

Subsidies for Intercropping

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The Coconut Cultivation Board has a subsidy scheme for establishing pasture, coffee, cacao, and pepper in coconut lands. Similarly the Department of Agriculture has a subsidy scheme for establishing certain fruit crops and the Department of Minor Export Crops has a scheme for establishing coffee, pepper and cloves. These subsidies are meant for the development of coconut lands by establishing intercrops have not to be repaid.

1. The subsidy scheme operated by the Coconut Cultivation Board for establishing intercrops in coconut lands

1.1 **Suitability of land** Age of the coconut plantation should be from 20 to 45 years so that there should be sufficient sunlight for the intercrops.

The coconut land should be in the wet zone or intermediate zone with a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and a minimum coconut density of 30 plants/acre.

1.2. **Land ownership** Land owners, their authorised representatives, one of the co-owners, legitimate lessees are entitled to these subsidies. In case a co-owner is applying for the subsidy, the consent of the other co-owners should be furnished in writing. In order to prove the title of the land, the deed or a certificate to that effect issued by Grama Sevaka and counter signed by A.G.A. or an extract of the appropriate Land Register prepared for high lands under the Agrarian Services Bill should be furnished. State sector is not entitled for subsidy.

2. **Subsidy for coffee, cacao and pepper**

Subsidy for growing coffee, cacao and pepper in coconut lands in the following districts will be paid.

Inter crop District

Coffee Colombo, Gampaha, Kurunegala, Kandy, Kegalle, Matale, Galle, Matara, Kalutara, Ratnapura and intermediate zone in Hambantota district.

Cacao Kurunegala, Kandy, Kegalle, Matale, Galle, Kalutara and Badulla.

Pepper Colombo, Gampaha, Kurunegala, Kandy, Kegalle, Matale, Galle, Kalutara, Matara, Ratnapura, Badulla, Puttalama and intermediate zone in Hambantota district.

In coconut lands, the above mentioned intercrops could be established at the maximum density of 300 coffee seedlings, 250 cacao seedlings or 300 pepper seedlings per acre.

The payments are as follows:

Instalment	Coffee Rs.	Cacao Rs.	Pepper Rs.
First instalment	1,200.00	1,050.00	1,750.00
Second instalment	550.00	650.00	525.00
Third instalment	375.00	550.00	350.00
Total ..	2,125.00	2,250.00	2,625.00

Coconut small holders are also entitled for this subsidy. However, the intercrops should be planted at the recommended spacing and the minimum density should be 50 plants per acre. The payments for such intercrops are as follows:

Instalment	Coffee Rs.	Cacao Rs.	Pepper Rs.
First instalment	4.00	4.20	5.83
Second instalment	1.83	2.60	1.75
Third instalment	1.25	2.20	1.16
Total ..	7.08	9.00	8.74

Further details can be obtained from the Coconut Development Officer. Details of systems of planting and planting material are given elsewhere.

3. Subsidy for pasture

For coconut lands with a minimum of 30 coconut palms per acre situated in the Wet and Intermediate zone receiving a minimum of 60" of rainfall/year are eligible for this. The minimum size of the holding should be $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

The subsidy for this is Rs. 800/- per acre and this is paid in two annual instalments of Rs. 400/- each.

Further information on these subsidy schemes operated by the Coconut Cultivation Board and technical advice could be obtained from the Coconut Development Officer of the area.

4. Subsidy scheme operated by the Department of Agriculture to establish fruit crops as intercrops in coconut lands:

Subsidy is available for the undermentioned fruit crops to be grown as a mixed crop with coconut. The required density of plants and the subsidy are given below.

Plant density and subsidy paid:

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Minimum plants per acre</i>	<i>Cost of planting material</i>	<i>1st instalment</i>	<i>2nd instalment</i>	<i>3rd instalment</i>	<i>4th instalment</i>	<i>Total</i>
		<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Lime	100	300	375	300	300	125	1,400
Orange	100	500	325	325	100	100	1,250
Pineapple	4000	3,250	250	—	—	—	3,500
Passion fruit	200	400	150	1,375	75	—	2,000
Bananas	300	1,200	150	112.50	37.50	—	1,500

Further information on this subsidy scheme, technical advice and application forms could be obtained from the Agricultural Extension Officer or the Agricultural Instructor of the area.

Subsidy scheme operated by the Minor Export Crops Department for establishing intercrops:

The Minor Export Crops Department gives subsidy for growing coffee and pepper as intercrops in coconut lands ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5

acre in extent. Coffee or pepper could be established as a single intercrop or as a mixed intercrop. According to the suitability, some clove seedlings could be included in this system.

In a land where several intercrops have been established as a mixed cropping system, the crop with the maximum number of plants will be considered as the main crop for the purpose of subsidy payment. If the number of plants per acre is below the recommended rate, a prorata subsidy will be paid.

Accordingly, if the recommended density of coffee plants is planted in a mixed cropping system, Rs. 4,125/- per acre will be paid in four instalments. Similarly for coffee Rs. 3,750/- will be paid in four instalments.

Further information on this subsidy scheme, technical advice could be obtained from the Minor Export Crop Extension Officer of your area.