

## XII. APPROACH TOWARDS ANNUAL PLAN 2009-10

Planning Commission has emphasized the need to step up agricultural production to 4% growth rate. This task is even more onerous in respect of the Union Territory of Puducherry because the current GSDP of the Union Territory in respect of agriculture is much less than the national GDP of 2%. Some of the steps proposed to increase agriculture growth are crop diversification, strengthening of agricultural extension through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), improving the marketing infrastructure by encouraging private participation etc. As recommended by the National Commission for Farmers, effective links are proposed with research institutions with best practices. Crop insurance will help in indemnifying farmers against damages caused by natural calamities. Effective marketing linkages including promotion of private markets and contract farming will support crop diversification.

Contribution of agriculture to the state income is declining. Decline in area under cultivation, stagnant productivity of the major crops, over exploitation of ground water resources, intensive use of land and high quantity of chemical fertilizer and pesticide usage, inadequate extension services etc are the major issues need to be addressed to improve agricultural growth. It is necessary to gradually reorient from traditional crops to horticulture and floriculture arenas. In order to bring sustainable utilization of the natural and human resources at the farm and village levels, the 'biovillage' concept will be adopted. With the increasing water scarcity and changing global trade/policies there is a need to introduce crop diversification and integrated farming approaches by adopting Precision Farming Technology to enhance input use efficiency and conserve natural resources. There is a need to promote farm-based rainwater harvesting facilities wherever possible, coupled with the practice of water saving irrigation technologies like drip and sprinkler methods. This is proposed to be achieved through ICT supported village level knowledge centers (Uzhavar Udaviyagams). These would be promoted to play the role of multipurpose service centers with satellite connectivity.

Livestock and livelihood are closely interconnected in rural households. The livestock sector not only contributes but also supplements the rural income. Also, it generates employment avenues which in turn increases the income of small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. Adequate care will be taken during Annual Plan 2009-10 for Special Livestock Breeding Programme including providing required veterinary health services.

Fisheries Sector has become a vital sector rich with a source of livelihood for generating employment to a larger extent and sharing for national food security and earns valuable foreign exchange. Under marine sector, coastal fisheries in many parts of the country reached a saturation level and hence the unexploited potential lies in the deep sea which needs to be tapped up by adopting diversified method of fishing. In all the regions, marine resource is the commonly available natural resource and majority of the population is depending on these resources for their livelihood. The Government of Puducherry has recognized the significance of fisheries sector to economic development of the UT by implementing various schemes under this sector. However, major infrastructural developments such as fishing harbour, ice plants for preserving fish and market yards and introduction of deep sea fishing need special emphasis.

The outcome of co-operative movement has been significant in all sectors. Micro credit programmes are extended for farmers and Rural Artisans through both credit co-operatives and non-credit cooperatives. In the recent past, NGOs have come to play a major role in promoting micro credit among the poor and vulnerable sections of the society. More incentives are proposed to be provided during the Eleventh Plan to promote co-operative activities among marginalized people in the UT.

Education and health sectors have been making remarkable achievements in our Union Territory. The dropout rates tend to be low among the SCs and BCs at the upper primary level. The higher education is accorded due importance and efforts will be made in the Annual Plan to develop human resource reservoir locally to take advantage of the emerging opportunities in industry and information technology sectors. Overall health

indicators in Puducherry are far more progressive than the national indicators. However, within the UT, regional disparities prevail. Intensive curative and preventive measures will be taken in the identified regions to balance disparities in health care systems. The Indian system of medicine and homeopathy will be encouraged by adding these facilities in dispensaries and PHCs. Innovative methods like Telemedicine will be strengthened further.

To attain true inclusive growth during the Annual Plan 2009-10, Welfare programmes for upliftment of disadvantaged groups like agricultural labourers, handloom weavers, fishermen, rural artisans, scheduled castes and other backward classes will be implemented in letter and spirit. Awareness programmes among the poor, especially in the unorganized sector, will be promoted for enhancing their participation in development programmes. The change in the demographic and social structures and social values would necessitate comprehensive programmes for the aged and the disabled. The focus would be on promotion of skill and capacity building and entrepreneurial skills of target groups. This can be achieved through establishing partnerships with appropriate institutions and experienced NGOs in the local areas both at designing and implementation stages. Formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs), a proven concept for social mobilization of rural poor, will be effectively utilized to mobilize BPL families, in partnership with experienced NGOs, to enhance out-reach of social security programmes. The other vital factor to ensure quality service delivery in development programmes i.e. need based development of human and resource executing different programmes will be given due attention on an institutional basis during the Annual Plan 2009-10. Sufficient representation will be ensured for women's contribution at various stages of planning and implementation of various social security programmes.

