

Hon'ble Speaker!

“உழுவார் உலகத்தார்க்கு ஆணி அஃதாற்றாது

எழுவாரை எல்லாம் பொறுத்து”

"Farmers are the linchpin of the world; for they support all others who cannot till."

– (Thirukkural 1032)

We recognize the nobility of agriculture from the emphasis given by the great poet Valluvar as above. Farmers sustain everyone engaged in professions other than farming, making them the very linchpin, the essential axis, upon which the world revolves.

The 'Emperor of Poets' Kambar declared, "The entire world shines because of the ploughing by farmers," while the illustrious poetess Avvaiyar celebrated the virtue of the profession, stating, "There is no life comparable to living by the plough" and "Farming is always the Best."

I offer my humble greetings to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, who aspires to making Tamil Nadu a state that the world admires and a land that shines with success. I also pay tribute to the farmers who propel Tamil Nadu

forward in the path of success by transforming the thorns into flowers and the stones into fruits.

Born in Thanjavur, fondly known as the Granary of Tamil Nadu, I was nurtured in the fertile Cauvery delta, surrounded by lush fields and winding irrigation canals. My hunger was simply satiated by my mother's loving meal. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for entrusting me with the significant responsibility of serving as the Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, a role that allows me to stand in support of the very farmers who provided that sustenance. It gives me immense pleasure to present my maiden Agriculture Budget before this august House, marking the first step toward creating a **"Glorious Tamil Nadu"** driven by successful farmers.

The Evolution of Agriculture in Tamil Nadu

In Tamil Nadu, during the Sangam era, agriculture was practiced primarily for subsistence. Forests were cleared to establish settlements and ponds were excavated to enhance prosperity. Following India's independence, a strong foundation for modern agriculture was laid in the 1950's through the expansion of irrigation facilities, land reforms, community development

programmes and agricultural research and extension services. The 'Green Revolution' era from 1960 to 1980 resulted in a shift towards food security, supported by the use of high-yielding varieties, fertilizers and pesticides alongside irrigation expansion, agricultural credit and government procurement policies.

In the 1980's, agriculture moved towards mechanization and the cultivation of cash crops. The 2000's saw the emergence of efficiency based and market-led agriculture with the introduction of precision farming, micro irrigation, protected cultivation, value addition and agricultural market reforms. In the 2010's, agriculture was reshaped to address climate change challenges by prioritizing integrated farming, natural resource conservation, water use efficiency, soil health management, solar powered pumps, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

Since 2021, AI-based advisory services, data-driven management and Uzhavar mobile application have provided agriculture with a new dimension. In essence, the sector has evolved from subsistence farming to science-based agriculture; from a focus solely on food security to one centred on farmer prosperity, and from

traditional methods to sustainable agriculture driven by technology, data and innovation.

These transformations demonstrate the eagerness of Tamil Nadu farmers in embracing progressive changes. We have the evidence that entire Tamil Nadu has craved for change.

Recognizing the importance of farmers, and the plethora of sectors involved in agricultural activities, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed to continue the practice of presenting a separate budget for Agriculture.

Agriculture is the sector that faces the greatest challenges among all industries. Farmers grapple with issues such as the unpredictable vagaries of monsoon, labour shortages, decline in soil health and water resources and high production costs. Despite their commitment to feeding the world and ensuring food security, the failure to secure fair prices for their produce often makes them contemplate leaving the agriculture profession altogether.

Therefore, this government is steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding both agriculture and the welfare of farmers. Moving beyond empty promises to

concrete action, and guided by the Hon'ble Chief Minister's pronouncement that "A triumphant Tamil Nadu can only be built on the prosperity of its farmers"—we, the Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly and officials of the Agriculture-Farmers Welfare Department visited Salem, Thanjavur, Vellore, Tirunelveli and Chennai to have consultations with farmers. At each of these regional consultations, we deliberated extensively with farmers, representatives of farmers' associations, traders, agri-entrepreneurs, exporters etc., from the surrounding districts. I wish to inform this august House that this agricultural budget has been prepared by incorporating the suggestions and requests gathered during these consultations.

In strict alignment with the Hon'ble Chief Minister's principle that **"before a government becomes a superpower, it must transform into a government for farmers"**, the agriculture budget for the year 2026-27 has been prepared with numerous pioneering schemes designed to meet farmers' needs to the extent possible, align with scientific advancements in agriculture and ensure their prosperity by enabling them to secure fair prices for their produce.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has formulated many excellent visionary schemes to be implemented by the department on priority basis in the next five years to improve the livelihood of the farmers. From among them, schemes related to farmers' welfare, income enhancement, augmentation and conservation of water resources, safeguarding the produce, value addition, agricultural research, strengthening of farmer producer organizations, irrigation management, organic farming, agribusiness, etc. have been prioritized and included in this agriculture budget.

