



# Trends in the Area of Coconut Cultivation in India

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ABSTRACT

Coconut is cultivated in more than ninety countries in Asia and Pacific regions. In India, coconut is grown in 17 states and 3 union territories under varying soil and climatic conditions. Production of coconut in the country is concentrated mainly in the four southern states, namely Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. In the post-Liberalisation period, Kerala has been showing negative development in the area under cultivation but the neighbouring States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been performing well in the area under coconut cultivation.

KEYWORDS

Area, Pre-Liberalisation, Post Liberalisation.

Introduction

As a cash crop, coconut is cultivated in more than ninety countries in Asia and Pacific regions. However, Indonesia, India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka contribute the major portion of the world production. In India, coconut is grown in 17 states and 3 union territories under varying soil and climatic conditions. Coconut plant is versatile in its adaptability to a wide range of soil conditions. 91 per cent of the total area and production of coconut in the country is concentrated mainly in the four southern states, namely Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Objective of the study:

To study the trend in area of coconut in India from 1974-75 to 2007-2008. The study covers a period of 34 years which has been divided into two-pre and post-Liberalisation period, covering 17 years before and after 1991.

Literature Review

Mathew and Thomas (2009) with recent data attempted to analyze the present dynamism of coconut cultivation in Kerala. Coconut cultivation and industry plays a vital role in the sustainability of the rural economy of many states in the country in general and the economy of Kerala in particular. The agrarian distress on account of global warming, opening of the domestic market for global players for market exploitation, acute shortage of labour inputs and the high cost of production supplemented by monthly and annual nature of price fluctuations are the major factors causing considerable damage to these sector.<sup>1</sup>

Mrs. Minnie Mathew (2008) stated that India was one of the leading coconut producing countries in the world with an annual production of 15.84 billion nuts from an area of 1.94 million ha. For the first time in the country, Government of India announced Minimum Support Price for Dehusked Co-

conut @988 per quintal. The year 2008 was favourable for Indian Coconut farmers. The farmers throughout the country received better prices. VAT was removed on coconut, copra and coconut oil in important states. Central excise duty was removed on processed and packaged tender coconut water.<sup>2</sup>

Singh (1998) highlighted that the importance of coconut can be gauged from the fact that it was grown in more than 80 countries of the world and in 17 states and three union territories in India with an area of 1.795 M. hectares and a production of 13,968 million nuts. Coconut contributes over ` 7000 crores annually to the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of the country. In the commercial sector coconuts were mainly used for making ball copra and desiccated coconut in Karnataka, while in Tamil Nadu they were used for making milling copra and coconut oil. He stated that in the coastal tracts most of the people depend on coconut for their subsistence.<sup>3</sup>

Thampan (1997) studied the gains from organic farming and coconut based farming systems. The area, production and productivity of coconut in the different states of India during 1995-96 were taken into consideration. The study revealed that nature friendly farming practices have special significance in safeguarding the health and nutrition of those who consume products and also for preventing environmental degradation. The study suggested that the organic farming systems when developed on a wider scale would enhance profitability because such products enjoy consumer preference as health foods both in the domestic and external markets. The study concluded that a well organised educational campaign was needed to dispel the lingering doubts from the minds of consumers about the health aspects of coconut oil consumption.<sup>4</sup>

Area of Coconut Cultivation in India

The area of coconut cultivation in India during the pre-Liberalisation period is depicted in Table 1

Table 1: Area of Coconut Cultivation in India in the Pre-Liberalisation Period (In Percentage)

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Assam	Goa	Karnataka	Kerala	Maharashtra	Orissa	Tamil Nadu	Tripura	West Bengal	A & N Islands	Lakshadweep	Pondicherry	All India
1974-75	3.62	0.39	1.68	12.95	67.02	0.79	1.02	9.73	0.06	0.60	1.74	0.25	0.14	100
1975-76	3.79	0.42	1.75	14.12	64.76	0.86	1.08	10.27	0.07	0.63	1.84	0.26	0.15	100
1976-77	3.66	0.46	1.74	14.30	64.68	0.84	1.23	10.13	0.07	0.62	1.86	0.26	0.15	100
1977-78	3.77	0.46	1.77	14.74	63.75	0.86	1.31	10.39	0.09	0.63	1.82	0.27	0.15	100
1978-79	3.77	0.48	1.77	15.54	62.62	0.86	1.58	10.38	0.10	0.64	1.84	0.27	0.15	100

