

Honourable Speaker!

"பலகுடை நீழலும் தங்குடைக்கீழ் காண்பர்
அலகுடை நீழ் லவர்"

**O'er many a land they'll see their monarch reign,
Whose fields are shaded by the waving grain.**

Thiruvalluvar, the Tamil poet-saint has glorified farmers by stating that "Farmers with abundant grains are powerful, as they bring the shadow of various kingdoms under their reign."

"பகடுபுறந் தருநர் பாரம் ஓம்பிக்
குடிபுறம் தருகுவை யாயின், நின்
அடிபுறம் தருகுவர், அடங்கா தோரே"

The quotes of the sangam poem Purananuru honours farmers by emphasizing that "If the farmers are protected, they will in turn protect the entire community"

The poem conveys the poet's advice to the King as, "If you reduce the burden and take care of the farmers who honour oxen and cultivate the land, your indomitable enemies will submit to you."

Understanding this wisdom, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced the preparation of a dedicated budget for Agriculture focussing on Farmers' Welfare alongside Agriculture development, to support and elevate

the noble profession of farming and the esteemed farming community.

To achieve this, since 2021-22, four agriculture budgets have been presented with various schemes effectively implemented and seamlessly continued.

I express my deepest and heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on behalf of the farming community and Agriculture –Farmers Welfare Department for granting me this rare and esteemed opportunity to present a separate Agriculture Budget as the Minister for Agriculture - Farmers Welfare for the fifth time on the floor of the Assembly.

“இயல்புளிக் கோலோச்சம் மன்னவன் நாட்ட

பெயலும் விளையுளும் தொக்கு”

**Where king, who righteous laws regards, the sceptre
wields, There fall the showers, there rich abundance
crowns the fields**

The above lines from Thirukkural praise the King, stating that “In a kingdom ruled by a just and rightful king, the monsoon will be timely and the harvest will be abundant”

With immense pleasure and pride, I wish to highlight that Tamil Nadu has witnessed good rains, abundant agricultural production and flourishing industrial growth under the golden reign of our Hon'ble Chief Minister. True

to the words of the great poet Thiruvalluvar, Tamil Nadu has prospered and secured second position at National level in Economic Development.

On behalf of all, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the inimitable Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for fulfilling the longstanding requests and representations of the farming community and agricultural experts through a dedicated Agriculture Budget. It is with immense pleasure that I stand before this assembly to present the Agriculture Budget for 2025-26, which is enriched with numerous new schemes.

Farmers, who toil relentlessly to cultivate crops, nourish the people, and sustain life across the planet, are akin to mothers. I firmly believe that this Agriculture Budget will once again bring joy, growth, and prosperity to the lives of these invaluable guardians of our land.

Initially, farming was practiced solely for food and clothing. However, over time, farmers have adapted to various changes and embraced the crucial responsibility of cultivating agricultural produce to meet the growing needs of the society. As a result, agricultural growth has expanded significantly with the support of scientific advancements. Today, we have Precision Agriculture, Digital Agriculture, Agriculture powered by Artificial Intelligence and Internet-of-Things, imbibing numerous cutting-edge technologies. Yet, Agriculture continues to evolve further.

Honourable speaker!

I am happy to highlight the achievements made under various schemes announced and implemented in the Agriculture Budgets presented over the past four years to this assembly.

In the current scenario of growing population, and rapid expansion of the industrial and service sectors, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has provided his valuable guidance to retain farmers in agriculture, increase food grain production, and ensure food security. As a result of implementing the Hon'ble Chief Minister's visionary plans, the total gross cropped area has increased from 146.77 lakh acres in 2019-20 to 151 lakh acres in 2023-24. Also, the double-cropped area which was 29.74 lakh acres in 2019-20 has increased to 33.60 lakh acres during the year 2023-24. Additionally, various improved technologies have been implemented to increase crop productivity. As a result, Tamil Nadu has secured the first position in Ragi productivity, second position in Maize, Oilseeds and Sugarcane productivity and third position in Groundnut and Minor Millets productivity at National level.

Despite crop damage caused by various natural calamities, the implementation of special schemes by the Agriculture – Farmers Welfare Department enabled the achievement of 346.38 lakh metric tonnes of food grain production from 2021-22 to 2023-24. Through these great

achievements, our farmers have proven the following words of Bharathiar as true,

**“இனிய பொழில்கள் நெடிய வயல்கள்எண்ணரும் பெரு நாடு
கனியும் கிழங்கும் தானியங்களும் கணக்கின்றித் தரும் நாடு”**

“In our Country, which is surrounded by pleasant groves and vast fields, blessed with natural resources, fruits, tubers and grains are available in plenty.”

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been providing new agricultural electricity connections on priority basis since 2021-22 to support farmers in accessing irrigation sources. I am proud to state that due to the special efforts taken by the Government, so far, 1.81 lakh electricity connections have been provided to farmers for irrigation purposes transforming even drylands into fertile fields.

Given the essential role of agricultural machinery in farming activities, agricultural machineries and equipments have been provided to 55,000 farmers at subsidised rates under the Agriculture Mechanization Scheme over the past four years. In addition, 1,109 custom hiring centres have been created and 98 sugarcane harvesting machineries have been distributed to fulfil the machinery needs of farmers at a total cost of Rs.510 crore.

To strengthen the activities of regulated markets and reduce post-harvest losses for better profitability, new infrastructure facilities such as storage godowns, cold storages, drying yards, sorting and grading halls have been

constructed besides renovating 172 regulated markets at a total outlay of Rs.488 crore.

“The future of the country lies in the hands of youth”. Hence, to create interest among youth who aspire to contribute to Agricultural development, the “Making youth into Agri Entrepreneurs” scheme has been implemented since 2021-22, through which 435 youth have been assisted with a subsidy of one lakh rupees each to establish agri-businesses. These entrepreneurs contribute to agricultural growth in rural villages and also inspire fellow youth.

“Kalaigharin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme” is being implemented by coordinating the schemes of the Agriculture – Farmers Welfare Department along with the schemes of other Departments. As a result of implementing this scheme in 10,187 Gram Panchayats over the past four years, 46,000 acres of fallow land have been brought under cultivation. In addition, 1,611 borewells and tubewells have been established to benefit farmers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Furthermore, 46 lakh coconut seedlings and 16 lakh fruit seedling kits have been distributed. **Under this scheme, 50.71 lakh farmers have benefitted, at a total outlay of Rs.787 crore.**

In the **“Chief Minister’s Mannuyir Kathu Mannuyir Kappom”** scheme, which benefited

21.35 lakh farmers under various components such as distribution of 4,000 MT of green manure seeds, 23,000 vermi beds, 10 lakh neem seedlings, 50 lakh Adathoda and Nochi seedlings and 8.88 lakh nutritional fruit seedlings kits.

To achieve inclusive growth, 60 to 70 percent subsidy is provided to small and marginal farmers of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to avail schemes such as Integrated Farming System, Poly Greenhouse and Agricultural Mechanization. **Over the past three years, Rs.61.12 crore has been allocated, which benefited 15,800 farmers of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories.**

Promotion of Micro Irrigation technology, creation of water harvesting structures such as farm ponds and check dams and the desilting of 'C' and 'D' channels in delta districts and desilting of water harvesting structures, have resulted in increased irrigation water use efficiency, augmentation of groundwater. These activities have led to a notable increase in the irrigated crop area from 89.09 lakh acres in 2020-21 to 94.68 lakh acres in 2023-24.

In the interest of farmers, an incentive of Rs. 130 per quintal for the Grade-A and Rs.105 per quintal for the Common variety is being provided in addition to the minimum support price fixed by the Union Government for paddy. So far, 147 lakh metric tonnes of paddy have been

procured in the last four years and a total incentive of Rs.1,452 crore has been provided. Sugarcane farmers have also been provided an incentive of Rs.215 per metric tonne and a total incentive Rs.848 crore has been provided for 425 lakh MT of sugarcane so far.

Severe climate changes in recent times have led to various natural calamities and significant crop losses. These natural calamities have had a severe impact on crop productivity and the livelihoods of farmers.

Efforts have been made to support farmers affected by crop losses due to natural calamities and to help restore their livelihoods by providing financial assistance for revenue loss. **Over the past four years, Rs.1,631.53 crore has been distributed as relief assistance to 20.84 lakh farmers for the damages caused in agricultural and horticultural crops. Additionally, Rs.5,242 crore has been provided as crop insurance compensation to 30 lakh farmers in the past four years.**

To commemorate the birth centenary of Muthamizh Arignar Dr.Kalaignar a world-class **Kalaignar Centenary Park** has been established near Anna Flyover on Dr.Radhakrishnan Road. Featuring various attractive elements, this park serves as a vibrant recreational space for the people of Chennai to enjoy and celebrate.

