

# ILLEGAL SMUGGLING OF ARECANUT AND ECONOMIC SECURITY OF FARMERS IN MIZORAM: SOME FIELD BASED EVIDENCES

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**ABSTRACT:** *The smuggling of dried arecanuts from Southeast Asia has become a significant concern in Mizoram since Assam restricted arecanut imports to protect its farmers since the past few years. Local growers in Mizoram have expressed aggravation as the illegal trade undermines their market, with border residents allegedly importing cheaper arecanuts for illegal dealers. Despite Assam's efforts to curb smuggling, law enforcement struggle to differentiate between illegal imports and local produce, leading to the confiscation of locally grown arecanuts and harming farmers' livelihoods. This paper examines the economic impact of this illegal trade, focusing on Mamit and Kolasib districts, where arecanut farming is a major income source. Illegally imported arecanuts, often sold at lower prices, create unfair competition for local farmers, who also face transportation challenges in exporting their produce to Assam and other regions. This results in a surplus of domestic arecanuts, making it difficult for farmers to sell at competitive prices, ultimately reducing profitability and sales. The illegal trade has severely disrupted the local economy, threatening the sustainability of arecanut farming in the region.*

**KEYWORDS:-** *Arecanut Smuggling, Economic Impact, Illegal Trade, Market Competition, Mizoram Farmers*

## INTRODUCTION

Arecanut farming serves as a primary source of income for many households in Mizoram, contributing significantly to their livelihoods [1]. Over the past few years, the smuggling of dried arecanuts from Southeast Asian nations, particularly via Myanmar, has emerged as significant economic and social issues in the state. This illegal trade has intensified since the Assam government imposed restrictions on arecanut imports to protect its local farmers. Smuggled arecanuts, which evade an import duty, are sold at significantly lower prices than locally grown produce, creating unfair competition for Mizoram's farmers. This has led to a market surplus, reduced demand for local arecanuts, and severe financial losses for many farmers especially in Mamit and Kolasib districts, where arecanut cultivation is a primary source of livelihood in this region.

The smuggling and unauthorized trade practices disrupt local markets, create unfair competition, and negatively impact farmers' livelihoods [2]. Efforts to address the issue have included increased surveillance and seizures by security agencies such as the Assam Rifles, which have intercepted thousands of tonnes of smuggled arecanuts along with other contraband like heroin and exotic animals. However, these measures have not been entirely effective, as the illegal trade continues to thrive. Incidents such as the burning of over 150 bags of smuggled arecanuts by farmers' organisation in Kolasib district in late 2022 and the subsequent burning of six trucks by arecanut farmers in Mamit district highlight the growing frustration among local farmers. Protests, including a week-long demonstration in Hachhek constituency ( arecanut farmers' from a 12 villages in Mamit district) in November 2022, have underscored the urgency of the issue. NGOs, political parties, religious leaders, and social activists have also voiced their concerns, urging the government to take decisive action.

This paper aims to analyse the economic and social consequences of arecanut smuggling on Mizoram's farmers, with a specific focus on the Mamit and Kolasib districts. It also seeks to highlight the challenges faced by local farmers on the unintended confiscation of their produce, and the lack of effective enforcement mechanisms. Smuggling depresses market prices, and reduces income opportunities for farmers and traders [3]. It explores the broader implications of this issue on the state's economy and the livelihoods of its residents. By examining the nature of the problem, previous efforts to address it, and the ongoing struggles of farmers, the survey tend to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue and propose actionable solutions. It also

contributes to the existing discourse on illegal trade and its impact on local economies by providing a detailed case study of arecanut smuggling in the state. The existing of illegal trade activities across borders affect local farmers, particularly through the influx of cheaper imported goods that undermine domestic markets [4]. It also sheds light on the unique challenges faced by farmers in border regions, where smuggling activities are rampant, and highlights the inadequacies of current enforcement measures which may help to emphasise the need for a multi-pronged approach, including stricter border controls, support for local farmers, and policy reforms, to address the issue effectively. By addressing these issues, this survey aims to contribute to the development of sustainable solutions that safeguard the livelihoods of Mizoram's farmers and promote economic stability in the region.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **2.1 Sources of Data**

