

AGRICULTURE

The Union Territory of Puducherry with a geographical area of 480 sq. kms has a gross cropped area of 35943 Ha. The gross cropped area which was at 47415 Ha in the year 1992-93 has come down to 35943 Ha in 2006-07. The reasons attributed to the reduction in the gross cropped area are rapid urbanisation, industrialisation and un-certainty in the release of Cauvery water to the Karaikal region. Out of the total gross cropped area of 35943 Ha, the irrigated area is 28183 Ha for the year 2006-07. The above declining trend is partly due to deceleration of agricultural growth coupled with the development of secondary and tertiary sectors being an all India phenomenon.

In order to increase the agricultural GDP to about 4%, Planning Commission in the 11th Plan has focussed the following issues:

- (i) Growth in agriculture could be achieved only by increasing productivity per unit effective use of improved technology.
- (ii) There is a clear evidence of large gaps between what can be attained at the farmer's field with adoption of available technology as compared to what is obtained with the existing practice. Exploiting this potential must be the main source of yield growth. Further stronger links between research, extension and farmers are also required.
- (iii) Two-third of our farmlands are either degraded or sick and only about one-third is in good health which is due to irrational and unbalanced fertiliser use. The exploitation of ground-water is another area which require focussed attention and further expansion may strictly be monitored especially in regions where the ground water level have dropped, causing concern.
- (iv) The agricultural strategy must focus on 85% of the farmers who are small and marginal, increasingly females and who find it difficult to access inputs, credit and to market their output. A group approach could also improve the small cultivators in contract farming.

Based on the above approach, have been taken by the UT administration like embarking innovative schemes on precision farming to offset the challenges posed by depleting availability of land and water resources. Accordingly schemes

have been formulated to significantly increase the marketing infrastructure and farm mechanisation by availing loan under RIDF of NABARD. Implementing the schemes of National Horticulture Commission helps in the increasing the area and encourages the cultivation of low water consuming horticulture crops. Ground-water recharge through percolation ponds and rainwater and promotion of micro irrigation are some of the measures aimed at conserving / augmenting the ground water resources.

The land use pattern in the Union Territory of Puducherry during the last 15 years at specific time interval is given below:

(In Hectares)

Sl. No.	Classification	1992-93	1997-98	2002-03	2006-07
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Total Geographical Area	48581	48840	48842	48651
2.	Forest	--	--	--	—
3.	Barren and Unculturable land	80	114	60	72
4.	Land put to non-agricultural use	14128	15069	16654	17926
5.	Permanent pastures and other grazing land	55	27	14	--
6.	Cultivable waste	1946	2962	4168	4155
7.	Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves	371	832	1160	1191
8.	Current fallow	2069	1702	3189	2252
9.	Other fallow	2447	3273	2029	2580
10.	Net area sown	27485	24863	21568	20485
11.	Area sown more than once	19930	18941	14814	15458
12.	Gross cropped area	47415	43804	36382	35943
13.	Cropping intensity	172.51%	176.18%	168.68%	175.46

The indicators such as area coverage, production and the productivity during the first 3 years of the 11th Five Year Plan are given below :

Sl. No.	Crop	Unit	2007-08 Achievements	2008-09 Achievements	2009-10 Target
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Area coverage	Lakh Hectares			
	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	Lakh MTs.			
	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
3.	Productivity	Kgms per Hectare			
	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.