The Tamil Nadu Economic Survey 2024-2025 released on 13.03.2025 confirms the achievements made in the agriculture sector. Though agriculture in Tamil Nadu is largely dependent on monsoon, agriculture sector has emerged as the fifth largest sector contributing a Gross State Value Added (GSVA) of Rs. 1.5 lakh crore. The capacity of our farmers in turning the adversities into achievements is evidenced from this and this also shows the importance attached by the State Government to agriculture sector.

The agricultural credit facilities extended to farmers in Tamil Nadu through scheduled commercial banks has steadily increased from Rs.1.83 lakh crore in 2019-20 to Rs.3.58 lakh crore in 2023-24, making Tamil Nadu a leading state in agricultural credit disbursed by commercial banks.

It is noteworthy that the total area under horticulture crops has reached 16.3 lakh hectares in 2023-24, making horticulture a key driver of agricultural growth in Tamil Nadu.

It is estimated that Tamil Nadu will be able to achieve rapid growth in agriculture and allied sectors if it overcomes the challenges of groundwater shortage and climate change. Schemes are being implemented to overcome these challenges and achieve overall development in agriculture.

As the Hon'ble Chief Minister said **that the Dravidian Model**

**"Can create anything
Can improve anything
Can integrate everything,"**

the Dravidian Model has **formulated** many excellent schemes for the farmers. The agricultural fields affected by sandcasting due to flooding have been **improved** and brought back to cultivation by removal of sand deposits. The Dravidian Model Government ensured integrated rural development by **integrating** all the schemes.

Hon'ble Speaker!

As per the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, consultative meetings with stakeholders were conducted this year also, as was done in previous years, for the preparation of Agriculture Budget. Opinions and suggestions were invited and received through e-mail, petitions and directly from various stakeholders. Contributors included farmers, farmer associations, Organic farmers, Sugarcane farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations, representatives of agricultural input dealers' association, agricultural machinery manufacturers, seed producers, Traders, Egg and Dairy farmer associations, marine and inland fishermen, agricultural experts and people's representatives. Based on the inputs received from various stakeholders, Agriculture budget for the year

2025-26 has been prepared with an aim to cater to the needs of the farmers.

In this Agriculture Budget, new schemes tailored to meet the needs of farmers will be introduced for their upliftment. I am proud to announce that this budget, enriched with special initiatives, will empower farmers to walk with pride and bring prosperity to the farming community.

1. Chief Minister's Farmers Service Centres

In Tamil Nadu, around 4,000 agriculture graduates and more than 600 agriculture diploma holders, graduate every year. To leverage their expertise and technical knowledge for the welfare of farmers and agricultural development, **1,000 Chief Minister's Farmers Service Centres will be established.** Under this scheme, for the establishment of these centres at **an estimated cost ranging from Rs.10 Lakh to Rs.20 Lakh, 30% subsidy will be provided amounting to Rs.3 lakh to Rs.6 Lakh per centre. An amount of Rs.42 crore from State budget will be earmarked for this scheme.** These centres will serve as hubs for agricultural support, offering essential inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and other farming necessities. Additionally, they will provide expert guidance on enhancing crop productivity, pest and disease management, the adoption of modern technologies, and value addition techniques.

2.Special package to increase crop area and food grain production

In 29 non-delta districts of Tamil Nadu, paddy is cultivated in an area of 34 lakh acres on an average. In order to increase the paddy area and food grain production during Kar, Kuruvai and Sornavari seasons, **a special package including subsidy for machine planting and quality certified seeds will be provided to the farmers in non-Delta districts. An amount of Rs.102 crore will be allocated for this purpose.**

Similarly, paddy is cultivated in an area of 18 lakh acres in delta districts. **A special package** including subsidy for machine planting and quality certified seeds will be provided **to farmers in Delta districts to increase the area and food grain production during Kuruvai season. An amount of Rs.58 crore will be allocated for this.**

3.Encouraging Summer Ploughing in Rainfed Areas

In ancient times, Ploughing was called with various terminologies like "பொன் ஏர் பூட்டுதல்", "சித்திரமேழி வைபவம்", "மதி ஏர்", "நல்லேர்". During those times, initiating ploughing on the first day of the Tamil Month 'Chithirai' was celebrated as a major festival by the kings. To emphasise upon the importance of summer ploughing and also imply that the Tamil kings believed in calling themselves as farmers first, and then as Kings, ploughing was initiated by

the kings themselves on this auspicious day. Nowadays, summer ploughing has significantly reduced due to various factors including scarcity of agricultural labourers.

In Tamil Nadu, rainfed agriculture is practised over an area of 56.41 lakh acres, relying solely on rainwater as the irrigation source. **Hence, an amount of Rs.24 crore will be allocated from state funds during the year 2025-2026 to encourage summer ploughing to cover an area of three lakh acres at the rate of Rs.2,000 per hectare.**

4. Hill Farmers Development Scheme

Sangam Tamil literature vividly describes agricultural practices in the hilly regions known as "Kurinji" and the forested areas referred to as "Mullai." It highlights the cultivation of rainfed crops such as Varagu (Kodo millet), Thinaï (Foxtail millet), and Cumbu (Pearl millet) in these landscapes. The texts also depict how tribal women diligently guarded the ripened grains, ensuring their protection from threats and preserving the harvest.

**"குருவி ஒப்பியும் கிளிகடிந்தும் குன்றத்துச் சென்றவைகி
அருவி ஆடியும் சுணை குடைந்தும்"**

In the above lines, in "Silappathikaram", there is a vivid narration of women living in the **Kurinji** region actively engaged in protecting millet fields. They are depicted scaring away sparrows, chasing parrots, and diligently guarding the ripening crops.

Although various schemes have been implemented with specific reservations for tribal farmers, it is crucial to introduce a dedicated initiative for hill farmers to uplift their socio-economic status. These farmers play a vital role in environmental conservation and biodiversity preservation by living in harmony with nature.

A scheme called “Malaivazh Uzhavar Munnetra Thittam” will be implemented during the year 2025-2026, with a financial allocation of Rs.22.80 crore for the welfare of 63,000 hill farmers with the scheme components such as Minor Millets cultivation, distribution of inputs, area expansion in vegetable crops, farm machineries, value addition, Micro Irrigation and Integrated Farming System. Furthermore, steps will be taken to provide Kisan credit cards to these beneficiaries.

The scheme will be implemented in 20 districts viz., Tiruvannamalai, Nilgiris, Salem, Kallakurichi, Namakkal, Tiruchirappalli, Dindigul, Tiruppathur, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Kanniyakumari, Theni, Tenkasi, Virudhunagar, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Erode, Tiruppur, Villupuram and Coimbatore.

5.Village Outreach Campaign (உழவரைத் தேடி வேளாண்மை-உழவர் நலத்துறை)

The block level officials of all departments under Agriculture – Farmers Welfare department and allied departments like Animal Husbandry, Co-operation, along with scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra will meet the

farmers in the revenue villages to provide technical advisories and explain the schemes related to Agriculture and allied departments, aiming to take farming to the next level.

The campaign will be conducted twice a month in selected revenue villages, ensuring that farmers across all 17,116 revenue villages gain awareness of agricultural technologies and government schemes within a year.

6. Enhancing the relief and assistance for Landless Agricultural Labourers under Chief Minister's Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam

In Tamil Nadu, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and their families are provided with benefits such as old age pension, maternity benefits, natural death assistance, accident relief, funeral assistance and educational assistance **under the Chief Minister's Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam**

The livelihood of Landless Agricultural Labourers solely depends on seasonal agricultural jobs. During crop damages caused by natural calamities, the livelihood of agricultural labourers is also affected along with that of the farmers. Considering this plight of landless agricultural labourers,

- i. Relief for death due to accident will be enhanced from Rs.1 Lakh to Rs.2 Lakh

- ii. Relief for disability due to accident will be enhanced from Rs.20,000 to Rs.1 Lakh.
- iii. Assistance for natural death will be enhanced from Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000.
- iv. Assistance for funeral expenses will be enhanced from Rs.2,500 to Rs.10,000.

This enhancement of relief will protect the welfare of families of marginalized landless agricultural labourers.

