

## **Press Release**

### **Coconut on wheels- initiative by Goa State Horticultural Corporation in association with Directorate of Agriculture**

Coconut is a major food ingredient in the Goan cuisine. No food is complete without Coconut. There is about 2500 ha area under coconut in Goa and the coconuts are harvested at regular interval and sold in the market. Recently during covid-19 outbreak the supply chain of this commodity has been greatly affected. Firstly the coconut orchard owners residing in places, then the Padeli or harvesters, the workforce engaged in the collection, sorting, storage and transportation, traders and finally the consumers were affected during the lockdown to prevent spread of covid-19. To overcome the shortage of coconut and to maintain supply chain management, Initiative was taken by Goa state Hort Corporation in association of Directorate of Agriculture.

In this case a farmer from Canacona Mr. Pandhari PrabhuDessai from Canacona residing in Margao was issued travel permit by the Director of Agriculture to go to his Farm in Canacona. The farmer could not harvest his coconut plantation due to unavailability of harvesters or Padeli. Zonal Agricultural officer, Canacona, Shri Shivram Gaonkar intervened after listening to the difficulty of the farmer and the travel permit for the harvesters were issued. The problem still persisted as most of the traders were reluctant to do purchases and market due to lockdown. He then contacted GSHCL for marketing of their produce. GSHCL is already in business of trading of coconut and supplying to the consumers at affordable rates along with vegetables, fruits and grocery items. This instance also GSHCL collected the farmers produce from his farm gate in Canacona and were supplied to the consumers from Pali, Cotombi, Kudne areas where there is scarcity of coconut. These areas do not have large coconut plantations and were dependent for supply from outside. The prices in these areas were skyrocketing up to Rs. 40 per piece. The coconuts were sold in retail basis with maximum rate of Rs.22/piece. About 10000 nos. of coconut procured from Canacona were supplied in these areas. In cotombi area Hon Chief Minister visited the mobile coconut on wheels and appreciated the efforts taken up by GSHCL in helping the consumers and Goan people in controlling the prices of essential commodities like vegetables, fruits and now coconut. He also appreciated the door to door delivery of coconuts during this difficult time of lockdown.