To achieve this, the ongoing projects preferred by the farmers will be continued and several new initiatives will be introduced.

"If agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have a chance to go right."

As insisted upon by the agricultural scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the department has started to work for farmers and for increasing agricultural production even before the preparation of the Agriculture Budget, as per the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

"To help every farmer prosper, irrigation water must reach the furthest tail-end areas".

Driven by this vision, 2,509 km of 'C' and 'D' irrigation channels in the Delta districts were desilted this year at a cost of Rs.10 crore.

Due to inadequate storage in Mettur Dam, it could not be opened for irrigation on the scheduled date of 12th June. To reaffirm that **"even if the rains fail, our government, committed to the welfare of farmers, will not fail them,"** the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced the ***Kuruvai Package*** with an **outlay of Rs.134.83 crore** for both delta and non-delta districts. Furthermore, the Hon'ble Chief Minister is continuously monitoring the scheme's proper implementation through review meetings. As a result, Kuruvai cultivation has been undertaken in an area of 8.26 lakh acres so far.

In pursuance of the **Government's long-term vision to bring 100 per cent of the cultivated area under crop insurance**, the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** will be implemented during 2026-27 in 14 clusters comprising of 37 districts, covering all notified crops during the Kuruvai, Samba, and Rabi seasons for which an amount of Rs.648.55 crore has

been allocated from the State fund. This initiative will provide insurance coverage to **36 lakh acres of cultivated area, benefitting 15 lakh farmers**. Further, adequate additional funds will be provided to facilitate the enrolment of all eligible farmers who voluntarily join the scheme.

"While it is the sky that blesses the farmers, at times, it is that very same sky that brings them adversity."

Owing to the 'Super El Nino' phenomenon in the current year, severe climatic impacts are anticipated across the country, particularly during the Kuruva season. It has been predicted that 12 districts in Tamil Nadu will experience a severe impact. Hence, the **"District Agricultural Contingency Plan"** prepared by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for all districts have been communicated to the District Collectors, and all steps have been taken up to implement the contingency measures indicated thereon holistically.

Farmers suffered significant losses this year, just as they did last year, due to the lack of remunerative prices for mangoes, specifically the 'Banglora' variety. To address this, a formal proposal was submitted to the Union

Government seeking approval to provide a **price deficiency payment** for this variety **under the Market Intervention Scheme** and the approval was secured for the first time. By the time the scheme's guidelines were finalized and operations were commenced, the harvest season for the Banglora variety had come to an end resulting in the procurement of only 6 metric tonnes. The Agriculture-Farmers Welfare Department is now fully prepared to swiftly address similar situations in the future, as the operational procedures have been completely established.

To ensure the food security for the of people, a **target of 131 lakh metric tonnes of food grains** has been set to be achieved in **five years**. During 2026-27, it has been targeted to achieve 125 lakh metric tonnes. Apart from this, targets have been set to increase the production of nutritious pulses, vegetables and fruits to achieve self-sufficiency and also nutritional security. All measures will be taken to achieve these goals by implementing suitable schemes.

As this government's prime vision is to increase the irrigated area by creating irrigation sources like farm ponds and borewells, about 2,600 acres of rainfed lands

will receive irrigation. Besides, by increasing irrigation water use efficiency through micro-irrigation systems, an additional 50,000 acres will be provided with irrigation.

Our Hon'ble Chief Minister has expressed his wish to be born into a farming family in his next life. However, he already stands as a son of every farming household in Tamil Nadu. That is why, he has directed that the supply of three-phase free electricity to the farmers shall continue without interruption to enable the farmers to carry out their cultivation activities without any hindrance. Accordingly, during 2026-27, an amount of Rs.7432.58 crore will be disbursed to the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation towards providing free electricity connection to farmers.

To compensate for the loss of revenue caused by natural calamities, the government will continue to implement measures to ensure the livelihood of affected farmers by providing crop insurance compensation and relief for crop damage during natural calamities.

Hon'ble Speaker!

Above all, as advised by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, a Tamil leader who is the embodiment of both integrity

and fiery spirit, full focus will be given for ensuring transparency, accountability and fairness in the implementation of all schemes so that their full benefits reach the farmers and a desirable change will be brought about.