7.Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaapom Scheme

The Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaapom Scheme will continue to be implemented during the year 2025-26 also with 15 key components such as Green Manure seed distribution, Soil Health Card distribution, Integrated Farming System, Agroforestry, and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana **and an allocation of Rs.142 crore will be made towards this.**

8.Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme

In the past four years, the Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme (KAVIADP) was implemented in 10,187 village panchayats with the objective of making all village panchayats self-sufficient by converting fallow lands into cultivable lands, thereby improving the standard of living of farmers.

This scheme will continue to be implemented during the year 2025-26 in the remaining 2,338 village panchayats at an outlay of Rs.269.50 crore from State funds, benefitting approximately 9.36 lakh farmers.

9. Maize Production Enhancement Scheme

Maize crop stands out in providing adequate income to the farmers by giving high yields even in the rainfed areas. In Tamil Nadu, maize is cultivated in an area of 10.13 lakh acres, with a total production of 28 lakh MT. To increase the farmers' income, **Maize Production Enhancement scheme will be implemented in an area of 1.87 lakh acre, benefitting 79,000 farmers, with a financial outlay of Rs.40.27 crore under Union and State funds.**

10. Oilseeds Mission

In Tamil Nadu, major oilseed crops such as groundnut, gingelly, sunflower and castor are cultivated in an average area of 10.04 lakh acres. To achieve self-sufficiency in edible oil production, during the year 2025-2026, Oilseeds Mission will be implemented to increase the area of oilseed crops such as groundnut, gingelly, sunflower and castor in an extent of 2.16 lakh acre. An allocation of Rs.108.06 crore from Union and State funds will be made under this mission benefitting around 90,000 farmers.

11. Tamil Nadu Millet Mission

"கீழும் மேலும் எஞ்சாமைப் பல காய்த்து
வாலிதின் விளைந்த புது வரகு அரிய
தினை கொம்ப கவ்வை கறுப்ப அவரைக் ,
கொழுங்கொடி விளர்க் காய்"

The poet Kabilar's verses in the above-mentioned *Purananuru lines*, beautifully capture the essence of the fertile land of Chieftain Paari. It has mentioned about the cultivation of millets like Samai, Thinai and Varagu, and also about country beans grown alongside the millets. This poem highlights the significance of Millets.

The '**Tamil Nadu Millet Mission**' scheme was announced as a five-year programme from 2023-24 to 2027-28 and is being implemented by integrating all the agriculture and sister departments.

This scheme will continue to be implemented during the year 2025-26 with key components like formation of farmer groups, crop production packages, and establishment of Custom Hiring Centres, at an outlay of Rs.52.44 crore from Union and State funds.

12. Schemes for Natural Farming

Natural farming is practised by eliminating the use of chemicals, promoting an eco-friendly approach in agriculture, with the integration of recycling of crop residues, animal waste, and tree debris.

To promote Natural Farming, several activities will be carried out in 37 districts of Tamil Nadu at an outlay of Rs.12 crore.

- i. The **National Mission on Natural Farming** will be implemented as a two-year programme to establish natural farming clusters with interested farmers, benefiting 7,500 farmers.
- ii. Marketing of Organic and Natural farming products in Government buildings like Poomalai market complex will be facilitated to provide market facilities to organic farmers and also easy access to consumers for natural farming products.
- iii. Awareness on organic farming and related technologies will be created to farmers across 37 districts.
- iv. Exposure visits to organic farms will be organized for 38,600 higher secondary school and college students in Tamil Nadu.
- v. Farmers practising organic farming will be provided with full subsidy for pesticide residue testing to ensure the quality of agricultural produce for export.
- vi. Incentive will be provided to encourage farmers who have attained organic status.

- vii. Further, full exemption of certification fee will be done to farmers seeking organic certification.

13. Additional Subsidy for Small and Marginal Farmers of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories.

In order to encourage and reduce the financial burden on the Small and Marginal farmers from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories, in high value schemes such as Integrated Farming System, Polyhouses, Shadenets, solar dryers, solar pumpsets, value addition machineries and farm machineries, the **existing subsidy of 40-50% will be increased to 60-70%. This additional subsidy will be released from State funds. For this, Rs.21 crore will be allocated during 2025 – 2026 from State funds.**

14. Cash Awards for highest production and adoption of technologies in Agriculture

To encourage the farmers who adopt modern agricultural technologies and achieve high yields in 11 agricultural crops under millets, pulses, oilseeds categories and sugarcane, 33 cash awards are being given to the top three farmers at the State level with the first prize of Rs.2.5 lakh, second price of Rs 1.5 lakh and third price of Rs.1 lakh. This scheme will also be continued during the year 2025-26 with an allocation of Rs.55 lakh from State funds.

Further, cash award of Rs.2.5 lakh as first prize, Rs.1.5 lakh as second prize and Rs.1 lakh as third prize will be awarded to best three persons, who have invented and adopted modern agricultural technologies and implements.

15. Nammazhvar Award for Best Organic Farmer

The Nammazhvar Award for Best Organic Farmer was instituted in the year 2023–24 to encourage farmers engaged in organic farming and to honor outstanding organic farmers excelling in organic farming practices and also inspiring others to readily adopt organic farming. This award will be given to three farmers, during the year 2025 – 26 as well and each will be receiving a certificate of appreciation and a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh.

16. Promotion of Alternative Crops with low water requirements

Alternative crop cultivation scheme is being implemented to reduce the impact of climate change on crops, improve soil fertility and encourage the cultivation of millets, pulses and oilseed crops that require less water than the water-guzzling Paddy.

Alternative crop cultivation scheme will be implemented during the year 2025 -26, in an area of one lakh acres at an outlay of Rs.12.50 crore from State fund benefitting one lakh farmers.

17. Quality Seeds; Sustained Productivity

Realizing that good quality seeds are the cornerstone of farming, our forefathers carefully preserved the best seeds as a rare resource for cultivation and utilized them wisely. High-quality certified seeds are produced and distributed to the farmers by the Tamil Nadu State Seed Development Agency, to enhance agricultural production and productivity. Accordingly, 39,500 MT certified seeds of high-yielding varieties of paddy, millets, pulses and oilseeds will be produced and distributed to farmers during the year 2025-26.

Seed farms will be raised in State Seed Farms and farmers' fields and seeds will be procured during the year 2025-26, for which Rs.250 crore will be allocated.

Additionally, to ensure the availability of high-quality certified seeds to the farmers in time, **seven State Seed Processing Units will be established at an outlay of Rs.15.05 crore.**

Approximately 7,000 Metric tonne of Breeder, Foundation and Certified seeds of High yielding, farmer-preferred varieties from other states notified for Tamil Nadu, will be procured and distributed to farmers at subsidized cost through various centrally sponsored schemes. To expedite seed processing, **3,000 MT of seeds will be processed in the Seed Processing Units of Farmer Producer Organizations and procured.**

Furthermore, 1.73 lakh acre of seed farms will be registered for quality seed production and 1.25 lakh MT of seeds will be certified during the year 2025-2026. Additionally, all seed selling points in Tamil Nadu will be continuously monitored, and seeds will undergo appropriate quality tests **in order to continue ensuring the availability of quality seeds to farmers.**

18. Cotton Production Enhancement Scheme

" கோடைப் பருத்தி வீடுநிறை பெய்த
மூடைப் பண்டம் மிடைநிறைந் தன்ன"

This Puranaanooru poem describes houses being filled with bales of cotton harvested during summer.

The Cotton Cultivation Scheme has been implemented in Tamil Nadu since 2021-22, to meet the increasing demand for cotton and to enhance its production and productivity. This scheme will be continued with a financial outlay of Rs.12.21 crore during the year 2025-26.

19. Crop Insurance Scheme

The Crop Insurance scheme is implemented to protect the farmers from income loss and sustain their livelihoods in the event of crop damages due to natural calamities.

This scheme will continue to be implemented during the year 2025-2026 at an outlay of Rs.841 crore to cover an area of 35 lakh acres.

20. Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy

Trees improve crop productivity by aiding in rainfall and enhance soil health by shedding biomass. Therefore, agroforestry is encouraged to provide additional income to farmers through the cultivation of high-value trees. **The Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy will be released, to promote growing of valuable trees such as Sandal, Red Sanders, Mahogany and Rosewood and to simplify the procedures related to registration, felling, transportation and marketing of timber and to achieve a greener Tamil Nadu.**

21. International Exposure Visit for Farmers

Countries like Japan, China and Vietnam adopt modern technologies to increase production and productivity in paddy crop. Therefore, to help farmers learn the latest technologies and implement the same in their fields, **100 progressive farmers will be taken for an exposure visit to Japan, China and Vietnam for which Rs.2 crore will be allocated.**

22. Distribution of Certified seeds and inputs through Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies

In Tamil Nadu, 4,451 Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies are actively functioning at the village level. In addition to providing crop loans to farmers, these societies also carry out fertilizer distribution. For the

first time, in the year 2025-2026, quality-certified seeds of paddy, millets, pulses, and oilseed varieties, along with other essential agricultural inputs, will be stocked and will be distributed to the farmers through these societies. This initiative aims to provide farmers with easy access to all necessary agricultural inputs in one place.

Department of Sugar

23. Special incentive to farmers who have supplied sugarcane to sugar mills during 2024-25 crushing season

In order to increase the sugarcane cultivation area and production in Tamil Nadu to support the functioning of sugar mills and to ensure additional income to sugarcane farmers, the eligible farmers who have registered with and supplied sugarcane to sugar mills for the 2024-25 crushing season will be paid, **a first time ever special incentive of Rs.349 per Metric Tonne of Sugarcane over and above the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) fixed by the Union Government. This provides a cane price of Rs.3,500 per MT benefiting about 1.30 lakh sugarcane farmers. An amount of Rs.297 crore will be allocated for this scheme.**

24. Sugarcane Cultivation Development Programme

To encourage the farmers to cultivate new sugarcane varieties with high sugar content, pest and disease

resistance and to reduce the cost of cultivation in sugarcane, an amount of Rs.10.53 crore is allocated under Union and State funds for providing subsidy assistance to sugarcane farmers towards sugarcane setts, sugarcane seedlings, wider row planting to support mechanization, micronutrient mixture, trash shredding and mulching.

Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops

25. Nutrition Farming Mission

The health and well-being of people are directly influenced by the food they consume. Maintaining good health requires a well-balanced and nutritious diet. Vegetables, fruits, pulses, and minor millets play a crucial role in providing essential nutrients necessary for overall well-being.

To enhance nutritional security and to increase farmers' net income through higher production of these vital crops, a new scheme viz., "**Nutrition Farming Mission**" will be implemented in Tamil Nadu during the year 2025-2026 with a total allocation of **Rs.125 crore from Union and State funds.**

- i. **Vegetable Seed kits:** The per capita daily requirement of Vegetables and Fruits is 400 grams. To ensure the availability of nutritious & residue-free vegetables and also to meet the daily vegetable needs of the people and to encourage vegetable cultivation in home gardens, vegetable

seed kits containing seeds of six kinds of vegetables viz., Tomato, Brinjal, Bhendi, Chillies, Clusterbeans and green leafy vegetables will be distributed to 15 lakh families at 75% subsidy.

- ii. **Fruit plant kits:** To ensure nutritional security in urban and rural areas, fruit plant kits with three quick-bearing fruit plants like Papaya, Guava and Acid-lime will be provided to nine lakh families at 75% subsidy.
- iii. To meet the rising demand for vegetables and to increase the area and production of vegetables in Tamil Nadu, the area under major vegetable crops viz., Tomato, Onion, Moringa, Brinjal, Green chillies, Bhendi and green leafy vegetables will be increased by 14,000 acres. This area expansion programme will be implemented particularly in districts adjoining Chennai to ensure steady supply for the city's population.
- iv. Fruits are rich in nutrients like vitamins, fibre, iron and minerals and area expansion in fruits will be promoted in 12,000 acres.
- v. Pandal structures will be established in 1,200 acres to increase the production of vegetables that grow on pandal structures.
- vi. To achieve self-sufficiency in pulses and ensure food security, Pulses Development Scheme will be

implemented in an area of 5.72 lakh acres, benefitting 2.50 lakh farmers during the year 2025-26.

- vii. Because of the sustained efforts taken by the Tamil Nadu Government last year, the area under Redgram has expanded to 1.59 lakh acres. To promote the expansion of Redgram area in districts where redgram area is declining, cultivation of Redgram as pure crop, border crop or intercrop will be promoted in an area of 80,000 acres.
- viii. **Pulses seed kits:** To promote protein-rich pulse cultivation in every household, pulses kits comprising perennial redgram, cowpea etc., will be distributed to one lakh households at 75% subsidy.
- ix. To increase the production of protein-rich mushrooms and also encourage new entrepreneurs and generate employment opportunities, assistance will be provided for establishing five mushroom production units in rural areas.
- x. To facilitate direct selling of harvested vegetables and fruits by farmers, assistance for 4,000 mobile vending carts will be provided.

26. Integrated Coconut Development Scheme

Coconut is cultivated in an area of 11.65 lakh acres in Tamil Nadu. Coconut, Tender coconut, Coconut oil,

Coconut milk, Neera, Coir and multiple value-added products are derived from Coconut trees.

As the saying “வைத்த பிள்ளையைப் பாதுகாத்தால், அது பெற்ற பிள்ளைக்கு உதவும்” (If you nurture your coconut tree, it will in turn take care of your offsprings) goes, in order to encourage coconut cultivation in Tamil Nadu, Tall, Tall x Dwarf and Dwarf x Tall Coconut seedlings will be distributed as per farmer’s preference at an outlay of **Rs.4.80 crore**. This scheme will be implemented in an area of 9,800 acres across all districts.

In addition to that, farmers will be motivated to practice multitier cropping with banana, nutmeg and pepper in Coconut plantations to generate additional income throughout the year. This scheme will be implemented in an area of 8,000 acres at an outlay of **Rs.3.23 crore**.

To enhance the production and productivity of Coconut, replanting and rejuvenation of senile, disease affected and unproductive plantations with quality seedlings will be promoted. Under this scheme, an amount of **Rs.8.95 crore** will be allocated for replanting and rejuvenation in an area of 5,000 acres.

To increase the net income of coconut farmers, demonstration plots on Integrated Farming practices will be laid out in 2,500 acres at an outlay of **Rs.1.75 crore**.

In recent times, wide spread occurrence of Rugose Spiraling Whitefly infestation is noticed in coconut plantations. To control this, as a part of integrated pest management, yellow sticky traps and parasitoid cards will be distributed at 50% subsidy. During the year 2025-26, this scheme will be implemented **in an area of 1.68 lakh acres at an outlay of Rs.12 crore benefitting 1.2 lakh farmers.**

The predator *Apertochrysa* and parasitoid *Encarsia sp.*, are found to be effective in controlling Rugose Spiraling Whitefly. Hence, new production units will be established in Aliyar Nagar, Thirupathisaram, Paiyur and Thanjavur research stations under the control of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for producing *Apertochrysa* and *Encarsia sp.*, to control whitefly infestation in 21 districts at an outlay of **Rs.4.46 crore**. Nearly five Lakh coconut farmers will be benefitted.

This Integrated Coconut Development Scheme will be implemented at an outlay of Rs.35.26 crore.

27. Summer Crop Plan

During the summer months of April, May, the rise in temperature and low rainfall lead to decrease in cultivation area, resulting in price rise of Vegetables, Fruits and other agricultural produces. Hence, during summer season, less water requiring crops will be promoted viz., short-duration pulses in 71,600 acres, oilseeds viz., Groundnut in 74,000 acres and Gingelly in 33,300 acres, and important

vegetables viz., Tomato, Bhendi, Onion, Brinjal, Chilli, Greens in an area of 57,300 acres ensuring fair price to farmers besides making vegetables available at affordable price to consumers. For this, an amount of **Rs.10.5 crore** will be allocated.

28. Micro Irrigation Scheme

Micro Irrigation scheme, comprising Drip Irrigation and Sprinkler Irrigation, will be promoted to increase water use efficiency by 40 to 60 percent through judicious water management. This intervention enhances fertilizer use efficiency by minimizing wastage, controlling weed growth, and significantly reducing labour costs, thereby increasing crop production.

During the year 2025-26, Micro Irrigation system will be installed over an **area of 3 lakh acres with an allocation of Rs.1,168 crore benefiting 1.3 lakh farmers.**

29. Promotion of Traditional Vegetable Cultivation

Considering the importance of consumption of traditional varieties of vegetables, a special programme will be implemented to encourage farmers to cultivate traditional varieties of vegetables. Through this scheme, traditional varieties viz., Manaparra Kathari, Sillukodi Kathari, Kulasai Kathari, Periya Kollampatti Kathari, Tharuvai Thakkali, Manjalkudam Thakkali, Anaikomban Vendai, Sivappu Vendai, Siragu Avarai and Mukkuthi Avarai

will be encouraged at an outlay of **Rs.2.40 crore** to promote the cultivation of traditional vegetable varieties. This scheme will benefit 7,000 farmers cultivating traditional vegetables in 2,500 acres of land.

