

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5075
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH, 2026

NUTMEG CULTIVATION

5075. SHRI ESWARASAMY K:

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

(a) the total area under nutmeg cultivation in the country and in Tamil Nadu during the last three years particularly in and around Pollachi and adjoining regions;

(b) whether the Government provides financial assistance, subsidies, or technical support for nutmeg cultivation under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) or any other centrally sponsored scheme and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether nutmeg farmers are covered under crop insurance schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and the number of beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether any research, extension or capacity-building programmes have been undertaken to improve productivity, pest management and post-harvest processing of nutmeg; and

(e) the steps taken to promote value addition, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and export linkages for nutmeg growers in western Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

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

(a): Total area under nutmeg cultivation in the country and in Tamil Nadu during the last three years-2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 particularly in and around Pollachi (in Coimbatore District) and adjoining regions, is given below:

Area under cultivation of Nutmeg

(Area in Hectare)

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Coimbatore	269	332	370
Erode	4	2	2
The Nilgiris	20	21	21
Thirupur	11	10	16
Tamil Nadu State	420	491	537
All India	24250	25743	26604

(b): Under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented for holistic growth of horticulture sector in the country, assistance is being provided for area expansion of perennial spices, including nutmeg, @40% of the maximum eligible cost in general areas for an area up to 2 hectare

on pro-rata basis; whereas, in the case of North Eastern and Himalayan States, Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) and Scheduled areas, vibrant villages, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, assistance is provided @ 50% of the maximum eligible cost for an area up to 2 hectare on pro-rata basis.

In addition, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD) supports the production of nucleus planting materials of high yielding varieties of nutmeg through various Research Stations under Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU). Production of nucleus materials programme of nutmeg is also being implemented through Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Indian Institute of Spices Research (ICAR-IISR), Calicut; Kerala Agricultural University, Thirssur; University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore; Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth (Dr. BSKKVP), Dapoli and ICAR-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute (CCARI), Goa.

(c): State of Tamil Nadu has not notified 'nutmeg' crop under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

(d): Research on nutmeg is conducted by various State Agricultural Universities (SAU) and ICAR-IISR, Calicut. These institutes regularly conduct extension/capacity-building programs on various aspects of nutmeg production. These institutes have released varieties, such as, IISR-Viswasree and IISR-Keralasree, KAU-Pullan, KAU-Kochukudy, KAU-Mundathanam, KAU-Poothara, KAU- Punnathanam, Konkan Sugandha, Konkan Swad, Konkan Shrimanti and Konkan Sanyukta with good quality attributes. ICAR-IISR, Calicut have provided nonexclusive licenses to the entrepreneurs from Tamil Nadu for mass multiplication and distribution of quality planting materials of nutmeg adhering to the quality parameters stipulated by ICAR.

ICAR-IISR, Calicut have developed management practices for the coconut - nutmeg inter-cropping systems and nutmeg-specific micronutrient formulation for correcting the nutrient deficiencies and enabling better plant health management for higher yield. IISR promotes the use of Trichoderma bio-capsules for easy application and effective soil-borne disease management. ICAR-IISR has standardized drying protocols using solar, vacuum and hot-air dryers to maintain the colour and aroma of mace and to prevent aflatoxin contamination.

ICAR-IISR has developed technologies for extracting essential oils, oleoresins and butter from nutmeg. Institute has also developed methods for the use of the nutmeg pericarp (rind) to create value-added products like pickles, jams and candies.

Kerala Agriculture University (KAU) has developed power-operated Nutmeg Sheller for post-harvest processing and developed technologies for value added products from nutmeg rind.

(e): According to the information provided by the D/o Horticulture and Plantation crops, Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu Government has promoted Nutmeg growers into FPOs enabling aggregation and direct marketing, supporting value addition and linking with export promotion agencies like Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Agri Export Promotion Corporation (TNAPEX) to identify international markets and facilitate export of nutmeg and its products.

Pollachi Nutmeg Farmer Producer Company Ltd (PNFPCL) stands as a major success story in farmer-led initiatives, bolstered by expert training from ICAR-IISR in production technology, grading and quality assessment. By adopting ICAR-IISR-recommended post-harvest techniques, the FPO has successfully branded "Pollachi Nutmeg", with training emphasizing international safety standards (free from aflatoxins), which is critical for high-value mace.
