

**ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Right To Information Act – 2005**

**High Value Agriculture in A & N Islands.**

In A&N Islands, out of the total cultivated area of 50,000 hectare, about 25,000 hectares are under coconut followed by rice (10,000 hectare). The horticulture crops being cultivated in the Islands, apart from coconut includes fruits, vegetables, spices, flowers, arecanut, cashew nut and oil palm covering an area of about 13,000 ha. A wide range of medicinal and aromatic plants are also found in the natural habitat of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The productivity of coconut is about 3500 nuts/ha as compared to the national average of 7000 nuts/ha. The productivity of most of the horticultural crops is however quite low, mainly due to inadequate awareness of hi-tech interventions and primitive methods of cultivation being practiced by the local population. The current level of production of fruits and vegetables is not adequate to meet the requirement of about three lakh people, which is further affected by increasing tourist influx.

The Department of Agriculture, A&N Islands has been making efforts for promoting agriculture in the Islands. The U.T. is also implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture under which flexibility has been given to prioritise their activities as per the felt needs. The assistance to the farmers under this scheme is limited to 25% of the total project cost. The National Horticulture Board (NHB) and the Coconut Development Board (CDB) are also implementing their programmes in the Islands through Directorate of Agriculture for the development of horticulture involving assistance of 20-25% of the project cost.

The guidelines for implementing the programme on development of High Value Agriculture in A&N Islands is given below:-

The Major crops being grown in the Islands being palms, the farming will be oriented towards coconut and Arecanut based farming system with end to end approach which would include: improving the yield of existing plantations: revival of old plantations and planting of high yielding cultivars; of improved production techniques including micro irrigation; improving quality of copra through modern technology, utilization of coir and production of coconut products like vinegar, coconut virgin oil, coconut milk etc.

Since the current productivity levels of most of the crops are very low, productivity improvement measures will be adopted through multi-pronged strategy involving production and supply of good quality seeds and disease free planting material, adoption of hi-tech interventions like protected green-house cultivation, fertigation, high-density planting, use of plant growth regulators, use of Integrated Pest Management technologies and use of eco-friendly interventions through honeybees and promotion of organic farming.

The investments on development of high value agriculture in Andaman and Nicobar Islands will bear fruit only with the help of expert advice and rigorous monitoring. For this purpose, a High value Agriculture Development Agency (HVADA) headed by Chief Secretary has been constituted and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1960. The HVADA could engage appropriate manpower, including Specialists from the Private Sector, on contractual basis for providing support for monitoring and implementation of the programme.