

AGRICULTURE

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.

The Union Territory of Puducherry with a geographical area of 480 Sq.Kms. has got a gross cropped area of 36,392 hectares. Out of which irrigated area is 29,384 hectares. The gross cropped area which was 43,804 hectares in 1997-98 has come to 36,392 hectares in 2005-06. The reasons attributed for the reduction in gross cropped area are:

- a) Fast urbanisation
- b) Industrialisation
- c) Uncertainty in release of Cauvery water which affects paddy cultivation in Karaikal region.

The land use pattern in the Union Territory of Puducherry for the past 20 years at specific time interval is given below:

(In Hectares)

Sl. No.	Classification	1992-93	1997-98	2002-03	2005-06
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Forest	--	--	--	--
2.	Barren and Unculturable land	80	114	60	71
3.	Land put to non-agricultural use	14128	15069	16654	17788

Sl. No.	Classification	1992-93	1997-98	2002-03	2005-06
4.	Permanent pastures and other grazing land	55	27	14	--
5.	Cultivable waste	1946	2962	4168	4077
6.	Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves	371	832	1160	1156
7.	Current fallow	2069	1702	3189	2159
8.	Other fallow	2447	3273	2029	2687
9.	Net area sown	27485	24863	21568	20713
10.	Area sown more than once	19930	18941	14814	15679
11.	Gross cropped area	47415	43804	36382	36392
12.	Cropping intensity	172.51%	176.18%	168.68%	175.69%

The performances under agriculture during the 2007-08 & 2008-09 and also the proposed target for 2009-10 are given below:

Sl. No.	Crop	Eleventh Plan (2007-12)		
		2007-08 Achievements	2008-09 Likely Achievements	2009-10 Target
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Area coverage (L.Ha.)			
	Rice	0.21733	0.23000	0.25000
	Millets	0.00133	0.00118	--
	Pulses	0.07004	0.07021	0.07000
	Total foodgrains	0.28392	0.30139	0.32000
	Cotton	0.00104	0.00200	0.00500
	Sugarcane	0.02704	0.02000	0.02000
	Oil Seeds	0.01243	0.01244	0.03000
	Total	0.32443	0.33583	0.37500
2.	Production (L.MT.)			
	Rice	0.51948	0.69000	0.95000
	Millets	0.00287	0.00236	--
	Pulses	0.03129	0.06000	0.06000
	Total foodgrains	0.55364	0.75236	1.01000
	Cotton (L. Bales)	0.00468	0.01000	0.02500
	Sugarcane	2.54176	1.64000	2.00000
	Oil Seeds	0.02060	0.02708	0.07750

Sl. No.	Crop	Eleventh Plan (2007-12)		
		2007-08 Achievements	2008-09 Likely Achievements	2009-10 Target
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
3.	Productivity (Kg/Ha)			
	Rice	2390	3000	3800
	Millets	2158	2000	--
	Pulses	447	855	857
	Total foodgrains	1950	2496	3156
	Cotton – Bales	4.5	5.0	5.0
	Sugarcane - Tonnes	94000	82000	100000
	Oil Seeds - Tonnes	1657	2177	2583

Note : During 2007-08 & 2008-09, the major seasonal crops were damaged due to unseasonal heavy rains that occurred in March 2008 and heavy rain in November 2008 since the yield is expected to be less than the normal yield.

IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS MADE DURING 2007-08

- A new scheme “Precision farming” was introduced in the Union Territory of Puducherry during 2007-08, which is expected to contribute in a significant manner in helping the farmers to save their input cost and get higher returns by increasing productivity of horticultural crops. An area of 1000 ha. is expected to be covered over a period of five years.
- Procurement of paddy produced by the farmers of Puducherry and Karaikal regions by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) was arranged by the Department of Agriculture through the involvement of market committees. This helped the farmers in getting a remunerative price not below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by Government of India. Through this initiative, about 7,500 MT of paddy was procured in Puducherry and Karaikal regions during 2007-08.
- Two cold storage units were established in the Uzhavar Sandhai of Botanical Garden and Lawspet in January 2007 with a storage capacity of 2 tonnes each.
- Action has been initiated to amend the existing Pondicherry Agricultural Produce Marketing Act in order to encourage contract farming, establish private market committees and take up projects under Public Private Partnership on the lines of draft APMC Act circulated by the Government of India.

