



AGRICULTURE INTERIM BUDGET 2026 - 2027

**SPEECH OF THE MINISTER FOR
AGRICULTURE - FARMERS WELFARE**

Thiru. M.R.K. PANNEERSELVAM

**Thiruvalluvar Aandu - 2057, Masi 05,
17-02-2026**

Honourable Speaker !

The farmers possess the honour of giving life to all the living beings on earth. If the farmers don't toil in the soil, the survival of humanity itself cannot be guaranteed.

Through the verse "**உழுவார் உலகத்தார்க்கு ஆணி**" the poet-saint Thiruvalluvar, has emphasized that the farmers are the linchpin of the world. In the year 2021-22, the Department of Agriculture was renamed as Agriculture-Farmers Welfare Department placing greater emphasis on the welfare of farmers and several special schemes were also initiated for their upliftment.

An exclusive budget for agriculture was introduced for the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu during the year 2021-22. As per the guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, 28 consultative meetings were held across the state with various stakeholders like farmers, farmer associations, Organic farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations, representatives of agricultural input dealers' association, agricultural machinery manufacturers, seed producers, Traders, Egg and Dairy farmers, marine and inland fishermen, agricultural experts and people's representatives. Their suggestions

were received both directly and through e-mail and petitions. Based on the inputs received from various stakeholders, an allocation of Rs.1,94,076 crore has been made towards the agriculture and allied sectors in the last five Agriculture Budgets with the objective of fulfilling the needs of farmers.

I express my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for granting me the rare and esteemed opportunity to present five Agriculture Budgets endowed with various schemes aimed at uplifting the lives of the farmers on the floor of this august Assembly, and for entrusting me with the responsibility of presenting the schemes, activities and achievements of the Agriculture – Farmers Welfare Department as part of the Interim Budget for the year 2026-27.

As the agriculture sector forms the foundation of Tamil Nadu's economic growth, this Government is making sustained and determined efforts to modernize the sector, enhance the income of farmers, increase production and productivity and ensure food and nutritional security.

In order to achieve comprehensive agricultural development across all the 12,525 village Panchayats of Tamil Nadu, **"Kalaignar All Village Integrated**

Agricultural Development Programme” is being implemented in convergence with the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam since the year 2021-22. So far, an expenditure of Rs.707 crore has been incurred, benefitting 61 lakh beneficiaries. A total of 58,712 acres of fallow land has been brought under cultivation including 6,048 acres under perennial horticultural crops and 52,664 acres under short duration agricultural crops. Also, 41,804 acres of individual farmers' fallow lands have been brought into cultivation through bush clearance, levelling and ploughing. Also, 53 lakh Coconut seedlings have been distributed to encourage Coconut cultivation besides distributing and 21 lakh fruit seedling kits to ensure nutritional security in rural areas. Bore wells/ tube wells have been created to support cultivation for 2,115 Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe farmers.

A total of 10,588 minor irrigation tanks, oorunies, supply channels and water storage structures have been desilted and improved. Also, 885 drying yards with sorting and grading hall have been constructed.

The implementation of various components such as the distribution of 1.32 lakh sprayers, supply of crop production inputs, technology dissemination, training programmes and creation of irrigation and value-addition

infrastructure has significantly benefited farmers in the selected Village Panchayats.

With the objective of protecting soil fertility and promoting organic farming practices for the welfare of the people, a flagship scheme titled **“Chief Minister’s Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom Scheme”** was introduced in Tamil Nadu from 2024-25 and implemented with an allocation of **Rs.178 crore, benefiting about 21.35 lakh farmers.** In the year 2025-26 also, this scheme is being implemented with an allocation of **Rs.142 crore by integrating 15 components.** As a result, health of the soil, which sustains both crops and living beings has improved leading to better crop growth and enhanced human health. I am pleased to inform this August Assembly that the implementation of components such as distribution of green manure seeds, soil health management, establishment of organic input production centres, promotion of organic farming and agroforestry, **with a total outlay of Rs.320 crore, has contributed significantly to the improvement of soil and human health.**

Nammazhwar propagated natural farming by emphasizing that **“The earth is our mother, whatever**

happens to her will happen to us tomorrow; because the earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth,". Following his philosophy, various initiatives are being implemented to promote natural farming. In particular, the '**Nammazhwar Organic Farming Research Centre**' has been established in Coimbatore in his honour. This centre undertakes research, training and demonstrations related to organic farming. Projects such as the National Mission on Natural Farming, the Organic Farming Development Scheme in the Nilgiris District, creation of model farms for organic farming, and complete exemption from registration fees for obtaining organic farming certificates are also being implemented.

Under Nel Jayaraman's Traditional Paddy Varieties Conservation Mission, 900 metric tonnes of seeds of traditional paddy varieties have been produced and distributed to 70,000 farmers. Seeds of traditional varieties of millets, pulses and traditional medicinal paddy varieties like Sivan samba have been produced and distributed.

The '**Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy**' has been approved to promote agroforestry and will be released shortly. In order to enable the farmers to cultivate high-

value trees like Teak, Sandalwood, Red sanders, Mahogany etc., without apprehension, the policy provides for relaxation of rules on felling and transportation of felled trees, provision of necessary assistance for planting and maintenance, and formulation and implementation of schemes to promote Agroforestry.

Mettur Dam was opened as per schedule for paddy cultivation in Kuruvai season for the past five years to increase the area of paddy cultivation and to enhance the food grain production in the Cauvery Delta regions. **Kuruvai Special Package Scheme** was implemented at a cost of Rs.482 crore benefiting 19.51 lakh farmers.

