

AGRICULTURE

A number of initiatives to increase the agricultural production and productivity has been taken up by Agriculture Department. By revamping the agricultural extension viz. support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms – “Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)”, crop diversification, strengthening of marketing infrastructure, building an effective input delivery system and also ensuing quality control. Convergence of agricultural and other allied activities through the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme, ATMA and State Plan schemes with additional central assistance “Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)” are the initiatives taken during the 11th Five Year Plan. Further, the Union Territory of Puducherry has introduced an innovative scheme of "Precision Farming" focusing mainly to offset the challenges posed by the depleting availability of land and water resources due to urbanization and industrialization and further to improve the land productivity and profitability. Implementing National Horticulture Mission, which is one of the key flagship programmes of Government of India helps in increasing the area under horticulture crops as an inevitable alternative to diversify agriculture area where per hectare returns are manifold and by using limited water. Promotion of Micro Irrigation through special structures such as sprinkler / drip irrigation and ground water recharge through percolation of ponds and rain water recharging are the some of the measures taken aimed at conserving / augmenting the water resources.

To weed out the middlemen from marketing the farmers’ produces and encourage the farmer to sell their produces through the Regulated Market Yards / Cooperative Societies, it is proposed to strengthen the marketing infrastructural facilities in all respective regions by availing loan from NABARD under the scheme “Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Agricultural Marketing (RIDF)”. It is proposed to construct a one weigh bridge system with a capacity of 50 tonnes, construction of rural godowns, cold storage units and drying yard at Karaikal Market Committee. A revolving fund and interest subsidy to farmers availing produce pledge loan through market committees and banks and act as facilitator for contract farming and to strengthen the infrastructural facilities for present sub yard market / starting a new sub yard market / godown in Puducherry Market Committee.

It is proposed to introduce to the farming community, the advanced farm machineries like paddy transplanter, paddy harvesters, sugarcane harvesters, nursery raising machines, power

weeder, nursery trays etc., by extending subsidy to them and keep the machineries in the Uzhavar Udhaviyagams (Farmer's Help Centres). This improved farm machineries will be useful to the farmers to overcome the labour scarcity, realizing high yields and conserve ground water.

It is proposed to implement three new components such as “(i) Scheme for Establishing a Certification Agency for Organic Farming, (ii) Promotion of Contract Farming and (iii) Issue of Kisan Smart Cards to Farmers”. Under the scheme “Establishing a certification agency organic farming” aims to popularize the scheme among the farming community and to bring more area under organic farming and increase the organic farm products, which fetch high revenues. In contract farming, assures the farmers easy availability of agricultural inputs at subsidized cost and unique selling option for their farm products through Memorandum of Understanding and to streamline the issue of agricultural inputs at subsidized cost to right person and at appropriate seasons via the scheme for “Issue of Kisan Smart Cards to Farmers” of this Union Territory of Puducherry.

Various projects are proposed to be implemented under RKVY viz. purchase of sugarcane harvesters, paddy transplanters, farm machineries / equipment's, implementation of seed village programme, construction of seed godowns, precision farming, protected cultivation of Green House, production of vermi compost and vermi hatchery, hybrid vegetables and hi-tech nursery and strengthening of Soil Testing Laboratory and Seed Testing Laboratory etc.

The World Bank Loan Assistance project “Hydrology Project Phase-II”, a water resources data centre and a level-II + laboratory will be established at Lawspet for which the required building has been constructed. The observation tube wells have been constructed to strengthen the existing water level data collection network and an Automatic Weather Station has also been established. A separate organization “Union Territory of Puducherry Hydrology Organization (UTOPHO)” which was created under Societies Act. The society will undertake water research studies for better water resources planning and management of Puducherry in future.

Since the huge network resources could be put into the best use, developments of applications have been envisaged under the AGRISNET project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India on the following. –

- i. Online filing of application for various subsidies
- ii. Issue of permits for agricultural inputs
- iii. Generation of analytical reports on inputs analysis and
- iv. Application software on seed processing management through C-DAC, Bangalore.

