



# AGRICULTURE BUDGET 2023 - 2024

SPEECH OF  
THE MINISTER FOR  
AGRICULTURE - FARMERS WELFARE  
Thiru. **M. R. K. PANNEERSELVAM**



On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023  
Panguni 07, Subhagiruthu, Thiruvalluvar Aandu - 2054



## Honourable Speaker!

‘இன்சொல் விளைநிலமா ஈதலே வித்துஆக  
வன்சொல் களைகட்டு வாய்மை எருவட்டி  
அன்புநீர் பாய்ச்சி அறக்கதிர் ஈனலூர்  
பைங்கூழ் சிறுகாலைச் செய்’

Our Honourable Chief Minister who lives in testimony of the above lines, has endowed upon me this rare opportunity of presenting the third agriculture budget to this august assembly, today.

I remain ever indebted for the same, to our Honourable Chief Minister and to all those farmers who toil with the soil and start my speech.

From being a nomad, man started settling down in the banks of rivers, as agriculture is predominantly based on the availability of water. Those animals that followed him from the forests, became domesticated by him. He started using more of the spade and less of the spear. Arrows became less useful to him than the crowbars that he used to till the land. From using stones as instruments, he began to use the plough. Became less dependent on hunting for his food and therefore moved from killing to tilling.

The fundamental need of food remains unshakable for man, no matter how well he progresses in any other field. Even the mightiest of men when deprived of food become mentally disoriented. Food, it's presence and

absence decide one's feelings and emotions. The Tamil poet Avvaiyaar describes in the lines below

‘மாணம் குலம்கல்வி வண்மை அறிவுடைமை  
தானம் தவம் உயர்ச்சி தாளாண்மை தேனின் –  
கசிவந்த சொல்லியர்மேல் காமுறுதல் பத்தும்  
பசிவந் திடப்பறந்து போம்’

That man loses everything (all the ten virtues such as Esteem, class, education, might, cognition, Philanthropy, austerity, majesty, persistence, lewd for sweet nothings) when hunger strikes.

Tamil literature has well documented the fact that agriculture is the lifeline of the Tamils. The Sangam literature cites numerous references to agriculture. Thiruvalluvar in his famous work Thirukkural has devoted an entire chapter to agriculture. The Athichudi advises to ‘Till the land in the right season, and ‘Plough the land and eat’. Kondraivendhan notes the significance of water for habitation.

Ancient literature documents the fact that the Tamils have endowed great significance to agriculture. It is to be noted that scholars abroad also hail the importance of agriculture. ‘Agriculture is not just a job, it’s a way of life’ says Louis Thompson. Dr Samuel Johnson, called ‘Agriculture the noblest science’. Masanobu Fukuoka who advanced natural farming proclaimed, ‘The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of the crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings.’



Bearing in mind the essence of all the above, the third Agriculture Budget is being presented to the House. The last two Agriculture Budgets were presented with the objective to ensure that the farmers get their due returns, earn an income that is commensurate with their labour, use scientific methods in agriculture, integrate technology in farming and achieve high production targets.

### **Challenges in the field of agriculture**

Agriculture has become hide and seek with Nature. Farmers are faced with a myriad challenge. Agricultural land is being converted into habitats. The acreage of land under agriculture is fast declining. Hence, increasing productivity is the need of the hour. It becomes imperative to develop varieties that survive well in dry land thereby productivity of such land improves. Developing crop varieties that survive drought and brave floods is a requirement born out of the unwelcome climatic changes. An important challenge in achieving nutritional security is not only in increasing cultivation of grains and vegetables but also in fruits. Consuming carbohydrates alone will only lead to fat deposits and therefore proteins, vitamins, fibres, minerals and amino acids need to be balanced in one's diet to attain nutritional security.

Producing enough raw materials for industries is a major responsibility of the Department of Agriculture. During the year 2021-22 several long-term schemes were

implemented on the lines of the above and as a result of it, 1.93 lakh hectare of additional land was brought under agriculture resulting in a crop coverage of 63.48 lakh hectare.

The soil remains to be the foundation for agriculture and only nutrient-rich soil can help increase agricultural productivity. The Government is implementing various schemes to improve the quality of soil without depleting its nutrients. Soil samples collected from farming areas are tested, and based on the results, recommendations are made for suitable fertilizers and other nutrients required for different crops. Soil health cards are also being distributed. During 2021-22, due to soil conservation and fertility enhancement practices indulged with, a food grain production of 119 lakh and 97 thousand metric tonne was achieved after six years. I would like to mention that this is 11 lakh and 73 thousand metric tonnes more than the year 2020-21.

### Depleting water resources:

The poet Ilangovadigalaar, in the preface to his epic Silapathikaaram, praised rain as

*'மாமழை போற்றுதும் மாமழை போற்றுதும்  
நாமநீர் வேலி உலகிற்கு அவன் அளிபோல்  
மேல்நின்று தாண்கரத்த லான்'*

Rain is the elixir of soil. Even hundred irrigations cannot substitute a thunder shower. Rain is the source of rivers and the foundation for lakes.

Water is the lifeline of agriculture. In Puranaanooru, the poet Kudapulavianar declares that 'நீர்நிலைகளை உருவாக்கும் மன்னனே, நீடித்த புகழை அடைய முடியும்'

Puranaanooru also states that food is a result of both land and water. A combination of water and soil can increase the food yield. So, the one who stored water in the earth is the creator of life in a body as

*'உணவு எனப்படுவது நிலத்தொடு நீரே;  
நீரும் நிலனும் புணரியோர் ஈண்டு  
உடம்பும் உயிரும் படைத்திசினோரே:'*

Ensuring availability of water, protecting the waterbodies, and increasing their capacity is our responsibility. Tamil Nadu has been blessed with an increased water table owing to several reasons such as the desilting of the rivers, ponds and lakes, thereby increasing the water storage, water table and the seasonal monsoon. The honourable Chief Minister

ordered release of water from the Mettur Dam on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022- a clear 19 days ahead of the earmarked date. This ensured copious uninterrupted water supply to the Cauvery Delta. The lush green fields left the delta region like one big emerald. In 2022-23, Kuruvai cultivation was done on 5.36 lakh acre in the delta region. **This created history and an achievement in the last 47 years.**

Electricity is a vital resource in utilizing ground water. Water that flows above the ground gets easily directed by man to areas desired by him. But groundwater needs the help of electricity to be accessed by man. Fields have been water fed over the last two years owing to the **1.5 lakh new electricity connections made as per the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister** which in turn facilitated the usage of pump sets.

Youth are packed with energy; they are a storehouse of hope; an embodiment of zeal. Only when the youth are motivated and involved in agriculture, can new technological advancements and achievements in agriculture be made possible. Only the youth dare to undertake risky experiments. Keeping this in mind, in 2021-22, 185 youngsters were selected and a grant of one lakh Rupees each, was awarded to set up **"Agri Clinic"** and other agro-businesses.

Farmers will feel encouraged only if they are guaranteed remunerative prices for their produce. With this in the backdrop, Paddy is procured from the farmers through the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation at a price over and above the Minimum Support Price. In an unprecedented manner, the Direct Purchase Centres have been setup in huge numbers, which has significantly benefited farmers. In addition, farmers have access to technological advancements and a free market.

Apart from Paddy, pulses and copra are being procured. For Sugarcane, procurement is done by giving Rs.195 per Metric tonne additionally. The Uzhavar Sandhais, Electronic Markets (eNAM) and Regulated Markets are functioning to ensure remunerative prices for the produce.

Using machines instead of humans for harvesting, threshing, and drying is easier and less laborious. It is also cost-effective and all types of machinery needed for farming are provided to farmers at a reasonable cost. Agricultural Machinery Custom Hiring Centres have been set up to offer these machineries to farmers on a rental basis.

The Government continues to take measures for the welfare of farmers and has created new cold storages, grain storage godowns and drying yards, to prevent the wastage of the produce got through the sweat and sleepless nights of farmers.

To protect farmers' livelihood from loss of income due to natural calamities, under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, during 2021-22, 26 lakh farmers have registered an area of 40.74 lakh acre. The **Government of Tamil Nadu has given Rs.1,695 crore as insurance premium subsidy and so far, Rs.783 crore has been given as compensation to 6.71 lakh farmers.**

Relief for an amount of Rs.163.6 crore as input subsidy has been given to 1.82 lakh farmers from the State Disaster Response Fund for the crops affected by Northeast Monsoon, and unseasonal heavy rains in the months of January and February 2023.

The practice of agroforestry improves the natural environment by providing an emerald cover over the ground, cooling not only the land but the entire environment. It can generate considerable income for farmers. Last year, 77 lakh high-quality tree saplings, such as Sandalwood, Red Sanders, Mahogany, Teak etc, were provided and planted in an area of 30,000 hectares.

In Digital Agriculture, with a view to provide efficient Agricultural Services, 'Uzhavan App' is rendering 22 important agricultural services from seed to sale.

Except for the projects that require the approval of the Union Government, Government Orders have been issued for all the announcements made in the Agricultural

Budget in the last two years and are under implementation.

### **Consultative Meetings:**

When this Government came to power, the Agricultural Department has been renamed as Agriculture-Farmers Welfare Department and it has been functioning with a focus on elevating the farmers' status. Recognizing the inappropriateness in preparing the Agriculture Budget from within the confines of an office, the Hon'ble Chief Minister advised that it should be prepared after visiting the districts of Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Mayiladuthurai, Chengalpattu, Chennai, Sivagangai along with my department officials and meeting the agriculturists, traders and exporters, gathering their opinions and ideas, hearing their concerns, receiving their suggestions and considering their proposals. I would like to highlight that the opinions of the farmers have been incorporated into this Agriculture Budget.

### **Department of Agriculture**

Agriculture is the mother of many departments and the forerunner of many occupations. As water is essential for soil fertility, integration of the water resources sector becomes significant. The contribution of the livestock sector is also essential as it supports farmers and provides security for their livelihood. Collaboration with the Cooperative sector is also required for selling produce and supplying inputs. As the farmers contribute to rearing

fish in the ponds, the fisheries sector also needs to be associated with. The Rural Development Department is responsible for creating infrastructure in hamlets to handhold the farmers. The Energy sector is also critical to the lives of the farmers. The industrial sector should also contribute to the processing and preservation of agricultural products. Agriculture can only expand through the efforts of multiple sectors.

In the ensuing year, a target of 127 lakh Metric Tonne is set for total food grain production. I would also like to mention the measures and plans that are being undertaken to achieve such a great goal.