In the year 2025–26, for the first time, a special package for paddy cultivation in the Kar/Kuruvai/Sornavari seasons was implemented in Non-Delta districts with an expenditure of Rs.115 crore. As a result, in the year 2025–26, paddy is cultivated across 12.48 lakh acre across Tamil Nadu during the Kuruvai season reflecting an increase of 3 lakh acres compared to the previous year.

"நாடாக ஒன்றோ காடாக ஒன்றோ
 அவலாக ஒன்றோ மிகையாக ஒன்றோ
 எவ்வழி நல்லவர் ஆடவர்
 அவ்வழி நல்லவை வாழிய நிலனே" (புராநாநுரு-187)

**"Whether you are a country or a forest,
 whether your position is low or high, wherever
 the people are virtuous, there the land
 prospers-long live that land!"**

These lines from *Purananuru* beautifully convey that the character and capability of human resources determine the prosperity and progress of a nation. Guided by this principle, the scheme of making youth into Agri Entrepreneurs was implemented from 2021-22 to 2024-25 under which 456 young graduates were encouraged to establish Agriculture based enterprises with a subsidy of Rs.4.56 crore provided for this purpose.

Moreover, with the objective of ensuring availability of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and technical advisory services to farmers in the vicinity of their villages, the **Chief Ministers' 1000 Farmers Service Centres Scheme has been recently launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.**

30% subsidy ranging from Rs.3 lakh to Rs.6 lakh is extended to Agriculture, Horticulture, Agri-Engineering graduates and diploma holders for establishing the Farmers Service Centres.

With a view to strengthening nutritional security and improving public health through the promotion of traditional, nutrient-rich food practices, the Government has distributed 21 lakh nutrition kits at a total cost of Rs.21 crore during the period from 2021–22 to 2024–25.

Further, during 2025–26, the Government has introduced the “Nutrition Farming Mission”. Under this initiative, 15 lakh vegetable seed kits, 9 lakh fruit kits and 1 lakh pulses seed kits have been distributed to a total of 25 lakh beneficiaries at a cost of Rs.19 crore. Because of this, vegetables and fruits are produced adequately thus avoiding shortage and ensuring nutritional security.
Recognising the importance of fruits and vegetables in enhancing immunity and ensuring nutritional security, focused efforts are being undertaken for area expansion, promoting high-tech cultivation practices and mulching.

Honourable Speaker!

With the aim of increasing the production and consumption of millets that significantly contribute to the

well-being of the people, **Tamil Nadu Millet Mission** is being implemented as a five year scheme from 2023-24, and so far, 12.84 lakh farmers have been benefited with an expenditure of Rs. 178 crore. Millets have been cultivated in an area of 20 lakh acre. In addition, cluster demonstrations have been laid in an area of 3.36 lakh acre and 90 millet value addition centres have been established.

As a result, at the national level, Tamil Nadu has ranked first in Ragi productivity, second in Ragi production and fifth in Minor millets production. The area under Cumbu cultivation area has increased from 1.18 lakh acre to 1.33 lakh acre.

The Pulses Development Scheme has been implemented with an expenditure of Rs.174 crore in an area of 24 lakh acre benefitting 9.44 lakh farmers over the last five years, to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses and to ensure nutritional security. Redgram Area Expansion Mission and Transplanted Redgram Cultivation Scheme are being implemented to increase area under Redgram cultivation with an expenditure of Rs.66 crore covering 2.52 lakh acres and benefitting 1.48 lakh farmers.

To achieve self-sufficiency in oilseed production, under **the Oilseeds Mission**, critical inputs and subsidies for advanced production technologies are being provided for the cultivation of oilseed crops such as Groundnut and Gingelly. Over the past five years, Oilseeds cultivation has been encouraged in 14 lakh acre with an allocation of Rs.229 crore benefitting 7.54 lakh farmers.

Considering the heavy demand prevailing for Maize in Ethanol production and animal feed production, various scheme components have been implemented over the last five years to promote maize cultivation and enhance farmers' income. An expenditure of Rs.78 crore has been incurred, benefiting 1.50 lakh farmers.

Consequently, the area under maize has increased from 10 lakh acres to 12 lakh acres and production has increased from 26 lakh MT to 27 lakh MT.

To ensure timely farming operations and to address the shortage of agricultural labourers, a total of 77,499 agricultural machineries and implements have been provided to farmers. Further, 1,320 Custom Hiring Centres have also been established. A total subsidy of Rs.783 crore has been sanctioned in the past five years. It is pertinent note that, only 29,945 machineries and

implements were provided to farmers in the preceding five years.

For ensuring uninterrupted power supply to farmers for irrigation through renewable energy, 4,150 Solar powered pumpsets have been installed with a subsidy assistance of Rs.83 crore. Further, 5,954 new electric motor pumpsets have been provided with a subsidy of Rs.7.67 crore.

Further, 3,816 agricultural machinery and implements of the Agricultural Engineering Department are being hired out to farmers at Government fixed nominal hire charges through **the “e-Vaadagai” mobile App.** The fleet strength for hiring stood at only 1,265 machineries and implements during 2020–21. The e-Vaadagai service has since been substantially strengthened through the procurement of a significant number of additional machineries over the last five years.

Honourable Speaker !

Realising the timeless wisdom of Thiruvalluvar that “நிலத்தொடு நீர் இயைந்து” land and water are intrinsically interconnected, the Government has undertaken concerted efforts to ensure adequate irrigation facilities for sustainable agriculture in Tamil Nadu. Accordingly,

2 lakh new free electricity connections have been provided to the farmers during the past five years.