Primary data were collected through personal interviews conducted in the Mamit and Kolasib districts of Mizoram, India. The interviews targeted office bearers (representatives) of farmers' organisations from the two districts, covering a total of 14 farmers' organisations. Additionally, an interview schedule was administered in four selected villages; Kawrthah and Zamuang village in Mamit district and Bilkhawthlir and Vairengte from Kolasib district. Secondary data were gathered from various sources, including reports provided by representatives of farmers' organisations, national and local newspapers, articles, thesis, books and journals related to agriculture and farmers' organisations. These secondary sources provided contextual information, historical trends, and supplementary data to support the primary findings.

### **2.2 Sample design**

The study employed a simple random sampling method to select respondents where every individual in the population has an equal chance of being selected. It focused on representatives (office bearers) of farmers' organizations in Mamit and Kolasib districts, as well as individuals from four selected villages in these districts.

### **2.3 Sample Size**

A total of 300 individuals were selected to represent the population; 200 respondents from Kolasib District - Bilkhawthlir and Vairengte with 100 respondents each, Kawrthah and Zamuang with 50 respondents each, a total of 100 respondents from Mamit district. The difference in sample sizes is a reflection of the underlying demographic and geographic realities of the two districts, ensuring that the data collected is representative and meaningful for each region.

### **2.4 Data Analysis**

The collected data were analysed using simple statistical tools and descriptive statistics to derive meaningful insights. Percentages were calculated to represent proportions and distributions of categorical data, providing a clear picture of the data's structure. Additionally, the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) was computed to analyse growth trends over a specific period. For effective data presentation, data visualisation tools such as simple bar chart and trend line were employed to illustrate categorical data and time-series trends, respectively. Data were also summarised in tabular form for easy interpretation, ensuring that the findings were accessible and comprehensible.

## **RESULTS**

### **3.1 Socio-economic structure of the farmers' organisation**

Studying an individual's position in the organisation, age, and educational qualifications helps understand their role, experience, and expertise. This information is vital for assessing workforce dynamics, identifying skill gaps, and making informed decisions about training, promotions, and organisational structure.

**TABLE 3.1.1: Socio-economic structure of the farmers' organisation**

Details	Sub-Category	Nos.	Percentages
Position in the Organisation	President	1	7%
	Vice President	1	7%
	Secretary	11	79%
	Assistant Secretary	1	7%
Age Groups	30-40	4	29%
	41-50	7	50%
	51-60	3	21.40%
Education Qualification	Below Class 10	12	86%
	Matriculate	1	7%
	Graduate	1	7%
Total		14	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The socio-economic structure of farmers' organisations reveals key insights into their position, age and educational qualifications. 79% of members hold the position of Secretary, indicating a centralized leadership structure, while President, Vice President, and Assistant Secretary, each account for 7%. In terms of age, the majority (50%) fall within the 41-50 age groups, followed by 29% in the 30-40 group and 21.4% in the 51-60 group, suggesting a middle-aged dominance. Educationally, 86% of members have qualifications below Class 10, highlighting limited formal education, while only 7% are matriculates and 7% are graduates. This data underscores the need for capacity-building initiatives to enhance leadership diversity, educational attainment, and inclusivity within farmers' organisations.

**3.2 Expenditure, Pricing behaviour and the Policy adopted for combating illegal trade**

**TABLE 3.2.1: Details of expenditure, pricing effect and policy adopted by the farmers' organisation**

Particulars	Nos.	Percentage
<b>Expenditure Details</b>		
Travelling expenses for meetings with Govt. officials, NGOs, and authorities	1	7%
Expenses at the duty checkpoints for combating illegal smuggling	12	86%
Expenses on refreshments, stationery, etc.	1	7%
<b>Pricing Effect</b>		
FPOs believing prices in other places affect local market prices	9	64%
FPOs believing prices in other places do not affect local market prices	5	36%
<b>Policy Adoption</b>		
FPOs adopting policies to combat illegal smuggling	10	71%
FPOs not adopting policies to combat illegal smuggling	4	29%

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table highlights key aspects of expenditure, pricing perceptions, and policy adoption among Farmers' Producers Organisations (FPOs). 86% of FPOs incur significant expenses at duty check posts, indicating the financial burden of compliance and monitoring on illegal smuggling. Only 7% spend on travelling for meetings with government officials or NGOs, and another 7% on refreshments and stationery.

