

# Peanut Blog

An ounce of information



## Groundnuts cultivation losing out to veggies

**With an aim towards becoming self-reliant in agriculture it is time that local farmers are encouraged to resume cultivation of groundnuts, reports Bhiva P Parab**

Many turned towards agriculture in the state of Goa during the pandemic. However, hardly anyone took up groundnuts cultivation. In fact groundnut cultivation in the state is dwindling over the years.

Groundnuts which were once commonly cultivated in several villages of the state has shown a decrease as farmers are opting out of it. Cultivation of groundnut requires hard work and even after the hard work there is no profit to farmers as wild animals damage the crops.

According to the information available from the sources, during the last couple of years the production of groundnuts is decreasing in the state as some farmers are moving towards other remunerative crops.

It may be noted that the farmers have to put in hard work for groundnuts cultivation and generally two to three ploughing followed by two harrowing is done to bring the soil to a fine tilth. Deep ploughing is advantageous in rainfed areas because of better retention of moisture and improvement in soil porosity and then seeds are sowed and labourers are required to remove weed as weeds cause maximum damage to the crop.

Improper weed control is critical constraint affecting groundnut yields and it is difficult to get labourers these days and they are costly and after doing all these hard work there is no guarantee that the farmers will get good yield as the wildlife such as peacock and wild boars cause damage to the groundnuts crop.

A farmer said that we have almost stopped the groundnuts cultivation due to the hard work involved, high labour cost and damage done to the crop by the wildlife. To boost the groundnuts cultivation in the state, the government needs to give a boost to the farmers.

A shopkeeper who sales groundnuts said that most of the groundnuts in the state comes from outside Goa, especially from the neighbouring states, such as Kolhapur and Belagavi as the production done by the farmers in the state is generally not on very large scale and several state farmers use their production of groundnuts for extracting oil for self-consumption.

It may be noted that some farmers are going for vegetable cultivation, where they earlier used to cultivate groundnuts as cultivation of vegetables like ladies fingers and others is easier and the farmers have to put less hard work and also it is profitable.

A farmer said that earlier where we were cultivating groundnuts now 50 percent of that area we are cultivating vegetables mainly ladies fingers as cultivation of vegetables requires less hard work and the vegetables are ready in less time than the groundnuts and the vegetables comes out to be profitable than groundnuts.

According to the information available from the sources, the rate of the groundnuts coming from outside the state is less compared to the local groundnuts, which is hardly available in the markets of the state. The current reality is that most of the groundnuts in the state comes from outside Goa as the production done by the farmers in the state is generally not on very large scale and it has decreased a lot.

A farmer said, "earlier most of the people were at home and used to work in agricultural fields and their livelihood was dependent on cultivation. However the manpower has decreased as most of the youth go for jobs these days and so they hardly get any time to work in the fields. Cultivation of groundnuts is a hard job than cultivating the general paddy fields."

It may be noted that cultivation of groundnuts is a hard job, manpower is required and it has become difficult to get labourers to work in the field and if the farmers get labourers then they charge high and after doing all these if wild animals eat our crop then the whole hard work and investment will go to waste.

A farmer said, "To boost the groundnuts cultivation in the state, the government needs to encourage the farmers. It has become difficult to get labourers to work in the field and if we get labourers then they charge high and after doing all these if wild animals eat our crop then the whole hard work and investment will go to waste.

With new generation is also shying from the agricultural activities there is decrease in the cultivation of groundnuts. We have almost stopped the groundnuts cultivation due to the hard work involved, high labour cost and damage done to the crop by the wildlife."

**Source:** <https://www.navhindtimes.in/2024/02/05/magazines/bnc/groundnuts-cultivation-losing-out-to-veggies/>