**1. Kalaigharin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme:**

Each hamlet, according to its potential, can become self-sufficient. **This scheme is designed for the holistic development of agriculture in the hamlets based on the availability of water and soil fertility, through creation of necessary infrastructure** and taking up needed works to fill the gaps. The scheme is being implemented in an exemplary manner in convergence with the **"Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam"** of Rural Development Department designed to create necessary infrastructure for achieving inclusive overall development in these hamlets.



**In the coming year, this scheme will be implemented in 2,504 village panchayats at an outlay of Rs.230 crore.**

a. Clusters of 10 acres will be identified to provide borewells. The water source will be powered by electricity-run or Solar powered pump sets and perennial crops like Mango, guava and amla will be planted and installed with drip irrigation facility under subsidy.

b. In all the 2,504 village panchayats, 300 households devoid of coconut trees in village will be given two coconut seedlings free of cost and a total of 15 lakh coconut seedlings will be distributed.

c. To increase the ground water level in these villages, 600 farm ponds will be established in farmers' fields. Further, steps will be taken through Fisheries department to promote fish culture in these ponds for the farmers to earn additional income.

d. Borewells will be erected in 300 Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe farmers' field with energised pumpsets through EB or Solar Power at free of cost. Drip Irrigation at subsidy will also be installed.

e. The minor irrigation tanks, supply channels, ponds under the control of Rural Development Department will be desilted to ensure reaching of irrigation water to tail ends.

f. To facilitate drying, sorting and grading of agricultural produce, 250 transaction sheds with drying yards will be established.

Cultivable land in villages will increase, leading to self-sufficiency as various works like check dams, percolation ponds and rural roads are to be implemented by Rural Development Department through convergence.

## **2. Tamil Nadu Millet Mission**

Pearl Millet, Finger Millet, Kodo Millet, Proso Millet, Foxtail Millet, Barnyard Millet and Little Millet are classified as minor millets. The nutrient-rich millets, besides growing well in drought conditions grow and thrive in poor soil conditions too.

Hence, to revive millets in Tamil Nadu and to increase the area under its cultivation, production and consumption of Millets, two millet zones encompassing 20 districts were declared in the last Agriculture Budget. Based on the representations received from farmers, five new districts namely Namakkal, Tirupur, Coimbatore, Erode and Pudukottai will be added.

To make millets available to people, steps are being taken to distribute two kilograms of Ragi to family card holders in Nilgiris and Dharmapuri districts on a pilot basis. Also, to facilitate the farmers in getting fair price, processed minor millets are procured through Cooperative societies and distributed through Amutham, Chinthamani

and Kamadhenu Co-operative sales outlets in Chennai and Coimbatore cities.

As the United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 2023 as the "International Year of Millets", it is proposed to implement **Tamil Nadu Millet Mission for a period of five years**. Under this scheme, subsidy will be given for bringing Millet cultivation to fallow lands and crop diversification to millets in 50,000 acres. Hundred groups of millet producers will be formed by bringing together millet farmers and training programmes will be conducted for them. Subsidy will be provided to install Sprinkler Irrigation system for 12,500 acres. Subsidy assistance will be provided to farmer producer groups to set up Millets Processing Centres for selling value added Millets.

Under the Tamil Nadu Millet Mission, "**Millet Festivals**" are to be celebrated in order to create awareness among consumers and increase millet consumption.

**In the coming year, the scheme will be implemented with the financial assistance of the Union and State Governments at an estimated cost of Rs.82 crore.**

To increase the production and consumption of millets, Finger Millet and Pearl Millet will be directly procured and availability of Millets will be ensured in fair price shops. Millet based food will be included in

Government institutions and hostels of educational institutions.

### **3. State Agriculture Development Scheme**

The State Agriculture Development Scheme is being implemented as a major scheme with multifarious components to meet out the immediate needs of farmers and to increase their income. **In the coming year, the scheme will be implemented at an outlay of Rs.64 crore** on the following components.

#### **a. Village Agricultural Development Group**

To increase the income from crop cultivation, it is imperative to provide timely information on crops suitable to seasons, cultivation technologies, marketing avenues, marketing after value addition to the farmers. Village Agricultural Development Groups will be formed in all village panchayats, covering all the hamlets over a period of five years. The group will consist of 25 to 50 farmers from all categories as members.

In the coming year, in the first phase, groups will be formed in the 2,504 village Panchayats where Kalaigharin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme is implemented and they will be given trainings. An amount of Rs.2.5 crore will be allocated towards the formation and training of these groups.

**b. Nel Jeyaraman Traditional Paddy Varieties**

To conserve and propagate Tamil Nadu's traditional Rice varieties like Thuyamalli, Seeraga Samba, Mappillai Samba, Karuppu Kavuni, Kichili Samba, Thanga Samba and Keerai Samba, about 196 metric tonnes of these seeds have been distributed to the farmers at subsidized cost during 2021-22 under Nel Jayaraman Traditional Rice Varieties Conservation Mission. Similarly, this year too, seeds will be produced in an area of 200 acres in Government seed farms and distributed to farmers at subsidized rates. Rs.50 lakh will be allocated for this purpose.

Also, 10 farmers who have Traditional Rice Seed Bank will be given Rs.30 lakh each at the rate of three lakh rupees in the coming year to encourage the farmers who are maintaining traditional rice seeds with ethnic purity and providing them to the farmers.

**c. Rewards to Best Performing Farmers**

The Tamil Nadu Government offers cash award of five lakh rupees to the farmer with the highest yield in rice crop at State level. Since all crops are considered important, cash awards of five lakh rupees will be given to all farmers who achieve highest productivity in other crops such as pearl millet, finger millet, foxtail millet, little millet, barnyard millet, Red gram, Black gram, Green

gram, Groundnut, Gingelly and Sugarcane, from the coming year onwards.

Awards to field officials, Block and District level Officers who contribute towards achieving highest production and productivity in food grain crops shall be given away from the coming year onwards.

**d. Alternative Crop cultivation during Kuruvai season**

Crop rotation enriches soil and increases the productivity. To achieve this, an amount of Rs.16 crore will be allocated in the coming year to encourage the cultivation of less water requiring crops like Millets, Pulses and Oilseeds during Kuruvai season in an area of one lakh acres.

**e. Crop cultivation after Paddy**

In Tamil Nadu, crop rotation has been in practice even in Sangam era. Sowing Millets, Pulses, Oilseeds and Cotton using the residual moisture before harvesting the Paddy crop was done. To further expand and enrich this practice, assistance for cultivating these crops after paddy will be given to cover an area of six lakh acres in the coming year for which an allocation of Rs.24 crore will be made.

**f. Making Youth into Agri – Entrepreneurs**

In order to make the agricultural graduates self-reliant and evolve as entrepreneurs, financial assistance at the rate of two lakh Rupees will be extended

to 200 young Agricultural and Horticulture graduates to establish Agri-clinics or any other Agriculture related business for which four crore Rupees will be allocated. Seed, Fertiliser, Pesticide licence will be issued to the selected beneficiaries as per their requirement.

**g. Distribution of Farm Implement kits**

To help and improve the efficiency of farmers in the traditional agricultural operations, 60,000 agricultural implement kits will be distributed to small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers at an outlay of Rs.15 crore. Particularly, a minimum of 30,000 kits will be provided to landless agricultural labourers.

**4) Promotion of Organic Farming**

a) Excessive use of chemicals increases the soil and water toxicity and reduces soil fertility. Therefore, Tamil Nadu Organic Farming Policy has recently been released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to encourage organic farming that adopts organic manures free from any inorganic substance. To encourage organic farming, 725 clusters will be formed covering an area of 14,500 hectare in 32 districts. To encourage organic certification, assistance for certification will be provided for 10,000 hectares. **An allocation of Rs.26 crore will be made.**

b) An amount of one crore Rupees will be allocated to provide financial assistance of one lakh Rupees per group towards the establishment of organic input

production centres for 100 farmers groups interested in the production and sale of organic inputs like Panchagavya, Jeevamirtham, Vermicompost, Amirthakaraisal, Meen Amilam, etc.

c) The silt deposited in tanks and ponds is rich in nutrients required to improve the soil health. Hence, last year, the State Government permitted taking tank silt from waterbodies by farmers for application to agricultural fields based on which 15 lakh cubic metres of tank silt was taken benefitting 12,500 farmers. Likewise, during this year also, government will take special steps to identify feasible tanks and ponds through the officials of water resources and rural development departments and create awareness among farmers to apply tank silt in their fields. **Awards will be given to District Collectors who contribute towards completing this task in a timely manner to benefit more farmers.**

**d) Promotion of Organic farming in Nilgiris**

General awareness is nowadays prevalent about production of safe food without polluting air, soil and water. It is important to live in harmony with nature and preserve the natural resources for the healthy life of future generations. A special scheme will be implemented to massively promote organic farming in Nilgiris District over a period of five years **at an outlay of Rs.50 crore.** Creation of awareness on Organic Farming, reducing the use of Chemical fertilizers, introduction of Organic



cultivation practices, providing guidance on the production of vermicompost, Panchagavya, Dasagavya etc., extending cultivation assistance, registration for Organic Certification, creation of markets for organic produces will be carried out in the coming year at **an outlay of five crore Rupees.**

e) In the ensuing year, an amount of Rs.20 lakh will be allocated to provide fifty percent subsidy to organic farmers for undertaking pesticide residue analysis of their organic produce, to enable the farmers to ensure the quality of the produce.

f) Awareness about the importance of Organic Farming will be created among farmers, rural youth, farm women and students.

g) To identify potential areas to be brought under organic farming, baseline survey will be taken up in all districts except Chennai.

## **5. Nammazhvar Award for Best Organic Farmer**

In recognition of the great contribution made by Thiru. Nammazhvar in the field of Organic Farming, **this Government will institute an award in the name of Nammazhvar** to be given to the farmers who practice and promote organic farming and hand hold fellow organic farmers. The award will consist of five lakh Rupees in cash and a citation and will be given during the Republic Day.