The Government has also sanctioned Rs.33,904 crore towards meeting the cost of providing free electricity to 23.86 lakh agricultural service connections.

To enhance crop production through efficient use of irrigation water, the **Micro Irrigation Scheme** is being implemented with special focus. Under this scheme, 100 percent subsidy is provided to Small and Marginal farmers and 75 percent subsidy is provided to other farmers. Micro-irrigation systems have been installed in 5 lakh ha at a cost of Rs. 4,061 crore benefitting 5.13 lakh farmers in the past five years.

Apart from opening the Mettur Dam at scheduled times to fill the granaries with paddy grains by spreading a blanket of paddy panicles across Cauvery delta, desilting of 'C' and 'D' channels in Cauvery, Vennar and Vellar sub basins and Grand Anicut canal ayacut areas has been carried out for a length of 8,371 km at a cost of Rs.33.77 crore in the past five years to ensure irrigation water to the tail end areas. Through the Water Resources Department, 4,580 desilting works have been carried out in the dam ayacut areas at a cost of Rs.498 crore.

Watershed Development Programme is being implemented in seven districts viz., Perambalur, Thoothukudi, Dindigul, Krishnagiri, Ramanathapuram, Dharmapuri and Virudhunagar under which various natural resource management works are being carried in 357 watersheds covering an area of around 2 lakh ha out at an estimated cost of Rs.369 crore.

I take pride in informing this august Assembly that as a result of these initiatives, an additional area of 3.48 lakh ha has been brought under irrigation in Tamil Nadu.

Horticultural crops such as vegetables, fruits, and spices generate higher income and enhance nutritional security even from smaller holdings. These are being widely promoted through various schemes such as Fruit Crops Promotion Programme, Jackfruit Mission, Moringa Mission, Chilli Zone, Onion Cultivation Mission, Curry Leaf Cluster, Area Expansion of Special Horticultural Crops and the Mukkani Development Scheme.

The area of vegetable crops like **Tomato, Bhendi, Brinjal, Moringa** has been expanded in an area of 1 lakh ha and permanent pandal structures have been erected in an area of 1,979 ha. A total subsidy of Rs.259 crore has been provided 1.68 lakh farmers.

For promoting fruit crops, area expansion of **Mango, Jackfruit, Banana, Guava, and Papaya** has been taken up in an area of 36,555 ha with a subsidy of Rs.72.47 crore benefiting 48,580 farmers.

To expand the cultivation of globally renowned, export-oriented spice crops such as **Chilli, Turmeric, Pepper, Cardamom, Clove and Nutmeg**, in an area of 22,980 ha, a subsidy assistance of Rs.32 crore has been provided to 29,855 farmers.

To facilitate daily income to farmers, flower crops like **Jasmine, Rose, Chrysanthemum, Marigold and Tuberose** have been promoted with a subsidy of Rs.28 crore for area expansion in an area of 11,380 ha, benefiting 18,130 farmers.

Protected cultivation components such as **polyhouses and shadenet houses** are being promoted to enable farmers to cultivate high-value horticultural crops like Capsicum and Carnation throughout the year under controlled conditions. Under this scheme, 1,756 farmers have been provided with a subsidy of Rs.91 crore to erect 23.55 lakh square meters of polyhouses and shadenet houses.

Considering the importance of cashew, an essential commercial crop of Tamil Nadu, 8,400 ha has been brought under cashew cultivation over the past five years at an outlay of Rs.12 crore, benefiting 9,687 farmers.

Due to these initiatives of the Government, Tamil Nadu stands first in Tapioca and Jasmine area, first in productivity of Amla, Cabbage and Radish and second in productivity of Tapioca, Jasmine, Jack and Guava at National level.

In order to reduce post-harvest losses, increase market value and improve the livelihood of farmers, 3,435 pack houses, 5 cold storages with a capacity of 8,218 MT, and onion storage structures with a capacity of 3.44 lakh MT have been established in the last five years at a cost of Rs.175 crore, benefiting 15,606 farmers.

Coconut Development

Coconut remains as the basis of livelihood of lakhs of farmers. Hence, to enhance the production and productivity of coconut, various components such as Establishment of Regional Coconut Nurseries, Laying out of Demonstration Plots, Establishment of organic manure units, Replanting and Rejuvenation of Coconut gardens

have been implemented over the past five years in 17,860 ha at an outlay of Rs.54 crore, benefiting 26,800 farmers.

Under the Coconut Root Wilt Management Scheme, activities such as removal of diseased palms, free distribution of coconut seedlings and provision of inputs for rejuvenation of affected plantation have been carried out in 3,943 ha at a cost of Rs.18.48 crore during 2023–24 and 2024–25 in Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Theni, Tenkasi and Kanyakumari districts benefiting 6,300 farmers. Moreover, advisories on technological interventions were provided to farmers through special campaigns due to which 17,816 ha of coconut area was revived from Coconut Root Wilt disease.

Palmyra Development

Considering the importance of Palmyrah , the State Tree of Tamil Nadu, **Palmyra Development Mission** is being implemented from 2021-22 onwards. Under this scheme, over the past five years, 68 lakh palmyra seeds and 1.28 lakh seedlings have been distributed, 354 value-addition units have been established through the Department of Horticulture.

The Tamil Nadu Palm Products Development Board has provided 1,350 individuals with training and equipments for production of palmyrah value-added products and also 650 women were provided with training and equipments for making palmyrah leaf products. This scheme has been implemented with an expenditure of Rs. 9.17 crore, benefiting 1.45 lakh beneficiaries. Further, a Common Facilitation Centre has been established for quality palm jaggery production at Veerapandiyapattinam in Thoothukudi district. In the past five years, Rs.80 crore worth palm products have been produced and sold.