30. Promotion of Post Harvest Management

Onion prices are generally high during the months of October-December due to the low production of onion. To bridge this gap, subsidy assistance for the establishment of 36,000 MT onion storage structures will be provided to store the onions and market them when the production is low. An allocation of **Rs.18 crore will be made under Union and State funds to benefit 1,000 farmers.**

31. Promotion of Flower cultivation for regular income

- i. Similar to fruits and vegetables, flower cultivation also provides farmers with a steady income throughout the year. By picking and selling flowers on a daily basis, farmers can earn a steady stream of income. Considering this, an allocation of **Rs.8.51 crore** will be made to provide subsidy to the farmers engaged in flower cultivation to improve their livelihood. This will benefit around 9,000 farmers cultivating flowers on 6,200 acres of land.
- ii. **Special Scheme for Jasmine:** Jasmine holds a unique place among traditional flowers in Tamil culture from Sangam Era. Jasmine, which has given

a new facet to Madurai is cultivated in an area of 42,000 acres in Tamil Nadu with a production of two lakh MT. In Tamil Nadu, Jasmine is widely cultivated in districts viz., Madurai, Dharmapuri, Thiruvallur, Salem, Dindigul, Thiruvannamalai, Krishnagiri and Erode. Jasmine flowers are mostly sold as loose flowers. Jasmine and Jathi Malli are exported to foreign countries for extracting essential oils.

In Tamil Nadu, during the year 2025-26, Jasmine cultivation will be promoted in 3,000 acres at an outlay of Rs.1.60 crore benefiting 7,000 farmers.

- iii. Special Scheme for Scented Rose Cultivation:**
In Tamil Nadu, Scented roses are cultivated widely in an area of 9,600 acres in Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Dindigul and Tirupattur districts. **An amount of Rs.1 crore will be allocated to promote rose cultivation.**

32. Special Scheme for Spices and Condiments

Spices and condiments have been an integral part of the culture of the people of Tamil Nadu since ancient times. These spices not only add flavour and taste to food but also have medicinal properties. **Cultivation of important spices like Pepper, Coriander, Chillies, Nutmeg, Cloves, Cinnamon, Garlic, Ginger and Turmeric will**

be promoted and cultivation of chillies after removing *Prosopis* trees will also be encouraged in the districts of Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Virudhunagar and Sivagangai in an area of 2,500 acres. An amount of Rs.11.74 crore will be allocated for this programme. This scheme will be implemented in 17,500 acres benefitting 23,000 farmers.

33. Tamil Nadu Cashew Board

Cashew is predominantly cultivated in Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Pudukottai and Theni districts of Tamil Nadu. It is cultivated in an extent of 2.09 lakh acres with an annual production of 43,460 MT.

Even though Tamil Nadu ranks fourth at National level in terms of production, it ranks second in respect of Cashew exports. Hence, to increase the area and production of Cashew, encourage Cashew based industries and protect the welfare of workers engaged in Cashew industries, **'Tamil Nadu Cashew Board' will be established at an outlay of Rs.10 crore.** This will largely benefit farmers involved in Cashew cultivation and rural people engaged in subsidiary activities.

34. Palmyrah Development Mission

The Naarai Vidu Thoothu Song beautifully mentions about Palmyra as below,

"நாராய் நாராய் செங்கால் நாராய்

பழம்படு பணையின் கிழங்கு பிளந்தெண்ண

பவளக் கூர்வாய்ச் செங்கால் நாராய்"

(Oh, crimson-legged crane so bright, With coral beak, a dawn's

delight, Like Palmyrah tuber split wide and true,)

The Palmyrah tree, the official State tree, holds deep cultural and economic significance for Tamil people. Recognizing its vital role in biodiversity conservation and climate resilience, the **Palmyrah Development Mission** has been actively implemented for the past four years to enhance the population of palmyrah tree . During the year 2025-26, to promote palmyrah cultivation, components viz., distribution of 10 lakh palmyrah seeds, processing units for palmyrah value-addition and training for palmyrah value-addition will be encouraged under Palmyrah Development Mission at an outlay of **Rs.1.65 crore** benefitting 20,000 individuals.

35. Jackfruit Development Mission

The Sangam Literature Natrinai depicts how the ancient tamil people cultivated jack trees in their courtyards.

"முன்றில் பலவின் படுசுளை மரீஇப்

புந்தலை மந்தி தூர்ப்ப"

During 2023-24 and 2024-25, a special scheme for Jackfruit cultivation was announced at an outlay of **Rs.3.71 crore** encompassing area expansion, integrated nutrient and pest management, minimal processing unit, training for Jackfruit cultivation and value addition. This scheme has so far benefited 2,876 persons. During 2025-26, the components viz., area expansion in Jack with new varieties, intercropping in Jack plantations will be promoted. An amount of **Rs.5 crore** will be allocated for this scheme.

36. Promotion of Avocado cultivation

In recent years, the demand for nutrient-rich avocado has been steadily rising. In addition to this, Avocado trees are fast-growing and also absorb high levels of carbon dioxide. To promote such eco-friendly Avocado cultivation, Avocado area will be expanded in Tenkasi, Dindigul, Theni, Kallakurichi, Nilgiris, and Salem districts in **500 acres with an outlay of Rs.69 lakh.**

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

37. Agricultural Mechanization

The scenario of 'மண்பாற மாடுகட்டி மாயவரம் ஏறு பூட்டி வயக்காட்ட உழுது போடு சின்னக் கண்ணு' where oxen were engaged to plough the land has changed and the demand for machinery in the life sustaining agricultural profession has also increased.

Agricultural mechanization plays a crucial role in ensuring timely farm operations, enhancing crop yields, and reducing operational costs, especially in the face of labour shortages. To support farmers, subsidized agricultural machinery and implements, including value addition equipment and solar dryers, are being distributed. Under Agricultural Mechanization scheme, 50 per cent subsidy for small, marginal, SC, ST, and women farmers and 40 per cent subsidy to other farmers on the cost of Agricultural machinery and implements is being provided.

The maximum subsidy for small Paddy Transplanters will be increased from Rs.1.5 lakh to Rs.1.7 lakh and the maximum subsidy for Power Weeders will be increased from Rs.63,000 to Rs.85,000. **To enable small and marginal farmers to carry out agricultural operations on their small land holdings, 7,900 Power Tillers and 6,000 Power Weeders will be distributed.**

Under this scheme, during the year 2025-2026, 5,000 Agricultural machinery and implements will be

distributed on priority basis in those 2,338 villages where Kalaigharin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme is implemented.

For the purchase of Paddy Transplanter and Power Weeder by small and marginal farmers, 60 per cent subsidy will be provided by giving additional 10 per cent subsidy from the State fund allocation of Rs.5 crore in addition to the prevailing 50 per cent subsidy.

Agricultural Mechanization scheme will be implemented at an outlay of Rs.215.80 crore to benefit 17,000 farmers during the year 2025-26.

38. Crop based Agricultural Machinery Custom Hiring Centres

To support small and marginal farmers who may not have the financial means to purchase high-tech and expensive farm machinery, Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) will be established. These centres will be set up through Cooperative Societies of Farmers, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Registered Farmers' Societies, Rural Entrepreneurs, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). The initiative will enable farmers to hire essential agricultural machinery at nominal rates. This, in turn, will help enhance agricultural productivity while reducing cultivation costs. **Accordingly, 130 Custom Hiring Centres will be established with a subsidy assistance of Rs.10.5 crore.**

39. Strengthening the machinery hiring activity of Agricultural Engineering Department

The agricultural machinery and implements are being hired out to farmers at Government fixed nominal hire charges through e-Vaadagai mobile App. To address the shortage of labour and to strengthen this scheme which has been greatly welcomed by the farmers, **603 agricultural machinery and implements including Tractors and Tractor operated implements will be procured and hired out at nominal hire charges to the farmers through e-Vaadagai mobile App. For this, an amount of Rs.17.37 crore will be allocated.**

40. Ensuring flow of irrigation water to tail end farmers

To ensure irrigation water reaching the fields without any interruption, and to prevent crop damage due to waterlogging in the fields during rainy seasons desilting works are being carried out in "C" and "D" category channels in the past three years. This will ensure adequate water to the tailend farmers at the right time. Realizing the importance of these works, desilting works will be continued during the year 2025-26 also, in the Cauvery, Vennar, Vellar basin areas and Grand Anicut canal ayacut areas of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Cuddalore, Ariyalur and Trichy districts, **for a total length of 2,925 kilometres of "C" and "D"**

category channels with an allocation of Rs.13.80 crore. By this, the areas blessed with rivers will also be blessed with adequate flow of water.