Regarding pricing, 64% of FPOs believe that prices in other regions influence local market prices, while 36% do not. In terms of policy, 71% of FPOs have adopted measures to combat illegal smuggling, showcasing proactive efforts, but 29% have not yet implemented such policies. This data underscores the need for greater financial support, awareness, and policy enforcement to address challenges like illegal smuggling and market price fluctuations.

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Most farmers in the study area rely on arecanut cultivation as their main income source. However, smuggling from Myanmar floods the local market, driving down prices and creating unfair competition for domestic produce. This makes it difficult for local farmers to sell at competitive rates, harming their profitability and livelihoods. Addressing smuggling is crucial to safeguarding farmers' incomes.

**3.3 Income performance from the sales of arecanut**

TABLE 3.3.1: Expected, actual income and loss from the sales of arecanut (2021-2023)

Metric	Kolasib (2021-2022)	Mamit (2021-2022)	Kolasib (2022-2023)	Mamit (2022-2023)
Expected Income (₹ lakhs)	2700	5000	5000	8000
Actual Income (₹ lakhs)	1755	2741.2	3750	6400
Loss (₹ lakhs)	945	2259	1250	1600
Loss (% of expected)	35%	45.18%	25%	20%

Source: Authors compiled from interviews and reports of farmers' organisation

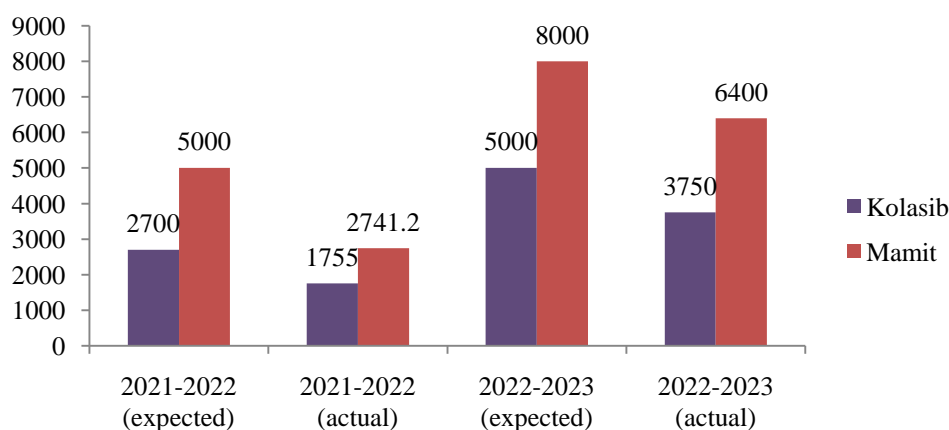


Fig 1: Chart showing the expected and actual income of arecanut growers in Kolasib and Mamit district

The data and the chart provided reflect the income performance of Kolasib and Mamit over two fiscal years (2021-2022 and 2022-2023), highlighting significant losses in both regions. These losses can be attributed to two major factors: the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the illegal smuggling of arecanut. During 2021-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted economic activities, leading to reduced sales and income generation. Lockdowns, restrictions, and supply chain disruptions likely hampered the legal trade of arecanut, a key agricultural product in the region. Additionally, the illegal smuggling of arecanut exacerbated the situation, diverting revenue away from legitimate channels and further reducing actual income. This is evident in the substantial losses incurred by both regions, with Mamit experiencing a 45.18% loss and Kolasib a 35% loss in 2021-2022.

