

Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops

Theni District is considered as one of the horticulture wealth districts in Tamilnadu. Being situated in Cumbum valley, surrounded by Western Gates, Various type of climatic conditions like tropical, sub tropical and temperate prevails in Theni district. Since its nature, all types of horticulture crops- Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Plantation crops, Medicinal and Aromatic plants are cultivated both in plains and hilly tracts of the districts. Mango, Banana, Grapes are major fruit crops. Plain vegetables and Cole vegetable are cultivated considerably in all blocks.. Spices like Cardamom, Pepper are cultivated in Bodi Block. Coffee, Tea plantations are in Megamalai, Kurankani hill areas. Cashew nut, Moringa are major crops of dry tract of Aundipatti, Myladumparai blocks.

Nearly 62570 Ha are under all type of horticulture crops in Theni District.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) -Per Drop More Crop

With increasing demand on water from various sectors, the availability of water is under severe stress. Agriculture sector is the largest user of water. Micro Irrigation technology plays a vital role in Agriculture as well as Horticulture in saving water and increasing productivity through effective utilization of every drop of water. Use of modern irrigation methods like drip and sprinkler irrigation are the ways for the efficient use of surface as well as ground water resources.

ADVANTAGES OF MICRO IRRIGATION

- Water Saving & Water Use Efficiency (WUE)
- Higher fertilizer-use efficiency (FUE)
- Reduced Labor Costs
- Reduce Soli Loss
- Marginal Solis & Water
- Improved Crop Quality
- Higher Yields

Launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of "Har Khet Ko Paani", the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency. Micro irrigation is an integral component of the scheme to maximize water use efficiency at farm level.

In Theni District, this scheme is implemented from 2018-19 and achievement details are as below.

Year	Target		Achievement as on 1.10.20	
	Phy. (Ha)	Fin. (Lakhs)	Phy. (Ha)	Fin. (Lakhs)
2018-19	1900	1795.00	1362.14	975.43
2019-20	5550	2448.5	3013.00	2353.59
2020-21	5000	3250	1177.89	925.46

Supplementary Water Management Activities (SWMA)

The prime objective of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) – Per Drop More Crop is to improve water use efficiency by adopting micro irrigation technologies in the country. Other interventions of PMKSY Per Drop More Crop is implemented as a supplementary component of creation of Micro-water storage activities and efficient water usage in rain fed areas which is proposed to be subsumed as Supplementary Water Management Activities (SWMA). It has been decided to propagate Micro Irrigation technology among the farming community by filling in the gaps for creation of water source for Micro Irrigation at farm or near farm gate level through the following activities.

- Sinking of Shallow tube wells/Shallow /medium Bore wells in safe firkas.
50 % of the total cost of installation limited to Rs. 25,000/- per unit
- Installation of Diesel Pump sets/ Electric motor.
50 % of the cost of electric / diesel pump set including GST or Rs. 15,000/- per electric pump set whichever is less.
- Laying of conveyance pipes.
50% of the cost of system limited to Rs. 10,000/- per ha and for not more than one Ha per beneficiary.
- Construction of Ground level storage structures.
50% of cost limited to Rs. 350 per cubic meter of storage capacity.
Maximum permissible assistance will be restricted to Rs. 40,000/- per beneficiary.

All farmers who intend to install Micro irrigation facilities, irrespective of marginal, small and big farmers are eligible to take up the proposed irrigation augmenting activities under this scheme.

After registration in MIMIS portal, pre inspection, work order issuance, work completion are various stages of the scheme. The subsidy will be released to beneficiary by Deputy Director of Horticulture through PFMS after the release of 60 % fund for Micro Irrigation system installation.

National Horticulture Mission

National Horticulture Mission is a centrally sponsored scheme in which the assistance from Government of India is 85 % with 15 % contribution by the State Government. Objectives : To develop horticulture to the maximum potential available in the district and to augment production of all horticultural production of all horticultural products.

1. To provide holistic growth of the horticulture sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategies.
2. To enhance horticulture production, improve nutritional security and income support to farm households.
3. To establish convergence and synergy among multiple on-going and planned programmes for horticulture development.
4. To promote, develop and disseminate technologies, through a seamless blend of traditional wisdom and modern scientific knowledge.
5. To create opportunities for employment generation for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth.

National Horticulture Mission will focus in the areas of horticultural research, development post harvest management, processing and marketing. The components included in the scheme are Area Expansion Programme, Nursery development, Water Storage structures, Poly house, Shade net, Mulching, Horticulture Mechanization, Pack house, Apiary .

The financial outlay of Rs. 659.4 lakhs is allotted for this scheme to be implemented for year 2020-21 in Theni district.

National Agriculture Development programme

National Agriculture Development programme is a centrally sponsored scheme shared between center and state with 60:40 Sharing pattern. Onion development, Pandal erection, Propping for banana, Promotion of Organic cultivation in vegetable crops are allotted components in this scheme for year 2020-21 at an outlay of Rs. 82.75 lakhs.

Area Expansion Programme of Cashew nut with 200 ha as physical, Rs. 24.00 lakhs as financial target under this scheme is implemented for year 2020-21 in Theni District.

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 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 IFS ,Non IFS Components 2020-21 it is proposed to implement the Scheme at an outlay of Rs.62.10 laksh for Horticulture Based farming System.