41. Chief Minister's Scheme of Solar Powered Pumpsets

"வாண மெங்கும் பரிதியின் சோதி;

மலைகள் மீதும் பரிதியின் சோதி;"

- as per this poem of the great poet Bharathi, the Sun sustains the world with its light spread over the earth. Likewise, solar energy is paving way for new advancements in Agriculture. To increase farmers' income by providing energy for irrigation, to reduce conventional energy use in agriculture and to promote the use of sustainable and renewable energy sources for pumping water for irrigation, Off-grid Standalone Solar powered pumpsets will be installed with subsidy assistance to the farmers devoid of electric power connection.

Under this scheme, during the year 2025-2026, Solar powered pumpsets will be installed to benefit 1,000 farmers with 70 per cent subsidy assistance for small, marginal, SC and ST farmers and 60 per cent subsidy to other farmers, at an outlay of Rs.24 crore.

42. Providing Electric Motor pumpsets to farmers at subsidy

To benefit 1,000 farmers having assured irrigation facilities with electricity connection, subsidy assistance will be provided for purchasing new energy efficient electric motor pumpsets and for replacing old inefficient pumpsets. The assistance will be **50 per cent of total cost of the pumpset capped at Rs.15,000/- per pumpset. An amount of Rs.1.5 crore will be allocated for this scheme.**

43. Creation and maintenance of rainwater harvesting structures

To address the shortage of irrigation water by using the Agricultural Engineering Department owned machinery, removal of silt and debris that obstruct the water flow will be carried out in **500 existing structures in addition to creation of 100 new rainwater harvesting structures at a total outlay of Rs.2.75 crore.** This will facilitate rainwater harvesting besides augmenting the groundwater level.

44. 'End to End mechanization' in cultivation of crops

Mechanization is adopted only in a few farming operations. This increases the cost of cultivation and the time required to complete the operations also increases. Hence, **to increase the income of the farmers, it is**

essential to adopt 'End to End mechanization' by engaging farm machinery to perform field operations such as land preparation, sowing, weeding, plant protection, harvesting, crop residue management etc.,

Demonstration of 'End to End mechanization' in crops viz., **Paddy, Maize, Banana, Groundnut and Blackgram, will be taken up in farmers fields in an extent of 1,550 acres** through 'Agri-Tech Entrepreneurs' in coordination with Agricultural Engineering Department and sister departments of the Agriculture-Farmers Welfare Department. By dovetailing 'ATMA' scheme, farmers from various parts of Tamil Nadu will be facilitated to directly visit the demonstration fields and get benefitted. **An allocation of Rs.3.85 crore will be made to carry out these demonstrations.**

45. Rejuvenation of Open Wells

Open wells play a crucial role in irrigation through groundwater and most of these wells remain without steining walls or have damaged ones, resulting in reduced irrigation potential as well as posing safety risks to human beings and livestock. Considering this, to rejuvenate 100 open wells by way of constructing steining walls and creating groundwater recharge structures, **50 per cent subsidy assistance upto a maximum of Rs.2.5 lakh per well will be provided at a total outlay of Rs.2.5 crore.**

46. Skill Development Programme for operating Backhoe with front end loader, Tractor, Drone and Combine Harvester

In order to provide employment training to rural youth by imparting necessary skills, 120 rural youth will be trained on the operation of Backhoe with front end loader, Tractor, Drone and Combine Harvester and 180 rural youth will be trained as Agricultural Machinery Demonstrators and **300 Rural Youth will be benefitted in total.** To provide high quality operator training, Simulators will be established at the Government Tractor workshops, **with an allocation of Rs.1.84 crore.**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND AGRI BUSINESS

To ensure remunerative price for the farmers' produce and to protect the welfare of farming community, the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business is implementing various schemes and activities like reduction of post harvest losses, Regulated Markets, Uzhavar Sandhais, farm gate trade, value addition, processing, packaging, exports, quality certification mark, online trade, encouraging Startups, capacity building trainings, Agricultural Exhibitions etc.,

47. Special Scheme for setting up of 100 value addition units for Agricultural Produces.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has set a goal of transforming the State into a \$1 trillion economy by 2030. Value addition in agriculture and food processing will play a pivotal role in achieving this target. To encourage entrepreneurs and industries to establish food processing and value addition units, a special scheme will be implemented. Under this scheme, new projects with a total investment upto Rs.10 crore will receive a capital subsidy of upto 25 per cent. Additionally, women, SC, and ST beneficiaries will be eligible for an extra 10 per cent subsidy, bringing their total subsidy to 35 per cent. However, the subsidy will be capped at Rs.1.5 crore in all cases. Furthermore, a 5% interest subvention will be provided for five years. This initiative aims to safeguard farmers' livelihoods by ensuring remunerative prices through storage and value addition during peak harvest seasons, thereby reducing wastage. The Government will support the establishment of 100 value addition units for various agricultural products, including tomato, chilies, small onions, moringa, turmeric, banana, mango, jasmine, millets, and traditional rice varieties. **To kickstart this initiative, Rs.50 crore will be allocated in the first phase during the year 2025–2026.**

48. Establishment of Infrastructure facilities in Regulated Markets.

- i) Infrastructure facilities like Transaction sheds, Storage godowns will be created for the Regulated Markets at Kolathur (Salem), Pappireddipatti (Dharmapuri) Chinnatharapuram (Karur), Watrap & Srivilliputhur (Virudhunagar), Poolambadi (Perambalur), Pullambadi & Thottiyam (Tiruchirapalli), Thimiri (Ranipet), Katpadi (Vellore) that are functioning in rental buildings. A Transaction shed will be established at G.Ariyur Sub Regulated Market in Kallakurichi district. A total amount of Rs.50.79 crore will be allocated from Union and State Government funds for these works.
- ii) In accordance with the Tamil Proverb "**பொறுத்து விற்பது பொருளைக் கூட்டும்**" which translates to "selling produce at the right time increases its value", storage godowns with a capacity of 1,000 MT each will be created at a cost of Rs.20 crore in nine Regulated Markets viz., Thoduvatti, Monday market, Tindivanam, Gingee, Sular, Kumbakonam, Udumalpet, Kilpennathur and Usilampatti. This initiative aims to safeguard farmers from price fall during harvest seasons by enabling them to store their produce securely. Additionally, efforts will be made to obtain Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA)

accreditation for these godowns, facilitating access to institutional credit from scheduled commercial banks through e-Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (eNWR) system.

49. Integration of Regulated Markets with Electronic National Agricultural Market (eNAM)

Out of the 284 Regulated Markets functioning in Tamil Nadu, 157 Regulated Markets have been integrated with the electronic National Agricultural Market (eNAM) and trade is being carried out. During 2025-26, additionally, 56 Regulated Markets will be integrated with eNAM at a cost of Rs.39.20 crore. This will enable the farmers to trade at national level and earn more income.

50. Provision of additional facilities in Uzhavar Sandhais

50 Uzhavar Sandhais with high arrivals will be selected and upgraded with various basic facilities such as additional shops, drinking water, toilet facilities, renovation of shops, repair of floors and roofs, footpath at a cost of Rs.8 crore for the benefit of farmers and consumers.

51. Delivery of Uzhavar Sandhai Vegetables at Consumers' doorsteps through Online Trading Platform

To enhance the functionality of Uzhavar Sandhais and elevate them to the next level, Uzhavar Sandhais located near district headquarters will be integrated with Local

online sales platform to enable consumers get fresh vegetables at their doorsteps. In the first phase, this scheme will be implemented in 20 Uzhavar Sandhais across Tamil Nadu.

52. Trading of Agricultural produce at selected Common Aggregation Points in all blocks.

To regulate the arrivals in high arrival markets during harvest season and to facilitate marketing of agricultural produce, common aggregation Points will be identified in all blocks as an extension of the Regulated Markets and trading will be facilitated.

