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Anganwadis to have kitchen gardens in Tiruvarur district

Staff Reporter

Initiative to be launched as a pilot project in 200 places

TIRUVARUR: Anganwadis in Tiruvarur will soon have kitchen gardens attached to them.

The objective is to reduce malnutrition among children in the age group of 0-6 years by providing fresh vegetables raised in the garden.

A project submitted by M. Chandrasekaran, Collector, has been accepted by the Central Government and approval has been given for taking up the initiative as a pilot project in 200 anganwadis in the district.

The project cost is Rs. 21.20 lakh.

There are 1098 anganwadis in the district.

The Collector, who visited Delhi recently and made a presentation and got the approval, told *The Hindu* that there were 45,301 children in the age group of 0-3 in anganwadis in the district.

There were 35,966 children in the age group of three to six.

Among the children in the age group of 0-3 years, 25,294 were normal children and the rest don't have the weight proportionate to their age and need nutritional support.

Similarly those in the age group of three to six, 19,467 were normal and the rest don't have the weight proportionate to their age and need nutritional support.

“Indications of malnourishment are underweight, susceptibility to diseases, poor psychological growth, etc. This may be due to either non-availability of nutritive vegetables or lesser availability of fresh vegetables. High market price of vegetables may also be the reason for not taking them. The project aims at fighting this malnutrition by providing balanced diet at an early stage of child growth for development and active life. It also aims at the holistic development of children through nutritional vegetables. Kitchen gardens will be developed in 200 anganwadis in the district to start with. The anganwadis have one cent of land for doing so around them”, the Collector said. “Papaya, Greens, Bhendi, brinjal, radish, cluster beans, tomato and banana will be cultivated in the garden”, the Collector

said.

Training for workers

Anganwadi workers will be trained in laying the garden, cultivation of vegetables and fruits.

Training will also be given on preparation of land, nursery, sowing seeds, preparation of organic manure and bio pesticides, irrigation, seed extraction for future. Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Needamangalam, Horticulture and agriculture departments will provide the training to them, the Collector said.

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Former VC elected ISAE chief

Special Correspondent



C. Ramasamy

Coimbatore: Former Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University C. Ramasamy has been elected the President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE). He will hold office for a period of three years.

The election took place at the 69th annual conference of ISAE held at Gurunanak Dev University, Amritsar, recently.

According to a release from Dr. Ramasamy, this professional society was formed in 1939 and one of the prestigious professional societies in the country. It is headquartered in Mumbai.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Montek Singh Alhwalia and former RBI Governor C. Rangarajan are the members of the society. It is financially supported by Central Planning Commission, NABARD, ICAR, and private industries besides its 1,200 members.

This is one of the affiliated units of International Association of Agricultural Economists.

The society promotes education and research in the area of agricultural economics

and rural development encompassing the areas such as food security, gender, agricultural technology, agricultural marketing, international trade, environment, etc.

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National Fisheries Development Board ready to help in technology upgrading

Special Correspondent

— Photo: K.V. Srinivasan



E.G. Silas, former Vice-Chancellor, Kerala Agriculture University (centre), releasing a souvenir at an international conference in Chennai on Tuesday. NFDB Chief Executive P. Krishnaiah (left) and NIOT Director M.A. Atmanand, are in the picture.

CHENNAI: A viable alternative mechanism has to be created to improve the livelihood of fishermen as coastal fisheries are depleting, said P. Krishnaiah, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) Chief Executive on Tuesday. Delivering the presidential address at the four-day international conference on 'recent advances in lobster biology aquaculture and management' organised by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), he said that NFDB was ready to help anyone regarding technology upgrade or demonstration as resources were not a constraint.

Partnership

However, the partnership should be time bound, transparent in nature and must build accountability.

Mr. Krishnaiah said that in the last 15 months, NFDB had allotted Rs.100 crore under various projects and schemes and it was planning to double it for the next financial year.

“Unless we have partnerships, results cannot be achieved.

“We have to put all the resources together on a common platform to achieve the result.

“We have also extended financial help to Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation (TNFDC) under Reservoir Fisheries Development Programme to stock reservoirs with quality fingerlings,” he said.

E.G. Silas, former Vice-Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, inaugurated the conference and said that open sea caging was gaining importance in the country.

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Mettur level

The water level in the Mettur Dam stood at 89.44 feet on Tuesday, against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 2,368 cusecs and the discharge, 12,003 cusecs.

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