In 2022-2023, both regions showed improvement, with losses decreasing to 20% in Mamit and 25% in Kolasib. This recovery can be linked to the easing of pandemic-related restrictions and increased economic activity. However, the persistent losses suggest that illegal smuggling remains a significant challenge, particularly in Mamit, where the absolute loss (₹1600 lakhs) was higher than in Kolasib (₹1250 lakhs). Addressing the dual challenges of illegal smuggling and post-pandemic recovery will be crucial for both regions

to achieve their income targets and sustain economic growth. Enhanced enforcement against smuggling, combined with measures to boost legal trade and economic resilience could help mitigate these losses in the future.

**3.4 Details of income generated from arecanut sales**

TABLE 3.4.1: income generated from arecanut sales

Year	Kolasib (₹ in lakh)	Mamit (₹ in lakh)
2016-2017	1281	967.15
2017-2018	1380.38	1141
2018-2019	1691.15	2000
2019-2020	1804.08	3021.14
2021-2022	1755	2741.2
Total	7,911.61	9,870.49

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The provided data highlights the income generated from arecanut sales in Kolasib and Mamit districts over five fiscal years. In Kolasib district, income grew steadily from ₹1281 lakh in 2016-17 to ₹1804.08 lakh in 2019-20, reflecting a consistent increase in arecanut sales. In 2021-22, income slightly declined to ₹1755 lakh, likely due to the lingering effects of the pandemic, such as disrupted supply chains and reduced market demand.

In Mamit district, the income showed significant growth, rising from ₹967.15 lakh in 2016-17 to ₹3021.14 lakh in 2019-20, indicating a booming arecanut market. In 2021-22, income dropped to ₹2741.2 lakh, suggesting a pandemic-induced slowdown in production, trade, or market access.

The absence of data for 2020-21 in both the district can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted agricultural activities, transportation, and trade. The pandemic caused widespread uncertainty, making it difficult for farmers and organisations to maintain proper records of income and losses during this period, further contributing to the lack of available information. The absence of records underscores the need for better data collection systems and support for farmers' organisations to ensure accurate tracking of income and losses in times of crisis.

**3.5 Calculation of Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)**

The compound annual growth rate (CAGR) indicates the average rate at which revenue grows over a specific period. It is one of the most accurate approaches for determining returns that may rise or fall in value over time. This metric also serves as a valuable tool for evaluating the performance of investments across time. The CAGR for the period between years X and Z, where the difference Z-X equals N (the number of years), can be calculated as follows:

The formula for CAGR is:

$$CAGR = \left( \frac{\text{Ending value}}{\text{Beginning value}} \right)^{\frac{1}{N}} - 1 \tag{1}$$

Where:

- Ending Value = Income in 2021-2022
- Beginning Value = Income in 2016-2017
- N = Number of years = 5 (from 2016-2017 to 2021-2022)

For Kolasib District:

- Ending Value (2021-2022) = ₹1755 lakh
- Beginning Value (2016-2017) = ₹1281 lakh

$$CAGR = \left( \frac{1755}{1281} \right)^{\frac{1}{5}} - 1 = (1.37)^{0.2} - 1 \approx 1.065 - 1 = 0.065 \text{ or } 6.5\%$$

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For Mamit District:

Ending Value (2021-2022) = ₹2741.2 lakh

Beginning Value (2016-2017) = ₹967.15 lakh

$$CAGR = \left( \frac{2741.2}{967.15} \right)^{1/5} - 1 = (2.83)^{0.2} - 1 \approx 1.23 - 1 = 0.23 \text{ or } 23\%$$

Table 3.5.1: Details of income generated and the calculation of CAGR from the sales of arecanut in Kolasib and Mamit District (2016-2022)

Year	Kolasib Income (₹ in lakh)	Mamit Income (₹ in lakh)
2016-2017	1281	967.15
2017-2018	1380.38	1141
2018-2019	1691.15	2000
2019-2020	1804.08	3021.14
2021-2022	1755	2741.2
CAGR	6.5%	23%

