

## AGRICULTURE

The years from 1927 to 1931 were the beginning of the Agriculture Department with the main task of experimenting in coconut plantation, coffee garden and village demonstration plots, when agriculture was negligible. With time the aim of the administration has changed from area expansion to intensive agriculture. During the post independence development era, a lot of commercial crops were introduced which are now successfully growing in these Islands. The total available land for Agriculture in the Islands is limited to 50,000 hectares i.e.6% of the total geographical area only.

The land utilization pattern is as follows.

1.	Paddy	-1200 ha
2.	Coconut	-25300 ha
3.	Arecanut	-4254 ha
4.	Fruits	-4136
5.	Spices	-1439
6.	Rubber	-1500 ha
7.	Red Oil Palm	-1593 ha
8.	Cashew	-800 ha
9.	Fallow land/ vacant land.	-461

Consequent to the blanket ban imposed on clearance of further forest land for agriculture purpose, more emphasis has been given for increasing the agriculture production in the limited existing land by adopting multiple cropping system for which the department is extending assistance to the farmers in the form of supplying required agriculture inputs, technology and extension support.

### **Objective of Agriculture Development in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

- Raising agricultural production and productivity through wider adoption of appropriate ecology-specific and cost effective technology.
- Bringing more area under high yielding, hybrid and improved varieties of crops through increased supply of quality seeds and planting materials.
- Increasing cropping intensity.

- Intensifying training of farmers and establishment of demonstration centers in farmers field on the latest know-how.
- Intensification of programmes benefiting tribals and woman in the villages.
- Farmers being encouraged for mechanization through the use of agriculture implements and machineries.
- Sustainable agriculture through IPM, INM, watershed and organic cultivation.
- Infrastructure facilities of the existing Government farms to be strengthened for the production of quality seeds, planting materials, and developing them as model demonstration centers for the farmers.
- Emphasis on crisis management in the event of natural calamities.
- Study tour and training (inland/overseas) for technical staff will be a priority.

Agricultural Zone	Andaman District	Nicobar District
	Diglipur Zone	Car Nicobar Zone
	Mayabunder Zone	Katchal Zone
Eight (8)	Rangat Zone	Campbell Bay Zone
	South Andaman Zone	
	Little Andaman Zone	

Agriculture farms and Plantations (Govt.)	33 Nos
Agriculture Sub-Depots	53 Nos

Soil type	Heterogeneous, from sandy to clay, mostly acidic	
Saline Affected Area	1359.22 ha	Highly affected 532.12 ha
		Moderately affected-477.96 ha
		Slightly affected 349.14 ha

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

### IMPORT ITEMS

Potato, Onion, Garlic and exotic vegetable  
 Temperate and exotic fruits  
 Rice (50%)  
 Wheat, Pulses and oilseeds

### EXPORT ITEMS

Coconut copra  
 Arecanut  
 Spices  
 Red Oil Palm (unrefined)

### CONSTRAINTS:-

As the islands are scattered over a stretch of nearly 900 Kms. in the Bay of Bengal, providing assistance is a problem from island to island and management is a great constraint. Besides this other constraints are:-

- Undulating topography.

- Lack of Perennial Rivers. Only small rivers are available. There is one in North Andaman and another in Great Nicobar. Other nallahs are seasonal.
- Lack of receptive and innovative farming community.
- Lack of training institutes. Only one KVK is available at Port Blair. Therefore farmers residing in other Islands cannot avail the opportunities.
- Prevalence of different diseases and pest due to conducive weather conditions, and availability of alternate hosts all over the place.
- Lack of marketing and processing facilities, cold storage and lack of linkages with industrial development projects.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Immense potential for augmenting income per unit area through multiple cropping, mixed farming, Agro-forestry and multi tier cropping system.
- Good scope for utilization of bi-product of coconut, arecanut, cashew etc.
- Potential for implementation of hi-tech programme involving biotechnology and green house culture.
- Potential for boosting up exports, in the form of organically grown spices, orchids, cashew etc.

### THREATS

- Natural calamities-Untimely rain- erratic rainfall-inundation.
- Occurrence of disease and pest.
- Fluctuating price trends of farm produce.
- Occasional suspension of Inter-Island ferry service due to bad weather.

### Area & Production of different crops during 2002-03

Name of Crop	Area(ha)	Production (MT)
Paddy	10885	32111
Pulses	1282	641
Vegetables	4572	31226
Root Crops	1285	12200
Oilseeds	85.1	40.31
Sugarcane	460	27000
Spices	1451	3151.25
Plantation Crops		
Coconut	25300	94.32m/nuts
Arecanut	4254	7400
Cashew nut	800	225
Fruits	4430	22141

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Macro Management of Agriculture, the department is implementing 15 schemes with an outlay of 100 lakhs, with an objective to strengthen the income of small and marginal farmers by enabling them to use optimally the resources available at their command, and changing gradually from traditional cultivation to commercial cultivation.

### **Schemes for welfare of Tribal Population.**

In every plan period, department is implementing community oriented schemes for the welfare of Tribes in these islands contributing more than 12% flow of UT Plan allocation of this department. The benefit of the schemes reaches the tribal people of Nicobar Group of Islands and through SCA scheme the department is concentrating on the welfare of Primitive tribes of Little Andaman, Campbell Bay and South Andaman.

Till the IXth Five year Plan, this department was implementing the activities through 9 different schemes under Tribal Sub Plan and five schemes in the Special Central Assistance. However now the schemes have been merged into a single scheme named “Upliftment of traditional cultivation for the development of Plantation, Spices, Horticulture, Field Crops in Tribal Areas”.