- Action has been taken to establish a Pondicherry Horticultural Society, in implementing the schemes of the National Horticultural Mission.
- In order to promote crop diversification and increase the area under high value horticultural crops such as cultivation of Dendrobium, Orchids and other flowers various back-ended subsidies are given to 1200 farmers every year.
- 994 MT's of Certified Seeds were produced in the year 2007-08.
- In order to ensure the convergence of the activities of all the allied departments for the common benefit of the farming community and to implement the new extension reforms, Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) has been established separately in Puducherry and Karaikal districts.
- Under the Scheme "Promotion of Agriculture Mechanization" 50% subsidy was provided to the all categories farmers for purchase of tractors, power tillers with matching implements, purchase of improved agricultural machineries and conventional implements. As such, 55 nos. of tractors, 40 nos. of power tillers, 30 nos. of improved agricultural and conventional implements were distributed to the farmers.

REASONS FOR SHORTFALL IN CRUCIAL AREAS DURING 2007-08

Heavy Winds in Puducherry Region in May 2007

Heavy winds lashed Puducherry Region on 2nd and 14th of May 2007 resulting in the loss of 846.50 hectares of standing crops and 1279 nos. of mango and coconut trees.

North East Monsoon 2007

In the months of October to December 2007, heavy northeast monsoon rainfall of 819.4 mm in Puducherry region caused damage to various standing crops in a total area of 7354 hectares. Similarly, heavy rains to the tune of 1,028.6 mm that occurred in Karaikal region caused damage to various standing crops in a total area of 6615.11 hectares.

PROPOSED RESEARCH WORKS DURING 2009-10

Krishi Vigyan Kendra

The Directorate of Rice Research through its All India coordinated Rice Improvement Programme (ICAR), has coordinated the multidisciplinary testing of varietal improvement, crop management and crop protection research programme for stabilizing and increasing rice production in the Union Territory of Puducherry. So far seven paddy varieties (PY-1 to PY-7) have been released by this Kendra. The ongoing research projects are undertaken in the disciplines of crop improvement, crop production and crop protection.

PASIC

Pondicherry Agro Service and Industries Corporation Limited, popularly known as PASIC was incorporated in the year 1986. The Corporation is playing a major role in the distribution of all agricultural inputs like quality seeds, organic and inorganic manure, plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, horticultural plants, implements, tools, bio-fertilisers, etc., at right time and at reasonable price under one roof at the right time.

To cater to the needs of the farming community there is a network of 49 Agro Depots in all the four regions apart from 3 Horticultural show rooms called "Vasantham" and 5 Vegetable Outlets in Pondicherry and Karaikal including the two vegetable sale outlets in "**Uzhavar Sandhai**".

PASIC is the major supplier of all agricultural inputs in the Union Territory. Its market share on fertiliser is 35 to 40%, plant protection chemicals 40 to 45% and seeds around 70 to 80%. The percentage of certified seeds distributed over the total seeds sold by PASIC have increased from 19.6% to 39%.

PONDICHÉRY water unit, which was established in 1989, is bottled and marketed throughout India through the network of dealers. The mineral water plant has been modernized to improve the quality and to meet the increasing demand.

PASIC has started another project of producing organic manure from urban waste with the latest know-how on composting and production of bio-fertilisers. A Joint Venture has been entered into between PASIC and Pondicherry Co-operative Sugar Mills for production of enriched press mud compost by utilization of the press mud (PCSM) sugar mill effluent and Fly ash.

STRATEGIES PROPOSED AND POLICY FOCUSED DURING 2009-10

Crop Production Technology

Farmers are encouraged to go in for seed production by offering suitable incentives so as to ensure adequate availability of certified seed to farmers. In order to rope in more farmers go in for seed certification, it is proposed to extend input subsidy to seed growers. Uzhavar Udhaviyagams, which offer one stop solution to the needs of farmers, will be strengthened through construction of permanent buildings and provided with the requisite infrastructure.

The extension reforms envisaged under ATMA will promote an integrated approach to the agricultural extension by involving all line departments such as Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Forestry etc., Innovative technologies like System of Rice Intensification, Method of cultivation etc., will be propagated. The activities to be taken up with the assistance provided by the Planning Commission under the Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Yojana (RKVY) will be dovetailed with the ongoing programmes.

