

Ernakulam counts losses as flood misery continues

District suffers loss to the tune of ₹14.38 crore; 479 houses destroyed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Ernakulam has suffered a loss of nearly ₹14.38 crore in the agriculture sector due to heavy rain and gusty winds that wreaked havoc in the district.

Besides agricultural loss, 479 houses were destroyed, according to preliminary estimates prepared by the departments of Agriculture and Revenue.

While 460 houses were damaged partially, 19 were completely damaged. According to the Public Works Department (PWD), around ₹5.5 crore will be required to repair damaged roads in Ernakulam division alone. The actual extent of damage in the district can be ascertained only after the rain relents. The strength of bridges will be examined soon, officials said.

Besides roads and bridges, buildings housing public institutions have been damaged. While huge potholes have developed on roads in the city and rural regions, canals and retention walls have been damaged at various places.

Crop loss

Major crop loss has been reported in the district, and banana farmers seem to be the worst hit, with 3.89 lakh plantains getting destroyed. Over 17,000 rubber trees and 10,100 nutmeg saplings have been destroyed in the heavy rain.

Official estimates showed that 735 coconut trees and 2,517 arecanut trees were uprooted. Vegetable cultivation spread over 68 hectares and tapioca in 113 hectares were also hit. Paddy cultivation spread over 172 hectares



Sad plight: The district administration hopes to close down relief camps once the rain subsides. ■ FILE PHOTO

was severely affected. Pineapple farmers also faced the wrath of heavy rain, with crop loss being reported from various places.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture and Revenue departments are waiting for the rain to subside to make a loss estimate of crops and prop-

erty. The loss of agriculture and property is expected to be higher, with several regions still experiencing rain and remaining inundated. The eastern region of the district has suffered the most in terms of agricultural loss.

Farmers have been asked to submit details of loss to the agricultural offices concerned, and compensation will be fixed after verifying the cases.

Chellanam woes

Normal life in coastal areas like Chellanam is yet to return to normal, as residents are grappling with the impact of the heavy rain. Those who had returned home by Saturday from relief camps had to bear the brunt of silt and waste piling up inside houses. The lack of proper drainage system has added to the woes of the coastal population.

The district administration has issued directives to the authorities to chalk out an emergency action plan to restore normalcy in the region.

People start leaving relief camps

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Flood-affected people have started leaving relief camps set up across the district.

The district administration hopes to close down all camps once the rain subsides. As many as 2,489 persons are staying at 26 camps functional in Paravur, Kanayannur and Aluva taluks.

While 467 persons have been accommodated in the relief camp at Paravur, the camp at Kanayannur has 438 persons. The relief camp at Aluva has 261 persons.

An official release said that no major health problems had been reported from the camps.

Officials of the revenue and health wings have been visiting the camps on a regular basis. The Health Department has taken steps to check the spread of infectious diseases.

Special attention will be given to thickly populated areas and places where migrant workers live.

A cleaning drive will be held at the houses of flood-hit people on Sunday and Monday.

Staff shortage hits crop loss assessment in Kozhikode

Collector issues order seeking speedy preparation of estimate

STAFF REPORTER
KOZHIKODE

The shortage of field staff in the Agriculture Department is likely to delay the payment of compensation to farmers who have suffered crop damage due to heavy rain in the district. Farmers' organisations alleged that the delay in the timely preparation of loss estimate would affect several low-income farmers.

Taking note of farmers' complaints, the District Collector issued a directive to the department seeking speedy assessment of crop

loss. The directive also said that fund release would not be a constraint if accurate records on the loss were available.

According to Karshaka Congress leaders, officials have only a partial record of the loss with them, and it will not be sufficient to calculate the compensation. Party district leaders Ipe Vadakkethadam and T.P. Narayanan pointed out that a benevolent Central aid was the need of the hour.

Though Revenue Department figures attest loss of crops in around 450 hectares in last month's rain, the field-level report on the loss faced by each landholder is yet to be ready. Moreover, several agricultural fields still remain waterlogged, causing huge financial loss to farmers who had

secured agriculture loans for farming projects.

The Janathipathya Karshaka Union and the Indian Farmers' Movement too took strong exception to the delay in assessment of crop loss. They claimed that many farmers who had applied for last year's compensation were yet to get their dues. The amount that has already been sanctioned to some farmers whose houses were damaged in heavy rain too is insufficient, they said.

Agriculture Department sources said that the local Krishi Bhavans were assessing crop loss in various grama panchayats. Manpower shortage is an issue of concern, but the department will process the claims of all eligible farmers in time, they claimed.



Hard to bear: A banana farm which was recently destroyed in heavy rain and wind at Mulkom in Kozhikode district.

Kannur suffers ₹48.5-cr loss

16 people lost their lives in rain havoc

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KANNUR

The loss of crops and properties in the district caused by monsoon calamity has been estimated ₹48.5 crore, according to preliminary

figures. It is estimated at more than ₹3.5 crore. Iritty and nearby areas bore the brunt of property damage, the release said adding that 23 houses in the area were completely damaged in monsoon calamity.

The heavy showers and winds had also destroyed crops in large-scale. As many as 3,749 farmers had suffered a total loss of over

the district alone suffered losses to the tune of ₹18 crore.

The heavy showers and winds also damaged electricity distribution networks. The total loss caused by two circles of the KSEB in the district was estimated at ₹4.85 crore. Over 1.8 lakh consumers were affected by the damage caused to KSEB lines.