## **6. Green Cover through Agro Forestry**

Trees are a boon to the soil, provide shelter to pedestrians, serve as a sanctuary for birds, offer shade and bring about a cool breeze and add to the height of greenery. Trees cool the soil and promote rainfall while absorbing carbon dioxide and reducing pollution. Trees prevent soil erosion during rainfall and provide shelter to chirping birds, which adds music to the air. In Tamil Nadu, growing trees on agricultural lands increases the livelihood of farmers and serves as a repository. Therefore, to make quality tree saplings available to the farmers, under the Agroforestry Scheme, Government institutions and private bodies will be given financial assistance to set up new nurseries. Financial Assistance will be provided to existing nurseries to raise high value tree saplings and supply them to farmers at full subsidy. In the coming year, 75 lakh high value tree saplings like Red Sanders, Sandal, Teak and Mahogany will be distributed with an **allocated budget of Rs.15 crore** from the Union and State Government Funds.

## **7. Additional 20 percent subsidy for Small and Marginal Farmers of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe**

An additional subsidy of twenty percent will be given for high value components such as agricultural machineries, value addition machineries, solar powered pump sets, solar driers, cold storages, integrated farming units, poly green house, shade net etc to small and

marginal farmers of Scheduled Caste at an outlay of Rs.10 crore and small and marginal farmers of Scheduled Tribes at an outlay of one crore **Rupees totalling Rs.11 crore from State funds.**

## **8. Digital Agriculture**

With the aim of introducing the latest digital technologies in agriculture and enabling farmers to use them easily and quickly, cashless transactions were announced in the last Agriculture Budget to facilitate farmers in getting the inputs. This was implemented on a pilot basis in 37 Agricultural Extension Centers. Building on this success, the programme will be extended to 385 Block Agricultural Extension Centers across 37 districts in the coming year.

### **a. Agricultural e-Service Centres**

There are currently 880 Agricultural Extension Centers under the control of the Department of Agriculture in Tamil Nadu. In order to ensure that all eligible farmers have access to benefits provided by the Agriculture-Farmers Welfare Department, farmers are required to apply electronically. To facilitate this, Agricultural e-Service centers will be implemented in 385 Agricultural Extension Centers, where farmers can apply for and receive all services related to agriculture electronically, under one roof. The Agricultural e-Service centres will be established at an outlay of two crore

Rupees in coordination with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency.

**b. Information Dissemination Group**

WhatsApp groups of farmers at block levels will be formed so as to enable instantaneous sharing of information related to technologies, market conditions, weather forecasts, subsidy schemes, pests and disease attacks etc. Farmers from all hamlets will be added as members in this group. The concerned block Assistant Director of Agriculture and Assistant Director of Horticulture will act as the administrator.

Further, WhatsApp groups will be formed at the district and State levels by converging the block level groups. The state level publicity unit will share district specific information with the district WhatsApp group, through SMS, Voice messages, Voice blasting, digital advertisements etc. This information will be forwarded to the block-level farmers WhatsApp group and they will disseminate the information to other farmers in their hamlets.

**c. GRAINS-One Platform-Multiple Benefits**

At present, farmers need to visit several offices and submit a number of documents in different forms, to avail benefits under schemes implemented by various agriculture related departments. To simplify these procedures, a new portal called "**GRAINS**" (Grower

Online Registration of Agriculture Input System) will be introduced in Tamil Nadu in which the basic details like bank account, Aadhar number of landowners and cultivators, land details and crop cultivation details will be collected and digitised. This platform will enable the farmers to avail various benefits from a single source **(One Stop Solution)**.

This portal will be designed to enable the farmers to easily get various Government scheme benefits viz., crop loan, incentive for paddy and sugarcane, relief assistance under State Disaster Response Fund and scheme benefits from 13 Agriculture and Allied departments, which will be useful not only to farmers but also to Government departments.

## **9. Integrated Farming System**

Crop husbandry alone cannot improve a farmer's life. Integrated farming /mixed farming system that include milch cows for year-round benefits, goats for immediate cash requirement, backyard poultry for special occasions, fodder crops for animals, fruit trees for nourishment, tree saplings as an investment, beekeeping for pollination, vermicomposting for soil health, nutrition gardens for use in daily meals and fish rearing in farm ponds are essential for stable and sustainable income. To encourage Integrated Farming Systems, a subsidy of Rs.50,000 will be extended to 10,000 integrated farming

system units in the coming year **and a sum of Rs.50 crore will be allocated.**

### **10. Pulses Development Scheme**

Pulses are a rich source of protein. They are essential for a balanced diet and vital for building strong muscles and a healthy nervous system. To expand the area and production of pulses in Tamil Nadu, Pulses Development Scheme will be implemented **at an outlay of Rs.30 crore** with Union and State Government funds in the ensuing year.

Further, **transplantation in Redgram will be promoted at an outlay of Rs.18 crore** by prioritizing the districts Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai and Salem which were declared as Special Redgram zone in the last agriculture budget.

Further, 60,000 MT of Black gram and 12,000 MT of Green gram will be procured at Minimum Support Price under Price Support Scheme and welfare of farmers will be protected.

### **11. Oilseeds Area and Production Development Scheme:**

Oilseeds add flavour to food. With a view to increase oilseeds production in Tamil Nadu, **Rs.33 crore will be allocated** in the ensuing year to increase productivity of sunflower crop and expand the

area under profitable crops such as groundnut, sesame and soybean.

### **Special Zone for Oil seeds:**

The districts like Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Erode, Dharmapuri, Namakkal, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Krishnagiri, Cuddalore, Thirupattur, Ariyalur, Vellore, Pudukottai where major oilseeds such as groundnut and sesame are grown, will be collectively declared as “**Special Oilseeds Zone**” and special attention will be given for production, value addition, marketing and export of oilseeds.

## **12. Coconut Development Scheme**

நன்றி ஒருவர்க்குச் செய்தக்கால் அந்நன்றி  
என்று தருங்கொல் எனவேண்டா-நின்று  
தளரா வளர்தெங்கு தாள் உண்ட நீரை  
தலையாலே தான்தருத லால்

Coconut tree is special as it converts the water imbibed through its roots and gives back in the form of tender coconuts on its crown. Coconut tree nurtures the growers like a Mother. It yields abundant fruit throughout year and protects those who own it and this native tree is cherished for its magnificence. It yields well even in drought conditions. While in tender form, coconut tree provides its refreshing water. Coconut is widely used in Tamil Nadu cuisine and it is a versatile ingredient that provides richness and flavour to many dishes. Due to its resilience and ability to produce high yield with minimal

maintenance, coconut remains a preferred crop. Coconut also gives various by-products like oil and other numerous beneficial products.

a. To increase the production and productivity of Coconut, under Coconut Development Board scheme, in the coming year, front line demonstrations on Integrated farming will be laid out in an area of 10,000 hectares. Other components like Establishment of Regional Coconut Nurseries, Laying of Demonstration Plots, Creation of Farmyard Manure pit, Replanting and Rejuvenation of Coconut Gardens will also be implemented **at an outlay of Rs.20 crore in the coming year.**

**b. Increasing the production of Dwarf x Tall hybrid coconut seedlings:**

To satisfy the demand from farmers for Dwarf x Tall hybrids of coconut, 10,000 D x T hybrid seedlings will be produced additionally in State Coconut Nurseries at Puthalam in Kanniyakumari district, Sengkottai in Tenkasi district, Devadanam in Virudhunagar district and distributed to farmers.

**13. Cotton Cultivation Mission:**

To satisfy the raw material requirement of Cotton Mills of Tamil Nadu by increasing the production of cotton on a sustainable basis, the State Government is implementing the scheme **“Sustainable Cotton Cultivation Mission”**. This scheme would be continued



in the coming year **with an allocation of Rs.12 crore** for increasing the Production of Cotton to 4.52 Lakh bales.

#### **14. Crop Insurance:**

Cultivation is a gamble with nature. Right from the day of sowing, the farmers are overwhelmed by worries related to the possibility of their crops getting destroyed by pests and diseases, withered by drought, blown away by storms, inundated by rain, and spoilt by mould. Crop insurance scheme serves as a saving grace to the farmers.

With the main objective of protecting farmers from these natural calamities, the Government of Tamil Nadu has been implementing the crop insurance scheme despite the tight financial situation it presently is in. In the coming year, this scheme will be continued **with an allocation of Rs.2,337 crore** towards the state share of premium subsidy.

#### **15. Livelihood Development of Tribal Farmers:**

In order to help the tribal farmers living in various hilly areas including Kalvarayan hills in Kallakurichi district, Shevroy hills in Salem district, Pachaimalai in Tiruchirappalli district, Vathalmalai and Sitheri in Dharmapuri district, Javvadu hills in Tiruvannamalai district, Yelagiri in Tirupathur district, Kollimalai in Namakkal district, Thalavadi, Burgur, Kudiyalathur in Erode district, all the schemes of Agriculture-Farmers

Welfare Department, Tribal Welfare Department, Rural Development Department, Forest Department , will be integrated and implemented jointly with Large Area Multipurpose Cooperative Societies Cooperative societies and NGOs.

The Government will also provide support for taking up other Agriculture and allied activities like Organic farming, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture and Bee keeping. Seventy percent subsidy will be provided for cultivation of Millets on cluster basis to facilitate getting remunerative price through value addition. To ensure the nutritional security and to improve the immunity levels of the tribal people, Nutritional Garden Kits including vegetable seedlings, seeds will be distributed to 5,000 families at an outlay of Rs. 22 lakh through Horticulture Department.

Rainwater harvesting structures, micro-irrigation, Pump set, water conveying pipes, planting materials for multi-tier horticultural crops will also be extended. Assistance will also be provided under the Special Area Development Programme for water conservation and agricultural machinery.

**16. "Uzhavar Aluvalar Thodarpu Thittam-2.0-UATT":**

Department of Agriculture – Farmers Welfare is implementing "Uzhavar Aluvalar Thodarpu Thittam" (UATT) since 2020-21 to disseminate technologies and scheme benefits to farmers. Under this, 3,684 Extension

(Assistant Agricultural/Assistant Horticultural) Officers provide extension service to 12,525 village panchayats and provide department related information and implement the schemes of respective departments.

Accordingly, one Assistant Agriculture Officer is allotted with 8 to 10 Panchayats while one Assistant Horticulture Officer is allotted with 10 to 15 Panchayats. Extension (Assistant Agriculture / Assistant Horticulture) officer can visit the respective village panchayats only once during a fortnight. Hence, allotting one extension official for each village panchayat is the long-felt demand of farmers to implement all the programmes of Agriculture – Farmers Welfare Department in an integrated manner.

So, the 4,311 Extension officers of Agriculture and allied Departments working at block and village levels will be pooled and each one will be assigned with 3-4 villages. This Agricultural Extension Officer will integrate all activities related to Agriculture, Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business and Agricultural Engineering at the village level and implement the "Uzhavar Aluvalar Thodarbu Thittam 2.0"

In addition, meetings and preparation of reports will be streamlined to reduce the **"desk work and increase the field work"** of all agricultural and sister department officers at the block level so that time will be saved and the linkage with farmers will be strengthened.

## **Department of Sugar**

Sweetness is the epitome of taste. Memorable events are always called as "Sweet Memories". Sugar is the most preferred source of Sweetness.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is bestowing special thrust to Sugar industry. Cane cultivation and Sugar Industries support the socio-economic development of the farmers besides providing employment opportunities and source for increasing their income.

For sustainable Sugarcane production, the Government of Tamil Nadu is encouraging Sugarcane farmers through various welfare schemes. Special Incentive of Rs.195/- per Metric tonne of cane was extended to 1.21 lakh farmers in 2021-22 sugar season at an outlay of Rs.214 crore. The special measures taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu have resulted in a significant increase of 55,000 hectare of registered sugarcane area during the 2022-23 sugar season.

To protect the welfare of Sugarcane farmers, increase the area and production of Sugarcane and to improve the efficiency of Sugar Mills, the following programmes will be implemented in the coming year.

### **17. Special Incentive to Sugarcane farmers:**

Considering the Welfare of Sugarcane Farmers in Tamil Nadu, the **Government of Tamil Nadu will allocate Rs.253 crore to provide Special Incentive of Rs.195/- over and above the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)** of Rs.2,821 per MT of cane announced by the Union Government to eligible farmers during 2022-23 crushing season. This will benefit around 1.50 lakh sugarcane farmers.

### **18. Sugarcane Development Programme:**

To increase sugarcane production, achieve higher sugar recovery and to reduce the cost of cultivation, Breeder seeds, bud chip seedlings of high yielding, high sugar varieties will be distributed at subsidized cost. The cane yards in seven Cooperative and Public sector sugar Mills will be upgraded to cement concrete cane yards. These programmes will be implemented at **an outlay of Rs.10 crore in the ensuing year.**

### **19. Organic Manure Production from Press Mud:**

To meet the demand for organic manure from the farmers of Tamil Nadu, Press Mud bio-composting infrastructure will be established at Salem and Amaravathi Cooperative Sugar Mills at an **outlay of three crore Rupees.**

Tamil Nadu, from time immemorial, has been flourishing with abundance of densely grown Horticulture crops like Coconut, Mango, Pomegranate, Acid lime, Jack etc. as multi storey cropping.

The verses of *Mukkudar Pallu* ('முக்கூடற் பள்ளு') depict the ancient wealth as the nuts of the tall grown coconut trees fall on Arecanut palms, which in turn fall on mango trees, and subsequently rest on the jack trees, which in turn bend the banana bunches which finally, touch and push the pomegranate branch.

“மீது யர்ந்திடும் தெங்கிள நீரை  
மிடைந்த பூகஞ்  
சுமந்துதன் காயைக்  
குத மொன்றிச் சுமக்கக் கொடுக்கும்  
சூதந் தன்கனி  
தூங்கும் பலாவில்  
ஓதும் அந்தப் பலாக்கனி வாழை  
உளுக்க வேசுமந்து  
ஒண்குலை சாய்க்கும்  
மாது ளங்கொம்பு வாழையைத் தாங்கும்  
வளமை ஆசூர்  
வடகரை நாடே.”

Horticulture department ensures nutrition. Fruits and vegetables must be grown on par with food grains so that the demand for necessary minerals, vitamins, fibre, etc., needed to enhance the immunity and improve digestion are met by the consumers. Horticultural crops can aid in not only increasing the income of the farmers but also in facilitating the digestion process.

As announced during the last Agriculture Budget, special schemes for Horticultural Crop diversification, intercropping in coconut, precision farming, drip irrigation on cluster basis, cultivation of fruit crops, tuber crops, spices, flowers, garlic and implementing schemes to increase the arrival of vegetables in Uzhavar Sandhais were implemented.

During this year, Tamil Nadu is marching ahead towards attaining self-sufficiency in nutrition by producing large quantities of fruits and vegetables. Likewise, during the coming year, special schemes will be implemented by the Horticulture department to increase the production of Horticultural crops by encouraging farmers to cultivate more of vegetables and fruits in addition to food crops.

## **20. Cultivation of Horticultural Crops on cluster basis**

Exclusive Clusters will be formed for horticultural crops such as jasmine, curry leaves, chillies and jackfruit in districts where they are cultivated in a large scale, to give special focus on production, value addition and export. The scheme will be implemented by creating an exclusive brand for the produce generated from the cluster and link the farmers with the domestic and global value chains, thus providing higher income to the farmers and improving their livelihoods.

### **a. Mission for Madurai Jasmine**

The connection between Madurai and jasmine has been there since the Sangam period. Hence, it is pertinent to develop a cluster for jasmine centred at Madurai.

Other than Madurai, Jasmine is also cultivated in Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Theni and Tenkasi districts in a total area of about 4,300 Ha. In this integrated cluster, apart from increasing the production, better marketing opportunities will also be created. This scheme will be implemented continuously over a period of five years. Steps will be taken to produce planting materials needed for the cluster in Ramanathapuram district and distribute them in time.

Measures to ensure off-season production of jasmine by giving technical guidance to the existing jasmine farmers on timely pruning, integrated nutrient and pest management will be undertaken. **In the ensuing year, this mission will be implemented at an outlay of seven crore Rupees.**

**b. Jack Mission:**

Jack fruit being the State fruit of Tamil Nadu is a renowned fruit. Jack Mission will be implemented in a span of five years by forming Integrated cluster for Panruti Jack specific to Cuddalore district where it is grown in a large extent. Planting materials, inputs, infrastructure for value addition to create global market



opportunities will be provided in the cluster. International conferences will be held and trainings on production of value-added products from jack will be given.

In other districts, new suitable Jack varieties will be introduced, and farmers will be encouraged. Jack cultivation will be taken up in 2,500 Ha in five years. This scheme will be implemented in 21 districts like Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Kanyakumari, Pudukkottai, Salem, Tenkasi, Theni etc.,

To give impetus to research on development of new varieties, high yielding technologies and value addition in jack, the Vegetable Research Station in Palur will be strengthened and an amount **of three crore Rupees will be allocated for this Mission.**

**c. Chilli Zone:**

In Tamil Nadu, chillies is grown in an area of 35,200 hectare in Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Sivagangai and Thoothukudi districts, which will be converged to form a Chilli Zone and action will be taken to increase the cultivation to 40,000 hectare in a period of five years. Latest technologies will be disseminated to increase the productivity. Infrastructure will be created for storing and marketing of produce at the appropriate time. Farm ponds will be created in water scarce areas and cultivation will be done through installation of micro irrigation.

In the ensuing year, it is planned to remove the Prosopis trees, in an area of 1,000 Ha in convergence with Rural Development and Agricultural Engineering Departments and bring the area under chilli cultivation.

Further, to cultivate chillies in an area of 1,000 hectare, in addition to giving seeds, seedlings and other inputs to farmers, processing units, value addition units and solar driers will also be established to produce Chilli powder, Chilli paste, Chilli flakes and Chilli oil and tarpaulins will also be given to farmers to process chillies in a hygienic manner. This scheme will be implemented **at an outlay of six crore Rupees in the ensuing year.**

**d. Curry Leaf Cluster:**

Curry leaf, which adds flavour and aroma to our dishes, is largely grown in Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu. Technical advice will be given to farmers to adopt appropriate plant protection measures, restrict the usage of pesticides, use organic farming techniques for the cultivation of Curry Leaves. The cluster scheme will be implemented in an area of 1,500 hectare over a period of five years. In the ensuing year, cultivation of Sengambu variety of curry leaf will be encouraged in an area of 100 hectare by providing quality planting materials and drip irrigation systems. Trainings on production of value added products in Curry leaves such as dry curry leaf, curry leaf powder and paste will be given.

Also, farm machineries, solar drying unit and value addition machinery will be distributed. Residue analysis of curry leaf samples will be carried out to meet the export standards. **An allocation of Rs.2.50 crore** will be made for implementation of this scheme in the coming year.

## **21. Moringa Mission**

Considering the multiple health benefits of Moringa, the Government of Tamil Nadu has announced "**Special Export Zone for Moringa**" covering the districts of Theni, Dindigul, Karur, Thoothukudi, Tirupur, Ariyalur and Madurai in the first Agriculture Budget. A Special Export Facilitation Centre is functioning at Madurai.

In the coming year, Moringa cultivation will be promoted in 1,000 ha besides creating processing and value addition facilities. Further, to increase the export opportunities in Moringa, training on cultivation techniques, value addition, certification and export standards will be imparted to farmers, exporters through this centre in coordination with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). **For this Mission, an allocation of Rs.11 crore will be made** in the coming year.

## **22. Stabilizing the supply of tomatoes and onions**

Tomato and onion have become indispensable in the cuisine of Tamil Nadu. These daily needs are produced in

excess in seasons causing glut and the farmers are left with no other option than to leave the produce in the field without harvesting. In off- seasons, they become so expensive that common people could not afford to buy. Appropriate scheme will be implemented with an aim to stabilise the supply of onion and tomato round the year.

Assistance will be extended for distribution of Onion seeder, storage godowns, harvesting machines and Onion de-topper at an **outlay of Rs.29 crore** in the districts of Perambalur, Namakkal, Salem, Thoothukudi, Trichy, Dindigul and Tiruppur to facilitate continuous supply of onion.

Similarly, to increase the productivity of tomato, interventions like installation of drip irrigation, staking, cultivation of high yielding varieties and mulching will be promoted. This scheme will be implemented in Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Dindigul, Theni, Tiruppur and Coimbatore districts **at an outlay of Rs.19 crore.**

### **23. Production of Cole crops like Chow-Chow, Peas, Beans etc.,**

Cole crops /hilly vegetables like Chow-Chow, Peas, Beans are gaining popularity among the consumers. Hence, focus will be given for the cultivation of these crops by providing seeds, inputs and staking materials as back-ended subsidy. This scheme will be implemented in an area of 1,000 hectare **at an outlay of Rs.2.50 crore.**

#### **24. Area expansion in special Horticulture crops**

The demand for horticultural crops having high value and high marketability such as dragon fruit, avocado, date palm, Lychee, Mangosteen, Fig and Olive is increasing. Farmers are keen to take up cultivation of these crops which are mostly imported in Tamil Nadu. Cultivation of these crops will be promoted to expand in suitable places covering an area of 1,000 ha during the ensuing year. Subsidy will be provided for cultivation of these crops along with training on cultivation practices. For this, **two crore Rupees will be provided** from the Union and State Government fund.

