

FPOs get deep rooted in Karnataka

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Dakshina Kannada

Dakshina Kannada situated in the southern part of Karnataka state is a coastal district and an important port city of the country. Apart from agriculture, the district is famous for non agriculture based industries, banking, education etc. Dakshina Kannada is known as the cradle of Indian Banking and one of the industrialized districts of the state. The district lies between Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats and is a greenery of horticultural crops. Paddy, coconut, areca nut, cashew and pepper are the main crops of the region.

Dakshina Kannada is having an area of 16077 ha under coconut with a productivity of 13414 nut/ha. Of the five taluks in the district Belthangady taluk has more area under coconut(5067 ha). The area



Farmers of Kuppepadavu village of Mangalore taluk



Dharithri CPS Belthangady

under coconut in the five taluks is given below.

Taluk	Area (Ha)
Belthangady	5067
Mangalore	3322
Bantwal	3142
Puttur	2448
Sullia	2098
Total	16077

There are both small and marginal farmers with small holdings (20-30 palms) as well as farmers with large holdings (600-1000 palms).

Coconut Development Board has initiated the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations in Karnataka during 2012-13. Two Coconut Producer Societies one each in Bantwal taluk and Belthangady taluk and a Coconut Producers Federation in Mangalore taluk are already formed in Dakshina

Kannada. There is wide scope for the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations in the district especially having the potential to form two Coconut Producer Companies. The coconut farmers of the area are very much enthusiastic in forming the Coconut Producer Societies and Federations.

In Dharmasthala taluk, Dharithri Coconut Producers Society is implementing the Laying out of Demonstration plot scheme of Coconut Development Board. The farmers have also initiated the preliminary steps for forming Coconut Producers Federation in the taluk. In Bantwal taluk, Manila Tengu Utpadakara Sowharda Society is already registered and has started functioning. The society consists of 42 farmers with 5029 coconut palms. Shri. Govinda Bhatt, the President of Manila Thengu Uthpadakara Souhardha Society is very enthusiastic and leading the society very systematically. The society has issued identity cards as well as share certificates to the

members. A logo for the society is also launched. More CPS/CPF are coming up in the taluk . The society is planning to undertake Area Expansion Programme in their area.

In Mangalore taluk, Taluk Tengu Utpadakara Federation is registered and is initiating the steps for implementing the LODP scheme of Coconut Development Board. The Federation is also planning to undertake FoCT training programme and the establishment of a coconut nursery in the Federation. Setting up of kiosks in tourist places of the district and preparation of chutney powder, snacks using coconuts are in the future agenda of the Federation. In Puttur taluk under the leadership of Shri. Dharpane Gowda, registration of the CPF is going on. The leaders of the registered CPFs and upcoming CPFs of Mangalore taluk and Puttur taluk have visited M/s Indous Bio Products , a desiccated coconut powder unit to have a first hand knowledge of its activities.

Palakkad Coconut Producers Company limited (PCPCL) has taken the Neera processing unit at Horticultural Farm, Thumbe in Bantwal taluk on lease. Neera is tapped from the coconut palms grown in the Horticultural Farm. PCPCL is now tapping neera and have finalized the procedures for tapping neera and also for producing honey, sugar and jaggery from neera. In future the facilities for neera processing can be utilized by the local farmers by forming the Coconut Producer Companies. There is scope for two Coconut Producer companies in the district. Palakkad Coconut Producer Company has already assured the technical support to the Federations coming up in the area for tapping neera and its processing. The people of the area are motivated by activities undertaken by the Palakkad Coconut Producer Company and they are now eager in forming a company in their area. The co-operation from the officials of the Horticulture department, KVK and CPCRI are also motivating the farmers for the same.