

2.1. Crop Husbandry

Although agriculture and allied sector's share in Gross Domestic Product has declined from over half at Independence to less than one fifth currently, agriculture remains the predominant sector in employment and livelihood with more than half of the workforce engaged in it as the principal occupation. Agriculture still contributes significantly to export earnings and is an important source of raw material as well as creates demand for many industries.

Tamil Nadu has a total geographical area of 130 lakh ha. with 6% of the country's population. But it has only 4% of the land area and 3% of water resources of the country. Of the total Gross Cropped Area only 56.6% of the area is under irrigated condition. Around 43.4% of the area is under dry land farming. The fallow lands have increased from 17.6 lakh ha. in the 50's to 24 lakh ha in 2006-07. The Gross Cropped Area which was 70.20 lakh ha (including area under Horticulture crops) during 1995-96 has come down to 58.43 lakh ha. in 2006-07. The reasons attributed for the increase in fallow lands and reduction of gross cropped area are: urbanization and industrialisation, inadequate water availability and depletion of ground water, failure of monsoon rains, rising cost of cultivation, scarcity of agricultural labour and uneconomic returns.

Plan Performance

The State had aimed at achieving minimum of 4% growth rate per annum in Agriculture and allied sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Area under Cereals was 57 % of the total cultivated area during 1980-81 and decreased to 45 % in 2006-07. Area under pulses is found increasing from 8 % during 1980-81 to 9.2 % during 2006-07. Area under oilseeds is found to be declining over the period. The production of almost all crops increased over the period of 2001-06. Area and production of paddy have recorded 66.10 lakh tonnes during 2006-07 from 35.77 lakh tonnes during 2002-03. Maize production has increased to 7.59 lakh tonnes during 2006-07 from 1.91 lakh tonnes during 2002-03. The increase is mainly due to the demand from poultry and other livestock feed industries. With regard to pulses production, the state has to depend on imports due to huge

demand and supply gap. Production of major pulses such as red gram, green gram and black gram showed increasing tendency over the period. However, during the period from 1999-2000 to 2005-06, the area under total pulses has decreased more than 20 %. Groundnut, the major oilseed crop exhibited increasing tendency in terms of area and production.

Tamil Nadu has done well in irrigated agriculture particularly in rice, sugarcane and groundnut, the major crops of the state. Food grains production, which was 44.60 lakh tonnes during 2002-03, has increased to 82.63 lakh tonnes during 2005-06 registering doubling of production. One of the main cash crops grown in the state is sugarcane giving greater scope for the growth and development of the sugar and alcohol-based industries. Area and production of sugarcane in the state witnessed higher growth over the above period. Cotton production in the state is now picking up during recent years.

Target set for 2009-10 and expected performance during 2008-09

As against the target of producing 96.17 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of food grains it is expected to achieve 84.45 LMT during 2007-08. During the year 2008-09, the state is optimistic to achieve the target of 108 LMT of food grains. During 2009-10, the target set for food grains is 110.5 LMT.

Various targets have been set for individual crops including oilseeds and horticulture crops.

To achieve these, the following strategies are proposed during 2009-10.

- Promotion of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) technologies to maximize rice production.
- Promotion of Bt cotton with micro irrigation.
- Soil Health Care through application of more organic manure, green manuring, biofertiliser and application of macro/micro nutrients based on the soil test analysis.
- Maximising the area coverage with Pulses, Maize and Groundnut with available water through crop diversification.
- Promotion of Good Seed Treatment practices.

- To provide quality seeds and planting materials to the farmers and increase the productivity. Efforts are being taken to produce and distribute hybrids of different crops.
- Quality seed distribution and promotion of Seed Village concept to produce quality seeds in farm holdings.
- Self Help Groups (SHGs) are also encouraged for seed production through suitable training besides Seed Village programme.
- Scientific cultivation by adoption of all technologies with drip fertigation through precision farming.
- Bringing every piece of cultivable land under cultivation and to bring considerable area of fallow lands under cultivation.
- Effective use of Information and Communication technology in Agriculture for speedy transfer of information like technology, weather forecast, Market trend and assistance extended to farmers through various Government schemes.
- Agriculture Technology Management Agency scheme will also be expanded to all districts of Tamil Nadu.

The State is implementing several schemes for the development of agriculture including horticulture.

Seed Component

Seed being a critical input plays a major role in increasing the productivity of various field crops. The Government is very keen in making available good quality seeds of preferred varieties in time to the farmers through Public and Private outlets. As per the Government of India norms, the desirable Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) is 25% for self-pollinated crops, 35% for cross-pollinated crops and 100% for hybrids.