1979-80	3.84	0.50	1.74	15.62	61.77	0.95	1.92	10.72	0.10	0.62	1.81	0.26	0.15	100
1980-81	3.92	0.55	1.73	15.81	61.51	0.94	2.08	10.71	0.13	0.30	1.91	0.26	0.15	100
1981-82	3.97	0.60	1.71	16.17	61.11	0.94	2.06	10.65	0.13	0.30	1.95	0.26	0.15	100
1982-83	3.89	0.57	1.88	15.89	58.68	0.97	2.03	12.52	0.12	1.25	1.81	0.24	0.14	100
1983-84	3.99	0.64	1.91	16.33	58.54	0.91	2.25	11.76	0.23	1.28	1.78	0.24	0.14	100
1984-85	3.98	0.63	1.87	16.94	58.10	0.90	2.10	11.82	0.23	1.29	1.76	0.24	0.14	100
1985-86	3.87	0.65	1.87	16.78	57.50	0.57	2.25	12.21	0.22	1.39	2.34	0.23	0.13	100
1986-87	3.91	0.76	1.88	16.85	57.35	0.56	2.01	12.69	0.33	1.46	1.84	0.23	0.13	100
1987-88	3.63	0.68	1.72	15.83	57.61	0.58	2.01	14.08	0.42	1.42	1.69	0.21	0.13	100
1988-89	3.65	0.65	1.64	15.45	57.31	0.55	1.90	15.03	0.49	1.39	1.63	0.20	0.12	100
1989-90	4.01	0.67	1.60	15.37	56.53	0.53	2.21	15.34	0.48	1.34	1.62	0.19	0.12	100
1990-91	4.04	0.65	1.57	15.38	57.08	0.52	2.15	14.95	0.46	1.31	1.58	0.18	0.12	100

Source: Coconut Development Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Dept. of Agriculture and Co-operation, Govt. of India, KeraB-havan, Kochi

It is evident from the table that the total area of coconut cultivation in Kerala was the highest, compared to other Indian states during the pre-Liberalisation period. In 1974-75, Kerala's share in the total area of cultivation of coconut stood at 67.02 per cent of India's total area of cultivation of coconut.

But it showed a diminishing trend till 1990-'91 and it was 57.08 per cent in 1990-91. The States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu stood in the second and third position. The share of the State of Tripura was the lowest and the percentage was less than .10 till 1977-78 and thereafter it was less than 0.5 per cent.

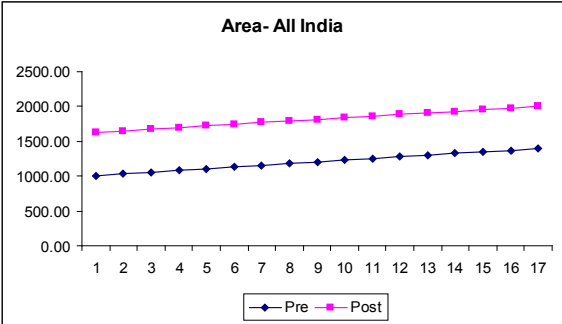
The area of cultivation of coconut in India shows a decreasing trend till 1986-87 and thereafter it registers an increase.

