the details of the steps the Government proposes to take for immediate central assistance and relief to the affected farmers; and

(d) the details of the financial assistance, if any, provided by the Government so far to Karnataka, specifically for addressing disease-related losses in Arecanut crops including Shivmogga Parliamentary Constituency during the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per the surveys carried out by the Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) of Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, trace incidence has been found for Fruit Rot (Koleroga), Leaf spot disease affecting arecanut in Malnad region of Karnataka during 2022-23 to 2024-25, However, no incidence of Fruit rot and LSD has been reported so far during the current year i.e. 2025-26.

(b): As per report submitted by the State Government of Karnataka, the estimated financial loss and the total affected area in Shivamogga District for last three years is as follows :

Year	Total Arecanut area (in ha)	Leaf Spot Disease		Koleroga (Fruit rot)	
		Total Affected Area (in ha)	Financial Loss (Rs in crore)	Total Affected Area (in ha)	Financial Loss (Rs in crore)
2022-23	1,18,836	5991.3	14.970	6720.10	16.800
2023-24	1,25,456	11950.0	31.368	8800.00	23.100
2024-25	1,37,410	30630.3	136.300	37383.40	166.350

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) constituted a National Scientific Committee (NSC) on Arecanut in 2022 to address various issues, including Yellow Leaf Disease (YLD) and Leaf Spot Disease (LSD)- affecting arecanut farmers. Based on detailed field studies, consultations and scientific assessments, the NSC submitted its final report recommending integrated management of LSD through appropriate nutrient management and fungicide applications. For YLD, a long-term strategy has been formulated to identify YLD-tolerant palms and to propagate them through tissue culture.

The Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD) established large scale demonstration on community-based management of leaf spot disease in Arecanut gardens in 10 Taluks in 4 districts (Shivamogga, Chikmagalur, Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada) in Karnataka from 2024-25 in the selected farmers' fields of the affected area. An amount of Rs 6.316 Crore has been sanctioned for this programme for a period of three years.

The Government of India sanctioned Rs 3700 lakhs to State Horticulture Mission, Karnataka in 2024-25 for the management of Leaf Spot Disease in Arecanut. During the year 2025-26, under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) Scheme - "Special Interventions Program", a total grant of Rs.860.65 lakhs has been allocated for the leaf spot disease control in arecanut crop and the program is in progress, out of which Rs. 189.25 lakhs has been allotted to Shivamogga district and so far 146.24 lakhs has been released to 2755 farmers.

During the year 2023-24, under the integrated management of pest and diseases in horticultural crops, a grant of Rs. 250 lakhs has been provided by Dept of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka, to 8661 farmers for management of Arecanut leaf spot disease.

Under the National Horticulture Mission Scheme, subsidy of Rs.1500/- per hectare is being provided for integrated disease/pest and nutrient management of horticultural crops including arecanut crop.

Further, Arecanut crop has been notified in the districts under the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) for the monsoon and post-monsoon seasons, and insurance compensation is being provided under the said scheme in case of crop loss due to weather conditions.

Sl. No.	Crop Insurance details for the year 2024-2025	For Arecanut growing districts	Shivamogga District
1	Applications received (Nos)	5,28,705	87,002
2	Area (Covered) in hectares	1,73,060.42	40,118.73
3	Sum insured (Amount in Lakhs)	2,21,517.33	51,351.98
4	Claim amount paid (Claim amount in Lakhs)	34,444.94	10,727.30
5	Number of beneficiaries	2,76,742	86,085

In 2025-26, a total of 6,52,440 applications for Arecanut insurance has been received under RWBCIS, out of which 1,18,345 are from Shivmogga District.
