ABSTRACT

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare – Tamil Nadu Agricultural University – Announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare during Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department Budget Speech 2021-2022 – **"Strengthening Research on Dryland Crops (Regional Research Station, Aruppukottai in Virudhunagar District and Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad)"** - Sanctioning a sum of Rs.50.00 lakh – Approval – Accorded - Orders - Issued.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (AU) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms) No.168 **Dated:27.10.2021**
திருவள்ளுவர் ஆண்டு, 2052
பிலவ வருடம், ஐப்பசி 10

From the Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University letter No. TNAU – Agriculture Budget Speech Announcements-2021-2022 Sl.No.70-Proposal, dated 01.10.2021.

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ORDER:

During the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department Budget Speech 2021-2022, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has made the following announcement on the Floor of the Assembly :-

70.Strengthening Research on Dryland Crops

As dryland crops are the basis for the livelihoods of Small and Marginal Farmers, research on dryland farming will be strengthened. The activities of Regional Research Station at Aruppukottai in Viruthunagar district and Centre of Excellence for dry land farming in Chettinadu, Sivagangai District will be strengthened and technologies requested by rainfed farmers will be disseminated. An amount of Rs.50 lakh will be allocated from the State Government Fund.

2. The Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in his letter read above sent a proposal to the Government for the **"Strengthening Research on Dryland Crops at Regional Research Station, Aruppukottai in Virudhunagar District and Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad"** at a cost of Rs.50.00 lakh.

3. In his proposal, the Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has stated that Research on drylands in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is being carried out at Regional Research Station, Aruppukottai and Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad. It is intended to intensity research, develop agro techniques and popularize them to benefit dryland farmers. The major objective of the project is "to strengthen research on millets, arid fruit crops and agro-techniques for drylands".

4. Virudhunagar and Sivagangai districts have special agro climatic situation with extreme temperature and unpredictable and excess rainfall. This situation warrants climate resilient crops for successful cultivation. All the nutricereals require less amount of water for cultivation and mostly they can be successfully raised under rainfed condition.

5. Virudhunagar district comprises 11 blocks and Sivaganga district comprises 12 blocks. The major soil of Virudhunagar district is Clay loam (black cotton soil) whereas; Sivaganga district has major area under red soils. The agro technologies under dry land conditions for these two types of soils are distinctly different. The number of small farmers are very high with 70.9 and 84.7 percent in Virudhunagar and Sivagangai districts, respectively. Correspondingly, the technologies vary with the size of holdings.

6. The Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has further stated that in Virudhunagar and Sivagangai districts, more than 70% of farmers belong to marginal group and more than 75% of area is under rainfed condition. The rainfed agriculture offers scope for not more than 4 months in agricultural sector. The remaining 8 months offer wide scope for allied sectors viz, Animal Husbandry particularly sheep and goat rearing and backyard poultry, mushroom cultivation, vermin-compost production and value addition of fruits and millets. This condition necessitates the promotion of nutri-cereals. Besides, arid zone fruit trees like Amla, Manila tamarind, Jamun, Custard apple and Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*) can also be promoted. Integrated farming system under dryland conditions involving nutri-cereals, arid zone fruit trees and sheep/ goat offers sustainable livelihood to the marginal farmers. The excessively high rainfall within a narrow range of period necessitates the harvesting of rainwater through farm ponds. The rainwater harvested in the farm ponds can effectively be used for arid zone fruit crops, fodder production and for livestock maintenance.

7. The following are the objectives:-

- To demonstrate and popularize the use of farm ponds and other agro techniques for water conservation in drylands.
- To demonstrate and popularize the cultivation of millets and other drought tolerant crops in drylands.
- To extend the area under arid zone fruit crops and other tree crops suited for drylands.

8. The duration of the project is one year (2021-2022) and the activities covered in this project are as follows:-

A. Regional Research station, Aruppukottai

- Demonstration plots will be laid out at the Research station for research on arid zone fruit crops suited to drylands like amla, Manila tamarind, jamun, custard apple and khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*).
- Seedlings of the above fruit crops will be produced and supplied to farmers besides conducting trainings.
- Research on water saving technologies for drylands including farm ponds will be developed.
- Research on millets suited to drylands (barnyard millet, tenai, samai, bajra, sorghum) and APK 2 mushroom and its popularization will be undertaken through participatory approach.
- Demonstration and research on integrated farming system suited for drylands will be taken up.
  - Crops + Goats + Farm pond
  - Agro-forestry + Goats + Farm pond
  - Agri-Horti System with arid zone fruit trees + Goats + Farm pond

B. Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad

- Research trials will be laid out to evaluate suitable arid zone fruit tree crops like amla, Manila tamarind, jamun, custard apple and khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*) along with demonstration plots.
- Seedlings of the above fruit crops will be produced and supplied to farmers besides conducting hands on trainings.
- Research and demonstration plots will be taken up to identify suitable millets (barnyard millet, tenai, samai, bajra, sorghum), pulses, groundnut varieties and technologies for drylands to benefit the farmers.
- Research and demonstration plots will be laidout to identify short duration and medium duration tree crops suited for drylands for growing as intercrops, avenue crops and border crops to increase the income.
- Research and demonstration units will be taken up to identify integrated farming system components suited to the region and its popularization.
  - Crops + Goats + Farm pond
  - Agro-forestry + Goats + Farm pond
  - Agri-Horti System with arid zone fruit trees + Goats + Farm pond

9. The Beneficiaries are as follows:-

The targeted beneficiaries include marginal farmers, landless labourers and rural youth. The models established at Regional Research Station, Aruppukottai and Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad will be effectively used for giving trainings and demonstrations to the beneficiaries.