53. Pledge loan to Farmer Producer Organizations

To, protect the farmers from price fall during glut season, pledge loan facility is provided to farmers and traders for storing their agricultural produce in Regulated Markets. This facility will be extended to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for a loan amount of upto Rs.10 lakh.

54. Unique Geographical Indication (GI) for Agricultural Produces.

Agricultural produces with unique identity as Geographical Indication are reknowned worldwide which increases their market demand and creates export opportunities. During the last 4 years, steps have been taken to obtain Geographical Indication for 35 agricultural produces in Tamil Nadu through the Department of Agriculture - Farmers Welfare and Geographical Indication

has been obtained for Sholavandhan betel leaf. Realising its importance, an amount of Rs.15 lakh will be allocated to obtain Geographical Indication for 5 agricultural produces viz., Nallur Varagu (Cuddalore), Vedharanyam Mullai (Nagapattinam), Natham Puli (Dindigul), Ayakudi Koyya (Dindigul) and Kappalpatti Karumbu Murungai (Dindigul) during 2025-26.

Tamil Nadu Watershed Development Agency

55. Watershed Development

Watershed Development Programme is being implemented for a period of five years from 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 in 275 watersheds covering an area of 1.3 lakh hectares in 7 districts of Tamil Nadu viz., Perambalur, Thoothukudi, Krishnagiri, Ramanathapuram, Dindigul, Dharmapuri and Virudhunagar at an estimated cost of Rs.286.73 crore.

During 2025-26, this watershed Development programme will be implemented additionally in an area of **30,910 ha** at a total outlay of **Rs.68 crore** in six districts of Tamilnadu. The project will be implemented in 53 micro watersheds covering Ramanathapuram, Krishnagiri, Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar Districts. Works like Check dams, Percolation Ponds, Farm ponds etc., renovation of village tanks and supply channels will be taken up to improve the water availability in the project area. Further, Horticulture plantation, Agroforestry and Organic farming will be promoted in this area.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

56. Special initiatives for Climate Resilient Agriculture in Tamil Nadu

Based on the announcement made in the last Agriculture Budget, to disseminate climate resilient technologies, climate smart villages are being established in Tamil Nadu. Currently, the potential changes in major agricultural and horticultural crops due to climate changes during 2030 and 2050 have been predicted. **To mitigate these anticipated impacts, high yielding climate resilient varieties, alternate crops offering higher profit and sensor-based water and nutrient management technologies have been identified.**

To disseminate these technologies, model demonstration farms at one village per block will be established. An amount of Rs.1.35 crore will be allocated for this.

57. Establishment of Quality Control Laboratory for Organic agricultural produces

Maintaining the quality standards of organically cultivated produces such as traditional rice varieties, vegetables and spices is essential to fetch premium price in local and international markets. To facilitate the farmers in testing their organic produce, four **Quality Control Laboratories will be established at four centres of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University viz., Chennai,**

Thoothukudi, Coimbatore and Madurai with an allocation of Rs.6.16 crore. This initiative will support the farmers in testing their produces, increase the export opportunities and enabling them to earn additional profit.

58. "Dr.M.S.Swaminathan Research Grant" for new findings in agriculture

In recent years, agriculture sector is facing major challenges due to increasing population, climate change, shortage of agricultural labour and machineries, damages due to pests and diseases and fluctuating market price for agricultural produces. Innovative ideas and advanced research methodologies are essential to overcome these challenges. Hence, major challenges in agriculture will be listed and **Agri Hackathon** will be organized among students and innovators for choosing the best innovative ideas and to provide mentoring and financial grants. To support this, "**Dr.M.S. Swaminathan Research Grant**" will be created for **Rs.1 crore during the year 2025-2026 from State funds.**

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

i. Plant Based Protein Manufacturing Cluster

Given the growing global demand for plant-based proteins, dedicated facilities will be established to support the creation of a plant-based protein cluster. This cluster will focus on manufacturing protein from de-oiled rice bran

(DRB), de-oiled groundnut cake, and de-oiled gingelly cake. To facilitate this initiative, a **fund allocation of Rs.3 crore** will be earmarked for this scheme.

ii. Skill Development in Agricultural Export

Training will be provided to 500 beneficiaries, including farmer producer organizations, food business operators, and individuals interested in venturing into the export of agricultural and value-added food products. An allocation of Rs.50 lakh will be made for this training.

60. Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection

Cooperation

- i. In order to meet the short-term agricultural credit requirements for crop cultivation in Tamil Nadu, cooperative crop loan to the tune of Rs. 17,000 crore will be provided during the year 2025-2026.
- ii. Working capital loan of Rs.3,000 crore will be provided in 2025-2026 to meet out the short-term credit requirements of farmers for allied activities including animal husbandry, fish farming and beekeeping.
- iii. Agricultural medium-term loans and capital loans for livestock maintenance will be provided through cooperative banks for the purchase and maintenance of goats and sheep by landless Scheduled Caste people.

- iv. From the year 2021-22 till 11.03.2025, crop loan to the tune of Rs.54,800 crore has been disbursed to 67.81 lakh farmers and capital loan for livestock maintenance to the tune of Rs.6,588.16 crore has been disbursed to 12.24 lakh farmers. Also, since the year 2021-22, Rs.2162.84 crore has been released towards interest subvention and incentive for timely repayment of crop loan. For the year 2025-26, an allocation of Rs.853 crore has been made to provide interest subsidy.
- v. In order to implement the crop loan waiver announced in the year 2021, out of the total crop loan waiver amount of Rs.12110.74 crore, an amount of Rs.10,336.40 crore has been released so far crop loan waiver and Rs.1811.90 crore towards interest on the loan waiver amount. During 2025-26, an amount of Rs.1,477 crore will be allocated towards release of crop loan waiver amount to Cooperative Credit Societies.

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation

A. Paddy Procurement Incentive

The Tamil Nadu Government is providing an incentive of Rs. 1,300 per MT for Grade A paddy and Rs.1,050 per MT for common variety paddy for the paddy procured directly from farmers. In the current procurement season KMS 2024-2025, a total of 24.07 lakh MT of paddy has been procured by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation

from 3.24 lakh farmers through direct paddy purchase centres till 11.03.2025. So far, a total of Rs.297 crore has been directly credited to the bank accounts of the farmers.

An amount of Rs.525 crore has been allocated for providing paddy incentive during the year 2025-26.

B. Direct Purchase Centres

In order to safeguard the paddy procured by Government from natural calamities, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has decreed that **"Not even a Single paddy should be wasted"**.

- i. In the Delta districts of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai and Cuddalore, 22 modern semi covered paddy storage complexes with a capacity of 2.63 lakh MT will be established and 6 modern semi covered paddy storage complexes with a capacity of 49,000 MT will be established in the districts of Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Chengalpattu.
- ii. 25,000 Steel grades will be purchased for safely stacking paddy sacks, 2,500 digital Moisture meters will be purchased for detecting moisture in paddy, and tractor-mounted paddy dryer each one in Thanjavur and Thiruvarur districts will be procured and installed.

This scheme will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.480 crore by dovetailing various financial resources.

- C. In 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.12,500 crore has been allocated towards food subsidy to ensure food security.

61. Water Resources Department

Water Resources Department is implementing the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project to rehabilitate and modernize the irrigation infrastructure. During 2025-2026, **it is proposed to take up 1,071 desilting works at a cost of Rs.120 crore to facilitate uninterrupted flow of water** from the dams to tail end areas. 6,179.6 km length of rivers, channels, canals and drains in Chennai, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai and Coimbatore regions will be desilted to benefit irrigated lands in 25 districts including the Cauvery delta districts.

62. Animal Husbandry

- i. To improve the livelihood of rural women with poor financial background, an amount of Rs. 6 crore will be allocated to provide 50 per cent subsidy for setting up native poultry farms to 360 poor rural women interested in native poultry farming.
- ii. An amount of Rs.5.62 crore will be allocated for improving the reproductive capacity of infertile cattle

through programmed breeding in 2,741 veterinary dispensaries in Tamil Nadu.

- iii. To reduce fodder wastage, increase the digestibility of cattle and increase productivity, 3,000 power driven chaff cutters will be provided to small and marginal farmers at 50 per cent subsidy. An amount of Rs.4.83 crore will be allocated under this scheme.
- iv. In order to promote organic manure production which is the basis for organic farming, production of vermicompost using cow dung will be encouraged in district livestock farms and distributed to farmers at a reasonable price. An amount of Rs. 3.50 crore will be allocated for implementing the scheme.

