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# Focus on alternative use of arecanut



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“Danger is in store if the central government removes arecanut and arecanut products from the category of food items. It is a food item and should be considered as a food item,” said Prof T N Prakash Kammaradi, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics University of Agriculture Sciences, GKVK.

Speaking at a seminar organised by Sahyadri Sangha, Bangalore, on problems faced by Malnad Areca Growers and the Dr Gorak Singh Committee Report, here on Sunday, Kammaradi stressed on the need to highlight their problems with the state and union governments and focus on alternative uses of arecanut.



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Kammaradi added that the implementation of Dr Gorak Singh Committee Report is a small relief to the arecanut growers.

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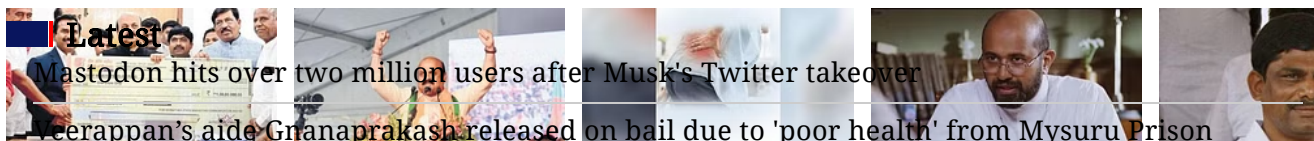
president of Shimoga Zilla Arecanut Growers Association questioned, "When there are regulations in the sale of cigarettes and beedis, why are efforts made to ban gutka?"

"Compensation is given against damage caused by wild animals. But no compensation is given for the damage caused by monkeys, which come in the list of wild animals," he said.

He further demanded that the state government take suitable measures to market arecanuts through APMC only.

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