#### **25. Promotion of Micro irrigation**

Thiruvalluvar in one of his couplets, notes that “When there is no water, world ceases to exist”. No World can survive without water. The trend of spending money like water has now been changed to that level of spending water as money. Each drop is so precious and conservation of each drop is an investment.

In Firkas where underground water is drawn completely and the water table is fast depleting, the area under cultivation is decreasing. Agriculture is affected due to shortage of water. Hence, steps will be taken to adopt micro irrigation techniques for effectively utilising the groundwater to bring more area under cultivation. This scheme will be implemented in those areas where micro irrigation is effective. During the coming year, a total sum

of Rs.744 crore will be allocated for implementation of Micro Irrigation Scheme of which sixty percent i.e., **Rs.450 crore will be spent to cover 53,400 hectare** under micro irrigation in these firkas.

Further, this Government will insist the Union Government to relax the ceiling of five hectare to avail subsidy for micro irrigation and increase it to 10 ha and to reduce the minimum period from seven years to five years to re-avail subsidy for micro irrigation in the same field.

## **26. Distribution of fruit saplings to 10 Lakh families**

Fruits are rich in fibre, reduce blood pressure, control heart diseases, prevent paralytic attack, rectify digestion problem and sharpen the eyesight. A balanced diet will be with white, green, brown, red and yellow coloured food in appropriate ratio. Fruits play a major role in providing such food.

Even though Tamil Nadu is self-sufficient in food grain production, fruit production is essential to attain nutritional security. Nature offers us seasonal fruits. Nature showers its benevolence by providing refreshing fruits during summer and warm fruits in winter.

Hence, in the coming year, kits containing perennial fruit seedlings such as Mango, Guava, Jack, Amla, Acid lime, custard apple will be distributed **to 10 lakh households at an outlay of Rs.15 crore.**

## **27. Promotion of protected cultivation methods**

Farmers can enhance their income throughout the year in cultivation of high value vegetables and flowers in protected cultivation structures like poly houses and shade net houses. To provide assistance for establishing these structures, a sum of **Rs.22 crore will be allocated** from Union and State Government funds in the coming year by giving priority to the districts Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Ranipet, Salem, Sivagangai, Theni, Erode, Thirupattur, Tirupur, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli and Madurai.

## **28. Beautification of Parks**

Every year, more than 50,000 tourists visit the Government Botanical Gardens, Yercaud. To increase the number of visitors, Topiary will be created. Hedge lined pathway, plant backgrounds and live sculptures will be created in this Garden **with the financial outlay of five crore Rupees.**

Annually, two lakh people visit the Horticultural Park, Madhavaram in Chennai. To add beauty to this park and attract visitors, Musical Dancing Fountain and park expansion will be carried out **with the financial outlay of five crore Rupees.**

## **29. Overseas training for the farmers**

The productivity is very high in some countries through adoption of high yielding technologies. Farmers of

our State will get motivated to do so as these technologies make them ponder over the experiences from such countries. Keeping high productivity in their minds, they will be eager to experiment these technologies in their fields as seeing is believing and doing is learning. Hence, it is programmed to take 150 farmers for this overseas tour to countries like Isreal, Netherland, Thailand, Egypt, Malaysia, Philippines etc., **for which a sum of three crore Rupees** will be allocated from the Union and State Government funds.

### **30.Traditional Vegetables:**

Tamil Nadu owns lot of traditional tasty vegetables. As done during this year, the traditional vegetable seeds will be collected during the coming year also to set up the gene bank to popularise them. District level seed festivals and State level seminar will be conducted. Cash award will be conferred to the farmers who have revived maximum traditional vegetables seeds. These traditional vegetable seeds will be further multiplied at State Horticulture Farms and distributed to farmers and public in seed kit during *Adi Pattam* and *Thai Pattam*. This scheme will be implemented in all districts **at an outlay of Rs. 1.50 Crore** in the coming year.

### **31. Integrated Micro Irrigation system in Lower Bhavani:**

Bhavani river originates from Nilgiris of Western Ghats. We can see green fields in riverbed areas.



Integrated Micro irrigation infrastructure system will be installed on pilot basis, in 960 hectares of cultivable lands of Lower Bhavani Project in Erode District on cluster basis. This project aims to encourage the farmers to cultivate crops throughout the year by judiciously using the water and get more income. By this method, irrigation system will be provided in the Ayacut area of Thottampalayam, Akkarai Negamam, Karithottampalayam, Poosaripalayam etc., for cultivation of Horticulture Crops like vegetables, turmeric, banana, etc., This scheme will be implemented **in a period of two years at an approximate outlay of Rs.50 crore.**

### **32. Area Expansion of Cashew:**

As the market potential for cashew is increasing not only in domestic markets but also in international markets, in the ensuing year, action will be taken to increase the cashew cultivation with additional area of 550 hectare and the old, low yielding cashew tress will be removed and the high yielding varieties will be replanted and renewed in 500 hectares. Special emphasis will be given to Panruti and adjoining areas.

### **33. Banana cluster development scheme in Theni district:**

To create a unique identity for banana in Theni district which stands first in banana productivity in Tamil Nadu and make them to reach the global market, a **specific cluster development scheme in cost of**

**Rs.130 crore** is to be implemented in public-private partnership.

#### **34. Farm tourism for School Students:**

With an aim to inculcate the importance of agriculture among school students by directly witnessing the fields, orchards, plantations, irrigation wells, fruit trees, etc., Farm tourism is proposed to be promoted in association with Education Department for school students who see the fields, orchards, plantations, irrigation wells, fruit trees, etc., only in their books and in the media.

This will be a great exposure as freedom from the clutches of concrete jungle, enjoyable play area in seeing the emerald green fields and to respect the significance of farmers' sweat and the value of food. It will be a practical training to get answers for the questions in their curriculum.

This type of farm tourism will help those urban stricken students to learn the way of eco-friendly living in harmony with Nature. This will be an eye opener for the students who assume that rice and grams are produced in factories. This scheme will be implemented at an allocation **of one crore Rupees.**

#### **35. Palmyra Development Mission:**

In the past two years of Palmyra Development Mission implementation, 20 lakh palmyra seed nuts, one

lakh palmyra saplings have been distributed. 510 machineries have been distributed to 124 Palmyra value addition centers, 1,000 Palm tree climbers have been distributed and efforts have been taken to give a cash award of one lakh rupees to the best palm tree climbing machine inventors.

**a. To encourage Palmyra cultivation,** ten lakh Palmyra seed nuts will be provided to farmers and NGOs to plant in public places like riverbanks next year. Value addition in Palmyra products will be encouraged to improve the livelihood of farmers. In order to facilitate the value addition in Palmyra, support for value addition sheds, equipment and safe tree climber will be given. Through the Tamil Nadu Palmyra Products Development Board, training for palm jaggery production, palm candy and other palm-based products in a hygienic manner will be provided. Women will be trained in the production of palm leaf products. This scheme will be implemented **at an outlay of two crore Rupees.**

**b. Establishment of Palmyra Research Station:**

In Killikulam Agricultural College, the creation of short duration Palmyra varieties and the research related to the postharvest technology are being carried out. To give more importance to this, a separate research station

for Palmyra will be established at Killikulam Agricultural College in Thoothukudi district **at the cost of Rs.15 crore** with objectives of creation of new dwarf Palmyra varieties and to make available the requirements for plantation, the instructions for the plantation, nutrition, water, insects and disease management will be regulated, the quality checking lab will be established for inspecting the quality of the palmyra value added products such as Neera, Palmyra jaggery, palm candy, post-harvest technology and value addition technology will be created.

### **Department of Agricultural Engineering**

Men differ from animals not in managing time but by creating time. While lion and tiger hunted with claws and sharp teeth, man hunted with tools and hence he could save his time. Tools help to increase his speed. Speed and haste are quite different. Scientific technologies are meant to accelerate our work speed. Speed comes, when the body and mind work in tandem. Haste happens when body does not cooperate with the pace of the mind.

### **36. Agricultural Mechanization:**

Agricultural machineries help to create time. The harvesting of a field which normally need hundreds of men can be completed by a single machine within a few

hours. The dearth of farm labourers is increasing in villages of Tamil Nadu. Due to decentralized education, fast spreading urbanization, people become educated, graduated and get placements in various jobs. Hence, the shortage of manpower is increasing on par with developed countries. Farm mechanization is essential for carrying out agricultural operations.

Labour is saved and time is generated because of the availability of machinery to carry out various agricultural operations like ploughing, sowing, transplanting, weeding, fruit plucking, harvesting, value addition, digging, onion detopping, Oil extraction etc., The surplus time thus created is being used for other operations. This Government is taking various steps to distribute farm machinery at subsidy by giving priority to small and marginal farmers.

In the coming year, **a sum of Rs. 125 crore will be allocated** from the Union and State Government funds for the components like agricultural machinery value addition machinery, machinery for sugarcane cultivation and village based Custom Hiring Centres besides digitalizing the selection of beneficiaries.

### **37. Skill Development training for Rural youth:**

Skills are essential for effective living. Use of machinery in rural areas alone is not quite sufficient. Skilled manpower is needed for operation and

maintenance of farm machinery. Hence, skilled drivers are very much needed to operate agricultural machinery. Skill development training will be imparted to 500 rural youth for Operation, maintenance and handling of tractors and harvesters **at a cost of one crore Rupees** in six workshops functioning at Vellore, Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai, Tiruvarur and Tirunelveli.

Due to the use of agricultural machinery in the fields and in undulated terrains, they often face break down causing hardships in ploughing. Hence, instead of bringing this machinery to the urban areas for repairing, training to rural youth is the need of the hour to repair in the village itself. To generate self-employment for rural youth, short-term training in repairs and maintenance of agricultural machinery will be provided to 200 rural youth in six State owned Government Tractor workshops **at a cost of Rs.50 lakh.**

### **38. Rain water Harvesting Structures:**

In 'Purananooru', one poem written by Kapilar explains about the knowledge of ancient Tamils on designing the water reservoirs.

அறையும் பொறையும் மணந்த தலைய,  
எண் நாள் திங்கள் அணைய கொடுங் கரைத்  
தெண்ணீர்ச் சிறு குளம் கீள்வது மாதோ  
கூர் வேல் குவைஇய மொய்ப்பின்  
தேர் வண் பாரி தண் பறம்பு நாடே.

Sediments are washed away from the catchment areas of the reservoirs during the rainy season and deposited in the reservoirs, every year, thereby reducing the capacity of the reservoirs. In selected reservoirs, the works like Soil conservation, Watershed management, Drainage line treatment, Silt detention structures, Rain water harvesting structures like check dams etc., will be taken up under Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project with World Bank assistance in a period of four years period from 2023-2024. This project will be implemented in the catchment areas of Vaigai Dam in Theni District and Mettur Dam in Salem District at an estimated **cost of six crore Rupees.**

### **39. Uploading the details of private machinery and mechanics in e-Vaadagai App:**

In order to facilitate the farmers to carry out ploughing operation without any hindrance, block wise, district wise details of private owners of Tractors and mechanics of agricultural machinery as well as pump sets will be uploaded in the e-Vaadagai App with their name, address and mobile number and linked with Uzhavan App.

### **40. Ensuring Irrigation to the tail end:**

To ensure irrigation water till tail end, desilting of "C" and "D" channels will be executed in the second phase in Cauvery and Vennar Basins of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur,

Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai and Cuddalore districts during the next year as done in the last year, benefitting **an area of 1.32 lakh acres for a length of 1,146 Kilometres at an allocation of five crore Rupees.**

**41. Strengthening the activities of Agricultural Engineering Department at Block level:**

Considering the huge demand for agricultural machinery and the responsibility of Government to serve up to remote hamlets and to facilitate the farmers to carry out the agricultural operations without any hindrance at block level, Tractors, Rotavators, Cultivators, Sugarcane Harvesters, Paddy combine harvesters will be procured **at a total cost of Rs.25 crore** and will be hired out to the needy farmers at nominal hire charges through e-vadagai mobile app.

Also, the Agricultural Engineering Department, presently functioning at the Revenue Divisional Level, will be restructured so as to extend its services at the block level Integrated Agriculture Extension Centre (IAEC)s.

**42. "One Village Two Power Tillers"**

Considering the decrease in the land holdings of farmers in Tamil Nadu and the necessity to promote the use of small type of agricultural machinery, **5,000 Power Tillers will be distributed 2,504 villages** at the rate of two Power Tillers per village under the Tamil Nadu Government's Vision scheme of "Kalaigharin All Village



Integrated Agriculture Development Programme” **with a subsidy of Rs.43 crore** in the coming year.

### **Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business**

The harvested crop produce will be of no use, if it is being dried in the threshing floor or stacked in the drying yard. The farm produce fetches value only when it reaches the consumer. The Department of Agricultural Marketing - Agri Business is extending its handholding support to ensure this task.

#### **43. Additional infrastructure in Regulated Markets:**

Facilities like transaction sheds, drying yards, storage godowns will be provided in the Regulated Markets of Gingee, Thiruvannainallur in Villupuram District, Papanasam in Thanjavur district Naidumangalam, Athamangalam Pudhur in Tiruvannamalai District and Veppur in Cuddalore District at an **outlay Rs.22 crore** with Union and State Government funds.

Further, new infrastructure will be created in the Regulated Markets viz., Sankagiri, Kadayampatti in Salem District, Rasipuram, Namakkal in Namakkal District which are functioning in rented buildings besides creation of additional storage godowns in the Regulated Markets viz., Sivagiri, Punjai kalamangalam, Elumathur in Erode District, Malaiyadi palayam, Negamam, Karamadai, Anaimalai in Coimbatore District at an **estimated cost of Rs.36 crore** from Market Committee funds.

#### **44. Reconstruction of Storage godowns in Regulated Markets:**

In 22 Regulated Markets functioning in the districts of Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Vellore, Tirupattur, Erode, Tiruchirapalli, Karur, Thanjavur, Sivagangai, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Tiruvarur and Ariyalur, 27 storage godowns will be reconstructed with the total capacity **of 34,000 MT at a total cost of Rs.54 crore** with NABARD assistance.

#### **45. Renovation of existing Regulated Markets:**

To facilitate farmers to realize remunerative price to their produce, the Regulated Markets in 100 places with heavy arrival, will be renovated at an **estimate cost of Rs.50 crore** with market committee funds.

#### **46. Securing Geographical Indication tag:**

Each soil is unique in nature. The taste of the produce varies from place to place depending upon the climate, rainfall, wind and sunshine. There are number of such agricultural commodities which are unique in Tamil Nadu. The production of such produce differs from district to district. The value of such unique commodities would increase, if we secure Geographical Indication tags and popularise in the global market. Last year, steps have been taken to get Geographical Indication (GI) tag for ten products including Sholavanthan Betel vine and Panruti Jack fruit.

Likewise, it is proposed to get Geographical Indication (GI) for another ten products viz., Krishnagiri Arasampatti Coconut, Krishnagiri Panneer Rose, Thanjavur Peravoorani Coconut, Mulanoor Kuttai Moringa, Sattur Cucumber, Thanjavur Veeramangudi Jaggery (Achu vellam), Thoothukudi Vilathikulam Chilli, Cuddalore Kotimulai Brinjal, Madurai Sengarumbu and Sivagangai Karuppukavuni rice **at an outlay of Rs.30 lakh** in the ensuing year.

#### **47. Renovation of Uzhavar Sandhais:**

Uzhavar Sandhais act as platforms for enabling the farmers to sell their produce. Farm fresh vegetables if purchased at less price will delight the consumers and elate the farmers. In the last two years, 100 Uzhavar Sandhais were renovated with better infrastructure. Hence, the number of farmers and consumers who visit the Uzhavar Sandhais has increased significantly.

On an average, 8,000 farmers and three lakh consumers visit Uzhavar Sandhais daily. It is proposed to renovate 25 Uzhavar Sandhais in the districts of Dindigul, Kallakurichi, Namakkal, Pudukkottai, Tiruppur, Tiruvannamalai with the basic amenities such as drinking water, toilet, renovation of shops, repair of floors, repair of roofs, footpath facilities etc., at a cost of **nine crore Rupees**. Further, steps will be taken to secure Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

(FSSAI) Certificate for 50 Uzhavar Sandhais in the ensuing year **at an outlay of Rs.25 lakh.**

#### **48. Traditional Canteens:**

The farmers bring their vegetables and greens to Uzhavar Sandhais in the early morning. They become exhausted in selling vegetables and fruits till noon. Hence, to quench their thirst and meet their food demand, 25 traditional canteens will be established as first phase with private participation for providing the traditional cuisine of Tamil Nadu viz., nutritious Millet porridge, snacks, herbal soups to the consumers to sensitize them on traditional foods.

#### **49. Expansion of electronic National Agriculture Markets – (e NAM):**

Out of 284 Regulated Markets in Tamil Nadu, 127 Regulated Markets have been integrated under electronic National Agriculture Markets (e-NAM) portal and are functioning well. In view of participation of more traders in the indirect auction system after assessing the quality of the produce, e-NAM Markets has ensured remunerative price to farmers. Till date, six lakh farmers have transacted 10 lakh metric tonnes of produce worth Rs.1,700 crore through this platform. In the ensuing year, another 30 Regulated markets will be integrated under eNAM portal **at an outlay of nine crore Rupees.**

#### **50. Transaction of Sengandal flower seeds (Gloriosa seeds) in Regulated Markets.**

Necessary steps will be taken to help the farmers who grow Gloriosa predominantly in the districts of Dindigul, Tiruppur, Erode, Tiruchirapalli, Karur, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Nagapattinam, Salem for trading seeds of Sengandal Flower (Gloriosa) in the Regulated Markets.

### **51. Training for Modern Packaging and Agri Export:**

To enable the Farmers Producers Organizations to add value to the produces and market them, special training has been imparted to 154 Farmer Producer Organizations on packaging through Indian Institute of Packaging in Perungudi, Chennai. This training will be further expanded to 164 Farmer Producer Companies at an estimated cost of Rs.15 Lakh. Further, to facilitate additional income and increase the market avenue through export, 10 seminars on export will be conducted at an outlay of Rs.50 lakh.

### **52. e- Negotiable Warehouse receipt:**

To facilitate the farmers and traders to avail pledge loan from Nationalized Banks to the maximum of eighty percent of value of their produce stored in the godowns, 150 storage godowns in Regulated Markets in Tamil Nadu will be strengthened and accredited with Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) for introducing a system of e-Negotiable Warehouse Receipt.

Besides, steps will be taken to get accreditation for 25 cold storage godowns constructed with the total

capacity of 31,000 Metric Tonne in Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Theni, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Cuddalore, Dindigul and Tiruvallur under Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) for getting e-Negotiable Warehouse Receipt.

### **53. Procurement of Copra:**

To protect the farmers from price fall during the harvest season, Price Support Scheme is being implemented in Tamil Nadu.

Under this scheme, 40,000 Metric Tonne of copra worth Rs.420 crore was procured from 33,500 farmers in the last two years. Pursuant to this initiative, steps will be taken to procure 56,000 Metric Tonnes of Copra worth Rs.640 crore during ensuing procurement season at Minimum Support Price announced by the Union Government in coordination with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation.

## **Tamil Nadu Agricultural University**

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University excels as a research centre for innovating new crop varieties and shines as a scientific hub enabling expansion activities for farmers. This University sculpts the students into excellent human beings, enables them to grow and blossom, mentors to become laudable candidates in the global arena. This University has produced many scientists and scholars. It was started by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar in 1971, with two colleges. Today, it has widened its wings with 18 constituent colleges, 28 affiliated private colleges, 40 Research Stations and 15 Krishi Vigyan Kendras. It has flourished in every dimension and became renowned University in the World. A sum of Rs.530 crore will be allocated for this University in the next year.

### **54. Corpus fund for Tamil Nadu Agricultural University:**

Similar to Prestigious Universities abroad, Indian Institutes of Technology, a corpus fund to the tune of Rs.100 crore will be provided to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University will mobilize funds on par with this corpus fund from private entities, institutions and bodies and maintain it as a deposit. Interest accrued will be utilized for carrying out research projects, implementing schemes, to sort out various field issues arise from time to time. This fund will be utilized

with the concurrence of Finance Committee of the University.

### **55. Strengthening Insect Museum:**

Insects account for the largest group of living organisms in the world. We humans, are encroaching upon the world of insects. It is the insects that give us scintillating silks, wax and lac. Insects are the ones that help in cross pollination and creation of hybrid varieties of crops; The insects also sweeten man's taste buds with honey. It is impossible to imagine a world without insects. It will be simply empty. It will be like a world without the flutter of butterfly, the humming of the bees, the buzzing of the beetles. It would be akin to ocean sans waves, coconut palm without bunches, a headless body, a leafless tree, a nation deficit in art forms, a fruit without flesh and a poem without metre.