10. The budget requirement for the project is as follows:-

S. No.	Particulars	(A) Regional Research Station, Aruppukkottai (Rupees in crore)	(B) Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad (Rupees in crore)
1	**Establishing Farm Ponds and demonstrate its use under different agro eco systems:** Three different agro ecosystems viz., Agri-horti system, agroforestry system and silvipastoral system will be developed in one hectare each with farm ponds and allied activities viz., goat rearing, fodder crops and vermicompost units will be established to demonstrate the feasibility and economic viability of the systems	0.03	0.03
2	**Research on evaluation and popularization of Millets and other crops suited to drylands through Farmers participatory approach by front line demonstrations:** Survey will be carried out in the farmers' field to evaluate the local types cultivated by them and select the best one and popularize it along with the improved varieties. Fifty front line demonstrations will be carried out in a year on kudiaraivali (MDU 1) at Regional Research Station, Aruppukottai and with millets and pulse crops at Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad.	0.06	0.06

3	**Research on Arid zone fruit crops suited to the region:** Suitability of arid zone fruit trees viz., ber, amla, custard apple, wood apple, jamun and khejri will be evaluated in the research station farm and demonstration unit established.	0.04	0.04
4	**Popularization and extending area under suitable arid zone fruit crops through demonstration units:** The suitable arid zone fruit tree crops will be demonstrated in the farmers fields in ten locations. Seedlings will also be raised in nursery for distribution to farmers.	0.04	0.04
5	**Research on APK 2 milky mushroom and its popularization:** Research on milky mushroom will be intensified and spawn production of APK 2 milky mushroom will be done for distribution and popularization through training, demonstration and value addition.	0.03	-
6	**Research on value addition in Nutricereals and its popularisation:** Value added products of millets will be evaluated using school children and college students for popularization. Besides trainings also will be given for farmers on post harvest processing and values addition so as to make them as entrepreneurs.	0.03	0.03
7	**Research on tree crops suited to the region:** Evaluation of suitable tree crops having both timber and fodder values.	-	0.03
8	**Establishing demonstration units on integrated farming system suited to the region:** One hectare of dryland based integrated farming system model will be established at the research station involving different components viz., cropping + Goats + mushroom + backyard poultry.	0.02	0.02
	Total	0.25	0.25

11. The outcome of the project is as follows:-

- Demonstration of water saving and other agro techniques will result in increased yield and assist to achieve the targeted food grain set by the State.
- Increase in net income for the farmers resulting in improved rural livelihood.
- Value added products for millets will enable the farmers to become agri-entrepreneurs
- The beneficiaries of the project can generate income round the year, thus improving their livelihood status.
- Improved family employment generation.
- Offers scope for area increase under nutri-cereals.

12. The Government, after careful examination of the proposal of the Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and considering the outcome of proposed project on its implementation, hereby accord sanction for a sum of Rs.50.00 lakh (Rupees Fifty lakh only) for "**Strengthening Research on Dryland Crops (Regional Research Station, Aruppukottai in Virudhunagar District and Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad)**" as detailed below:-

(Rupees in crore)

S. No.	Particulars	Regional Research Station, Aruppukkottai	Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad
1	Establishing Farm Ponds and demonstrate its use under different agro eco systems	0.03	0.03
2	Research on evaluation and popularization of Millets and other crops suited to drylands through Farmers participatory approach by front line demonstrations	0.06	0.06
3	Research on Arid zone fruit crops suited to the region	0.04	0.04
4	Popularization and extending area under suitable arid zone fruit crops through demonstration units	0.04	0.04
5	Research on APK 2 milky mushroom and its popularization	0.03	0.00

6	Research on value addition in Nutricereals and its popularisation	0.03	0.03
7	Research on tree crops suited to the region	0.00	0.03
8	Establishing demonstration units on integrated farming system suited to the region	0.02	0.02
	Total	0.25	0.25

13. The expenditure sanctioned in para 12 above shall be debited under the following head of account:-

Head of Account	**Amount** (Rupees in lakh)
2415-Agricultural Research and Education – 01 - Crop Husbandry-004 Research - State's Expenditure – AP – Strengthening of Research of Rainfed Area Crops - 309-Grants-in-Aid-03. Grants for Specific Schemes (IFHRMS DPC 2415-01-004-AP-30903)	50.00
Total	**50.00**

14. The Joint Director of Agriculture, Coimbatore is authorized to draw the amount sanctioned in para 12 above and disburse the same to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

15. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O.No.47262/Agri.&FW/2021, dated: 27.10.2021.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

C. SAMAYAMOORTHY
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION COMMISSIONER
AND SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore – 3.
The Director of Local Fund Audit, Chennai – 108.
The Deputy Director of Local Fund Audit, Coimbatore-3.
The Principal Accountant General (A&E / Audit / AAD / G&SSA / E&RSA), Chennai-18.
The Resident Audit Office, Office of the Principal Accountant General (Social Sector Audit), Chennai-9.

Copy to:-

The Special Personal Assistant to the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The Senior Private Secretary to the Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, Chennai-9.
The Assistant Programmer, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, Chennai -9
The Finance (Agri. & FW) Department, Chennai-9.
The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (OP3) Department, Chennai -9.
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//FORWARDED/BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER