

Need to increase the procurement ceiling of Copra in Tamil Nadu-laid

DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI (KALLAKURICHI): I am bringing forth the plea of coconut farmers in Tamil Nadu, who have been requesting the Union Government to increase the quantity of procurement under Price Support Scheme(PSS) as market prices are low. Since huge stocks of copra are lying with the farmers, they are worried. In Tamil Nadu PSS procurement is done by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) I wish to state that Tamil Nadu is 3rd in area and 2nd in production of coconut at the National level with an area of 4.46 lakh hectare, production of 53,518 lakh nuts and productivity of 11,692 nuts per hectare. So, market price of copra has declined from Rs. 11,500 per quintal to Rs. 8,100 per quintal, this has resulted in a spike in procurement of copra under PSS in 2022 and this year. Hence, I urge the Union Government to increase the quantity ceiling from current 25% to 40% for copra procurement and also increase the procurement target from 56,000 MT to 90,000 MT for Tamil Nadu. This will help to stabilize copra market price by which coconut farmers in Tamil Nadu will be benefited.