

CHAPTER - IV

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE AND PLANTATION CROPS

Tamil Nadu with Seven agro-climatic conditions and varied soil types is better placed for production of fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops, flowers, medicinal and aromatic plants.

About 10.96 lakh ha. is covered under various horticultural crops. The total production of horticultural crops is 192.28 lakh MT. Horticulture is an important segment of Agriculture sector which contributes about one-fifth share in the economy of Agriculture and allied sectors. It is the fastest growing sector within agriculture. There has been a perceptible change in the consumption pattern characterized by declining share of food grains and the increasing share of non-food grain items in the consumption baskets particularly fruits and vegetables.

Rapidly growing demand for horticulture commodities and products especially burgeoning market for processed fruits and vegetables as well as booming floriculture market is an evidence of the phenomenon that is expected to accelerate horticulture growth. Consequently, horticulture is set to assume a greater role and importance within the agriculture sector and eventually in the National economy.

There has been break through in the production technology of horticultural crops whereby both the quality and yield have considerably improved, bringing in higher income to the farmers and hence attracting the farmers to grow these crops.

Policy Focus for 2009-10

- i. Promotion of Hi-tech Horticulture including Micro-Irrigation and Fertigation
- ii. Thrust on Integrated Pest Management & Integrated Nutrient Management
- iii. Formation of Horticulture Self Help Groups
- iv. Strengthening the production of Pedigree Planting materials.
- v. Promotion of Organic Farming with focus on export market.
- vi. Building up of Public and Private Partnership.
- vii. Promotion of Contract / Corporate farming.
- viii. Effective Transfer of Technologies by tour-cum-training to farmers.
- ix. Human Resources Development through effective training for extension officers.
- x. Post Harvest Management and reduction of post harvest losses.

Status of Horticultural crops in Tamil Nadu

(Area: Lakh Ha., Production: Lakh MT.,
Productivity: MT/Ha.)

State Plan Schemes

Integrated Horticulture Development Scheme

This scheme is being implemented in all the 31 districts excluding Chennai. Under this scheme elite planting materials, high yielding / hybrid vegetable seeds, and flower

Sl. No.	Crops	2000-01			2007-08			2008-09 (Provisional)			2009-10 (Estimated)		
		Area	Prodn	Pvty	Area	Prodn	Pvty	Area	Prodn	Pvty	Area	Prodn	Pvty
1	Fruits	2.23	40.06	17.96	2.80	67.78	24.21	3.05	73.88	24.22	3.32	80.53	24.26
2	Vegetables	2.20	59.39	26.99	2.39	76.44	31.98	2.60	83.32	32.05	2.83	90.82	32.09
3	Spices	1.68	6.62	3.94	1.40	7.39	5.28	1.53	8.05	5.29	1.67	8.77	5.30
4	Plantation Crops	2.20	7.73	3.51	2.31	7.98	3.45	2.52	8.07	3.46	2.75	9.48	3.47
5	Flowers	0.19	1.45	7.75	0.25	2.09	8.36	0.27	2.28	8.44	0.29	2.49	8.59
6	Medicinal Plants	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.08	0.16	2.00	0.09	0.17	2.01	0.10	0.18	2.02
	Total	8.51	115.27	13.55	9.23	161.84	17.53	10.06	175.77	17.47	10.96	192.28	17.55

seeds are being distributed to horticultural crops cultivating farmers at 50% subsidised cost. During 2008-09, this scheme was implemented with an outlay of Rs.266.456 lakhs. During 2009-10 this scheme is proposed to be implemented with an outlay of Rs.312.25 lakhs to cover an area of 25000 Ha.

Horticulture Training Centres

In the training centres functioning at Kudumianmalai in Pudukottai district, Madhavaram in Thiruvallur district, Thali in Krishnagiri district and in the Horticulture Training Centre, Ooty in The Nilgiris, training is imparted to the farmers, besides field level functionaries of this Department. During 2008-09, Training was given to Assistant Agriculture Officer / Farmers with an outlay of Rs.7.610 lakhs. During 2009-10 it is planned to train 3000 farmers and field level functionaries with an outlay of Rs.8.00 lakhs.