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2008-09

- Agricultural marketing has been given a new thrust. Apart from setting up three market committees at Pondicherry. Karaikal and Yanam regions, the concept of Farmer's markets has been introduced in the form of Uzhavar sandhais to eliminate the exploitation of farmers by the middlemen. A sub-yard of the Pondicherry Market Committee was opened at Maducurai in May, 2008 in addition to other existing Market yards at Kannikoil, Koonichempet, Madagadipet and Maducurai. The fourth Uzhavar Sandhai was started in February 2009.
- A total no. of 37 Uzhavar Udhaviyagams were opened so far thereby ensuring that each Uzhavar Udhaviyagam covers about 2-3 villages.
- Under the Scheme "Promotion of Agriculture Mechanization" 50% subsidy was provided to the all categories of farmers for purchase of tractors, power tillers with matching implements, purchase of improved agricultural machineries and conventional implements. As such, 44 nos., of tractors, 85 nos. of power tillers 28 nos of improved agricultural machineries and 20 nos. conventional implements were distributed.
- A quantity of 842 MT of paddy seeds, 72 Mt of pulses seeds and 63 Mt of groundnut seeds were certified and tagged by the "Seed Certification Agency" of this department. Besides this an area of 168 hectares has been registered for production of certified / foundation seeds during Samba / Thalady seasons.
- To make aware of the farmers about the fertility status of soil 1985 nos. of Soil Health Cards were issued to the farmers of this Union Territory and 5606 nos. of composite soil samples have been analyzed.
- An area of 29.62 hectares was covered with a total outlay of 160.00 lakhs under "Precision farming".
- Relief assistance was disbursed @ Rs.7,500/- ha for paddy, Rs.4,000/- ha for other irrigated crops and @ Rs.2,000/- ha for rainfed crops for the 5,557.69 ha of crops affected in Karaikal region during heavy rains in March 2008. Similar assistance is extended to the farmers of the Puducherry region covering an area of 2,185 hectares.
- Assistance was provided to 8.507 ha, 5833 ha and 281 ha of crops affected in Pondicherry, Karaikal and Yanam respectively during the cyclone Nisha in November 2008.

- The state Ground Water Unit has constructed a community tubewell with a depth of 220 metres at Aladimedu in Bahour Commune. This tubewell will provide assured irrigation to an extent of nearly 33 hec. Catering 150 numbers of small, marginal and SC farmers.
- Under the Minor Irrigation scheme 12 nos. of recharge tube wells, 11 nos of roof top rain water harvesting structures, 56 nos of sprinkler / drip irrigation systems and 36418 meters of underground pipelines have been installed.

LIKELY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2009-10

- Under the scheme “ Promotion of Agriculture Mechanisation” 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.
- A quantity of 925 MT of paddy seeds has been proposed to be certified and tagged by the “Seed Certification Agency”.
- Approval of the Government has been obtained to establish a Pondicherry State Horticultural Society, which will help in implementing the schemes of the National Horticultural Mission. The G.O. notifying the society has been issued by the Government and an amount of Rs.1.33 crores has been sanctioned by the National Horticultural Mission.
- To make farmers aware of the fertility status of soil, it is proposed to issue 2000 nos. Of Soil Health Cards to the farmers of this Union Territory and 4750 nos. Of composite soil samples have been targeted to be analysed.
- Under the scheme “Precision Farming”, it is proposed to cover an area of 121.60 ha.
- Under the Minor Irrigation scheme, 20 nos. of recharge tube wells, 46 nos. Of sprinkler / drip irrigation systems, 20 nos. Of medium / deep tube wells will be installed and 23000 meters of underground pipelines have been proposed to be installed.
- As a strategic initiative to ensure efficiency and transparency in the delivery of extension services, an exclusive scheme on e-governance is being operated since Tenth Five Year Plan.

STRATEGIES PROPOSED AND POLICY FOCUSED FOR 2010-11

During 2010-11, focus will be on developing agricultural marketing infrastructure, farm mechanisation and minor irrigation. Following are the specific programme contemplated during 2010-11.

- Government is giving a subsidy of Rs.4 per kilogram for paddy seeds. It is proposed to increase this subsidy to Rs.10 per kilogram.
- In order to resolve the difficulties faced by the sugarcane farmers cultivating sugarcane during the harvesting period, purchase of a harvester is proposed by availing loan from NABARD under the Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme(RIDF) at a cost of about Rs.2 crores and given to Pondicherry Cooperative Sugar Mills Limited, Lingareddipalayam with a subsidy of Rs.50 lakhs.
- It is proposed to increase back ended subsidy to Rs.4,000/- per hectare from the present Rs.3,000/- per hectare from the current financial year.
- One Uzhavar Sandhai will be established each in Kariakal (near bus stand) and Thirunallar.
- A large cold storage unit will be installed at the coast of Rs. 2.50 crores by availing financial assistance from the National Horticulture Mission.
- A Regulated Market yard will be established in Lingareddipalayam.
- In order to familiarize organic farming among the farmers of the Union Territory of Puducherry, in the first instance, a model organic farming farm will be established in Puducherry through PKKVK.
- With 50% of subsidy, a maximum of Rs.1.00 lakh will be given per person for the purchase of paddy transplanter.
- With a subsidy of Rs.10.00 laksh for each paddy harvester, five harvesters will be purchased and given to farmers of Puducherry and Karaikal regions on hire basis through PASIC.
- A paddy nursery filed-laying machine will be purchased and given to farmers on hire basis through Krishi Vigyan Kendras of Puducherry and Karaikal regions. Further, an integrated paddy nursery field involving KVK's and Self Help Groups will also be created.
- A food-processing unit will be established in Perunthalaivar Kamarjar Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Puducherry.