The Government is very keen in providing good quality seeds and planting materials to the farmers and greater efforts are being taken to produce and distribute hybrids of different crops to increase the productivity. To strengthen all the activities related to seeds, separate Tamil Nadu State Seed Production Agency is under establishment.

Under Seed Multiplication Scheme, 18000 MTs of quality and viable Certified Paddy seeds and 450 MTs of Millet seeds are produced to cover 17% and 8% of the area under Paddy and Millets respectively. The certified seeds

produced by the Department are distributed through 379 main Agricultural Extension Centres (AECs) and 501 Sub Centres and the seeds produced by Private companies are sold through 5,313 No. of seed retail outlets. During 2008-09, farm women groups are also encouraged for seed production by imparting suitable training thereby empowering them both economically and technically besides, seed production is also encouraged through seed village programmes. The expenditure incurred for procurement of seeds from farmers, purchase of gunnies, seed certification charges and transportation charges is met under this scheme.

Manures and Fertilisers

The Organic matter content in most of the soils of Tamil Nadu is low and widespread deficiency of Micro Nutrients is also noticed. Hence, the Government is keen in soil health care and promotes organic farming of which Vermi composting is of prime importance. Nowadays, the vermi composting technology is gaining popularity among the farmers. To disseminate the technology of vermi composting, 300 demonstrations are being laid during 2008-09 at a cost of Rs.11.55 lakh. During 2009-2010 it is proposed to conduct 300 demonstrations at a cost of Rs.11.56 lakh.

Crop and Plant Protection

Plant Protection against pest and diseases is vital to get potential productivity. Adoption of Integrated Pest Management technology has brought down the pesticide consumption to a great extent. Under this scheme, 10 Bio control Agents Production Centres, 2 Integrated Pest Management Centres and 59 Parasite Breeding Centres functioning in the State produce Bio Control Agents to control various pests such as sugarcane Internode Borer, Blackheaded Caterpillar and Rhinoceros Beetle in Coconut and Redhairy Caterpillar and Prodenia in Groundnut. Bio pesticides are procured for distributing to the farmers with subsidy under various Centrally Sponsored Programmes like Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP-Cotton), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), and Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP-Rice).

Commercial Crops

Under Sugarcane Development scheme, the parasites are multiplied in 21 Parasites Breeding Centres functioning near sugar mills area. Under Cotton Development scheme, quality certified cottonseeds are produced as per Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) of 10% for Rainfed cotton area and 15% for Irrigated area under cotton. During 2009-10 it has been proposed to procure and distribute 250 MT of cottonseeds. A sum of Rs.106.25 lakh has been proposed for 2009-10 for Intensive Cotton Development Programme.

Increasing the Production of Oilseeds (IPOS)

The objective of the scheme 'Increasing the Production of Oilseeds' (IPOS), is to procure and supply quality oilseeds to the required quantity as per the SRR (Groundnut 5%, Gingelly 15%, Sunflower 50%, Castor 30%, Soya 20%) and also providing latest technologies to increase the productivity. A sum of Rs.1134.00 lakh has been proposed for 2009-10 of which an amount of Rs.450 lakh is earmarked for SCSP component.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

This scheme is implemented with an objective to provide insurance coverage and for support to farmers in the event of failure of crops as a result of natural calamities, pest and disease attack etc. During 2009-2010, it is programmed to cover 25 lakh farmers with an outlay of Rs.2237.50 lakh of which Rs.237.50 lakh is earmarked under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP).

Tamil Nadu Agricultural Labourers Welfare Board

The scheme "The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Labourers - Farmers (Social Security and Welfare) Scheme 2006 came into force with effect from 22.12.2006. As on March 2007, 63.73 lakh families have been enrolled as members of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Labourers Welfare Board. The scheme provides financial assistance to its members for marriages and maternity (including miscarriage) and the dependants are given financial assistance for education from 10th Standard upto Post Graduation, including Professional Courses. In addition, the scheme

also provides relief to the legal heir in case of death or loss of limbs due to accident or natural death. Another major feature of the scheme is sanction of old age pension of Rs.400 per month for all the members on attainment of sixty years of age.

Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water Bodies Restoration and Management (IAMWARM)

Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water Bodies Restoration and Management (IAMWARM) Project in Tamil Nadu is being implemented with the assistance of World Bank over a period of six years (2007-08 to 2012-13) through Water Resources Organization (WRO) and Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries along with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

The IAMWARM Project aims to improve the service delivery, productivity in irrigated agriculture with effective integrated water resource management in selected 63 sub basins in Tamil Nadu. Activities like agricultural Intensification and diversification, enhancing market access and agri business opportunities, strengthening institutions and instruments dealing with water resource management thereby improving the conveyance efficiency are being practiced in the project areas. During 2007-08, the project was implemented in 9 selected sub-basins under Phase-I programme.

During 2008-09, the scheme is implemented additionally in 16 selected sub-basins under Phase-II programme. During 2009-2010 it is proposed to implement the project additionally in 38 sub-basins under Phase-III programme. Totally, during 2009-2010 this project is implemented in 63 selected sub-basins at a cost of Rs.23.50 crore under Crop Husbandry sector. 9200 demonstrations are proposed to be conducted under various crops such as paddy, maize, pulses, groundnut, cotton and ragi. 3500 No. of agricultural implements are proposed to be distributed in the project area.

National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

This mission aims at increasing the production of rice and pulses additionally through increase in area and productivity by implementing new initiatives in selected districts. Increasing production through area expansion and productivity enhancement, restoring soil fertility and creation of employment opportunities and enhancing farm level economy are the objectives of this scheme. This Mission Programme on Rice is implemented in Nagappattinam, Thiruvarur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai districts and Pulses programme is implemented in Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Erode, Nagapattinam, Namakkal Thiruvallur, Thiruvarur, Thoothukudi, Thiruvannamalai, Vellore, Villupuram, and Virudhunagar districts.

National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) / Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

The National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) is programmed to achieve 4% annual growth by reorienting the current agricultural development strategies and to rejuvenate with Additional Central Assistance in agricultural and allied sectors. As per the guidelines issued by the Government of India, the State Government have constituted the State Level Sanctioning Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu. During 2007-08, Government of India has allocated an outlay of Rs.185.31 crore apart from Rs.2.90 crore towards the preparation of District Agricultural Plan. During 2008-09, Schemes are proposed to be implemented in Erode, Tiruchy, Vellore, Thiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, Sivagangai, Virudhunagar, Theni, Thirunelveli as focus districts with an outlay of Rs.129.56 crore. Under National Agricultural Development Programme it is proposed to take up Precision Farming in 9400 hectares at a cost of Rs.4202 lakh. Agriclincs will be established in 161 blocks at a cost of Rs.515.20 lakh. Dryland Development activities will be implemented in 30 blocks at the rate of 150 hectares per block at a cost of Rs.515.15 lakh. Organic Farming and Organic Manure Production in 130 blocks at a cost of Rs.910 lakh. Quality seed production and distribution is proposed for Rs.1075.19 lakh. The Agricultural Mechanization will be implemented at a cost of

Rs.2579.55 lakh. 20% of the allocation under Precision Farming, Agrilclinic, Dryland Development and Organic Farming is earmarked under SCSP.

Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms

This scheme is implemented for co-ordinating line departments like Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture, Fisheries, Forestry, Agricultural Engineering and Marketing with Agricultural Extension Programme. Under this scheme, projects are formulated at block level based on the farmers need. The district autonomous body viz. Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) will approve the project. As a first phase this scheme was implemented in 133 blocks of 9 districts and now it is extended to all other districts also.

The Central and the State Government share the expenditure on 90:10 basis. The farmers training, laying out of demonstration, exposure visit, mobilizing farmers interest groups, creating revolving fund, dissemination of information through various media, providing infrastructure facilities to State Nodal Office, district level ATMA Office and block level information centres are some of the activities implemented under this scheme. An amount of Rs.0.20 crore is proposed for the year 2009-10.

Integrated farming in Coconut holdings for productivity improvement

This is a centrally sponsored scheme and the entire expenditure is borne by Government of India, through the Coconut Development Board. Removal of senile and diseased trees, layout of demonstration plots and organic manure pit have been taken up under this programme in order to improve the productivity of coconut.

Seed Village Scheme

Seed is the vital input in Agriculture, which decides the production and productivity of crops. Major efforts have been taken in the supply of quality seeds to the farmers. The Government and private seed companies are contributing substantially to the supply of quality seeds. However, the supply of quality seeds is not adequate to meet the requirement especially under Pulses / Oil seeds. Hence the farmers were trained on scientific method of seed production so as to

improve quality of seeds produced by them in achieving 100% seed requirement. Hence Government of India have introduced a 'Seed Village Scheme' during 2006-07 with an aim to improve the quality of farmer saved seeds. Under this Scheme, Foundation/Certified seed of Paddy, Oilseeds, Pulses are distributed with 50% subsidy to the farmers besides training. This Seed Village Scheme programmed to be implemented at a cost of Rs.200 lakh. Seed Village Scheme is planned to cover 850 villages in Paddy, 175 villages in Pulses and 270 villages in Groundnut.

