

Restructuring of Agricultural Department
towards Second Green Revolution in Tamilnadu

The different departments viz. Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Marketing, Seed Certification, Agricultural Engineering and Research Wings are functioning under the control of Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department, Tamil Nadu.

The Department of Agriculture is headed by the Director of Agriculture, and under his control Additional Directors, Joint Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and Agricultural Officers are working in the State.

Even though they are functioning for the development of farming community since they are working in different places farmers find it difficult to approach the departments in different places.

The existing 3 Tier system of functioning in the department in the district level leads to delay in reaching the technology to the farmers and consumes more paper works than the transfer of technology and unequal distribution of officers among the departments causes much inconvenient to implement the scheme work. To avoid such system, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam has announced in the floor of the Assembly during 2007-08 Agricultural Budget that the department of Agriculture will be restructured for the benefit of farming community.

State level, under the control of Director of Agriculture, all the hierarchy level of posts have been abolished and only two cadres of officer will function for easy and quick disposal of technical matters in future.

In the district level, the 3 Tier system of functioning has been changed in to 2 Tier system viz District to Block Level directly. The Joint Director of Agriculture will function in the District and the Assistant Director of Agriculture will function in the Block Level.

Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Marketing, Seed Certification, Agricultural Engineering and Soil Testing Lab will function in the block level at

the “Agricultural Extension Centre” The farmers can get all the technical informations of various departments of Agriculture in one place.

The function of the Assistant Director of Agriculture and his team of officers working in the Block will assess the area of major crops, irrigated or rainfed crops grown in their Block. His team will give all the technical information to the farmers from land preparation up to the level of harvest.

The Assistant Director of Horticulture and his team will assess the area under horticultural crops in the Block and they will study the scope of expanding the horticulture crops based on the climate and soil suitability. They will encouraging the farmers for doing the precision farming and work for the upliftment of farmers by growing some commercial crops in his farmland.

The Agricultural Officer (Marketing) in the Block will give information to the farmers to adopt the crop cultivation based on the market intelligence report given by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. The middlemen in the Agricultural business may be avoided by selling the Agricultural produce in the Regulated Agricultural Marketing Centres functioning in their respective Blocks.

The Agricultural Officer (Seed) working in the Block level will take care of the distribution of certified seeds to the farmers in the Block by replace the certified seeds once in three years. He is also incharge for developing seed village concept among the farmers in the Block for the replacement of certified seeds.

The Agricultural Officer (Soil testing) working the Blocks will analysis about 500 soil samples per month and issue the analytical report along with the fertilizer recommendations to crops to the farmers. They will analysis about 6,000 soil samples per year and he will complete all the soil analysis in a period of three years in all the farm holdings of the Block.

The Agricultural Engineering Department will hire the tractors for ploughing, rice transplanters for transplanting, seedling, weeding, etc. to the needy farmers. They will also hire the combined harvester for paddy harvesting,

Bulldozers, Rock drills and bore well equipments by motivating the farmers to promote mechanization in Agriculture.

The function of all the Departments in the Block level will really boost the agricultural production in Tamil Nadu, and ultimately the farmers will be benefited much by getting all the technical information in the Block Level under one roof, because of the restructuring of Agricultural department in Tamil Nadu.

Issued by: DIPR., Chennai-9.