The project is proposed to be executed through M/s. C-DAC, Bangalore for which funds have already been granted under AGRISNET project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. It is felt that with the PSWAN and the applications on stream, the long term perspective of effective transparent and public oriented governance would be achieved. Also, plans are afoot to create a core team on the development and maintenance of web based applications and also to train all the staff members as a part of office automation.

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2007-2011

- Cash compensation and inputs had been provided covering an area of 13,969 hectares affected farmers whose crops were damaged due to various natural calamities such as drought, heavy rain, flood and cyclone.
- A quantity of 2557 MT of paddy seeds was certified and tagged by the “Puducherry Seed Certification Agency” of this Department.
- Farm Machinery and Implements are recognized as major power inputs for increasing productivity and reducing human drudgery. Accordingly, 170 nos. of tractors, 358 nos. of power tillers and 236 nos. of improved and conventional agricultural implements were distributed under the scheme “Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization”.
- Under the “Integrated Scheme for Development, Harvesting, Recharging and Conservation of Groundwater” 1,43,525 meters of underground pipelines, 204 nos. of sprinkler / drip irrigation systems, 15 nos. of roof top rain water harvesting structures in Govt. and private buildings and 83 nos. of medium / deep tube wells were installed.
- Various welfare measures were taken up by the “Puducherry Agricultural Workers Welfare Society” to overcome the obstacles faced by agricultural workers. As such

19,809 nos. of raincoats and 14,905 nos. of mosquito nets were distributed to agricultural workers.

- 9336 nos. of Soil Health Cards were distributed to the farmers of this Union Territory of Puducherry and 18,737 nos. of composite soil samples were analyzed.
- 7 nos. of agricultural graduates are benefitted by extending a subsidy of ₹ 3.00 lakhs per individual for self-employment under the scheme for “Pilot Project on Establishment of Agri Clinics / Self Employment Enterprises by Agri Technologists”.
- An area of 290 hectares covering 273 nos. of farmers under various crops such as sugarcane, banana, vegetables, groundnut, turmeric, tapioca and flowers were covered under the scheme “Precision Farming”.
- The G.O. notifying the Puducherry State Horticulture Development Society was issued an amount of ₹ 153.59 lakhs as Central Share and ₹ 11.34 lakhs as State share for the National Horticulture Mission. Out of which, an amount of ₹ 153.22 lakhs has Extension of subsidy for establishment of new gardens / area expansion for fruits under perennial / non-perennial, cultivation of loose flower production and plantation crops with a total area of 834.79 hectares was undertaken under National Horticulture Mission. Apart from this, 5 nos. of Green House Structures has been established in various places of this U.T. of Puducherry viz. Kodathur, Pandasozhannallur, SandhaiPudukuppam and Katterikuppam.
- To provide one-stop solution to the farming community of this Union Territory of Puducherry, this Department has established 35 nos. of UzhavarUdhaviyagams (Farmer’s Help Centres) for distribution of inputs such as seeds, planting materials, implements, fertilizers, pesticides and other technical know-how.
- In order to encourage contract farming, establishment of Private Market Committees and take up of projects under Public Private Partnership, action has been initiated to amend the existing Pondicherry Agricultural Produce Marketing Act based on the APMC Act of the Government of India draft.
- Back ended investment subsidy is disbursed to the paddy growers at rate of ₹ 4000/- per hectare, covering an area of 53,557.76 hectares.
- With the PerunthalaivarKamarajarKrishiVigyan Kendra (PKKVK) is being notified as SAMETI, Puducherry and 34 nos. of Farm Information Advisory Centres (FIAC), 130 nos. of Commodity Interest Groups (CIG) are formed to serve as a link between the farmers and extension workers.

- Preparation of District Agriculture Plan of Puducherry and Karaikal region by PAJANCOA & RI, Karaikal was done under RKVY.