**Table 2: Area of Coconut Cultivation in India in the Post-Liberalisation Period (In Percentage)**

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Assam	Goa	Karnataka	Kerala	Maharashtra	Orissa	Tamil Nadu	Tripura	West Bengal	A & N Islands	Lakshadweep	Pondicherry	All India
1991-92	4.15	0.89	1.57	15.61	55.35	0.52	2.38	15.72	0.69	1.26	1.58	0.18	0.12	100
1992-93	4.66	1.01	1.57	16.00	57.03	0.51	2.50	12.77	0.73	1.33	1.57	0.18	0.12	100
1993-94	4.89	1.06	1.47	15.47	53.96	0.48	2.35	16.68	0.57	1.29	1.49	0.17	0.12	100
1994-95	5.05	1.04	1.44	15.39	53.16	0.48	2.50	17.42	0.55	1.26	1.42	0.16	0.12	100
1995-96	4.92	0.99	1.35	15.23	53.53	0.45	2.58	17.61	0.48	1.26	1.33	0.15	0.11	100
1996-97	4.81	1.04	1.31	15.41	53.19	0.80	2.81	17.34	0.48	1.25	1.31	0.15	0.11	100
1997-98	5.10	1.06	1.34	16.25	54.83	0.81	2.91	14.32	0.49	1.31	1.33	0.15	0.11	100
1998-99	5.59	1.15	1.42	17.69	50.29	0.90	3.11	16.24	0.52	1.40	1.41	0.16	0.13	100
1999-00	5.72	1.14	1.41	18.03	50.58	0.85	1.63	17.10	0.51	1.36	1.39	0.16	0.12	100
2000-01	5.63	1.15	1.37	18.30	50.76	0.92	0.97	17.74	0.17	1.34	1.38	0.15	0.12	100
2001-02	5.38	1.09	1.29	19.14	48.63	0.87	2.42	17.38	0.17	1.29	1.30	0.14	0.12	100
2002-03	5.47	1.09	1.31	19.53	46.79	0.85	2.77	18.00	0.17	1.30	1.32	0.14	0.12	100
2003-04	5.38	1.10	1.30	19.44	46.86	0.93	2.86	18.24	0.17	1.26	1.31	0.14	0.12	100
2004-05	5.37	1.10	1.30	19.92	46.40	0.93	2.61	18.45	0.17	1.27	1.32	0.14	0.11	100
2005-06	5.34	0.98	1.30	19.80	46.12	0.92	2.61	19.04	0.17	1.28	1.31	0.14	0.11	100
2006-07	5.26	0.98	1.32	20.71	44.98	1.08	2.63	19.35	0.17	1.30	1.11	0.14	0.11	100
2007-08	5.32	1.00	1.34	21.28	43.02	1.10	2.68	20.14	0.30	1.50	1.13	0.14	0.12	100

Source: Coconut Development Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Dept. of Agriculture and Co-operation, Govt. of India, KeraB-havan, Kochi.

Table 2 describes the percentage area of coconut cultivation during the post-Liberalisation period. From the analysis it is understood that in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu States the percentage shows an increasing trend regarding the total area of coconut cultivation. The percentages are 15.61 and 15.72 in 1991-92 which increased to 21.28 and 20.14 respectively in 2007-08. Whereas in Kerala, though the percentage of total area of cultivation is the highest among the States (55.35% in 1991-'92), the growth rate shows a decreasing trend, which decreased to 43.02% in 2007-08. The growth rate shows a fluctuating trend throughout the period of study.



**Figure 1: Area of Coconut Cultivation in India in the Pre and Post-Liberalisation Period ('000ha.)**

The different trends in the area of coconut cultivation in India in the pre and post-Liberalisation period are shown in Figure1. It is clear that the rate of increase in the pre-Liberalisation period is more than that of post-Liberalisation period.

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra show an increasing growth after post-Liberalisation period, whereas all other States have a decreasing trend as on an all India level basis. Among the four States which show an increasing trend, Karnataka tops, followed by Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The rate of increase of Maharashtra is the least. In the post-Liberalisation period, Kerala has been showing negative development in the area under cultivation but the neighbouring States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been performing well in the area under coconut cultivation.

**Conclusion**

It is observed that the trend and rate of growth of the area of coconut become slower in the post-Liberalisation period than pre-Liberalisation period at the all India level. The area under coconut cultivation in Kerala has declined in the post-Liberalisation period.. The monopoly of Kerala is receding. In the post-Liberalisation period, Kerala has been showing negative development in the area under cultivation but the neighbouring States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been performing well in the area under coconut cultivation.

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