Source: Field Survey, 2023

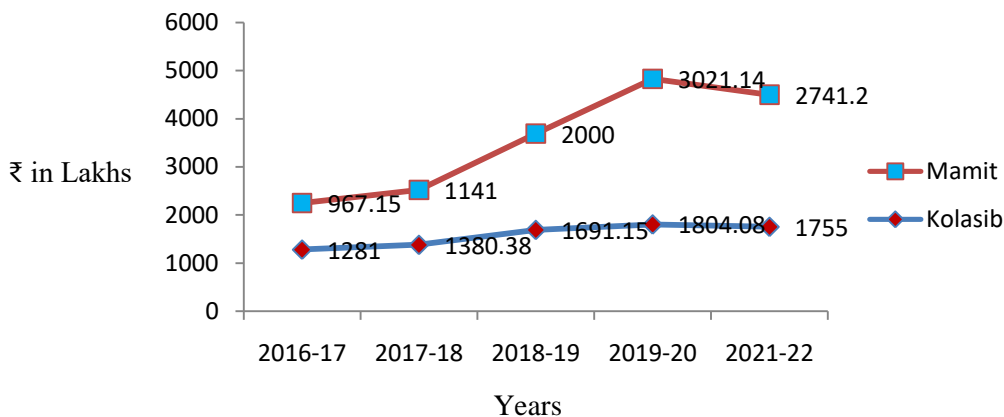


Fig 2: Trend line showing the annual income of the arecanut farmers’  
Source: Field Survey, 2023

The income from arecanut sales in Kolasib grew from ₹1281 lakh in 2016-2017 to ₹1755 lakh in 2021-2022. The CAGR of 6.5% indicates moderate but steady growth in income over the five-year period. This suggests consistent performance in arecanut sales, though the growth rate is relatively modest compared to Mamit. In Mamit District the income from arecanut sales increased significantly from ₹967.15 lakh in 2016-2017 to ₹2741.2 lakh in 2021-2022. The CAGR of 23% reflects extremely high growth, indicating a rapid expansion in arecanut sales. This could be due to improved farming practices, increased demand, or better market access in Mamit District. At the same time, Mamit District outperformed Kolasib in terms of income growth with a CAGR more than 3.5 (approx) times higher. The disparity in growth rates highlights potential differences in agricultural practices, market conditions, or government support between the two districts. This analysis thus provides insights into the growth trends of arecanut sales in Kolasib and Mamit Districts, which can be used for future planning and policy-making.



**3.6 Difference in the cost of arecanut due to smuggling**

Below is a table summarising the differences in the price of arecanut (cost of one bag) in Kolasib and Mamit Districts for the years 2021-2022 and 2023, highlighting the impact of smuggling on prices:

TABLE 3.6.1: Details of differences in the price of arecanut (Cost of one bag)

District	Normal Price (2021-2022)	Price Variation Due to Smuggling (2023)
Kolasib	₹ 2,500	₹ 1,000
Mamit	₹ 2,700	₹ 1,085

Source: Field Survey, 2023

\*Note: 1 bag of arecanut= 60 kgs (approx.)

During 2021-2022, in Kolasib district, the normal price of one bag of arecanut was ₹2, 500, while in Mamit, the price was slightly higher at ₹2,700 per bag. This difference in normal prices could be attributed to factors such as transportation costs, local demand, or quality variations. In 2023, there is a price variation due to smuggling; the prices of arecanut dropped significantly in both districts due to smuggling activities. In Kolasib, the price fell to ₹1,000 per bag, a 60% decrease from the normal price. In Mamit, the price dropped to ₹1,085 per bag, a 59.8% decrease from the normal price.

Smuggling has led to a drastic reduction in the price of arecanut in both districts, likely due to the influx of cheaper, illegally sourced arecanut into the market. This has negatively affected local farmers and traders, as they are forced to sell their produce at much lower prices to remain competitive. The price drop also indicates a lack of effective regulation and enforcement to curb smuggling activities. The unfair competition from cheaper smuggled goods leading to reduced incomes and economic instability [5].

