

**Press Release**

**“Tamil Nadu leads the Nation in Micro Irrigation”**

**– lauded by Hon’ble Vice Chairman**

A webinar meeting on “The Best Practices Compendium in Agriculture Sector and comparison with Practices / Schemes / Policies implemented by State” was held under the Chairmanship of **Thiru.C.Ponnaiyan, Hon’ble Vice Chairman, State Development Policy Council** (erstwhile State Planning Commission), Tamil Nadu on 17.11.2020 in State Development Policy Council, Chennai – 5. Thiru. Anil Meshram, I.A.S., Member Secretary, SDP Council, senior officials from stakeholder departments and domain experts have participated in the workshop.

Based on the Best Practices Compendium released by NITI Aayog in September 2020, State Development Policy Council has organized this webinar meeting to facilitate the knowledge sharing and highlighting impact and innovative practices which have resulted in positive changes in Agriculture Sector.

Hon’ble Vice Chairman emphasized in his opening remarks stated that Agriculture is important not only for the Supply of Food but also for the Provision of Raw Materials for other Industries. The State Government is on track to achieve the target of doubling the crop production and tripling the farmers’ income. The State Government has pursued the innovative schemes like Mission for

Sustainable Dryland Agriculture, Collective Farming, Integrated Farming System, Supply Chain Management, e-NAM, etc., which have helped the farmers to earn more profit from agriculture. The coverage under Micro Irrigation has reached 2.63 lakh hectares in 2019-20, which is the highest not only in the history of Tamil Nadu but also amongst the highest in the Nation. The Government of India has recognized the efforts taken by Tamil Nadu by conferring prestigious award **“Krishi Karman Award”** five times in the recent years for the production in the categories of food grains, pulses, coarse cereals and oilseeds.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has **released “Policy for Promotion of Farmer Producer Organization”** to support farmers by promoting and assisting FPOs. The State Government has recently released the **“Food Processing Policy”** for promoting value addition of farm products while reducing the wastage of food products besides creating employment opportunities.

Global best practices namely, Floating garden of Bangladesh, Grading agriculture produce through artificial intelligence, Use of predictive analytics in agriculture by using Mobile application, Virtual market place like e-choupal, Horticulture innovations of Australia, Pest Risk Prediction, Strengthening women farmers’ role in sugarcane value chain, Participatory Irrigation Management in Micro Irrigation project, Agritech Incubation Network, Salinity control in coastal regions were discussed in the meeting. During the webinar Agriculture Department gave a presentation on the best practices in Agri sector implemented in Tamil Nadu. The State

aims to achieve Fruit and Vegetable cultivation in all Villages by implementing special schemes and 100% area coverage under Micro Irrigation by 2023.

Hon'ble Vice Chairman, in his concluding remarks, cited the example of an organic farm in Thiruvallur visited by him recently where the farmer is able to get year round yield and increase in size of Guava by adopting an innovative pruning technique. Several such cost effective but highly remunerative practices and wisdom available in the State may be studied and scaled up by giving awareness for increasing the production and income to farmers. Hon'ble Vice Chairman also requested that the best practices of the State may be shared by Agriculture Department to NITI Aayog to popularize the State's performance.

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