

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

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1. What agriculture and horticulture crops are usually grown in the tribal regions of the State? As far as we are aware, since tribal lands mostly are uplands, the crops grown are generally coarse cereals (like maize, jawar, bajra, ragi and other minor millets), oil-seeds, and pulses. Wherever the few valley lands are available, paddy also is grown. Please mention the cropping patterns in your state, giving explanations wherever necessary.

Tribal populations are mostly inhabited in the Nicobar group of Islands unlike tribal regions of States. In the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands horticultural crops like coconut and arecanut are the main crops in upland of Nicobar District. Fruit crops like banana, pineapple, papaya, mango, jackfruit, citrus, custard apple, sapota, spices like pepper, clove, vegetables like solanaceous, cucurbitaceous, Bhindi, Bread fruit are also cultivated.

2. Can you give an idea about the size of population subsisting upon agriculture and/ or horticulture separately and the area of land under agriculture and horticulture cultivation in the regions in your state predominantly inhabited by tribals whether forming part of the Scheduled Areas and/ or TSP areas and even beyond such areas?

Individual holding is not available so that the size of population subsisting upon Agriculture and Horticulture separately assessed.

3. Are there any tracts in your state, which are particularly suitable for horticulture? If so, please mention. What work has been undertaken there? If nothing so far, what is proposed to be done?

Nicobar group of Islands are mostly suitable for Plantation Crop/ horticulture. Department of Agriculture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration has established Cashew Plantation at Kamorta Island in an area of 500 ha. under Special Central Assistance Scheme and handed over to the Tribal Co-operative Society (Manula Mathai Ltd.). Coconut Plantations were established with the objectives of (i) To show scientific method of cultivation (ii) Distribute quality seedlings to the coconut growers at Katchal and Car Nicobar Island.

In addition, the Department of Agriculture implements Schemes under Special Central Assistance where plantations are raised in the tribals field by providing planting materials and other inputs free of cost.

4. In your state, considering an average ST family budget, what do you think would be the relative proportions, in terms of percentages, of contribution of agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, cottage industry (if there is any) any other occupations (which may be specified).

Horticulture	-	80%
Animal Husbandry	-	10%
Cottage Industry	-	5 %
Others (Fishing)	-	5 %

5. The Commission is aware that there would be regional variations in vocations. Can you please explain the variation and indicate the state of affairs in each region?

In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, there are 5 aboriginal tribes of which except Nicobarese other are still leading nomadic life.

The main occupation of Nicobarese is farming. They are dependent on coconut and arecanut cultivation and are confined to Nicobar District and also in some part of Little Andaman.