Increasing emphasis is being placed throughout the world on establishing an 'investment friendly' climate. Even in India, states are being ranked according to their investment climate. This ranking is being taken quite seriously by foreign investors especially those who need quick decisions by state level authorities. While infrastructure development is

key to creating the right investment climate, an equally important component is hastening the process of obtaining clearances for establishing industries. There is an urgent need to tap adequate resources outside budget to take up mega Infrastructure Development Projects to attract investment from outside Union Territory for speedy economic growth. It includes development of Airports, Ports, Road Transport, Power Generating Units, Special Economic Zones, IT Park, development of Industrial Estates, expansion / modernisation of commercial undertakings etc. Taking advantage of existing state's pro-industry policies, number of integrated post harvest value addition zones could be identified for the promotion of food processing industries for diverse products.

Promotion of low cost decentralized tiny and cottage, small and medium enterprises with the underlying principles of 'technological demystification' and the appropriate linkages with technical institutions and ensuring forward linkages with the marketing agencies would simultaneously address the critical problem of rural unemployment and income enhancement. The opportunity is available for the well mobilized large number of SHGs which could manage particularly small business enterprises tiny and cottage industries.

The employment pattern in the Puducherry indicates that there is a perceptible decline in the proportion of agricultural workers whereas the manufacturing and tertiary sectors have registered a noticeable increase. It necessitates upgradation of skills through Industrial Training Institutes to meet the growing demand for skilled personnel. Across the regions, Karaikal region reported a very low proportion of secondary sector workers while Yanam and Mahe found more proportion of workers in fisheries and livestock rearing. The employment in the organized and unorganized sectors insinuates the growth of unorganized sector in the post reform period. Though the units in the unorganized sector have grown remarkably, the number of persons employed shows signs of decline indicating adoption of "lean and efficient" policy by both organized and unorganized sectors.

The Puducherry Administration is taking utmost care in providing housing facilities to take care of the shelter needs of the target groups particularly the BPL families through Puducherry Slum Clearance Board and Puducherry Housing Board. The Puducherry Slum

Clearance Board functions as the benevolent arm of the Government for upliftment of the urban slum dwellers, road side encroachers, platform dwellers by providing housing facilities and improving environment conditions in the urban areas. The Puducherry Housing Board constructs LIG plots targeting the low income group category by getting financial assistance from Government in the form of seed capital. Puducherry Kamarajar Centenary Housing Scheme for the houseless poor introduced during 2003-04 will be implemented to take care of the shelter needs of the target group.

To improve the environmental conditions of the slums in urban areas through extension of package of basic services like improved roads/pavements, ground water drain, public bath and toilet, water supply facilities, etc. will be provided in the integrated way. For the preparation of District / Regional plans for the plan development and growth of commune Head Quarters, the orders of settlement will be taken up during 2009-10.

Innovative tourism products and services provided by Tourism Development Corporation, Puducherry has spurred the tourism industry in the UT. The low cost accommodation through Youth Hostels, Yatri Niwas and government guest houses and quality food services provided through *La Caffes* and the Seagull restaurants have attracted tourists to Puducherry as a favoured week-end destination. The government has been making investments in the development of innovative tourism products and services and showcasing it through a large advertisement budget. The government has been encouraging increasingly the private sector to establish tourist resorts, parks and hotels with attractive incentives. Besides heritage and cultural tourism, potential for ecological, spiritual and medical tourism would also be harnessed in PPP mode during the Annual Plan 2009-10 to provide world class tourism infrastructure. A major thrust will be given to improve air-connectivity of Puducherry. Implementation of the first and second phases of work on development of Pondicherry Airport and development of a greenfield airport at Karaikal would be co-ordinated with Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The following issues are presently engaging the attention of UT Administration:

**(a) SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

There are 5 Municipalities, 10 Commune Panchayats and 98 Village Panchayats in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Till the year 1996, the cleaning work was being carried out by the employees of the Local Bodies, In the year 1996-97, the Puducherry Municipality embarked upon privatizing the work of Solid Waste Management. Following the recommendations made by the committee constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Solid Waste Management (Management and Handling) Rules was enacted in the year 2000. The said Rules deals with the handling and management of Solid Waste Management in the Local Bodies. In line with the above mentioned Rules, the Urban Local Bodies started paying attention for the proper management of solid waste. And based upon the report submitted by the team headed by the Secretary (LA) after the visit of Hyderabad, 24 hours cleaning was introduced in Puducherry and Oulgaret Municipalities with the financial assistance extended by the Government. The 24 hours cleaning was extended to other parts of the Municipalities in the subsequent years. Based upon the successful implementation of the 24 hours cleaning was introduced in Karaikal Municipality from the year 2006-07. In the same year, the cleaning operations were privatized in the Yanam Municipality also. All the above, works were taken up by utilizing the GIA released by the Government. Subsequently, Self-Help Groups were engaged in cleaning work with the twin objectives of providing employment opportunities to unemployed women folk and to keep the city clean. As on date more than 25 Nos. of Self-Help Groups have been assigned with the contracts to take up the cleaning work. Besides, NGOs and Residents Welfare Association were involved in Solid Waste Management. As a part of it, NGOs. like Sutham and Hand in Hand joined partnership with Puducherry and Oulgaret Municipalities and tripartite arrangements was made between the Municipality, Residents Welfare Association and the NGOs. to collect, transport and to dispose of the garbages. Particularly M/s. Sutham has arranged to set up its own disposal facilities at Odhiampe.t. Based upon the successful experiences of involving Self-Help Groups for Solid Waste Management in the urban areas, it is decided to engage Self-Help Groups in rural areas also to keep the areas clean.