Everything for Everyone

The guiding principle of "**Everything for Everyone**" of the Government, aims to achieve inclusive growth. Accordingly, 70% subsidy is extended by the State Government for high-value components such as Integrated Farming System, Polygreen houses, Shadenet houses, Agricultural mechanization, Value-addition machinery and Solar pump sets to the small and marginal farmers belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories. Over the last four years, an additional subsidy amounting to Rs.62 crore has been extended, benefiting 17,340 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers across the State.

Borewells or tube wells along with electric motors or Solar powered pumpsets have been installed with 100 percent subsidy for 2,115 individual SC/ST farmers at an expenditure of Rs.122 Crore.

Produced by Farmers; Price ensured by Government

"நிலத்துக்கு அணியென்ப நெல்லும் கரும்பும்"- In consonance with the Naladiyar stanza, **"Paddy and Sugarcane are shining Ornaments of the cultivated field"**, the Government of Tamil Nadu is extending special incentives for Paddy and Sugarcane to encourage farmers extensively cultivating these crops and to enhance their income. A special incentive of Rs.156 per quintal for Grade A paddy and Rs.131 per quintal for Common paddy has been fixed for Kharif 2025-2026 Marketing season. Accordingly, the procurement prices for Grade A and Common paddy have been increased to Rs.2,545 and Rs.2,500 respectively. **In the last five years, 186 lakh metric tonne of paddy have been procured, and Rs.2,118 crore has been provided as incentive.**

Compared to 2020-21, the paddy procurement incentive has been increased by 123 percent for Grade A and 162 percent for common variety.

From the 2020-21 crop season, a special incentive is being provided for sugarcane in addition to the Fair and Remunerative Price fixed by the Union Government. A special incentive of Rs.349 per MT of sugarcane has been announced for the 2024-25 crushing season, thereby fixing the increased cane price at Rs.3,500 per MT. In the last five years, Rs.1,094 crore has been provided as incentive to 5.70 lakh sugarcane farmers.

Apart from these, in order to protect farmers from income loss during periods of price fall, a total of 12,236 MT of Greengram, Black gram, and Red gram worth Rs.96.66 crore have been procured from 10,690 farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). In addition, 1.47 lakh MT of Copra worth Rs.1,600 crore have been procured from one lakh farmers at Minimum Support Price.

Honourable Speaker!

The Government extends steadfast support to safeguard farmers' livelihoods whenever they suffer crop losses due to natural calamities.

Natural Calamity Relief

During the last five years, an area of 184 lakh acre has been insured under the Crop Insurance scheme by enrolling about 80 lakh farmers and the Tamil Nadu Government has contributed Rs.6073 crore as premium subsidy. So far, under this scheme, an amount of Rs.6063 crore has been provided to 38 lakh farmers as compensation for crop yield loss.

In Tamil Nadu, due to climate change, natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and droughts have become frequent. In order to safeguard the livelihoods of farmers affected by crop losses, an amount of Rs.2,045 crore has been provided over the last five years as relief assistance to 25.36 lakh farmers for Agricultural and Horticultural crop damages caused in an area of 16.20 lakh ha.

Besides this, 3,765 acres of agricultural fields affected by sand deposits due to flooding by heavy downpour in Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi Districts during the year 2023-24 were removed by the Agricultural Engineering Department with an expenditure of Rs.6 crore benefiting 2,580 farmers.

Agri Exhibitions and Seminars

In accordance with the guidance of the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Agricultural Exhibitions and Seminars were conducted at three locations, Tiruchirapalli, Perundurai in Erode district, and Tiruvannamalai and the **Agribusiness Expo was organized** twice at the Nandambakkam Trade Centre in Chennai. Modern technologies, innovations, agricultural machinery and tools, post-harvest management techniques, value-addition methods, and livestock and fish farming technologies were showcased. Approximately, 9 lakh farmers, students and members of the general public visited these exhibitions and benefited. In these expos, agricultural produce and value added products worth around Rs.7 crore was sold by Farmer Producer Companies, entrepreneurs.

During the last five years, a maximum of 137 lakh MT of agricultural produce has been transacted in the Regulated Markets.

Infrastructure facilities including 69 storage Godowns with a total capacity of 75,500 metric tonnes, 78 drying yards, buildings for 28 regulated markets in the regulated markets and drying yard with grading and sorting facilities in the villages have been established at a total cost of

Rs.368 crore. Additionally, a new regulated market has been established at Alangulam in Tenkasi district and a Turmeric Export Centre has been set up in Erode district at a cost of Rs.15 crore. Further, infrastructure facilities in 200 Regulated Markets have been upgraded at an estimated cost of Rs. 97.30 crore benefiting approximately 3.57 lakh farmers.

In the past five years, an additional 150 Regulated Markets have been integrated with the e-National Agriculture Market (eNAM). Around 30 lakh metric tonnes of agricultural produce worth Rs 8,748 crore have been transacted through this platform, benefiting 18 lakh farmers. Also, the eNAM trade which was at 1.8 lakh MT in 2020-21 has now been increased to 8 lakh MT due to the serious efforts of this Government.

In the past five years, new cold storage facilities with a capacity of 1,000 MT each have been established at Panruti and Oddanchathiram. Five cold storage units with a total capacity of 1,750 MT have been established for storing vegetables and fruits in Erode district. These facilities are currently being utilized by farmers, traders, entrepreneurs, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Additionally, cold storage units with a total capacity of 600 MT are being established at

Thondamuthur, Ilayankudi, Thisayanvilai and Naidumangalam. An outlay of Rs.27 crore has been made for cold storages alone.

