

12. TAMIL NADU STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD

The Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board (TNSAMB) was constituted by an executive order of the State Government in G.O. Ms. No.2852 Agriculture Department, dated: 24.10.1970 and functioning since 24.10.1970, with the objective to regulate the activities of Market Committees and to act as an advisory body.

1. Constitution:

The Board consisting of a President nominated by Government and of the following members. [Section 36 of "*The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act 1987*"]:

1. Director/Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business
2. Agricultural Marketing Advisor, Government of India
3. Managing Director, Tamil Nadu State Warehousing Corporation
4. Registrar of Co operative Societies
5. President, Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation
6. An Officer of the Agriculture Department in the Secretariat not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to Government dealing with the subject of Agricultural Marketing.
7. 21 Non-Official Members (Chairman / Special officers of 21 Market Committee).

2. Sources of Income

The Market Committees contribute fifteen percent of their receipts to the Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board. Fifty percent of this amount is set apart as Market

Development Fund, from which expenditure towards developmental activities of market including publicity, propaganda and training are being met. The remaining fifty percent of the amount is being spent for employees' salary and other expenses.

Functions of Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board

3. Training Programmes for Farmers and Marketing

Personnel:

3.1. Post Harvest Training to farmers

The Publicity and Propaganda wing of the Board, having Headquarters at Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy and Madurai are conducting training programmes highlighting the infrastructure facilities provided in the Regulated Markets, benefits of selling the produce in the Regulated Market, post harvest technology, value addition of Agricultural produce, market prices of agricultural commodities and Agricultural Marketing schemes to the farmers. Objectives of the training are- to create awareness among the farmers about services rendered in Regulated markets and facilitate them to transact their agricultural commodities through Regulated Markets so as to get remunerative price, and to impart skill on the techniques of food processing, packaging and value addition etc., to the farmers. The post harvest technology training programmes are conducted every year as two days programme covering 96 batches (20 farmers/batch) benefiting 1920 farmers. During 2011-2012, about 1400 farmers were benefitted by this technical training.

In addition During 2011-2012, to impart skills to the farmers on the techniques of scientific storage and preservation of food grains and to train the farmers on market intelligence, a massive training programme was

given for 7000 farmers covering all the districts of Tamil Nadu utilizing the Market Development Fund.

It is also proposed to conduct this training programme for 30,000 farmers during the year 2012-13.

3.2. Salem Training Centre

The training centre of Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board functioning at Salem focuses on capacity building to the staff of Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business. The training centre organizes various training programmes like Graders training, Refresher training, Kharif and Rabi training, Market intelligence training and Food grain storage training.

4. Tamil Nadu Farmers Development and Welfare Scheme

To provide security to the farming community the state government is implementing the Tamil Nadu Farmers Welfare Development scheme from 02.11.1995 onwards.

Farmers or tenants who sell one or more than one MT of agricultural produce every year through Regulated markets are enrolled in this scheme and are eligible for a grant of one lakh rupees in case of death/ death due to snake bite. In case the eligible farmer or tenant loses both the hands / legs / eyes due to accident is eligible for a grant of ₹75,000/-. In case of losing one hand / leg /eye or permanent hip disability due to accident, the farmer or tenant is eligible for a grant of ₹ 50,000/-.

Farmers need not pay any premium to avail this facility in the scheme. The Market Committee concerned and the Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board bear the premium amount of ₹10/- per individual per year equally.

5. Marketing Endowment Chair at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board has created an Endowment Chair at the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore with a corpus fund of ₹50 lakh. So far, thirty research projects relating to Agricultural Marketing and 27 training programmes were organized to the Department officials by utilizing the interest accrued from corpus fund deposit.

It is also proposed to conduct two research project and 3 training programmes during the year 2012-13.

6. Construction works

Civil works such as construction of office buildings, rural godowns, auction platform, agricultural input shops, payment counters, rest sheds, water supply, toilet facilities, internal roads, office-cum-godowns, compound wall in Regulated Markets, Market Complexes and Farmers market are carried out by the Engineering wing of Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board.

The Engineering wing also executes Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Facilities under TN-IAMWARM project, National Agricultural Development Programme and NABARD schemes.

7. Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC)

To provide day today local and international market information to the farming community, Domestic and Export Intelligence Cell has been established in the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at a cost of ₹44 lakh from the Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board.

The Cell would collect details on prices of major commodities at domestic and International markets, analyze and forecast future domestic and export prices. The Cell will forecast prices in the forthcoming months to the farmers through regulated markets. The Cell by providing this information will help the farmers to plan the cropping pattern at right time and to sell their produce at appropriate markets, which fetches higher price. The Domestic and Market Intelligence Export Cell (DEMIC) collects the prevailing rates of agricultural produce from local and international markets and disseminates through websites, Short Messaging Services (SMS) for the benefit of farmers and traders.

At present, 2200 Water Users Associations (WUA), 9600 Farmers, 4200 Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business Officials, 2 lakh IFFCO Green card farmers are utilizing the services of Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell.