

# THE HINDU

Date:15/03/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/03/15/stories/2010031553560500.htm>

---

## 'Treat soil as living entity'

Tirupur: We should start treating soil as a living entity and only then its regeneration could take place, according to G. Nammalvar, organic scientist.

He came down heavily on the practices of burning trashes in the fields and adding of chemical fertilizers into the soil, which, according to him, will deteriorate the soil health and catastrophic to plant life.

"Healthy soil only can bring healthy food which is essential for healthy life," he pointed out. Dr. Nammalvar was inaugurating The Orgz, a departmental store of organic food products promoted by Mithunram Properties Limited, here on Sunday.

Date:15/03/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/03/15/stories/2010031561160600.htm>

---

## Farm loan with reduced interest soon: Minister

*New scheme from this fiscal, says Chidambaram*



**New facility: Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram inaugurating an ATM at Tharamarakki in Sivaganga district on Sunday.**

THAMARAKKI (SIVAGANGA DISTRICT): The Central Government would introduce a scheme enabling farmers to avail farm loan at the rate of just 5 percent interest from the coming financial year, said Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram.

Inaugurating a new branch of Syndicate Bank at ATM at Thamarakki in Sivaganga district on Sunday, Mr. Chidambaram said that as per the scheme, the farmers could get 2 percent subsidy out of 7 percent interest on farm loan if they repay the loan without default.

It was one of the important steps taken by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government which had been implementing several schemes to support the farmers of the country.

He said that 10 percent interest was charged for farm loan when the UPA government assumed office in its first term. When he was the Finance Minister it was reduced to 7 percent gradually. The proposed farm loan scheme would be highly beneficial to the farmers as the interest on loan was very low.

Agricultural loans to the tune of Rs.3.25 lakh crore had been disbursed so far in the current year.

The Government had fixed a target to extend agricultural loan to the tune of Rs.3.75 lakh crore in the coming financial year.

It all showed that the UPA was continuing to support farmers to boost agriculture production in the country, he said.

Stating that 5 “Uzhavar Mandrams” (farmers' associations) were started in and around Thamarakki, he said that the farmers should come forward to such forums in their respective areas so as to avail various schemes of the Government.

Mr. Chidambaram said that the UPA had been opening new bank branches in many areas not only to cover uncovered areas but also to facilitate people to enjoy the benefit of banking service. Hence, the people should utilise the opportunity and open bank accounts.

N. Sundaram, K.R. Ramasamy, MLAs, took part.

**Date:**15/03/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/03/15/stories/2010031552300300.htm>

---

## **Farmers' festival begins today**

Udhagamandalam: A five-day Nilgiris Farmers' Festival would be organised by the United Planters Association of Southern India-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (UPASI-KVK) and the Tea Board between March 15 and 19 at Coonoor, according to the Programme Coordinator and head, UPASI-KVK P. Kumaravadivelu.

Technology Week

Stating that it would be part of the Technology Week celebrations, he said in a press note issued here on Sunday that the venue would be Glenview and Glysdale.

It will be inaugurated by the Khadi Board Minister K. Ramachandran in the presence of the Executive Director, Tea Board, R.D. Nazeem.

#### Agencies

Among the agencies which would be part of the festival would be the UPASI Tea Research Foundation, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, the Hill Area Development Programme, the Department of Horticulture, the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, the Central Potato Research Institute and the Wheat Breeding Research Station.

© Copyright 2000 - 2009 The Hindu