The unique scheme “**Uzhavar Sandhais**” conceived by Muthamizh Arignar Dr. Kalaignar continues to function successfully. At present 194 Uzhavar Sandhais are operational with the objective of ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce and providing farm vegetables and fruits to consumers on a daily basis. During last five years, 15 new Uzhavar Sandhais have been established and 134 have been modernized at a cost of Rs 46.45 crore. In addition, 30 mobile vegetable vehicles are operating in corporation areas and evening Uzhavar Sandhais are operated in 37 districts at one Uzhavar Sandhai per district.

I take pride in saying that the daily arrival of vegetables and fruits at Uzhavar Sandhais has increased to 2,500 MT and consumer footfall has increased to 4 lakh due to the improvement of basic infrastructure facilities.

Supply Chain Management Project

Under Phase II of the Supply Chain Management Project, 20 Primary Processing Centres equipped with pack houses and cold storage facilities have been

established. These centres help to reduce post-harvest losses, create market linkages and strengthen the economic stability of farmers.

Value Addition Units

A scheme is being implemented to promote value addition of produce such as tomato, mango, jackfruit, chilli, coconut and millets and enable their sale in domestic and export markets. Under this scheme, new projects with an investment of up to Rs.10 crore are eligible for a subsidy ranging from 25 percent to 35 percent, subject to a maximum subsidy of Rs. 1.50 crore. An allocation of Rs 50 crore has been made under this scheme to establish 100 value addition units and the implementation is under progress.

Facilities such as a Market Promotion Centre for edible oils, Agricultural Market Intelligence and Farmer Advisory Centres, Millet and Pepper processing units, a Coconut Value Addition Centre, a Banana Auction Centre, Turmeric value addition machines and an Integrated Rural Agricultural Market Complex have been established at a total cost of Rs.134 crore.

Over the past five years, steps have been taken to obtain **Geographical Indication (GI)** tags for the

State's unique agricultural products. So far, applications have been filed for 41 products. Out of these, nine products viz, Chozhavandan Betel Leaf, Panruti Jackfruit, Panruti Cashew, Virudhunagar Samba Vathal, Ramanathapuram Chithiraikar Rice, Puliyangudi Lemon, Chettikulam Small Onion, Thooyamalli Rice and Kavundapadi Country Jaggery have been granted GI tags. Efforts are being underway to obtain GI recognition for the remaining 32 products.

Export Promotion Initiatives

Export-related training programmes with producer-trader linkages have been held in Virudhunagar and Erode districts for farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and entrepreneurs engaged in the production of value-added food products, benefiting 200 participants. To enhance the sale and export of millets, groundnut and jackfruit, export-oriented training programmes and buyer-seller meet initiatives have also been organized for farmers and FPOs in Virudhunagar and Tiruvannamalai districts.

Committed to safeguarding the welfare of farmers, the Government has undertaken a series of initiatives to strengthen the ecosystem for processing and export of mango and other agricultural produce. A Core Group for

Mango Processing and Export, comprising farmers, processors, exporters and officials, has been constituted, and a comprehensive five-year action plan for promoting mango processing and exports has been initiated. Further, 51 Buyer–Seller Meets involving 2,196 farmers, including mango growers, have been conducted to facilitate direct linkages between mango farmers and traders.

Seven export clusters for mango have been identified and steps are being taken to establish and strengthen infrastructure facilities such as APEDA-certified pack houses, hot water treatment plants, vapour heat treatment plants and cold storage facilities to promote processing and export. Four Food Testing Laboratories are being established at Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Thoothukudi and Chennai. Action is also being taken to register 3,000 mango farmers on the Hortinet platform of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and to provide Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification to 1,000 mango farmers.

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are being actively promoted in Tamil Nadu to enable small and marginal farmers to aggregate produce, undertake value

addition, access markets, engage in exports and secure remunerative prices. FPOs are being supported with equity grants, capital assistance and investment subsidies under various schemes to facilitate activities such as input supply, processing and export. In addition, primary processing centres and value-addition machinery have been established by the Government for the effective utilization by Farmer Producer Organizations.

Honorable Speaker!

Realizing the importance of agricultural education and research in advancing the sector, the Government has allocated Rs.3,065 crore to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University through five exclusive Agricultural Budgets and implemented several new initiatives.

The introduction of Tamil as a medium of instruction for undergraduate programmes in Agriculture and Horticulture at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has greatly benefited students of rural areas who previously faced language barriers. Further, three new Government Agricultural Colleges in Nagapattinam, Sivagangai, Karur Districts and one Horticultural College in Krishnagiri District have been established.

In the past five years, Turmeric Research Centre at BhavaniSagar, Erode District, Banana Research Station and Palmyra Research Station have been newly established in V.O.Chithambaranar Agricultural College and Research Institute at Killikulam, Thoothukudi District. Research is being undertaken to develop new varieties and also for developing short stature palm varieties of the State tree.

In the past five years, 101 crop varieties, 21 cutting-edge technologies and 16 farmer friendly new implements have been released by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. To address field-level challenges scientifically, one agricultural scientist has been integrated with the Department of Agriculture in each block.

Moreover, focused research on **Climate resilient villages, Development of Low Glycemic index rice varieties**, Bio intensive agriculture, mechanization for horticulture crops are being taken up.

Further, schemes like Strengthening Production and Distribution of Parasitoids and Predators for the Management of Coconut Rugose Spiralling Whitefly (RSW), Establishing Organic Produce Testing Laboratories and organizing Agri Hackathon among students and

innovators for choosing the best innovative ideas for providing solutions to major challenges in agriculture under **Dr.M.S. Swaminathan Research Grant** for innovations in Agriculture are being implemented.