Agricultural Information System Network Project (AGRISNET)

Use of Information and communication technology is gaining rapid progress in the field of agriculture. The linkage through website is of more use to develop better and faster communication between the various levels of the Department, University, Research Laboratory, Women Groups, Farmers Interest Groups and also the farmers. To facilitate the above objective, a sum of Rs.831.40 lakh have been approved by GOI during 2006-07 out of which GOI released Rs.302.40 lakh. The main objective of this scheme is to link State Headquarters with the other officers at block and district level. Under this project, purchase of computers to provide network facilities, establishing linkages, data entry and human resource development, training activities are proposed to be taken up. The scheme is in progress and computers have been supplied to all Non-National Agricultural Development Programme Districts.

Macro Management Mode

The Cereals Development Programme-Rice is being implemented under Macro Mode Management programme from 2000-2001. The sharing pattern in funding is 90:10 between Centre and State. Under this scheme, during 2009-2010, 12,000 MT certified paddy are to be distributed at the rate of Rs.5/- Kg. 15000 number of SRI demonstrations and 996 number of Farmers Field Schools are programmed to be conducted throughout the crop duration to popularize the Integrated Pest Management practices. As against the outlay of Rs.11.50 crore, an amount of Rs.13.79 crore is expected to be spent during 2008-09. An amount of Rs.13.47 crore is proposed for 2009-10.

Soil Health Card

Soil Health Card is a semi permanent record containing details of the available nutrient status of the farm along with recommendation of the fertilizer doses for the prescribed crops. Further other soil parameters are also given to the farmers in the form of Soil Health Cards.

Soil Health Card is also having information of soil problem if any and the relevant reclamation measures. Upto August 2008, a total of 1.60 lakh numbers of Soil Health Cards were distributed to the farmers. For the year 2008-09, it is programmed to distribute 5.0 lakh Nos. of Soil Health Card through Soil Testing Laboratory and Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory.

Innovative Programme

This programme consists of a number of components which are innovative in nature and they are detailed below:

i) Farmers Interest Groups

This scheme is aimed for group based extension activities involving farmers who are experienced in cultivation of different crops. During 2009-10, 1200 Nos. of Farmers Interest Groups will be formed under crops such as Paddy, Millets, Pulses, Oil seeds & Cotton. The Farmers Interest Groups will be provided with a library and an office, which is to be automated subsequently. The members of the Farmers Interest Groups will be trained on various innovative crop production technologies. They will be provided with Identity cards. 74 District level meetings will be conducted for the Farmers Interest Groups wherein the members will be apprised of crop production schemes, various technologies and demonstrations on innovative technologies. It has been programmed to conduct four state level meetings.

ii) Tamil Nadu Women in Agri Business and Extension (TANWABE)

TANWABE scheme was implemented with an objective of strengthening existing Farm Women Groups, Capacity Building, and improving the capabilities in handling the technologies through gender mainstreaming by creating sustainable self help models of excellence in agriculture, multiply the reach as well

as the impact of extension. During 2008-09, 2025 TANWABE groups are being given one day training on managerial administrative and entrepreneurial skills, besides 50% assistance of the investment cost of Rs.10000 for promotion of micro enterprises activities. During 2009-2010 it is programmed to continue imparting of training to 2500 TANWABE groups.

Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM)

a. Oilseeds

To achieve self-sufficiency under oilseeds, Oilseeds Production Programme has been taken up under ISOPOM and the expenditure under this scheme is shared between Government of India and State Government on 75:25 basis. This scheme encourages oilseed growers to adopt latest production technologies by providing essential inputs like seeds, Plant Protection (PP) equipments, biofertilisers, biopesticides, gypsum and Block demonstration on Polythene Mulch Technology in Groundnut and Intergrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstration are also conducted. Also infrastructure development for irrigation facilities, pipe carrying water, provision of audio visual aids for village campaigns are being implemented. This scheme is implemented in all the districts except Kanyakumari and Nilgiris districts. This scheme is continued during 2008-09 also. An amount of Rs.9.37 crore proposed under general scheme and Rs.3.09 crore under SCSP scheme for the year 2009-10.