LIKELY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2011-12

- The severe cyclonic storm “Thane” which hit in Puducherry and Karaikal regions on 29th to 30th December 2011 caused huge damages to the standing crops in both the regions. Resulting, a loss of 17,012 hectares of various crops such as paddy, pulses, groundnut, sugarcane, banana, tapoica, cashew, coconut, casuarina, fruits, vegetables etc. was damaged fully with an estimated production loss of ₹ 250.00 lakhs.
- Damages were also caused to the Historical Botanical Garden, the trees, feature gardens and civil ornamental structures have been damaged to great extent. The upper crown of almost of all the trees has been broken completely and breakage in the middle of the trunk has been noticed in more than 200 nos. of trees. The total value of loss comes around ₹ 10.00 crores.
- In order to strengthen the marketing infrastructure in the Union Territory of Puducherry, the market committees of Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions respectively are embarking upon constructing of auction yards / rural godowns with financial assistance from NABARD.
- The Department of Agriculture proposes to implement various programmes such as purchase of sugarcane harvestors, paddy transplanters with its accessories, construction of seed godowns and strengthening of precisions farming and organic farming under RashtriyaKrishiVikasYojana (RKVY) by availing Additional Central Assistance (ACA). As a first step for launching the programme, the District Agriculture Plan (DAP) and State Agriculture Plan (SAP) have been prepared.
- It is proposed to distribute 16,425 nos. of raincoats, 12,880 nos. of mosquito nets, 150 nos. of agricultural implements and 1000 nos. of agriculture workers to be trained under the “Scheme for Welfare Society for Agricultural Labourers” to improve their economics status of the farm labourers.
- It is proposed to cover furthermore 46 hectares under Precision Farming to minimize the inputs, water consumption, use of fertilizers / pesticides.
- Under the scheme “Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization”, 39 nos. of tractor / mini tractors, 53 nos. of power tillers, 20 nos. of paddy transplanters, 89 nos. of

improved agricultural implements and 35 nos. of conventional implements are proposed to be distributed in the current fiscal year.

- It is proposed to cover furthermore area under back ended investment subsidy for paddy growers at rate of ₹ 4000/- per hectare to the tune of ₹ 626.20 lakhs for remaining seasons.

PROPOSED TARGETS FOR 2012-13

- It is proposed to distribute 3250 nos. of raincoats, 2600 nos. of mosquito nets, 150 nos. of agricultural implements, issue of gift coupon worth of ₹ 500 /- per member for 40,000 enrolled agricultural workers and 1000 nos. of agriculture workers to be trained under the “Scheme for Welfare Society for Agricultural Labourers” to improve their economic status of the farm labourers.
- It is proposed to establish two new Uzhavar Sandhais (Farmers’ Market) at Thirunallar, Nedungadu in Karaikal Region.
- A quantity of 1100 MT of paddy seeds is to be certified and tagged by the “Puducherry Seed Certification Agency” of this Department.
- A food-processing unit will be established in Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Puducherry.
- Farm Machinery and Implements are recognized as major power inputs for increasing productivity and reducing human drudgery. 70 nos. of tractors, 75 nos. of power tillers, 30 nos. of paddy transplanters and 135 nos. of improved and conventional agricultural implements are proposed to be distributed under the scheme “Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization”.
- Construction of 7 nos. of auction yards in various places of market committee and 3 nos. of rural godowns will be undertaken.
- To encourage the peoples’ participation in the water management, subsidy assistance will be extended to the farming community for roof top rain water harvesting structures, water conservation structures like sprinkler / drip irrigation, recharging tube wells, bore-wells, medium/deep bore wells and for stabilizing their existing irrigable command area.