Integrated Tribal Development Programme

Under this scheme, elite planting materials of Mango, Spices like Coffee, pepper (75% subsidy) and high yielding / hybrid vegetable seeds etc. are being distributed at 90% subsidised cost to the tribal farmers in Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, Trichy and Villupuram districts. Tour and training programmes are being conducted in order to educate the tribal farmers on improved technologies. Oil engine and plant protection equipments at 75% subsidy and drip irrigation system at 90% subsidy are distributed to the tribal farmers. During 2008-09, this scheme was implemented with an outlay of Rs. 40.005 lakhs. During, 2009-10 it has been proposed to implement this scheme with an outlay of Rs.40.00 lakhs.

Western Ghats Development Programme

This scheme is implemented in the districts of Coimbatore, Erode, Dindigul, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari. Improvement of Infrastructural facilities for the State Horticulture Farms has been given. During 2008-09, this scheme was implemented with an outlay of Rs. 58.00 lakhs. During, 2009-10 it has been proposed to implement this scheme with an outlay of Rs.50.00 lakhs.

Hill Area Development Programme

Under this scheme, high yielding / hybrid vegetable seeds, oil engines, and agricultural implements, packing materials for fruits, vegetables and flowers, etc. are distributed to the small and marginal farmers of The Nilgiris district at 25% subsidy. During 2008-09, oil engine and Agricultural implements were distributed with an outlay of Rs.88.25 lakhs.

During, 2009-10 it has been proposed to implement this scheme with an outlay of Rs.182.00 lakhs.

City Vegetable Development Scheme

Under this scheme planting materials, vegetable seeds, fertilizers and plant protection chemicals are distributed to Chennai city dwellers at full cost, besides providing technical know-how to them. During 2008-09, this scheme was implemented with an outlay of Rs.3.50 lakhs benefiting 1410 city dwellers. During, 2009-10 it has been proposed to implement this scheme with an outlay of Rs.6.00 lakhs.

National Agriculture Development Programme

This scheme is being implemented with the objective of reducing the yield gaps in important crops through focused intervention, maximize returns to the farmers and bring about quantifiable changes in the production and productivity. This scheme is implemented in a cluster of 450-500 hac. in 9 focus districts and in a cluster of 90-100 hac. In 19 non focus districts. This scheme is implemented with 50% subsidy. During 2008-09, this

scheme was implemented with an outlay of Rs.2665.72 lakhs to cover 6,100 ha. Under this scheme, Soil health care, micro nutrient application, scientific cultivation practices, high yielding varieties of planting material along with micro irrigation have enabled farmers to reap incomes never heard before. Scientific horticulture is making farming profitable, improving incomes and thus transforming the lives of farmers. During, 2009-10 it has been proposed to implement this scheme with an outlay of Rs.2400 lakhs to cover 5000 Ha.

Targets and Achievements

The financial allocation for the year 2008-2009 and the expenditure incurred and the proposed outlay for the year 2009-10 for the State Plan Schemes are furnished below.

State Plan Schemes

Finance: Rs.in lakhs

S. No	Name of the Scheme	Unit	2008-09				2009-10 (proposed)	
			Physical		Financial		Phy.	Fin.
			Tar.	Achmt. as on 31.03.09	Tar.	Achmt. as on 31.03.09	Tar.	Tar.
1	Integrated Horticulture Development Scheme Area Expansion	Ha.	21343.33	22666.83	266.160	266.456	25000	312.25
2	Horticulture Training Centre	Nos.	2600	2600	7.610	7.610	3000	8.00
3	Integrated Tribal Development Programme	Ha.	904.54	904.54	40.000	40.005	904.54	40.00
4	Western Ghat Development Programme	Ha.	75.00	75.00	58.000	58.00	75.00	50.00
5	Hill Area Development Programme	Nos	42600	42600	88.25	58.250	3000 (ha.)	182.00
6	National agriculture development programme	Ha.	6100	5649.00	2665.720	2395.710	5000.00	2400.00
7	Part II Schemes	Nos.	-	-	0.020	-	1	100.00
8	City Vegetable Development Scheme	Ha..	200	200	3.500	3.50	100	6.00
	Total				3129.26	2829.531		3098.25

