

Regarding need to operationalise and promote the Coconut Farmer Producer Organisations in Konaseema and other districts of Andhra Pradesh-Laid

SHRI G. M. HARISH BALAYOGI (AMALAPURAM): Coconut cultivation is the backbone of rural livelihoods in many districts of Andhra Pradesh particularly Konaseema, which contributes nearly half of the State's total coconut production. Yet, despite this significant output, farmers continue to be deprived of the institutional support required to realise the full value of their produce. The Coconut Development Board envisions a three-tier structure: Coconut Producers Societies (CPS), Federations (CPF), and Companies (CPC), to promote collective marketing, cost efficiency, and value addition. But this model remains virtually absent in Andhra Pradesh. In the last five years, only nine CPSs have been registered, none of which are currently operational, and not a single CPF or CPC has been formed since 2019. This institutional vacuum has stunted the growth potential of high-yielding regions like Konaseema. While Andhra Pradesh leads the country in productivity per hectare, overall coconut production has stagnated. In the absence of such farmer-led organisations, cultivators are left vulnerable to price volatility, lack of processing infrastructure, and missed opportunities for collective bargaining. I urge the Government to urgently promote and operationalise Coconut Farmer Producer Organisations in Andhra Pradesh, especially in key regions like Konaseema, to strengthen the coconut value chain, and ensure fair and sustainable incomes for our farmers.