OUTLAY AT A GLANCE

Sector : AGRICULTURE

No. of Schemes : 12

Department : AGRICULTURE

(₹ in lakh)

Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 Approved Outlay	:	32091.33
Annual Plan 2007-10 Actual Expenditure	:	9381.37
Annual Plan 2010-11 Actual Expenditure	:	4999.89
Annual Plan 2011-12 Approved Outlay	:	8933.30
Annual Plan 2011-12 Revised Outlay	:	8559.00
Twelfth Five Year Plan 2012-17 Tentative Outlay	:	45564.50
Annual Plan 2012-13 Proposed Outlay	:	11163.90

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Annual Plan 2010-11	Annual Plan 2011-12	Twelfth Plan 2012-17 (Tentative Outlay)	Annual Plan 2012-13
		Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Proposed Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Integrated Programme for Seed Production and Certification	70.75	75.00	--	--
2	Crop Production Technology	1451.37	1634.30	--	--
3	Soil Resource Management and Inputs Quality Control	44.49	55.00	--	--
4	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization	163.47	151.00	--	--

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Annual Plan 2010-11	Annual Plan 2011-12	Twelfth Plan 2012-17 (Tentative Outlay)	Annual Plan 2012-13
		Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Proposed Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
5	Scheme for Diversification in Agriculture through Horticultural Crops	501.68	483.00	--	--
6	Agricultural College and Krishi Vigyan Kendras	1801.35	1560.00	--	--
7	Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Agriculture Marketing	387.35	365.00	--	--
8	Share capital / financial assistance to PASIC	0.00	300.01	--	--
9	Promotion of Post Harvest Technologies	0.00	10.00	--	--
10	Training and Capacity Building to Develop Human Resources	0.98	1.00	--	--
11	Introduction and Maintenance of e-governance initiatives	20.00	20.00	--	--
12	Scheme for Welfare Society for Agricultural Labourers	12.00	42.00	--	--

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Annual Plan 2010-11	Annual Plan 2011-12	Twelfth Plan 2012-17 (Tentative Outlay)	Annual Plan 2012-13
		Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Proposed Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
13	Promotion of Organic Farming in Field Crops	0.00	1.50	--	--
14	Scheme for Hi-tech Horticulture through Precision Farming and Technological Intervention	546.45	3225.00	--	--
15	Scheme for Setting up of Relief Fund to Provide Assistance to farmers	0.00	0.49	--	--
16	Pilot project on establishment of Agriculture Clinics / Self employment Enterprises by Agri-Technologists	0.00	10.00	--	--
	Negotiated Loan	0.00	1000.00	--	--
<u>Schemes for 2012-13 and 2012-17 after Zero Based Budgeting Exercise</u>					
1	Soil Resources Management & Inputs Quality Control	--	--	282.50	47.00
2	Integrated Programme for promotion of agricultural technology	--	--	8487.00	1920.40

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Annual Plan 2010-11	Annual Plan 2011-12	Twelfth Plan 2012-17 (Tentative Outlay)	Annual Plan 2012-13
		Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Proposed Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
3	Promotion of Agriculture Mechanism	--	--	1175.00	211.00
4	Integrated Horticultural Development Programme through Diversification in Agriculture & Precision Farming	--	--	4421.00	805.50
5	Promotion of organic farming in field crops	--	--	375.00	65.00
6	Strengthening of Agricultural Educational Institution & Agricultural Marketing and Training	--	--	17694.00	3417.00
7	Introduction and maintenance of e-governance initiatives	--	--	100.00	20.00
8	Pilot Project on establishment of Agriculture Clinic / Self Employment	--	--	50.00	10.00
9	Setting up of relief fund to provide assistance to farmers	--	--	10.00	2002.00

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Annual Plan 2010-11	Annual Plan 2011-12	Twelfth Plan 2012-17 (Tentative Outlay)	Annual Plan 2012-13
		Actual Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Proposed Outlay	Proposed Outlay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
10	Share capital / financial assistance to PASIC	--	--	1000.00	200.00
11	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) (ACA Scheme)	--	--	10000.00	2000.00
12	Welfare Society for Agricultural Labourers	--	--	1970.00	466.00
Total		4999.89	8933.30	45564.50	11163.90

Note : The number of schemes indicates with reference to Draft Annual Plan 2012-13.