Integrated Horticulture Development Scheme (IHDS)

This scheme sponsored by state government is being implemented with an objective to increase the area under horticulture crops.

Area Expansion Programme, Promotion of Homestead vegetable gardens, Special systems and practices of horticulture farming, Distribution of horticulture tools and equipment are major components to cover small, marginal farmers.

It is proposed to implement the Scheme at an outlay of Rs.33.60 laksh in Theni District.

TN-IAMP (IAMWARM) Project (TamilNadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project- Horticulture)

TN-IAMP is a multi disciplinary project funded by World Bank and implemented by the Govt of TamilNadu. The main objective of the programme is to accelerate crop diversification from crops requiring more water to high remunerative and less water requiring horticulture crops, through promotion of hi-tech cultivation technologies and water conservation technologies in the proposed sub basins. The innovative interventions implemented are Horticulture crop demonstration, Promotion of pesticides free vegetables production, Promotion of Micro irrigation, Climate resilience technology of protected cultivation and Mulching.

Crop Insurance- “Pradhan Mantrikrishi Fasal BimaYojana” (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 “Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana”(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. In the scheme, 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 Agriculture Insurances company. The notified crops are Banana, Onion, Tomato, Tapioca, Brinjal for season Kharif 2020.

Collective Farming

It is state government sponsored scheme to improve the livelihood of small and marginal farmers. 20 Nos small, marginal farmers are grouped into one Farmer Interest Group and 5 such FIGs are integrated to form one Farmer Producer Group (FPG) with an objective

- i) to promote Collective farming for credit mobilization
- ii) better adoption of technology
- iii) to facilitate effective forward and backward linkages.

This synergic movement of farmers empowers their bargaining power and reduces the cost of cultivation and enhances profit due to Collective purchase of inputs and Collective cultivation. The Farmer Producer Group and Farmer Producer Company would aggregate the produces from members on harvest, clean, grade and brand before collectively market, with or without value addition, direct to consumers for best price.

The state Government will extend financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh to each FPG as Corpus fund for purchase of farm machineries/ implements in the Collective Farming.

This scheme is implemented in Theni district for year 2020-21 at finance of Rs. 75.00 lakhs to provide corpus fund for 15 Farmer Producer Groups.

State Horticulture Farm

The objective of State Horticulture Farms is timely production and distribution of pedigree and quality planting materials of horticulture crops to the farmers through subsidized schemes implemented in Horticulture Department.

State Horticulture Farm, Periyakulam is located at Periyakulam – Dindigul main road, 4 kms away from Periyakulam. The farm comprising 23.28 acres was started at 1950, which is third oldest government orchard farm in TamilNadu. Major varietal collections of Mango, Guava, Amla, Sapota, Pomegranate, ornamental plants, tree kinds are maintained. Here various propagation methods like Grafting, Layering, Cuttings is engaged in Mango, Guava, Amla, Sapota, etc .Hybrid vegetable seedlings are now raised through portrays under controlled conditions. Poly Green Houses, Shade net houses and Mist Chambers have been established to support easy propagation and produce good quality planting materials to farmers.

In addition, Vermi compost units have been established to produce vermi compost manures to utilize in farm and sell to farmers. Bio Control Agents like Trichoderma viridi, Psedomonus are produced to scatter the needs of organic farmers at Bio Control Lab established in the farm. Chocolate Production Units have been established to produce chocolate from cocoa beans. Farm level TANHODA outlets have been opened to sell the Seeds, all type of plants, farm produces, vermicompost manures, Bio Control Agents and Chocolates.

ELIGIBILITY OF FARMERS

- All the farmers who have own agriculture lands are eligible. If on lease, the lease period should be a minimum of 10 years for project based components.
- Assured irrigation facilities are necessary where water usage is mandatory for the components like protected cultivation, area expansion etc.
- The beneficiaries should enclose all mandatory documents along with the application.
- The documents should be valid for the current period.

**MANDATORY DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE BENEFICIARY
TO AVAIL SUBSIDY FOR VARIOUS COMPONENTS**

- 1) Application Form
- 2) Farmer's photo
- 3) Registration in TN-Hortnet and Uzhavan app.
- 4) Chitta, adangal
- 5) Field map
- 6) Aadhaar id.
- 7) Ration card copy
- 8) Lease deed if needed
- 9) Soil and Water analysis copy
- 10) Bank pass book
- 11) Affidavit copy in required components
- 12) Field photos during various stages of implementation.

Contact Details :

Deputy Director of Horticulture,
Madurai Road Signal,
Near New Bus Stand,
Theni.
04546- 255780, 255788

Block level contact details

Aundipatti - Integrated Agriculture Extension Centre, Maravapatti road, Aundipatti.
Bodinaickanur - Opposite to Govt. Hospital, Bodinaickanur.
Chinnamanur - Regulated Market campus, Odaipatti road, Chinnamanur.
Cumbum - Regulated Market campus, Theni road, Cumbum.
Myladumparai - Near VAO office, Kadamalaigundu.
Periyakulam - Panchayat Union Office campus, Vadugapatti, Periyakulam .
Theni - Integrated Agriculture Extension Centre, Sukkuvadanpatti, Theni.
Uthamapalayam- Panchayat Union Office campus, Vadugapatti, Periyakulam.

State Horticulture Farm – E. Pudupatti, Periyakulam.

**Deputy Director of Horticulture
Theni**