

Press Release

Second round of Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board Meeting for the year 2020-2021 was held under the Chairmanship of ***Thiru. C. Ponnaiyan, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, State Development Policy Council (SDPC), Chennai*** with Thiru. Anil Meshram, I.A.S., Member Secretary, State Development Policy Council, Dr. B.C. Archana Kalyani, IFS., Head of Division (Land Use) and TNSLURB Members on 14.10.2020 at the SDPC Video Conference Hall.

The following Research Studies were placed in the Board Meeting for approval 1.Development of Microbial Technology Package for Reclamation of Salt and Heavy Metals affected soils of Thoothukudi District, 2. Studies on Vetiver Grass Technology (VGT) for restoring the tannery effluent contaminated areas and carbon sequestration for combating climate change, 3. Development of Immuno-

booster from fruits, vegetable and herbs as remedial for viral infections - A novel food supplement, 4. Formulation of Immune Boosting - Micronutrient Rich Soup Cubes, 5. Satellite Data based tree cover assessment in urban local areas, 6. Augmenting Virtual Space by Vertical Vegetable Farming for Urban communities and 7. Strategies for mitigating Human - Elephant conflict in Tamil Nadu.

From the year 2011-2012 to 2020-2021 (First round) a total of 63 research studies have been sanctioned to the sectors viz., Land Use (19) Water (8), Livelihood (5), Agriculture (9), Environment (7), Wetland (4), Climate Change (4), Urbanization (3), Forest (2), Waste Management (2), of which 42 Research Studies have been completed 15 research studies are in progress and 6 New Research Studies has been approved in the year 2020-2021 (First round). In addition 12 workshop / seminar have been sanctioned for the above period in the sectors viz., Climate

Change – (3), Water – (2), Agriculture – (6), Waste Management (1).

An Executive Summary Book has been published for the 34 completed research studies which has been sanctioned during the year 2011-12 to 2018-19. Some of the highlights of the studies are mentioned below.

1. A Study entitled **“Toward Slum-Free Cities: A Review of Innovations and Practices in Slum Clearance from International & Indian Cities, with special Focus on Chennai”** under taken by MIDS, has pointed out the following.

- According to 2001 census 17.4 per cent of the city’s population (over one million people) lived in slums, but this proportion grew to 28.5 per cent in 2011.
- 8 resettlement areas was identified by Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board namely 1. Ambedkar Paalam, Mylapore, 2. Udhyasuriyan Nagar, Vyasarpadi,

3. Saalaima Nagar, Otteri, 4. Shastri, Pulianthopu, 5. Muthamizh Nagar, Kodungaiyur, 6. Ambedkar Nagar, Cartrack Road, Vellacherry, 7. Raja Rathinam Nagar, Kodungaiyur and 8. Kannagi Nagar, Thoraipakkam.

- No new slums has been recognized by Government after 1985. Unrecognized slums face gross inadequacy of basic services and increased vulnerability to eviction and resettlement.
- Shortage of land for relocating and resettlement.
- As effective and sustainable slum upgradation cannot occur without community participation, the state must invest serious time and resources into building institutional structures to support participatory mechanisms. These are the key ingredients that have produced the acclaimed successes of slum improvement initiatives in Brazil and Thailand, as well as in Pune and Ahmedabad.

2. A Study entitled **“Soil and mineral mapping in farmers field and sensitizing them to improve Biomass and to augment livestock productivity”** taken up by TANUVAS has pointed out the following recommendations.

- Farm wastes such as crop residues, cow dung, weeds from the bunds and the cropping area are to be effectively collected and preserved for producing good quality manure.
- Organic manures are to be prepared in the farm premises itself whenever possible to reduce the cost of production.
- Soils has to be treated with organic manures.
- To increase the nutrient status of the soil green manure crops and cropping system may be included.

3. A Study entitled “Criteria for wetland prioritization and frame work for wetland monitoring in the State of Tamil Nadu” has been taken up by SACON with the objectives 1.To delineate the wetlands, 2. Its zone of influence along with a map (accurate and to scale) and 3. The size of wetland.

The total wetland area estimated by the Space Applications Centre (SAC, ISRO), Ahmedabad is 15.26 M ha, which is 4.63% of the geographic area of the country. As per the 2011 National wetland atlas, Tamil Nadu has 6.92% of its land mass categorized under wetlands. These wetlands resources are mainly replenished the seasonal rainfall during the northeast monsoon.

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural (SACON) has calculated the wetland Health Status score for each of the 141 wetlands taking into consideration the Ecosystem services, Land use patterns, threats and biodiversity values recorded. Based on the Wetland Health Status (WHS) score

SACON has ranked the 141 wetlands. Of which 04 wetlands (Uppidamangalam and Velliyanai Lake from Karur District, Panamarathupatti Lake from Salem District and Madipakkam Lake from Chennai District) need most urgent and immediate attention, 19 wetlands need urgent and immediate attention, 21 wetlands need immediate attention, 40 wetlands needs to be prioritized, 25 wetlands Conservation measures needs to be initiated and 32 wetlands Conservation plan should be implemented.

In the concluding remarks Hon'ble Vice Chairman Thiru. C. Ponnaiyan, said that according to Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's words **"By the people, for the People"**, Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, following the footsteps, identified 8 resettlement areas by Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) for allotting houses among the 15 lakh families who belong to the economically weaker section and living in slums.

Under the avid rule of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami with the blessings of former Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, research study with regard to dry land agro forestry sector has been carried under TNSLURB and the recommendations to improve the livelihood of rural people of Kadaladi, Kamuthi, Mudhukulathur, Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram and Thiruvadanai Taluk have been made.

Hon'ble Vice Chairman, Thiru. C. Ponnaiyan, SDPC also stated that Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami who is known as the farmer's friend knowing the importance of water and its need for farmers, research studies have been taken to improve land and water productivity of Palar Basin and recharge the aquifers to increase the water level in the water bodies and also by removing plastic waste and also by using micro organisms to remove excess organic contents for the welfare of farmers.

In the concluding remarks the Hon'ble Vice Chairman appreciated the speakers Dr.B.Jeberlin Prabina, Dr.K.Suganya, Dr.V.Vani, Dr.V. Meenakshi, Ms. Mita Banerjee, I.F.S., Dr. K.R. Vijayalatha, Dr. Sivaganesan and Dr.R.Gopinath, for their valuable presentation.

Member Secretary,
State Development Policy
Council.

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