An allocation of Rs.134 crore has been made over the last five years for several research activities.

Due to the enhancement of quality of agricultural education in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, the percentage of total undergraduate student admission has increased from 74 percent in 2021 to 97 percent in 2025.

With the objective of delivering all services to farmers through a single platform, 33 lakh unique Farmer IDs have been generated under the Farmer Registry by integrating farmers' land records with their Aadhaar numbers. Further, an exclusive mobile application "**Uzhavar**" has been developed, incorporating 24 major services. So far, about 20 lakh farmers have downloaded the mobile application and are availing various government schemes and services through this app.

"The future of agriculture is not about inputs, but about knowledge. This is the direction that the agricultural systems must travel." as quoted by the Agricultural Scientist, Dr.M.S. Swaminathan, various

trainings have been provided to the farmers, Agri Entrepreneurs, particularly for youth.

“Agricultural Machinery Demonstrator” trainings have been imparted to create employment opportunities for rural youth. For the first time in India, tractor operator trainings are being conducted using modern technologies such as tractor simulators and dual-control tractors and trained candidates are issued valid driving licenses.

A total of 150 farmers has undertaken exposure visits to Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Norway, the Netherlands and Egypt to learn advanced cultivation technologies and best practices.

During the last five years, under the ATMA scheme, 40,213 trainings, 10,034 exposure visits, 2,662 farm schools and 50,110 demonstrations have been conducted at a cost of Rs.128 crore, benefiting around 22 lakh farmers.

In addition, training programmes, demonstrations, exposure visits and seminars have been conducted for about 30,000 individuals, including farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), farmer groups and women engaged in agriculture. The topics such as crop cultivation technologies, beekeeping, value addition, export

technologies, operation and maintenance of agri value-addition machinery and maintenance of micro-irrigation systems have been covered. Further, practical demonstration training on the application of inputs through drones has been provided to 9,300 farmers and alternative livelihood training has been imparted to 2,000 women engaged in agriculture.

Honourable Speaker!

Parks

Parks and gardens play a vital role in enhancing environmental aesthetics and providing recreational spaces for the public. Hence, apart from focusing on increasing the agricultural production and safeguarding the farmers welfare, around 175 acre of government lands that were under the control of certain private entities have been successfully retrieved after prolonged legal proceedings and are now being put to productive public use by developing parks envisioned to meet the growing aspirations of urban residents for accessible and vibrant green spaces. Over the past five years, three parks viz, a **world-class Kalaignar Centenary Park in Chennai**, Kalaignar Centenary Park in Tiruvannamalai, and John Sullivan Park in Kotagiri, Nilgiris district have

been established at a cost of Rs.71 crore, attracting over 8.70 lakh visitors. Further, new parks such as Marutham Park, Neythal Park, Mullai Park, Sun Garden and Guindy Eco park are being developed. Renovation works are also underway at the Government Horticultural Park in Nilgiris district, Madhavaram Horticultural Park in Chennai, Yercaud Park in Salem district and 24 other parks at a total cost of Rs.18.23 crore.

Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Agri Export Promotion Corporation (TNAPEX)

The Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Agri Export Promotion Corporation was established in 2022-2023 to protect the agricultural produce produced through hard labour from wastage and enable farmers to earn more income by facilitating value addition and Agriculture export. The TNAPEX has so far facilitated export market for 5,000 metric tonnes of agricultural and value-added products, benefiting more than 2,000 farmers.

A Value chain has been created for Chillies in Ramanathapuram district and Moringa in Tirunelveli district and the farmers have been linked to the export market.

About 1,000 farmers have registered on the APEDA's Hortinet platform for enhancing the traceability and export readiness of horticultural crops. Further, 35,000 individuals have been benefited through Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings, export promotion, e-commerce, marketing, value addition and awareness campaign on quality certification.

Cooperation

Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS) are the main financial institutions for villages to satiate the requirement of short-term agricultural loan provided for crop cultivation in Tamil Nadu. In the last five years, crop loan to the tune of Rs. 69,457 crore has been disbursed to 83.64 lakh farmers and Rs. 8,938 crore has been disbursed to 16.09 lakh farmers for agriculture-related activities including Animal Husbandry and Fish farming. Also, an amount of Rs.3002 crore has been sanctioned towards interest subvention and also incentive for prompt repayment in respect of crop loans and loans for agriculture-related activities including Animal Husbandry and Fish farming.

As part of converting the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies into 'multi-service centres',

4,421 agricultural machinery and implements have been purchased by the PACCS and hired out to farmers at nominal charges.

Food and Consumer Protection

At the time when the government led by the Hon'ble Chief Minister assumed charge in 2021, there were godowns with a capacity of one lakh MT in operation. In order to procure and safely store the paddy grains realised by the farmers through hard labour, **253 modern paddy storage godowns with a capacity of 4 lakh MT were newly constructed in the last five years** at an estimated cost of Rs.331 crore and inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Besides, **130 modern storage facilities with a capacity of 3.30 lakh MT at an estimated cost of Rs.495 crore are being constructed** with an aim of "**not to waste even a single paddy grain**" during floods.

Animal Husbandry

Livestock remain supportive to farmers and provide draught (labour), milk and manure for years and are entwined with agriculture. Hence by safeguarding the welfare of livestock and thereby increase farmers' income & the rural economy, the Department of Animal

Husbandry is implementing multifarious welfare schemes. Artificial insemination is being done for about 56 lakh cattle to fulfil the aim of one calf per cow per year. Annually deworming treatment is administered to 398 lakh cattle.