b. Pulses

To increase the productivity of pulses, subsidies are extended for Production and distribution of 18800 quintals of pulses certified seed, 4000 Nos. of Compact Block Demonstrations and 200 IPM Demonstrations. Other inputs like Gypsum, Biofertilizers, Bio agents, Nuclear Poly Virus (NPV) virus, Plant Protection chemicals are distributed at subsidized cost. Plant Protection equipments and sprinkler sets are also distributed. Significant portion of fund is utilised for distribution of pipe for carrying water from sources to field at subsidised cost. Provision of audio visual aids for village campaigns is being implemented. This scheme is implemented in all districts except Nilgiris and the expenditure under this scheme is shared by Govt. of India and the State

Government on 75:25 basis. An amount of Rs.6.50 crore under general scheme and 2.13 crore under SCSP scheme is proposed for 2009-10.

c. Oilpalm

During the year 2007-08, it has been programmed to cover 3956 ha. The scheme at present is implemented in Cauvery Delta Zone Districts (i.e.) Trichy, Karur , Perambalur , Thiruvarur, Thanjavur and Nagapattinam and Cuddalore & Villupuram. The Government identified entrepreneur M/s. Cauvery Palm Oil Limited, Trichy who is procuring sprouts from National Research Centre on Oilpalm - Pedavagi, Andhrapradesh and Oilpalm India, Kerala. The 12 - 16 months seedlings are provided to progressive Oilpalm growers at 100 % subsidised cost on contract basis. Under Oilpalm Development Programme, the farmers are provided with cultivation Maintenance subsidy for four years during the gestation period of Oilpalm. The Government considering the potentiality and suitability of the crop have decided to promote new entrepreneurs in the potentially identified new districts of Cuddalore, Villupuram, Tirunelveli, Theni, Thoothukudi, Thiruvallur and Vellore districts. An amount of Rs.5.61 crore under general scheme and 1.48 crore under SCSP scheme is proposed for 2009-10.

d. Maize

The expenditure under this scheme is met by Government of India and the State Government on 75:25 basis. Under this scheme it is proposed to distribute seeds at subsidized rates. Block demonstrations and IPM demonstrations are conducted. Production subsidy is also contemplated for seeds produced by the Department and Private producers. Farmers enrolled in contract farming arrangement are imparted training. Subsidy for pipeline carrying water from water source and for publicity purpose have also been provided. An amount of Rs.0.61 crore under general scheme and Rs.0.21 crore under SCSP scheme is proposed for 2009-10.

Technology Mission on Cotton (Mini Mission II)

The expenditure under this scheme is shared on 75:25 basis by Govt. of India and by the State Government. This scheme aims to increase the production

of cotton by providing key inputs like seeds, seed treatment chemicals, pheromone traps, bio agents, plant protection equipments, drip and sprinkler system, bio fertilisers, Bt. cotton detection kits, Micro-Nutrient (MN) Mixture etc. and through technology demonstration and training and plant protection. This programme is implemented in all the districts except Kancheepuram, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and Nilgiris. An amount of Rs.4.25 crore under general scheme and Rs.1.25 crore under SCSP scheme is proposed for 2009-10.

Horticulture

Tamil Nadu is one of the leading Horticulture States in India contributing 7.7 % to the National Horticultural production with 5.7 % of the National level area. Tamil Nadu has been blessed with diversified agro-climatic conditions, suitable for a wide range of horticulture crops like fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops, flowers and medicinal plants. A large extent of wastelands and under-utilized lands are available in the State for horticulture development. Tamil Nadu has a long coastal belt of 1000 km. suitable for crops like cashew, coconut, tropical orchids etc. The southern part of Tamil Nadu has the potential for growing off-season mangoes and grapes.

Integrated Horticulture Development Scheme

This scheme is being implemented in 29 districts excluding Chennai. Under this scheme elite planting materials, high yielding / hybrid vegetable seeds are distributed to the horticultural farmers at 50% subsidised cost. The subsidy is given to a maximum of 1 ha/ beneficiary for fruits and 0.5 ha/ beneficiary for high yielding/ hybrid vegetables and flower seeds. During 2007-08, this scheme is being implemented with an outlay of Rs.266.16 lakh. During 2009-10, this scheme will be implemented with an outlay of Rs.266.16 lakh to cover an area of 21343.33 ha.

Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP)

Under this scheme, planting materials, seeds etc. are distributed to tribal farmers at 75% subsidised cost in Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, and Trichy and Villupuram districts. Tour and training programme are

being conducted in order to educate tribal farmers on improved technologies. Oil engine and plant protection equipments and installation of drip irrigation system are being distributed to the tribal farmers at subsidized cost. The scheme is proposed to be implemented at an outlay of Rs.45.06 lakh to cover an area of 900 ha. during 2009-10.

Western Ghat Development Programme (WGDP)

The scheme is implemented in the district of Coimbatore, Erode, Dindigul, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Thirunelveli and Kanayakumari. The component proposed is watershed management in westernghat area, Improvement of infrastructural facilities for the State Horticulture Farms, farmers training and tour, organic cultivation of horticulture crops etc. An amount of Rs.117.00 lakh is proposed for the year 2009-10.

Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)

Under this scheme, pedigree fruit plants, high yielding vegetable seeds, spices plants are distributed to the horticultural growers of The Nilgiris district at 25% subsidy. The programme component covered are assistance for promotion of post harvest handling for fruits, flowers and vegetables, distribution of oil engines, agricultural inputs to SC/ST farmers etc.,

Tamil Nadu Precision Farming Project (TPFP)

Tamil Nadu Precision Farming Project was implemented in the districts of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri to cover an area of 400 ha. of farmers' holdings at an outlay of Rs.720.60 lakh over a period of 3 years. Tamil Nadu Precision Farming Project is to be implemented in Vellore, Erode, Madurai, Theni, Thirunelveli, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur districts. Under this scheme, annual fruits, vegetables and flowers will be cultivated in an area of 735 ha. adopting precision farming technologies.

Micro Irrigation

Micro Irrigation scheme aims at increasing the area under efficient methods of irrigation i.e. drip and sprinkler irrigation. Micro Irrigation for the

entire horticultural crops was introduced in a massive scale during 2005-06 and now being extended to sugarcane also during 2006-07. 50% subsidy to all categories of farmers is envisaged in this programme. Maximum area per beneficiary family is limited to 5 ha. only. This scheme is implemented on a Centrally shared scheme manner with 80:20 share basis.

In 2005-06, the Government has released an amount of Rs.42.91 crore for the implementation of micro irrigation scheme (80:20) with the target of 28980 ha for horticulture crops only and the state government's share (20%) of Rs.10.20 crore was also released for 2005-06. In the year 2006-07 apart from the horticulture crops the scheme was also extended to non-horticulture crops like sugarcane. The Government of India approved 5402 ha with an outlay of Rs.12.00 crore for 2006-07 and released its share and state government share of Rs.3 crore. Since the scheme implementation has started only in the last quarter of March 2007 the progress on achievement for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 was 'Nil' and the scheme was carried over to 2007-08.

The annual action plan for 2007-08 is to cover an area of 45,000 ha under this scheme with a total outlay of Rs.163.03 crore. But GOI has released an amount of Rs.22 crore for 2007-08 for non-horticulture crops with the target of 12,332 ha. In respect of 2008-09, necessary action is being taken to get the approval of GOI and revalidation for unspent amount of Rs.61 crore has been awaited from GOI. The scheme will be continued during 2009-10.

National Horticulture Mission (NHM)

This scheme aims at holistic development of Horticulture involving appropriate cultivars, good agronomical practices, post harvest handling, processing and marketing with an end-to-end approach. Under this scheme, focus crops viz., mango, amla, banana, cashew, chillies, turmeric, aromatic plants and flowers are promoted adopting cluster approach. This scheme is being implemented in 20 districts to promote holistic growth of horticulture sector. An amount of Rs.5.00 crore proposed for 2009-10.

National Bamboo Mission in Tamil Nadu

The National Bamboo Mission a 100% assistance of Government of India scheme is implemented from 2006-07. The scheme is being implemented in 9 districts.

Agricultural Engineering

Replacement of Old Pumpsets Scheme

It was proposed to replace the old inefficient electrical pumpsets with an aim of saving electricity. Subsidy assistance is provided to the farmers for replacing their old pumpsets and renewal of electrical accessories. It is proposed to provide Rs.10.00 crore as subsidy for replacing 16420 old pumpsets with new energy efficient pumpsets during 2008-09. The scheme will be continued during 2009-10 also.

Plan Outlay for 2009-10

As against the outlay of Rs.353.83 crore, an amount of Rs.422.61 crore is expected to be spent during 2008-09. A sum of Rs. 615.56 crore is approved for the Crop Husbandry sector for the year 2009-10. Of this, the outlays for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Area Sub Plan are Rs.31.61 crore and Rs.0.44 crore respectively.