The data thus highlights the severe impact of smuggling on the arecanut market in Kolasib and Mamit Districts. The drastic price reduction in 2023 compared to 2021-2022 underscores the need for stricter enforcement of anti-smuggling measures and support for local farmers to ensure fair pricing and sustainable livelihoods. Addressing this issue is crucial to stabilize the market and protect the economic interests of stakeholders in the arecanut industry.

**3.7 Major issues encountered by the arecanut farmers’ in the study areas**

TABLE 3.7.1: Problems encountered due to illegal smuggling

District	Response	Kolasib		Mamit	
		Bilkhawthlir	Vairengte	Kawrthah	Zamuang
Price fluctuation (%)	Yes	52	59	82	70
	No	48	41	18	30
Illegal trading (%)	Yes	60	100	100	84
	No	40	0	0	16
Delay payment from buyers (%)	Yes	82	64	60	72
	No	18	36	40	28

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table highlights key issues faced by respondents. In Kawrthah, 82% reported problems with price fluctuations, while in Bilkhawthlir, 52% faced similar issues. Illegal arecanut trade was a major concern, with 100% of respondents in Vairengte and Kawrthah affected. Payment delays from buyers were another significant problem. Buyers from other states often paid an advance (one-third of the total cost) during harvest but struggled to repay due to smuggling issues and transportation restrictions imposed by the Assam government. Despite Mizoram and Assam's zero-tolerance policy against smuggled arecanut, farmers in both districts continued to face challenges in exporting their produce.

**3.8 Economic Consequences of Illegal Smuggling of Arecanut in the State**

In recent years, India has faced significant challenges in curbing the illegal smuggling of arecanuts from Myanmar, following directives from the national government in New Delhi. This illicit trade has been particularly rampant in the north eastern region, with Mizoram serving as a primary entry point for smuggled arecanuts. Once smuggled into Mizoram, the contraband is distributed across India, where approximately 10% of the population consumes arecanut as a key ingredient in various products. The expanding illegal trade of arecanut has far-reaching economic consequences, including revenue losses for the government, distortion of market prices, and adverse impacts on legitimate farmers and traders. This report examines the economic implications of this growing issue and highlights the need for effective measures to address the problem.

Table 3.8.1: Details of dry arecanut seized by the Mizoram Government (2020-2022)

Year	No. of Arecanut Seized (in Metric Tons)	Price of Arecanut Seized (in Crores)	No. of Cases Registered
2020	1,080	33.82	148
2021	1,108.70	35.84	79
2022	1,013.73	31.73	80

Source: Authors compiled from local newspapers

Table shows the data regarding the details of dry arecanut seized by the Government from 2020 to 2022; the quantity of dry arecanut seized fluctuated over three years. In 2020, the government seized 1,080 metric tons, which increased slightly to 1,108.70 metric tons in 2021, before declining to 1,013.73 metric tons in 2022. The peak seizure occurred in 2021, indicating heightened smuggling activity or improved enforcement efforts during that year.

The value of seized arecanut followed a similar trend, with the highest value recorded in 2021 at ₹35.84 crores, compared to ₹33.82 crores in 2020 and ₹31.73 crores in 2022. The decline in value in 2022 could be attributed to the reduced quantity seized or fluctuations in market prices. The number of cases registered saw a significant drop from 148 cases in 2020 to 79 cases in 2021, followed by a marginal increase to 80 cases in 2022. The data indicates that while the quantity and value of seizures remained relatively high, the number of cases registered decreased significantly after 2020. This could imply that enforcement agencies are targeting larger smuggling operations rather than smaller, individual cases. The economic impact of smuggling is evident from the high value of seized arecanut, which represents significant revenue losses for the government and legitimate stakeholders in the arecanut trade.