Green fodder has been cultivated in farmers' field to an extent of 23,000 acres in the last 5 years to ensure the availability of green fodder to cattle throughout the year and to increase the milk production, 10,000 power driven chaff cutters were provided to farmers at 50 percent subsidy to minimize the wastage of fodder and increase the digestibility of cattle.

About 38,800 destitute women/widows were provided with 5 goats/sheep each at 100 percent subsidy at a cost of Rs.75.63 crore to generate income. An amount of Rs. 17.20 crore was expended to set up 660 poultry farms for promoting poultry farming & generate income for rural women and to provide 40 country chickens each to 38,700 rural women for promoting backyard poultry.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has laid the foundation stone at 31 locations for setting up integrated livestock farms at a cost of Rs.88.42 crore and a modern integrated meat production cum meat processing complex

at Kattupakkam, Chengalpattu district at a cost of Rs. 30 crore. Livestock population will be scaled up and thereby increase the export of livestock products, create employment opportunities and pave way for the economic progress of the country.

Dairy

Milk production is the livelihood source of rural people, especially rural women. The main objective of the Milk Producers Federation / cooperative is to ensure fair milk procurement price to milk producers throughout the year and to sell quality milk to milk consumers at fair price. Considering the increase in input prices and the cost of milk production, an incentive of Rs. 3/- per litre for milk has been provided to all the members supplying milk to Primary Milk Producers Cooperative Societies, from 18.12.2023 to December 2025. An amount of Rs.729 crore has been disbursed as milk procurement incentive due to which 3.6 lakh milk producers are getting benefited.

Further, milk testing kits have been provided to all Milk Producers Cooperative Societies to facilitate the members supplying milk to Primary Milk Producers Cooperative Societies to have a tab on the quantity and

quality of milk and instant acknowledgement slips are being issued to the milk producers.

In order to provide steady and additional income throughout the year to 5,000 members of Milk Producers Cooperative Societies and women, a "Mini Dairy Scheme" with 4 per cent interest subvention is being implemented with an allocation of Rs.150 crore as subsidy.

Fishery

The protein requirement of the rural population is being fulfilled to a significant extent through inland fisheries. Farmers also engage in fish farming to earn high income. In the last five years, 48 crore fish fingerlings were produced in government fish farms and stocked in public water bodies, reservoirs and irrigation ponds. This has increased the inland fish production from 1.75 lakh MT to 2.67 lakh MT. The infrastructure facilities of the government fish farms have been upgraded at a cost of Rs. 101 crore. Due to this, the production capacity of Government fish farm in fish fingerlings has been increased from 12 crore to 15 crore.

A subsidy assistance of Rs. 45 crore has been provided to 3,147 beneficiaries for setting up of fish farms, bio-floc fish farms, ornamental fish farms, fish feed

mills, etc. During 2025-26, Kisan Credit Cards worth Rs.34 crore were provided to 1,739 fishermen and fish farmers. Under the 'Alaigal' Scheme, microcredit assistance of Rs.7.76 crore has been provided to 15,525 beneficiaries.

Under the Special Livelihood Scheme, 6,865 fishermen beneficiaries were trained at a cost of Rs. 1.68 crore as a part of the **Tamil Nadu 'Vetri Nitchayam' Scheme** and additionally an amount of Rs.81 lakh was provided as skill incentive. Totally 5,130 trained fishermen were facilitated to engage in livelihood activities under various government schemes.

Hon'ble Speaker!

Mahatma Gandhi insisted on Development of Villages by saying that "**the soul of India lives in its villages**"

As Agriculture Development and Rural Development are inter-dependent, several initiatives for Agriculture Development are also undertaken by the Rural Development Department. In order to improve the water and land resources in rural areas, activities such as renovation of 68,930 traditional water bodies, desilting of 1 lakh supply and irrigation canals, construction of 29,800 check dams, 31,325 groundwater recharge

systems and 83,015 planting works (2.78 crore saplings) were carried out in the last five years. Further, in order to improve the livelihood of small/marginal/Adi Dravidar/Tribal farmers and poor families headed by women in rural areas, 5,649 irrigation wells, 33,853 farm ponds, 2.66 lakh earthen and stone bunds were constructed in the last five years besides completion of 4,323 land development at a cost of Rs. 15,236 crore.

Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission

Based on the premise that investing in the progress of a woman benefits the entire family, various farm-related activities such as Tool Banks, Non-Pesticide Management Shops, Bio-input production units, Beekeeping, Aquaculture, Sheep/goat rearing, Piggery, Backyard poultry, Moringa cultivation, Millet cultivation, Seed production, Coconut seedling production, Nutrigarden, Green fodder production, Azolla cultivation, Mushroom production and Groundnut cultivation were implemented through women self-help groups in the last 5 years at a cost of Rs. 53 crore.

Revenue and Disaster Management

Chief Minister's Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam

is being implemented to protect the farmers and their

families; so far, an amount of Rs. 819 crore has been provided to 6.47 lakh beneficiaries as assistance for education, marriage, accident, death etc.,

Further, as per the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, for landless agricultural labourers, the Relief for death due to accident has been increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh, Relief for disability due to accident from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 1 lakh, Assistance for natural death from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 and Assistance for funeral expenses from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 10,000.

Forest

Government is committed in bringing the tree and forest cover to 33 percent in Tamil Nadu. As a part of this, agroforestry is being largely promoted across the state under the **Green Tamil Nadu Mission** to increase the green cover outside forests, **improve the climate resilience of agricultural lands** and increase the income of farmers. Totally 3.24 crore saplings were produced and distributed in the last five years. An area of 2.24 lakh acres has been brought under agroforestry. The Tamil Nadu Rosewood Trees (Conservation) Act, 1994 has

not been extended beyond 13.02.2025 to encourage the cultivation of Rosewood trees.