Soil Health cards will be issued to owners of all farm holdings through the Uzhavar Udhaviyagams established under the scheme "Crop Production Technology". The problem soils will be identified and reclaimed on village adoption basis.

Horticulture

The scheme for "Hi-Tech Horticulture through Precision Farming and Technological intervention" envisages precise farming with limited resources aiming for higher yield in the wake of raising cost of inputs as well as labour. Under this scheme, it is proposed to cover 1000 Hectares in Puducherry and Karaikal regions (800 Hectares in Puducherry and 200 Hectares in Karaikal) during the 11th Five Year Plan period. The precision farming scheme is being implemented as a turnkey project with the Tamilnadu Agricultural University as consultant.

Agricultural Marketing

The existing Marketing Committees / Market Yards will be strengthened. The existing Uzhavar Sandhai will be strengthened and more Uzhavar Sandhais will be established as per need.

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Scheme Name	2008-09		2009-10 Proposed Outlay
		Agreed Outlay	Anticipated Expdr.	
1.	State Land Use Board (Macro Management of Agriculture)	0.01	37.30	37.30
2.	Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms (ATMA)	0.01	--	--
3.	Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement	0.91	0.91	0.91
4.	Development and Strengthening of infrastructure facilities for production and distribution of quality seeds	0.01	10.00	--
5.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana	2.00	1.00	6.67
6.	National Project on Organic Farming	--	7.92	8.00
TOTAL		2.94	57.13	52.88

OUTLAY AT A GLANCE

Sector : AGRICULTURE

No. of Schemes : 14

Department : AGRICULTURE

(Rs. in lakh)

Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 Approved Outlay	:	32091.33
Annual Plan 2007-08 Actual Expenditure	:	2251.19
Annual Plan 2008-09 Approved Outlay	:	2403.00
Annual Plan 2008-09 Revised Outlay	:	2603.00
Annual Plan 2009-10 Proposed Outlay	:	3900.00

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12	Annual Plan 2007-08	Annual Plan 2008-09		Annual Plan 2009-10
		Approved Outlay	Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1	Integrated Programme for Seed Production and Certification	652.00	56.66	56.70	57.00	57.00
2	Crop Production Technology	3072.56	579.66	302.00	444.00	1260.00
3	Soil Resource Management and Inputs Quality Control	286.00	20.98	21.00	24.20	26.00
4	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization	1700.00	136.41	136.50	156.50	211.50
5	Scheme for Diversification in Agriculture through Horticultural Crops	5867.42	347.76	317.95	352.95	360.00
6	Agricultural College and Krishi Vigyan Kendras	13679	760.38	1024.31	828.40	948.50

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12	Annual Plan 2007-08	Annual Plan 2008-09		Annual Plan 2009-10
		Approved Outlay	Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
7	Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Agriculture Marketing	305.02	207.89	120.04	194.00	270.00
8	Infrastructure Development for Agriculture Marketing through PASIC	540.00	--	0.04	--	--
9	Promotion of Post Harvest Technologies	100.00	10.00	20.00	20.00	25.00
10	Training and Capacity Building to Develop Human Resources	23.00	1.37	1.41	--	--
11	Introduction and Maintenance of e-governance initiatives	200.00	10.00	20.00	21.50	25.00
12	Scheme for Welfare Society for Agricultural Labourers	770.00	67.00	75.00	95.00	80.00
13	Promotion of Organic Farming in Field Crops	305.00	0.74	1.00	1.00	2.00
14	Scheme for Hi-tech Horticulture through Precision Farming and Technological Intervention	2875.00	52.00	220.00	220.00	350.00
15	Scheme for Promoting Crop Insurance	250.00	--	1.00	--	--
16	Scheme for Setting up of Relief Fund to Provide Assistance to farmers	1091.33	0.84	1.00	103.45	200.00

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12	Annual Plan 2007-08	Annual Plan 2008-09		Annual Plan 2009-10
		Approved Outlay	Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
17	Scheme for unemployed Agriculture graduates for setting up of Agri-business enterprises	375.00	--	85.00	85.00	85.00
Total		32091.33	2251.19	2403.00	2603.00	3900.00

Note: Scheme No.8 has been merged with Scheme No.7, Scheme No.10 has been merged with Scheme No.11 and Scheme No.15 has been merged with Scheme No.2