

## **AGRICULTURE**

A number of initiatives have been taken by Government during the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plans to increase agricultural productivity so as to raise the growth rate of agriculture, which currently stands at less than 2%. Revamping the agricultural extension, crop diversification, strengthening of marketing infrastructure, building and effective input delivery system and ensuring quality control are some of these initiatives taken. Convergence of agricultural & other allied activities has been achieved through the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored ATMA scheme.

During the 11th Five Year Plan, the Union Territory of Puducherry has embarked upon an innovative scheme of “Precision Farming” to offset the challenges posed by depleting availability of land and water resources and to improve land productivity and profitability. Promotion of farm mechanization is one of the strategies adopted by Agriculture department to overcome the crisis of labour scarcity. Implementing the schemes of the National Horticulture Commission help in increasing the area under low water consuming horticultural crops. The Agricultural Produce Marketing Act will be amended on the lines of the draft National Act to encourage contract farming and private markets. Ground water recharge through percolation ponds and rainwater recharging and promotion of micro irrigation are some of the measures aimed at conserving / augmenting the ground water resources.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2009-10**

- 43 nos. of tractors, 122 nos. of power tillers, 7 nos. of transplanters and 47 nos. of improved agri. Machineries were distributed under the scheme for “Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization” at 50% subsidy.
- A quantity of 695.28 MT of paddy seeds was certified and tagged by the “Seed Certification Agency”.
- An amount of ₹ 9.16 crores has been spent for back ended investment subsidy for paddy growers @ ₹ 3000/- per hectare.
- 1704 nos. of Soil Health Cards were distributed to the farmers of Union Territory of Puducherry and 3149 nos. of composite soil samples were analyzed.
- Under the Development of Horticulture Crops, an area of 1653 hectares was brought into the Horticultural Crops, especially 289 hectares under banana crops was brought in new area.

- Under “Precision Farming”, an area of 123 hectares was covered.
- Agricultural Labourers were identified and issued the identity cards for getting the welfare assistance from Puducherry Agricultural Workers Welfare Society.
- A subsidy of ₹ 3.00 lakhs per agriculture graduates was given under the scheme for “Pilot Project on Establishment of Agri Clinics / Self Employment Enterprises by Agri Technologists”.

#### **LIKELY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2010-11**

- Puducherry Agricultural Workers Welfare Society was established and enrolled 28,286 nos. of agricultural labourers. The total enrollment is expected to reach 40,000 members by the end of 2010-11. Distribution of rain coats for the members of the Society is taken up as one of the welfare measures and 7,500 beneficiaries were benefited so far and 40,000 beneficiaries will be covered by the end of financial year. Further, it is proposed to distribute mosquito nets to the agricultural labourers.
- A subsidy of ₹ 75,000 /- per individual is extended to the certificate holders in agriculture.
- Farm Fest 2010 was conducted in Puducherry from 7th to 10th October 2010, in which various departments of the Union Territory administration took part by installing stalls apart from participation from commercial establishments involved in marketing of agricultural inputs, tools, machineries etc. The Farm Fest was visited by thousands of general public not only in Puducherry but also surrounding areas of Tamil Nadu.
- New initiatives are proposed under the precision farming programme to promote distant marketing and synergy between the farmers of Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. About 25 precision farming farmers have been enrolled as the members of the Mega Market at Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu. Further, the export variety G-9 banana will be tried in about 20 hec., which will be marketed through the SAFAL market at Bangalore.
- Commodity Interest Groups are being formed under the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) to serve as a link between the farmers and extension workers. A revolving fund of ₹ 10,000/- each is being provided to

these groups. Eighty three such groups have been formed so far and a total number of 130 groups are expected to be formed by end of this year.

- Back ended subsidy will be disbursed to the paddy growers at the enhanced rate of ₹4000 per hectare as against ₹ 3000 per hectare in the last year.
- One more Uzhavar Sandhai at Karaikal and a Regulated Market Yard at Lingareddipalayam, Puducherry will be set up.
- To construct 12 roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings of Government / Government undertakings. Also proposed to install 46 nos. of micro irrigation system like sprinkler / drip.