Apart from this, **the guidelines for killing wild boars have been formulated and are in vogue to protect the farmers from crop damages caused by wild animals, especially wild boars.**

Thus, every scheme in the Agriculture - Farmers' Welfare Department aimed for increasing the farmers' income, improving production and productivity, ensuring food, nutrition security and sustainable agricultural development are being systematically implemented.

With such remarkable activities, all measures are being taken to ensure that the cultivable area is not reduced due to climate change and natural calamities. During 2024-25, the double cropped area has increased to 13.99 lakh ha. This is an increase of about 2 lakh ha compared to 2019-20.

The average Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in agriculture which was at 1.36 percent from 2012-13 to 2020-21 has risen to 3.03 percent during 2021-22 to 2024-25. The GSVA has increased by about 9.97 percent (from Rs.53,75,639 Lakh to Rs.59,11,708 Lakh)

in 2024-25 compared to the constant prices of the base year 2011-12.

The Government's focus on Agriculture is evident from the fact that an amount of Rs.34,220 crore allocated in the budget during 2021-22 has been increased to Rs.45,661 crore in 2025-26 with an increase of over Rs.11,000 crore.

In the Interim Budget for the year 2026-27, an amount of Rs.47,248.24 Crore has been allocated for Agriculture-Farmers Welfare Department and the farmers' welfare schemes will continue to be implemented.

Honourable Speaker!

“உழவனோர் மன்னர்

நாற்று முடியிருக்கும் அவர் தலையில்

உழவனோர் வீரர்- என்றால்

போர் கிருக்கும் அவன் களத்தில்

உழவனோர் ஒவியன் - வயல்கள் அனைத்தும் அவன் வரைந்த சித்திரம்

உழவன் ஒர் தெய்வம்-உயிர்களைக் காப்பதால்”

The Honble Chief Minster of Tamil Nadu keeping in mind the words of **Muthamizh Arignar Dr Kalaignar** in eulogising the farmers has advised to carry out all activities for protecting the farmers welfare and uplifting the farming sector exceptionally.

With the surpassing guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, I wish to say that all the schemes related to Agriculture and allied sectors envisioned by the Hon'ble Chief Minister for improving the farmers' livelihood and flourishing of Agriculture will be continued.

I thank the Hon'ble Ministers, Members of this Legislative Assembly and officers for their fullest co-operation in the last five years.

Similar to the exceptional preparation and presentation of the past five Agriculture Budgets, this interim Agriculture Budget has been prepared in the same spirit including all the milestones achieved during the last five years for which I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Secretary to the Government, Thiru.N.Muruganandam, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Thiru.T.Udhayachandran, I.A.S., Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government Thiru.V.Dakshinamoorthy I.A.S., and Head of the Departments.

வாழ்க தமிழ் ! வாழ்க தமிழ்நாடு !

வளர்க வேளாண்மை! ஒங்குக உழவர்நலன்!

நன்றி ! வணக்கம்.

ANNEXURE

**Outlay under Capital and Revenue under Agriculture & Allied Sectors
During 2026-2027**

Rupees in Thousands

S. No	Department	BE 2025-26	BE 2026-27		
			Capital	Revenue	TOTAL
1	Directorate of Agriculture	11,575,57,87	120,00,04	11,464,15,68	11,584,15,72
2	Directorate of Horticulture and Plantation Crops	1,665,16,44	---	1,777,73,82	1,777,73,82
3	Agricultural Engineering Department	709,69,49	18,22,37	658,79,15	677,01,52
4	Directorate of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business	245,53,22	14,89,26	263,64,34	278,53,60
5	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	708,84,19	40,00,00	731,79,28	771,79,28
6	Directorate of Seed Certification	73,86,79	---	78,41,43	78,41,43
7	Directorate of Sugar	251,65,88	---	254,84,00	254,84,00
8	Directorate of Animal Husbandry	1,185,87,44	28,93,15	1,171,33,91	1,200,27,06
9	Dairy Development	669,17,83	600,00,09	250,30,73	850,30,82
10	Directorate of Fisheries	1,472,09,03	701,14,03	771,56,29	1,472,70,32
11	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	331,23,42	20,69,50	377,04,83	397,74,33

S. No	Department	BE 2025-26	BE 2026-27		
			Capital	Revenue	TOTAL
12	Tamil Nadu Fisheries University, Nagapattinam	35,39,16	61,94	50,23,61	50,85,55
13	Co-Operation (Crop Loan)	700,00,00	---	701,49,25	701,49,25
14	Civil Supplies Department (DPC Procurement)	14,000,00,01	---	14,000,00,00	14,000,00,00
15	Rural Development & Panchayat (MGNRES, Rural Road, NRLM and AGAMT)	6,144,95,27	2,478,63,02	3,850,66,58	6,329,29,60
16	Food Processing	177,79,45	---	177,79,44	177,79,44
17	Sericulture	106,14,07	---	114,97,35	114,97,35
18	Forestry (Agro Forestry/ Man- animal Conflict)	1,308,73,70	787,54,77	739,54,64	1,527,09,41
19	Revenue (Crop Damage/ Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam)	344,75,18	---	331,17,26	331,17,26
20	Canal Restoration	3,954,96,41	4,672,04,39	---	4,672,04,39
	TOTAL	45,661,44,85	9,482,72,56	37,765,51,59	47,248,24,15

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