- It is proposed to cover 50,000 nos. of agricultural labourers by distributing raincoats and mosquito net under the scheme for “Welfare Society for Agricultural Labourers” during 2010-11.
- The World Bank Loan Assisted Project “Hydrology Project Phase-II is taken up for implementation for better water resources planning and water management in Puducherry, Decision Support System for Water Resources Planning and for Water Management Works and research studies to improve the recharge potential in the north western parts of Puducherry will be undertaken. A full-fledged climatic station will be established under this project during 2010-11.

OUTLAY AT A GLANCE

Sector : AGRICULTURE

No. of Schemes : 18

Department : AGRICULTURE

(Rs. in lakh)

Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 Outlay	:	32091.33
Annual Plan 2007-08 Actual Expenditure	:	2251.19
Annual Plan 2008-09 Actual Expenditure	:	3111.42
Annual Plan 2009-10 Approved Outlay	:	4676.30
Annual Plan 2009-10 Revised Outlay	:	4019.30
Annual Plan 2010-11 Proposed Outlay	:	5026.80

(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		Annual Plan 2010-11
		Outlay	Actual Expdr.	Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Integrated Programme for Seed Production and Certification	652.00	56.66	54.36	56.70	88.95	143.50
2	Crop Production Technology	3072.56	579.66	492.67	1329.20	702.90	1549.70
3	Soil Resource Management and Inputs Quality Control	286.00	20.48	24.91	31.50	32.00	63.00
4	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization	1700.00	136.41	114.89	160.85	176.50	373.50
5	Scheme for Diversification in Agriculture through Horticultural Crops	5867.42	347.76	323.87	367.95	446.75	436.10
6	Agricultural College and Krishi Vigyan Kendras	13679.00	760.38	1047.00	1160.40	716.40	1400.00
7	Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Agriculture Marketing	305.02	207.89	326.99	234.70	299.50	655.00

(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		Annual Plan 2010-11
		Outlay	Actual Expdr.	Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
8	Infrastructure Development for Agriculture Marketing through PASIC	540.00	--	--	--	300.00	50.00
9	Promotion of Post Harvest Technologies	100.00	10.00	--	30.00	9.80	30.00
10	Training and Capacity Building to Develop Human Resources	23.00	1.37	0.41	2.00	2.00	2.00
11	Introduction and Maintenance of e-governance initiatives	200.00	10.00	24.48	20.00	20.00	20.00
12	Scheme for Welfare Society for Agricultural Labourers	770.00	67.00	122.77	79.00	79.00	100.00
13	Promotion of Organic Farming in Field Crops	305.00	0.74	--	1.50	1.00	1.50
14	Scheme for Hi-tech Horticulture through Precision Farming and Technological Intervention	2875.00	52.00	160.00	127.00	70.00	127.00
15	Scheme for Promoting Crop Insurance	250.00	--	--	--	--	--
16	Scheme for Setting up of Relief Fund to Provide Assistance to farmers	1091.33	0.84	419.07	2.00	1.00	2.00
17	Scheme for unemployed Agriculture graduates for setting up of Agri-business enterprises	375.00	--	--	73.50	73.50	73.50
18	Negotiated Loan	--	--	--	1000.00	1000.00	--
Total		32091.33	2251.19	3111.42	4676.30	4019.30	5026.80