

## **8.1. Scientific Services and Research**

Given the objectives and challenges for achieving a broad based higher economic growth rate in agriculture, industry and services, that includes better health, clean drinking water, rural infrastructure, etc., it is important to take stock of the situation and develop strategies and plans to address them. For that purpose, there is an urgent need to focus on enlarging the scientific manpower, strengthening the science and technology infrastructure and converting this potential into reality and pushing the state into the knowledge era, so that the economy of the state can be compared with that of developed nations. Hence technological advances should be effectively harnessed for successful and sustainable development.

### **Objectives**

Annual Plan 2009-10 aims to foster strong scientific temper among the people and to improve the quality of manpower. It also attempts to foster research, in new areas such as biotechnology, nano-technology etc. for better standard of living of people.

### **Programmes**

The Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology, Science City and Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre are the three autonomous bodies undertaking various activities to promote science and technology at State level. They also support and coordinate fundamental and applied research programmes in universities, other scientific bodies and non-governmental organizations and create awareness among public, students and researchers in the field of industry, agriculture, health, environment, energy and other sectors. They popularise science, inculcate scientific temper among the public and help to make them into scientifically literate.

### ***Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology***

The Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology has been implementing schemes such as Student Project Scheme, Adoption of Young Student Scientists Scheme, Young Scientists Fellowship Scheme, Partial financial

assistance for the conduct of Seminar/ Symposia/ Workshop, Popularization of Science Activities, Assistance for S&T Publication, Travel Grant, Tamilnadu Scientist Award, Dissemination of Innovative Technology, Inservice Training Programme, Creation of Scientific Awareness etc. It has spent a sum of Rs.86.46 lakh in 2008-09 and an outlay of Rs.100.00 lakh is proposed to implement the above schemes in the Annual Plan 2009-10.

### ***Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre***

By organizing science and technology based temporary exhibitions, conducting workshops, seminars, lectures, short-term courses in astronomy and astronomy camps and competitions like quiz, essay, elocution, drawing, maths talent search contest, etc., Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre has been popularizing Science and Technology among the common people in general and students in particular. A 3D theatre with modernized and sophisticated system with digital sound system was established at Anna Science Centre, Tiruchirappalli.

The B.M. Birla Planetarium was strengthened with provision of three portable Planetariums and provision of Mirror Dome and Plasma Screen. Construction of building works in District Science Centre at Vellore is in progress. Regional science centre at Coimbatore would be set up with the total cost of Rs.650.00 lakh equally shared between state and centre.

An outlay of Rs.2.00 crore is proposed to implement the various programmes during 2009-10.

### **Science City**

About 60 educational and research institutions like Anna University, Indian Institute of Technology, Central Leather Research Institute and Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre etc., belonging to both State and Centre has been declared as Science City.

Science City is implementing various programs connected to the development of Science and Technology such as setting up of Information System, networking of libraries within Science City, popularisation of science etc.

The Science Festivals are being organised with the aim of enhancing the popularity of science. It is designed to increase public awareness of science and present scientific results in a popular and appealing way through scientific exhibits by schools, colleges and renounced organisation, demonstrations by faculty, scientific, film shows interactive sessions, competitions etc. A sum of Rs.0.92 crore has been spent during 2008-09. A sum of Rs.0.73 crore is proposed for Science City during the Annual Plan 2009-10.

**Plan Outlay for 2009-10**

An outlay of Rs.3.96 crore is approved for scientific services and research sector during the Annual Plan 2009-10.