63. Dairy Development

To improve the economic status of farmers through milk production, in Tamil Nadu, milk is procured from farmers through Cooperative Milk Societies. The procured milk is distributed to consumers as milk as well as value added milk products. Most of the milk producers are producing milk on a small scale with one cow. Therefore, **in order to provide steady income throughout the year to 5,000 milk producers, cooperative society members and women, "Mini Dairy Scheme" will be implemented with 4 per cent interest subvention.**

64. Fisheries

- i. In Tamil Nadu, to enhance the fish production of the tanks under the control of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, one crore fish fingerlings will be stocked in 5,000 ha of panchayat tanks, at 2,000 nos/ha at a total cost of Rs.75 lakh. This initiative will provide high-protein fish food at a low cost to the rural population and increase the fish production in rural areas of Tamil Nadu.
- ii. To meet the growing demand for ornamental fish and create employment opportunities, Rs.1.55 crore will be allocated to provide subsidy assistance for the establishment of 56 ornamental fish units.
- iii. Skill upgradation training will be provided to 1,000 fisherwomen in Fish seed production, intensive fish culture, innovative fish culture and value addition at a cost of Rs.38 lakh.
- iv. Kisan Credit Card will be provided to 10,000 fishermen and fish farmers to facilitate undertaking self-employment activities such as fish farming, seaweed farming and fish marketing. This will increase employment opportunities in rural areas.
- v. Annually, 12 crore fingerlings are produced in 46 government fish farms in Tamil Nadu. Considering the increasing demand for fingerlings, the

productivity of government fish farms will be increased to 15 crore fingerlings by purchasing new mother fish, increasing the stocking rate of fish fry and making effective use of infrastructure facilities. This will result in an additional fish production of 10,000 MT per year.

65. Rural Development

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

Out of the total 266 projects under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 58 works pertain to natural resource management category, 58 works pertain to rural infrastructure category and 150 works are exclusively allotted for projects on agriculture and allied activities.

In 2024-25, 80,707 Natural Resource Management works have been undertaken so far at a cost of Rs.2,177 crore.

In 2025-26, 80,000 works such as farm ponds, new ponds, percolation ponds, recharge pits, recharge shafts, recharge wells, earthen bunding and stone bunding will be undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,000 crore.

Women Self Help Groups

- i. In order to increase the production of pulses, an amount of Rs.2 crore will be allocated in 2025-26 to establish 100 seed production clusters of pulses through women self-help groups, with a revolving fund of Rs.2 lakh per cluster. The seeds produced will be procured by the Agriculture Department by extending production incentive, and distributed through Agricultural Extension Centres.
- ii. Women Self-Help Groups will adopt groundnut cultivation technologies, increase yield, add value after harvest, and produce value-added products like oil, burfi, peanut butter, oil cake and earn profit. In 2025-26, 30 Groundnut Production Clusters will be established at an outlay of Rs.4.50 crore.

66. Energy

To improve irrigation facilities, 23,74,741 three-phase free electricity connections have been provided to farmers so far. A total of Rs. 6,962.93 crore has been provided as free electricity subsidy for the year 2024-25. During the year 2025-26, the Government will provide an amount of Rs.8,186 crore to the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation towards providing free electricity connections to farmers.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The pure -hearted farmers are living as,

“Field bunds their pillows, so soft yet strong, Paddy straw their bed, where dreams belong. Bathed in sweat from dawn till night, Wrapped in toil, their silken light.”

**"வரப்பே தலகாணி
வைக்கோலே பஞ்சுமெத்தை
வேர்வையே பெருங்குளியில்
வெற்றுடம்பே பட்டாடை"**

Hence, the Dravidian Model Government, with the noble purpose of protecting the welfare of farmers and improving their livelihoods, continues to pursue sincere efforts to bring about sustained progress in agriculture.

**"நெல்லும் உயிர் அன்றே; நீரும் உயிர் அன்றே;
மன்னன் உயிர்த்தே மலர்தலை உலகம்;
அதனால், யான் உயிர் என்பது அறிகை
வேன்மிகு தாணை வேந்தர்க்கு கடனே"**

As poet Mosi Keerana depicted in Purananuru, though people sustain themselves on paddy grains and water, these are mere material necessities, not their true essence. To them, the King alone is their soul. Therefore, every ruler must recognize that he is the lifeblood of his people and must protect them as he would his own soul. The guiding principle of this Government is Good Governance, founded

on the belief that the people's welfare is paramount. **I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for entrusting me with the noble responsibility of enhancing food grain production to meet the nutritional needs of the people, uplifting farmers from poverty by improving their livelihoods, ensuring food security for every citizen of Tamil Nadu, promoting pesticide-free, nutritious food,** encouraging farmers by implementing progressive initiatives that address their fundamental needs, advocating the sustainable and judicious use of natural resources for agricultural advancement, and facilitating access to essential agricultural inputs to achieve integrated and inclusive sustainable development under the able guidance of **the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.**

Tailored to the seven distinct agro-climatic zones and the diverse crops cultivated across these regions, dedicated Budget for Agriculture is presented, one that champions the prosperity of farmers and the well-being of the people of Tamil Nadu. With a commitment to action, this Government upholds the principle of "**சொல்வதைச் செய்வோம், சொல்லாததையும் செய்வோம்**" (***We fulfill our promises and go beyond them***) and **this fifth exclusive Agriculture Budget** is the result of strenuous efforts and dedicated initiatives aimed at continuously enriching farmers' lives and ensuring

their sustained prosperity and the same has been prepared with the complete guidance of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who is safeguarding the welfare of farmers as eyelids protect the eyes—unceasingly and with care.**

I am delighted to reaffirm that, as in the past four years, all schemes will be effectively implemented in the upcoming year as well, with the necessary funds duly allocated to ensure their successful implementation.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Thiru.N.Muruganandham, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government, Thiru.T.Udayachandran, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Thiru.V.Dakshinamoorthy I.A.S., Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government and all Heads of Departments for the support rendered in preparing this fifth Agriculture Budget also, with various special schemes in the best way and presenting it in the Legislative Assembly for the welfare of farmers.

வாழ்க தமிழ் ! வாழ்க தமிழ்நாடு !

வளர்க வேளாண்மை! ஓங்குக உழவர்நலன்!

நன்றி ! வணக்கம்.

ANNEXURE

Outlay under Capital and Revenue under Agriculture & Allied Sectors During 2025-2026

Rupees in Thousands

S. No	Department	BE 2024-25	BE 2025-26		
			Capital	Revenue	TOTAL
1	Directorate of Agriculture	11,194,47,47	104,82,54	11,470,75,33	11,575,57,87
2	Directorate of Horticulture and Plantation Crops	1,621,60,32	...	1,665,16,44	1,665,16,44
3	Agricultural Engineering Department	714,54,27	7,18,28	702,51,21	709,69,49
4	Directorate of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business	209,90,34	3	245,53,19	245,53,22
5	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	664,31,89	15,00,00	693,84,19	708,84,19
6	Directorate of Seed Certification	69,44,28	...	73,86,79	73,86,79
7	Directorate of Sugar	254,06,20	...	251,65,88	251,65,88
8	Directorate of Animal Husbandry	1,088,22,63	31,25,41	1,154,62,03	1,185,87,44
9	Dairy Development	581,91,81	580,00,02	89,17,81	669,17,83
10	Directorate of Fisheries	1,320,96,85	770,41,29	701,67,74	1,472,09,03
11	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	346,14,64	10,00,00	321,23,42	331,23,42
12	Tamil Nadu Fisheries University, Nagapattinam	48,99,29	...	35,39,16	35,39,16
13	Co-Operation (Crop Loan)	700,00,00	...	700,00,00	700,00,00
14	Civil Supplies Department (DPC Procurement)	10,501,14,00	1	14,000,00,00	14,000,00,01
15	Rural Development & Panchayat (MGNRES, Rural Road, NRLM and AGAMT)	7,606,85,06	2,267,63,00	3,877,32,27	6,144,95,27
16	Food Processing	177,79,43	...	177,79,45	177,79,45
17	Sericulture	111,12,28	...	106,14,07	106,14,07
18	Forestry (Agro Forestry/ Man- animal Conflict)	1,107,93,55	610,92,50	697,81,20	1,308,73,70
19	Revenue (Crop Damage/ Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam)	379,36,67	...	344,75,18	344,75,18
20	Canal Restoration	3,581,73,64	3,954,96,41	...	3,954,96,41
	TOTAL	42,280,54,62	8,352,19,49	37,309,25,36	45,661,44,85

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