#### **PROPOSED TARGETS FOR 2011-12:**

- Presently, the Government is giving a subsidy of ₹ 4 per kilogram for paddy seeds which will be increased to ₹ 10 per kilogram.
- The back-ended subsidy for paddy is proposed to be increased to ₹ 4,000 as against ₹3,000 per hectare.
- In order to encourage the farmers who cultivate country vegetables like tomato, brinjal and ladies finger an amount of ₹ 12,500 per hectare as subsidy will be given.
- A weighbridge at an estimate of ₹ 8.00 lakhs will be installed in the Pondicherry Regulated Market Yard.
- One Uzhavar Sandhai will be established each in Karaikal (near bus stand) and Thirunallar.
- A large cold storage unit will be installed at the cost of ₹ 2.50 crores by availing financial assistance from the National Horticulture Mission.
- A Regulated Market Yard will be established in Lingareddipalayam.
- The agriculture graduates and diploma holders will be given a maximum of ₹ 3.00 lakhs each as subsidy for the establishment of Agri Clinics under self-employment scheme.
- A model organic farming farm will be established in Puducherry through PKKVK.
- With 50% of subsidy, a maximum of ₹ 1.00 lakh will be given per person for the purchase of paddy transplanter.

- With a subsidy of ₹ 10.00 lakhs 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 field-laying machine will be purchased and given to farmers on hire basis through Krishi Vigyan Kendras of Puducherry and Karaikal regions.
- 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 Kamarajar Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Puducherry.
- Raincoats and mosquito net will be distributed to 50,000 agricultural labourers.

## OUTLAY AT A GLANCE

Sector : AGRICULTURE

No. of Schemes : 17

Department : AGRICULTURE

(₹ in lakh)

Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 Approved Outlay	:	32091.33
Annual Plan 2007-09 Actual Expenditure	:	5362.61
Annual Plan 2009-10 Actual Expenditure	:	4018.76
Annual Plan 2010-11 Approved Outlay	:	5104.30
Annual Plan 2010-11 Revised Outlay	:	4394.30
Annual Plan 2011-12 Proposed Outlay	:	4204.30

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12	Annual Plan 2007-09	Annual Plan 2009-10	Annual Plan 2010-11		Annual Plan 2011-12
		Approved 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	111.02	74.84	75.00	75.00	75.00
2	Crop Production Technology	3072.56	1072.33	1326.75	1481.30	1538.00	1511.00
3	Soil Resource Management and Inputs Quality Control	286.00	45.39	27.19	30.00	30.00	30.00
4	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization	1700.00	251.30	176.36	155.00	155.00	155.00
5	Scheme for Diversification in Agriculture through Horticultural Crops	5867.42	671.63	416.51	457.50	499.27	500.00
6	Agricultural College and Krishi Vigyan Kendras	13679.00	1807.38	1205.41	1275.00	1565.00	1275.00

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12	Annual Plan 2007-09	Annual Plan 2009-10	Annual Plan 2010-11		Annual Plan 2011-12
		Approved Outlay	Actual Expdr.	Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
7	Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Agriculture Marketing	305.02	534.88	299.70	315.00	315.00	315.00
8	Infrastructure Development for Agriculture Marketing through PASIC	540.00	--	300.00	--	--	--
9	Promotion of Post Harvest Technologies	100.00	10.00	--	40.00	25.00	25.00
10	Training and Capacity Building to Develop Human Resources	23.00	1.78	0.01	1.00	0.01	1.00
11	Introduction and Maintenance of e-governance initiatives	200.00	34.48	17.99	20.00	20.00	20.00
12	Scheme for Welfare Society for Agricultural Labourers	770.00	189.77	79.00	79.00	42.00	42.00
13	Promotion of Organic Farming in Field Crops	305.00	0.74	--	1.50	0.01	1.30
14	Scheme for Hi-tech Horticulture through Precision Farming and Technological Intervention *	2875.00	212.00	50.00	127.00	127.00	227.00
15	Scheme for Promoting Crop Insurance	250.00	--	--	--	--	--

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12	Annual Plan 2007-09	Annual Plan 2009-10	Annual Plan 2010-11		Annual Plan 2011-12
		Approved Outlay	Actual Expdr.	Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
16	Scheme for Setting up of Relief Fund to Provide Assistance to farmers	1091.33	419.91	--	2.00	0.01	2.00
17	Pilot project on establishment of Agriculture Clinics / Self employment Enterprises by Agri-Technologists	375.00	--	45.00	45.00	3.00	25.00
	Negotiated Loan	--	--	--	1000.00	--	--
<b>Total</b>		<b>32091.33</b>	<b>5362.61</b>	<b>4018.76</b>	<b>5104.30</b>	<b>4394.30</b>	<b>4204.30</b>

\* includes ACA under RKVY also.