A museum has been created in Coimbatore campus at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, where various types of insects have been collected. It is imperative to understand the role of insects that cause health hazards, so as to contain them. For the benefit of farmers, students, researchers and public to identify and classify insects, it becomes important to digitize the museum for which **three crore Rupees will be allocated** for the upgradation, development, digitalization and other infrastructure.



## **56. Strengthening of Botanical Garden**

The Botanical Garden of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is one of the popular parks in Coimbatore. Mughal Garden, Japanese Garden, Rockery, Topiary, Branching palms are some of the appealing aspects of this Botanical Garden. This brings solace for many; It is an invitation for happiness; a breeze of lullaby that helps to refresh the minds that feels bored. This Botanical Garden helps the students to learn about flowers and ornamental plants. We can find the research scholars spending hours at the Botanical Gardens to collect insects and to learn about plants. The prime objectives of this garden are to preserve the rare plants and to execute research in flower crops scientifically. This botanical garden is quite old. To protect and improve the endangered plants, to establish different types of parks, to impart entrepreneurial training, **five crore Rupees will be allocated to** strengthen botanical garden in the ensuing year.

## **57. Nano Technology in Agriculture:**

Nanotechnology is known to bring new revolution in agriculture. Application of nanotechnology is increased in the field of estimation of the quality of fertilizer, micronutrients, pesticides, crop produce and extending shelf life. Nano-urea has been approved by the Union Government, being disseminated with drone technology.

Nanotechnology Centre is established at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and research is being carried out to solve the mysterious challenges in agriculture through nanotechnology-based activities and components. Many nanotechnology-based products have been introduced for root growth, drought tolerance, micro-nutrition and increasing shelf life of crop produce.

In the ensuing year, demonstrations will be taken up on nano-technology to farmers through Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ATMA Project, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Corporation.

#### **58. Banana Research Centre:**

Banana is cultivated in an area of 22,000 ha in the southern six districts viz., Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar. Though the area under banana is increasing, its productivity is decreasing in Tamil Nadu. To address the needs of the southern district farmers, an exclusive research centre for Banana will be established at Agriculture College Killikulam, Thoothukudi District with the aim to collect, choose suitable banana varieties for southern districts, identification, dissemination of location specific improved cultivation techniques for pest, disease free banana varieties, production and distribution of virus free tissue culture plants of best banana varieties, value addition in banana

through food processing technologies. For this, **Rs.15 crore will be allocated.**

**59. One Agricultural Scientist at Block level:**

To provide the information viz., newly released high yielding varieties, cultivation technologies, crop protection methods, integrated nutrient management, modern machinery, value addition, marketing strategies in agriculture, Horticulture crop, one scientist from Agricultural Colleges, research centers or Krishi Vigyan Kendras as Officer-in-Charge for each block.

**60. Handholding support to Farmer Producer Companies:**

An activity of Business Promotion Linkage will be implemented by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to promote Farmer Producer Companies functioning in Tamil Nadu. Under this, University Departments, Colleges, Research Institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras will choose each one Farmer Producer Company and provide necessary guidance for its development. Each station will gather the basic information of the Farmers Producer Company, establish a memorandum of understanding with them, devise plan for skill development training and provide training on value addition. After completion of the training, Buyer Seller Meeting will be organized to integrate these farmer producer Companies with traders, importers and exporters besides creating marketing opportunities.

**61) Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection****a) Cooperative Crop loan:**

In the year 2022-23, a total of 16.43 lakh farmers have been provided with crop loan of Rs.12,648 crore by cooperative department so far. This is an increase of 89 percent over the average of last 10 years. During 2023-24, Cooperative crop loan **to the tune of Rs.14,000 crore** will be given to the farmers. Likewise, interest-free **cooperative loan of Rs.1,500 crore** will be given to the farmers for goat rearing, dairying, poultry and Fisheries activities.

**b) Direct procurement of paddy:**

During 2022-23 Kharif Marketing Season, 27.23 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been procured from 3.73 lakh farmers for which Rs.5,778 crore has been disbursed so far. Likewise, for the procurement of paddy during next year, **an allocation of Rs.500 crore** has been made to provide incentive at the rate Rs.100 and Rs.75 per quintal respectively for fine and bold varieties.

**c) Agricultural Machinery in Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies**

To ensure availability of agricultural machinery in every village, agricultural machinery will be purchased through Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies (PACCSs) and hired out through e-Vaadagai App as per the needs of farmers. **Rs.500 crore will be allocated**

with NABARD assistance for the purchase of the machinery.

## **62) Water Resources Department:**

There are references to establishment of water bodies in Tamil literature. Rains do not fall at our wish and will. We, the Tamils are the ones who have learnt to conserve water during monsoons and use it judiciously later. Our fore fathers built dams across the rivers. The historic Kallanai is still an engineering marvel and stands tall in water resources management. There is mention in literature that during rains youth stood guard on the banks of lakes and ponds. Water Resources Department plays a significant role in reducing the concern of farmers about their crops by facilitating flow of water into their fields.

Many projects like canal restoration, tank rehabilitation, dam repairs, creation of rainwater harvesting structure are being implemented through the department with farmers participation. In the ensuing year, desiltation will be carried out in rivers, canals and drainage channels in Cauvery delta command **area at an estimated cost of Rs.90 crore.**

## **63) Animal Husbandry:**

Cattle act as an insurance to the farmers when the monsoon fails. Whenever crop fails, cattle help the farmers tide over the deficit. The grazing goats, milch cows in sheds, bulls on plough and poultry birds in a farm

contribute to the scent that is characteristic of a farm. Even the animal waste is helpful in improving the Soil fertility and texture.

The decrease in grazing lands combined with shrinkage of pasture lands due to increasing population, growing demand for nutritive fodder for cross bred cows, it is essential to produce such nutritive fodder crops in large quantities. To facilitate this, a total of 60 officials from Agriculture and Animal husbandry departments will be trained on latest technologies in fodder production, conservation methods, grazing, farm mechanization etc., at a cost of Rs.10 lakh.

Additionally, Rs.60 lakh will be allocated for encouraging intercropping with fodder crops to increase fodder production.

#### **64) Fisheries:**

To conserve and replenish native fish species from extinction, 40 lakh fingerlings of native fish species such as Selkendai, Calbasu, Indian major carp etc., will be ranched in the rivers of Cauvery, Bhavani, Thamiraparani and their tributaries. This will be taken up **at a total cost of Rs.1.2 crore.** This will also increase the inland fish production and increase the revenue of inland fishers dependent on rivers for their livelihood.

**65) Rural Development:**

Agricultural development and rural development go hand in hand and are interdependent. The role of rural development sector is very important in employment generation, natural resource development and improving women's livelihood.

**a) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS):**

During next year, it is proposed to carryout Natural Resource Management (NRM) works including agriculture related works such as Check Dam, Farm Pond, Percolation Pond, Water absorption Trenches, Staggered Trenches, Formation of new Ponds, Desilting of field channels, Stone Bunding, Earthen Bunding, Individual Dugwell, Community Dugwell, Milk Collection Centers, Food Grain Godown, Work Sheds for Women Self Help Groups and assistance to 19,400 beneficiaries for cultivation of horticultural crops, at an outlay of **Rs.6,600 crore from Union and State Government funds.**

To improve transportation of agriculture produce from farmers' fields to nearby markets and to take agricultural machineries to fields, Single Layer Water Bound Macadam (WBM) roads for a length **of 2,750 Km will be laid in the Village Panchayats at a cost of Rs.710 crore** in the coming year.

In the ensuing year, it is proposed to take up Threshing Floor, Storage Godown, Milk Collection Centre,

rejuvenation and restoration of Minor Irrigation tanks, Ponds and Ooranies **at an estimated cost of Rs.368 crore** under Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam (AGAMT-II)

**b) Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW):**

With a view to create awareness among Self Help Groups (SHGs) and promote cultivation, Value addition and consumption of Millets by their families, in the coming year, assistance of one lakh Rupees will be provided to 40 SHGs for the formation of 40 millet clusters for which a total amount Rs.40 lakh will be allocated. Apart from this, millet cafes will be set up one each in every District Collector's office and in all Mathi – Poomalai complex to promote consumption of millet products produced by SHGs.

To provide multiple avenues for augmenting the income of the households and to bring about effective local resource management, integrated farming Clusters are being formed. In the ensuing year, Integrated Farming Clusters will be established at a cost of **Rs. 44 Crore with an assistance of Rs. 40 lakh per unit.**

Promotion of Organic Honey/Single source honey clusters and Herbal Gardens is gaining importance as an important subsidiary livelihood activity in rural areas. Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) will



work closely with Department of Horticulture and Plantation crops for creating network linkages among the SHGs honey producers and facilitate collection, aggregation, processing, packing and finally, marketing under 'MATHI' brand.

### **66) Energy:**

The role of energy sector is vital in providing irrigation water for agriculture. To improve irrigation facilities, **23 lakh three phase, free electricity connections have been provided** by the Government and the farmers are being benefitted. For this, the Government will provide the necessary **fund of Rs.6,536 crore** to the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation.

Further, **600 electricity connections** will be given for the borewells / open wells in fallow land clusters and borewells to be erected for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe individual beneficiaries under Kalaigharin All village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme.

### **67) Revenue, Disaster Management:**

A dedicated portal for the Department of Agriculture has been developed to link the revenue records and ownership details of the farmers in all the districts for the benefit of allied departments. The Government will take steps to facilitate the farmers to get the Survey Number wise Soil Health status through online, by digitalizing the

soil data. Also, steps will be taken to enter the Crop wise Area Coverage details through online to ensure full coverage.

### **68) Forest Department:**

#### **a. Special committee to review and provide solution for crop damage caused by wild animals:**

Protecting Agricultural crops from Wild animals viz., elephant, wild boar, deer is a major challenge for farmers. Hence, a committee will be constituted under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) with due representation from Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture, Revenue departments and farmers to analyse and recommend measures to safeguard the crops from such damages and to suggest measures to be taken through the Forest Department in accordance with the existing rules. This Committee will submit a comprehensive report on the remedial measures in consultation with legal experts to the Government after visiting various parts of the State and meeting the farmers.