In the mean while, the Detailed Project Report has been prepared to implement the Solid Waste Management Project in Puducherry and Oulgaret Municipalities at a cost of Rs.53.72 Crores. The salient features of the project which is to be set up under PPP mode is as follows:-

1. Source segregation of garbage over a period of three years.
2. Door to Door collection of garbages.
3. Levy of user charges of Rs.30/- per house.
4. Replacement of existing wooden hand carts and cement concrete bins with mechanized vehicles and wheeled bins.
5. Engagement of compactors to transport garbages.
6. And the other vehicles which may transport garbages will be properly covered with hydraulically operated covers.
7. An intensive IEC Campaign to create awareness to the public about keeping their surrounding clean and other aspects of Solid Waste Management.
8. To set up Integrated Disposal, Facility at Kurumbapet in an area of 22 Acres.
9. 40% of the garbages will be converted into compost.
10. 15 to 20% of the recyclable materials will be processed to produce refuse derived fuel (RDF).
11. 15 to 20% of the total garbages which may be consisted of inert materials will be recycled to produce bricks.
12. The remaining 15 to 20% garbages will go to the scientifically developed sanitary land fill.

The said area where the above stated facility is to be set up has been provided with Compound Wall of 20 feet height and bio fencing is being developed around it.

Similar facility is proposed to be set up in the Commune Panchayats. And a NGO has come forward to set up such disposal facility at Karaikal which is under consideration.

## (b) TOTAL SANITATION CAMPAIGN (TSC)

District Rural Development Agency is implementing various Rural Development Programmes for achieving sustainable holistic development of the rural areas. The main objectives of the Rural Development Programmes are Poverty Alleviation, Employment Generation, Area Development and also to implement other developmental programmes such as rural sanitation in the rural areas. This Agency gets its funds from Government of India for implementing the Central Sector Schemes.

Total sanitation Campaign is one of the Central sector Plan Schemes implemented by DRDA. The total sanitation coverage stands 16-20% of the total rural households in the country. To widen the sanitation coverage, Central Rural Sanitation Programme has been restructured in 2000-01 and launched in a project mode in 150 pilot districts. The Union Territory of Puducherry has been selected as one of the Districts for the implementation of Total Sanitation Campaign Programme.

The major components of the scheme are as follows:

1. Start-up activities
2. Information Education, Communication activities
3. Rural Sanitary Marts and Production Centres
4. Construction of individual household latrines
5. Sanitary complex for women
6. School Sanitation / Anganwadi toilets

Achievements made so far in the major components of the scheme since inception are as follows: ( as on November 2008)

*Table-26*

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Components</b>	<b>Achievements as on November 2008 since inception</b>
1.	Start-up activities	Baseline surveys were conducted in all communes of selected 120 villages in 2001-2002
2.	Information Education, Communication activities	IEC were conducted in 120 villages through the NGOs like HOPE, CERD, CSC, Pondicherry Slum Dwellers! BWDA, GREDS , etc.



<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Components</b>	<b>Achievements as on November 2008 since inception</b>
3.	Rural Sanitary Marts and Production Centres	Two Rural Sanitary mart cum production centers were established at Building Centre, Vilianur in Puducherry and Sevai, Varichikudi in Karaikal.
4.	Construction of individual household latrines.	So far 1564 individual households toilets were constructed. ( For 2007-08, 258 toilets were constructed
5.	Sanitary complex for women	So far 25 Sanitary complexes for women were constructed at various places in Puducherry and Karaikal region. ( For 2007-08, 2 Complexes were constructed
6.	School Sanitation/ Aangawadi toilets	No scope for construction of School sanitation in this U.T. 15 Anganwadi Toilets were constructed various places in Puducherry and Karaikal region.

