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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.6.2026)

The Commission is aware of the challenges affecting coconut production globally. These challenges are particularly relevant in certain outermost regions (ORs), in particular the tropical French ORs, where coconut production may contribute to local food systems, rural diversification, agroforestry and tourism-related activities.

The EU supports agriculture in the ORs through the POSEI programmes, established under Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, which help maintain local agricultural activities, strengthen resilience and support diversification. While coconut remains a relatively minor sector compared with major OR productions such as bananas or sugar cane, producers may benefit from support for sustainable production, agroecological practices, local processing and short supply chains. Additional opportunities are available under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans (CSP) and cohesion policy instruments, including for climate adaptation, circular economy projects and small agri-food enterprises. Within the framework of EU funds under shared management with national authorities, it is the responsibility of each Member State to determine the specific interventions financed through POSEI and the national CSP.

Research and innovation for agriculture remain priorities under Horizon Europe¹, LIFE and regional cooperation programmes. Union support may contribute to work on climate-resilient varieties, agroforestry systems, sustainable pest management and the valorisation of coconut by-products. The Commission welcomes the roadmap announced by the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development on 14 April 2026 and encourages synergies between national, regional and Union initiatives.

¹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-6-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment_en.