**b) Government of Tamil Nadu, under "Green Tamil Nadu Mission"** is promoting agro forestry by providing high value tree saplings such as sandal, red sanders, teak, rosewood etc at free of cost to farmers. Farmers face some procedural difficulties while felling and transporting mature high value trees from farmers' fields. To address

this, the State Government will take necessary steps to simplify the procedure for cutting and transportation of these high value tree crops grown in agricultural lands under agroforestry scheme and help them realise their returns.

### **69) Sericulture:**

High remuneration from Sericulture has attracted many farmers towards it. To further encourage this, 250 acres of tree mulberry plantation and 100 vermi-compost units will be promoted in the ensuing year at an estimated cost of Rs.50 lakh under Rainfed Area Development. Micro irrigation facility will be promoted in mulberry fields under Per Drop More Crop scheme.

### **70) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises:**

#### **a) Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Agri Export Promotion Corporation, "(TN-ApEx)",**

has been formed as a non-profit organization to act as a lead organization for the promotion of food processing and agricultural exports. Under Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises, assistance for individuals and groups to establish micro food processing units, seed capital assistance to SHGs and assistance for creation of common infrastructure will be provided **at an outlay of Rs.160 crore** from Union and State Government funds.

**b) Agro based industries in the Cauvery delta zone:**

In the last Agriculture Budget, the area between Tiruchirappalli and Nagapattinam was declared as Agro Industrial Corridor and a detailed project report has been prepared to set up the Agro Industrial corridor in the Cauvery delta Zone to enhance the income of the farm families and create employment opportunities for the youth.

Enhanced incentive packages, market linkages, expert guidance and single window facilities will be provided to the aspiring entrepreneurs to start agro-based food processing industries. To facilitate efficient ways of storage, processing and marketing, new industrial estates will be developed with common facilities. A new Regional Startup Hub will be created in Thanjavur by the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission to promote agrotechnological innovations in Cauvery Delta Region. Through this agro industrial corridor, the projects of various sectors related to agriculture will be coordinated and effectively **implemented at an outlay of Rs.1000 crore in the next five years.**

**c) Under the Tamil Nadu Food Processing Policy (TNFPP) 2018,** private entrepreneurs are given various benefits, incentives and subsidies. This policy will be revised in the coming financial year.

During 2023-2024, a sum of **Rs.38,904.4606** Crore is provided in their respective demands for Agriculture- Farmers Welfare department and Agriculture related departments like Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Energy, Water Resources, Rural Development, Revenue, Cooperation, Food, Sericulture, Forest and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department (Annexure-1).

Hon'ble Speaker,

Agriculture is the mother of all other professions. Kahlil Gibran observed that the farmer sows the seeds as though his beloved benefitting will consume the fruits that it bears. World literature has given farmers a noble place. Gibran rightly pointed out that the difference between the rich and the poor is a day's hunger and an hour's thirst. The legendary poet Thiruvalluvar crowned the farmers with the statement that "it is those who live to plough and eat, that live". Even Shakespeare in his play, Macbeth, has mentioned about a farmer who had stocked up his farm's produce with the hope of getting a better price. The lives of farmers have often been ridden with pain caused by the natural calamities.

The Tamil Nadu government has ensconced the farmers, within its secure arms by providing necessary infrastructure for agriculture, compensation for losses and thus ensures to bring a smile to the farmers' faces. As stated by the poet Avoor Moolangizhar in Purananooru

'ஒரு பிடி படியஞ் சீறிடம்  
எழு களிறு புரக்கும் நாடு கிழவோயே!'

That the farmers have in them, the ability to raise crops that yield as much paddy as would suffice to feed seven elephants, from the little space in which just one elephant rests. The crop productivity needs to be enhanced such that it receives world-wide recognition. This Agriculture Budget has been prepared on the basis that Tamil Nadu should be the front runner to the whole country in terms of crop productivity.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the honourable Chief Minister for giving me this great opportunity for the successive third time.

Agriculture does not work in isolation. A complete and balanced meal cannot be provided by just harvesting paddy. It needs science in storing technologies, technology for grinding techniques, support of industries to boil the paddy, horticulture to offer the many vegetables that go into a meal, the hill crops to lend their aromatic spices, the MSME to provide salt to add flavour and Animal Husbandry for value addition in the form of ghee, curds and buttermilk. If these many departments are needed for mere preparation of a complete meal, then it is left to our wild imagination as to how many more departments need to get integrated with agriculture to increase its productivity.

Tamil Nadu has been gradually preparing such an integrated agricultural development plan for two years. The Agriculture-Farmer Welfare Department has been toiling to make stepping stones of the several hurdles, embrace the farmers thoughts and ideas and offer intent listening to their grievances. This Agriculture Budget has thus been prepared in accordance with the financial resources to fulfil the requirement of the farmers to the best possible extent.

In this Agriculture Budget, emphasis is laid on large scale Agriculture Mechanization in view of the labour shortage in agriculture. Mechanisation reduces the cost of cultivation by half. Blue collar jobs will be made available in this sector. Skills of the local youth will dramatically improve. The two major labour-intensive phases in crop production, Planting and harvesting, can be done quickly without having to engage draught animals. This will increase the income of the farmers apart from reducing the loss of produce during harvest.

Poet Kambar in his book 'Er Ezhupathu' states that farmers play a vital role in feeding the world, and their efforts are essential for the world to thrive.

'உழுங்குலத்திற் பிறந்தாரே உலகுய்யப் பிறந்தாரே.'

And our ancient poets assert that the farmers save the lives of people by providing food.

‘‘உண்டி கொடுத்தோர் உயிர் கொடுத்தோரே;’’

Thus, various schemes have been announced in this Agriculture budget for the upliftment of the farmers who are engaged in the most honourable service of feeding the people.

The awards that have so far been given to achievers in paddy production, has now been extended to producers of other crops too as the Tamil Nadu Government is proactive in popularizing Millets. Awards in the name of Nammazhvar will be presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in Republic Day celebration. Replenishment of water bodies, infrastructure development in hamlets and marketing of agricultural produce will be the strategies to increase farmers' income. We have consolidated all these efforts into this single document - Agriculture Budget. Agriculture can flourish only if all the schemes are implemented in an integrated manner.

As I requested in the first Agriculture Budget, I implore the kindness of the honourable members of this assembly to apportion funds from their Constituency Development Fund whenever the need emanates so as to bridge any gaps that may arise beyond the scope of this Budget, to take the sector forward to reach the zenith. During our consultative meetings, numerous suggestions were received from farmers. Although we desire to include all their recommendations, we have drafted this



Agriculture Budget within the ambit of the financial restrictions imposed upon us.

In this Agriculture Budget, I have emphasized that the agriculture sector is not only thriving, but is gaining momentum by the day with the steady rise in productivity. The farmers braved all the impediments, nature's fury and have contributed to the rise in agricultural productivity. The good governance over the last two years have brought copious rains, leaving all water bodies overflowing. Some of them are remaining full rendering it difficult for the Water Resources Department to undertake desilting activities.

Agricultural growth cannot be achieved when only the farmers work towards it. New and innovative technologies, new crop varieties must be provided to farmers continuously. Agricultural universities and colleges should strive towards developing new high yielding varieties. Department officials should get to the grassroots with the intention to take up better extension activities than last year. Farmers should be become enthusiastic about winning the first prize for highest yield in the State.

Therefore, it is evident that agriculture is flourishing with the support of industries, micro, small and medium industries, information technology, energy, rural development, cooperative sector, water resources, animal husbandry, fisheries and sericulture departments. Instead

of complacent that we have attained self-sufficiency, we should strive further together with greater conviction so that the farmers of Tamil Nadu can cultivate various crops and attain maximum prosperity.

I believe that this Agriculture Budget will act as a bridge to further improve the initiatives in the years to come.

As the two Agriculture Budgets of Tamil Nadu were well presented to the Assembly in the last two years, the Third Agricultural Budget too has been prepared with sincere efforts for which I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Secretary, Dr. V. Irai Anbu, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Thiru. N.Muruganantham, IAS, and Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Thiru.C.Samayamoorthy, IAS.

**Vazhga Tamil Nadu ! Valarga Velanmai !**

**Nandri ! Vanakkam**

**ANNEXURE – I**  
**Outlay under Capital and Revenue under Agriculture & Allied Sectors During**  
**2023-24**

Rupees in Thousands

S. No.	Name	BE 2022-23	BE 2023-24		
		Total	Capital	Revenue	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Agriculture	9,368,65,14	55,10,03	10,716,93,10	10,772,03,13
2	Horticulture and Plantation Crops	1,967,32,23	5,46,89	1,389,74,55	1,395,21,44
3	Agricultural Engineering	937,48,04	24,01,93	831,51,82	855,53,75
4	Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business	316,68,91	34,42,13	243,29,33	277,71,46
5	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	471,75,25	10,00,00	606,68,93	616,68,93
6	Seed Certification and Organic Certification	45,66,36	...	61,99,12	61,99,12
7	Sugar Department	7,04,87	...	253,52,52	253,52,52
8	Animal Husbandry	932,08,66	141,08,33	921,23,69	1062,32,02
9	Dairy Development	63,45,66	81,07,75	41,59,12	122,66,87
10	Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare (Inland Fisheries)	1,157,22,41	739,85,05	616,76,49	1,356,61,54
11	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	372,96,28	...	374,10,95	374,10,95
12	Tamil Nadu Fisheries University, Nagapattinam	58,13,80	...	52,83,17	52,83,17
13	Co-Operation (Crop Loan)	200,00,00		350,00,00	350,00,00
14	Civil Supplies Department (DPC Procurement)	7,501,78,01	1,10,00	10,500,64,96	10,501,74,96
15	Rural Development & Panchayat (MGNREGS, Rural Road, NRML and AGAMT)	4,184,61,99	905,82,46	3,985,80,06	4,891,62,52
16	Food Processing (MSME)	381,84,00	...	176,06,17	176,06,17

S. No.	Name	BE 2022-23	BE 2023-24		
		Total	Capital	Revenue	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
17	Sericulture	80,97,97	...	90,59,90	90,59,90
18	Forestry (Agro Forestry/ Man- animal Conflict)	731,22,46	391,66,51	695,53,30	1087,19,81
19	Revenue (SDRF/ Crop Damage/ Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam)	434,05,03	...	369,50,52	369,50,52
20	Canal Restoration - Major Works	3,794,76,80	4,236,47,28		4,236,47,28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33,007,73,87</b>	<b>6,626,08,36</b>	<b>32,278,37,70</b>	<b>38,904,46,06</b>