Though the scheme is implemented as Central sector scheme, since the fund requirement under the scheme was insufficient, to fill up the financial gap, a similar scheme was introduced in the state plan in 2006-07 and an amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs was earmarked by state Govt. in 2006-07. In 2007-08, the achievement was not impressive due to the following reason i.e., The subsidy given for construction of toilets under CRSP was Rs.2850/- which was reduced to Rs500/- under TSC. This drastic reduction in the subsidy completely destroyed the demand in rural areas. Under the Chief Minister's Sanitation scheme, an amount of Rs.10,000 is given for construction of a Toilet. Hence, the number of toilets constructed under TSC was less from 2004-05. However, the subsidy under TSC was raised to Rs.1500/- from Rs.500/- from 2007-08 onwards. Achievement of 258 Toilets in 2007-08 against 39 in 2006-07, indicates an improvement in interest. The Central subsidy has reduced to again to Rs.1200/- in 2008-09 .As it is felt that not only awareness but also the provision of subsidy alone will serve the purpose. Hence, it is proposed to give Rs.10000/- for the construction of individual toilets under TSC to match with other state schemes i.e., (Central Rs.1200/- + State Rs.8800/-) in 2008-09 with a target of 750 individual Toilets. But only an amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs was approved for the scheme which did not serve the purpose. However, now, in the fag end of the financial year, MoRD, GOI has enhanced the subsidy for construction of toilets to Rs.2500/- (Government order is awaited). But DRDA has proposed in the 2009-10 Draft Annual Plan again to enhance the subsidy for construction

of individual toilets from Rs.1200/- to Rs10,000/-(Central Rs.1200/- + State Rs.8800/-) with a target of 500 individual toilets. It is expected that this enhancement will help to make achievement under TSC as there was response among rural poor in the past when similar increase in subsidy was given. Further, in view of the present rate of inflation in material costs and other factors to be taken into consideration, the increase of State subsidy to the level of Rs.10000/- will pave way to achieve the desired results under TSC.

The ultimate objective of the scheme is improving the quality of life of the rural people through a healthy sanitation habits and also to provide privacy and dignity to women. It is expected that this enhancement of this subsidy will bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas and generate felt demand for sanitation facilities.

The latest BPL survey 2003 results reveals that Out of the total 2,03,22 households 1,13,102 households accustomed to open defecation i.e, nearly 55.64 % Out of 1,13,102 open defecation households, 35,706 households have been covered by sanitation facilities through various schemes including TSC since 2003-04.. This forms 31.56 % of sanitation coverage among the needed households And rest have to be covered. The gap will be filled up to a larger extent through the present venture.

Further, under the Project, intensive IEG and advocacy with participation of NGOs/resource organizations will be undertaken to bring about the desired , behavioural changes.

### **Central Fund Position since inception up to November 2008**

An amount of Rs.94.84 lakhs has been released by MoRD,G OI as one time release(Project mode) to the U.T as against the allocation of Rs.158.06 lakhs while launching the TSC. As on Nov. 2008, an expenditure of Rs.70.95 lakhs has been incurred so far under the scheme.

Under the State Plan, an amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs has been allocated for 2008-09.

## Target and Achievement 2008-09 (as on November 2008)

Table-27

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Item	Target for 2008-09	Achievement as on November 2008
1.	Household latrines constructed	750	44
2.	Community Toilet constructed	4	2
Financial Expenditure Rs.4.22 lakhs			

### (c) GREEN COVER

U.T. Puducherry is about 480 Sq. Kms in area and has a population of 9,74,345 as per 2001 census. The percentage of urban population is 66.57 while rural population is 33.43%. The density of population per Sq.Km is worked out to 2034. The percentage of population in urban areas is much higher than the population in rural areas. Planning Commission has suggested to increase the forest and tree coverage to 5 percentage by the end of 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

National Forest policy 1988 emphasized on increasing 33% forest or tree cover in the country by 2012, increase productivity, preservation and conservation of forest and wildlife, with objective the scheme on social forestry is envisaged. The trees have two major roles-the productive role (Fuel, fodder, food, fruit and fertilizer) and the service roles (soil and moisture & nutrient conservation, nitrogen fixation, wind break, shelter belts, shade, insurance against natural disaster like environmental pollution. Floods and droughts. Government of Puducherry has come up with the scheme "Clean and Green Puducherry" under the scheme 1 lakh seedlings has proposed to be planted during the year 2009 -10.

**(d) COASTAL SHELTER BELT PLANTATION**

Government of Puducherry has established coastal shelter belt all along the east coast to protect the inland against natural vagaries. These coastal shelter belts is being maintained and protected. Creating a Biodiversity council is in progress to conserve the biodiversity of vegetation, wild life and sea animals.

The Oussudu lake has been declared as bird sanctuary during 2008 and appropriate action in progress to secure the water body.

It is targeted to plant one lakh seedling in the avenues with bamboo woven tree guard under “Clean and Green Puducherry” programme.