

Department of Horticulture

In Theni District the major Horticulture crops grown are Mango, Banana, Grapes, Cashew, Tomato, Brinjal, Onion, Drumstick. Chillies, Jasmine, Rose, Cardamom, Tea, Coffee, Pepper, etc., In total about 52,650 ha of area covered by various Horticulture crops in this district. Doubling the production and tripling income of farmers is the prime policy of Tamil Nadu. Encouraging cultivation of traditional cultivars in horticultural crops, adopting Hi – Tech Horticulture technologies, promoting horticulture as a profitable and viable sector by disbursing technologies, encouraging farm mechanization and improved Post Harvest Management etc., paves the way for achieving the above policy.

The strategies of Horticulture Department are to encourage the use of hybrid seeds and quality planting material in area expansion of horticulture crops, hi –tech cultivation, high density planting, promotion of cultivating high value horticulture crops in protected cultivation, use of micro irrigation, pollination support through bee keeping for enhancing the production, Integrated nutrient management, farm mechanization and improved Post Harvest Management techniques. The hybrid vegetable portray seedlings will be raised in State Horticulture Farms and distributed to farmers at subsidized cost to increase the area under vegetable cultivation.

The major schemes under implementation in theni district are ...

Micro Irrigation scheme under Per Drop More Crop component of PradhanMantrikrishiSinchayeeYojana (PMKSY)

Micro irrigation is an advanced water conservation and management technology that improves water use efficiency by 40-60%. Irrigation is a critical factor for increasing production and productivity of crop. Since, Tamilnadu has only 3 percent water resources, the state is keen to use irrigation water more economically and efficiently.

Besides water use efficiency, fertilizer use efficiency is also ensured by applying fertilizers through irrigation water directly (Fertigation) in the root zones. This irrigation technology minimizes the weed growth and reduces the labour requirement. Through Micro irrigation, area under cultivation is increased with available water leads in doubling the production resulted in tripling of farmers income. In Tamil Nadu, Government has given big thrust to Micro Irrigation and it is the only state in the Country which continued its support to provide 100% subsidy to small and Marginal farmers and 75% subsidy to other farmers. This scheme is implemented with a sharing pattern of 60:40 between Centre and State. During the year 2017-18 a sum of RS.1215 lakhs is allotted to this scheme to cover an area of 1850 ha of Horticulture crops.

National Horticulture Mission

The main focus of National Horticulture Mission is to encourage horticulture crops cultivation among farmers. Area expansion of high remunerative horticulture crops such as vegetables, Fruits, Spices and Condiments, Flowers and Plantation crops is being promoted with adoption of high tech cultivation practices. National Horticulture Mission is implemented with fund sharing pattern of 60:40 between Centre and State. Under this scheme assistance was given to the beneficiaries to establish area expansion of Mango, TC Banana , Hybrid vegetables, Pepper, Cashew, Cocoa, Protected cultivation, Pollination support through bee keeping, mechanization of horticulture, Integrated Nutrient management, pack house and special intervention. This year an financial outlay of RS.486.303 lakhs is allotted to this district.

National Agriculture Development programme

National Agriculture Development programme is a shared scheme between Centre and State with 60:40 Sharing Pattern. Banana bunch sleeves, Onion Development Programme, preservation of traditional vegetable crops, Agro Eco System Analysis (AESAs) based Integrated pest Management for fruits and vegetables. During the year 2017-18 a sum of Rs.121.645 lakhs is allotted to this scheme.

Rainfed Area Development

RAD aims at promoting Integrated Farming System (IFS) with emphasis on multitier cropping, rotational cropping, inter-cropping, mixed-cropping practices with allied activities like horticulture, livestock, fishery, agro-forestry, apiculture, conservation / promotion of NTFPs etc. to enable farmers not only in maximizing farm returns for sustaining livelihood, but also to mitigate impacts of drought, flood or other extreme weather events. Rainfed Area Development under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture is implemented with a sharing pattern of 60:40 between Centre and State. In 2017-18, it is proposed to implement the scheme at an outlay of Rs.139.30 lakhs for Horticulture Based Farming System.

Crop Insurance – “PradhanMantrikrishiFasalBimaYojana” (PMFBY)

The Government is implementing this scheme with a deep concern to protect the livelihood of the farmers suffering from crop losses. The new Crop Insurance scheme “PradhanMantrikrishiFasalBimaYojana” (PMFBY) concept utilized to protect the farmers from production risks, ensure food security, encourage crop diversification, besides enhancing growth and competitiveness of agriculture sector is implemented with the following objectives: Extending financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of unforeseen events Stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming Encouraging farmer to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices. Uniform cut-off date for enrolment of loanee and non loanee farmers is the other benefit that will be provided under this scheme. Further, the farmers would get more accurate compensation for crop loss since revenue village has been notified as the unit of insurance. Theni district has been categorized under cluster III and implemented by New India Assurance company.

State Horticulture Farms (SHFs)

The objective of State Horticulture farms is timely production and distribution of pedigree and quality planting materials of Horticulture crops to the farmers. There is only one state Horticulture farm functioning in this district.

- 1.State Horticulture Farm – Periyakulam

The farm is also serve as a demonstration centre on the latest technology, farm mechanization, modern irrigation technologies etc., to the farmers. As a new venture, high yielding varieties/hybrids of vegetables seedlings are produced in portrays for distribution to the farmers.