Table 3.8.2: Details of Tax from Arecanut and GST Revenue

Description	Amount (in ₹)
Minimum CIF Value for Import	₹251 per kg
Tax Collected per Truck (Full Load)	₹2 lakh per truck
Market Value of Full Load per Truck	<₹30 lakh per truck
Tax Collected per Kilogram	₹40 per kg
GST Revenue (First Two Months of 2021)	₹136 lakhs

Source: Authors compiled from local newspapers & articles

The table summarizes the key numerical data related to arecanut import restrictions, tax collection, and revenue losses due to smuggling. The Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry imposed restrictions on the import of arecanuts starting since July 2018. The regulation stipulates that imports are prohibited if the Cost Insurance



Freight (CIF) value is below the minimum threshold of ₹251 per kilogram. Importers are required to pay a 100% bill of entry based on the basic customs duty, calculated against the government-mandated minimum price of ₹251 per kg. Additionally, they must pay Integrate Goods and Service Tax or 5% States Good and Service Tax if the arecanuts are supplied within the state.

The findings of the survey reveal that the state government has obtained a certificate through the Mizoram Agriculture Marketing Corporation (MAMCO), and the 5% Goods and service Tax collected are shared between the state and central governments. However, the study highlights discrepancies in tax collection, as the state government charges on an average of only ₹2 lakh per truck for a full load of arecanuts, despite the market value exceeding ₹30 lakh per truck. This translates to a mere ₹40 per kilogram collected as taxes from smugglers. During the first two months of 2021, the state government reportedly losses an approximate ₹136 lakhs on Goods and Service tax related to arecanut [6]. These figures suggest potential bureaucratic involvement in the unlawful transportation and smuggling of arecanuts.

The smuggling of arecanuts results in significant losses in tax revenue for the government, which directly impacts its ability to fund critical sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education. These sectors are vital for the overall development of the region, and the loss of revenue undermines efforts to improve public services and economic growth. The findings underscore the need for stricter enforcement and transparency to curb smuggling and ensure fair taxation.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **4.1 Advantages:**

1. **Comprehensive Analysis:** The paper provides a detailed examination of the negative impacts of arecanut smuggling on Mizoram's economy, legality, quality control, competition, and government revenue.
2. **Farmer-Centric Focus:** It highlights the concerns of Mizoram farmers, emphasizing the need to protect their livelihoods and economic security.
3. **Proposed Solutions:** The paper suggests practical measures to combat smuggling, such as enhanced border surveillance, community engagement, legal action, and public awareness campaigns.
4. **Policy Implications:** It underscores the importance of government intervention and policy reforms to address smuggling and promote legal trade. The state government had taken initiatives to support arecanut farmers, including efforts to improve market access, enhance infrastructure, and curb illegal trade [7]

### **4.2 Limitations:**

1. **Data Gaps:** The paper may lack detailed quantitative data on the extent of smuggling and its direct economic impact on farmers.
2. **Implementation Challenges:** While solutions are proposed, the paper may not fully address the practical challenges of implementing measures like border surveillance and community engagement in the study areas.
3. **Limited Focus on Alternatives:** Although alternative revenue sources are mentioned, the paper does not explore specific, viable options for farmers in detail.
4. **Regional Specificity:** The findings are specific to Mizoram and may not be directly applicable to other regions facing similar issues.

### **4.3 Possible Applications:**

1. **Policy Formulation:** The paper can serve as a foundation for policymakers to design and implement strategies to combat arecanut smuggling and support farmers.
2. **Community Programs:** It can guide the development of community-based initiatives to raise awareness and encourage lawful trade practices.
3. **Research Expansion:** It can inspire further research on the economic and social impacts of smuggling, as well as the effectiveness of proposed solutions.

4. **Farmer Support Systems:** It can also be used to advocate for the creation of alternative livelihood programs such as horticulture, handicrafts, or tourism to reduce dependency on arecanut farming and financial support systems for affected farmers.

Thus, the study highlight that the illegal smuggling of arecanut in Mizoram poses significant challenges to farmers' economic security and the region's overall development. There is a need for a coordinated approach to address illegal trade and ensure the economic security of border communities in Northeast India[8].Addressing this issue requires a multi-faceted approach involving farmers' organisations along with the government support and action. By implementing the proposed solutions and addressing the limitations, the state can protect its farmers, boost its economy, and ensure the sustainability of the arecanut trade.

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