Department of Agriculture

"முந்தித்தரிசடித்து, முச்சாரியாய் மறித்து

நைந்திடவே சேறுகலக்கி, நயமாக நாலுழுவ

பிந்துஉழுது, கட்டிபேர்த்து, மிதித்து அழுத்திப்

பந்தியாக வரப்புப்படுத்தி, கொத்தித் திருத்தி

திரைகொண்டு அங்கு தண்ணீர்தேங்க வடித்துவிட

நிறைநிறையாய் மடைகள் நீக்கிப் பரம்படித்து

குறைவில்லாமல் குண்டினில் கொளுஞ்சிபோட்டு மிதித்து

விரைநெல்லின் கோட்டை எடுத்து வந்து"

The '**Sengottuppallu**' vividly describes the process of preparing the land for raising a paddy nursery:

"The farmer first broke the virgin soil with deep ploughing. He then cross-ploughed it repeatedly, puddling the earth into a fine slurry. Time and again the field was tilled, its clods crushed, its soil compacted, and its bunds

carefully raised and strengthened. The land was meticulously levelled to retain water, the sluices were adjusted for proper irrigation, and only after incorporating green manure, *Kolinji* into the soil, were the choicest fragrant paddy seeds brought forth, sown with care, and nurtured into a thriving nursery."

If the mere act of preparing the nursery involves so many tasks, we can imagine the multitude of operations required to cultivate a crop fully, harvest it, and sell the produce for realising income. The Department of Agriculture implements various schemes to ensure the timely availability of new technologies, advisories, and quality inputs to farmers and handholding them throughout to enhance agricultural production.

1. Tamil Nadu Soil Fertility Mission

Conservation of soil, the fundamental resource for agriculture, is indispensable for ensuring sustainable food production and sustainable agriculture.

Earthworms are called the farmers' friends. They help channel rainwater into the soil through the burrows they create. Therefore, it is imperative to improve the soil fertility for the earthworms to thrive.

Tamil Nadu has diverse soil types, comprising Red Soil, Red Loamy Soil, Black Soil, Grey Soil, Alluvial Soil and other soil types. **Similar to how crops are specific to certain soils; each crop has its own ideal soil.**

Continuous use of chemical fertilizers, poor crop residue management, and improper biomass recycling will reduce soil organic carbon, harming soil health and crop productivity. Hence, by resorting to activities like increasing the population of soil microorganisms, reclaiming Alkaline & Saline soils, reducing the use of chemical fertilizers, and encouraging natural & organic farming practices, the **Tamil Nadu Soil Fertility Mission** will be launched as a **five-year plan** at an estimated outlay of **Rs.600 crore**, to ensure that future generations inherit fertile Tamil soils.

- i. To encourage the balanced use of fertilizers based on the soil fertility status, **Soil Health Cards** will be distributed to one lakh farmers with an allocation of **Rs.4 crore** from state funds. Additionally, Soil Health Cards will be provided to about 3 lakh farmers who have obtained Farmer Identification Number (FID) at a **total outlay of Rs.6.16 crore** with the Union and State Government funds.

- ii. To restore the soil fertility, seeds of **green manures** such as Sunn hemp, Daincha, Kolinji etc., required for covering 1 lakh acres and multi-grain crop seeds required for 22,000 acres will be distributed to farmers at subsidized cost. Further, an amount of Rs.3,000/- per acre will be provided as ploughing subsidy for incorporation of well grown green manure crops into the soil. A sum of **Rs.63.50 crore** will be allocated from the state fund for this purpose.
- iii. To increase the population of microorganisms protecting the soil fertility and reduce the usage of inorganic fertilizers, liquid bio-fertilizers for an area of one lakh acre at a cost of **Rs.4.50 crore** and Water-soluble fertilizers to improve the fertilizer use efficiency, Crop boosters viz., 'Cotton Plus' for Cotton, 'Sugarcane Booster' for Sugarcane to increase the crop productivity and 'Rice Bloom' to augment flowering in Paddy will be distributed at a cost of **Rs.12.38 crore**.
- iv. With an aim to extend organic farming across the State, a special scheme of the State to provide an incentive of Rs.4,000/- per acre to farmers

practicing organic farming will be implemented during 2026-27 to cover an area of 20,000 acre for which an amount of **Rs.8 crore** will be allocated from the state fund. In addition, a total amount of Rs.9.12 crore will be allocated from Union and State Government funds during 2026-27 to form Organic Farming Clusters covering 7,500 acre by mobilizing farmers practicing organic farming under the **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** Scheme and to form new Natural Farming Clusters in an area of 3,125 acres besides continuing with the second-year activities of Natural Farming Clusters in an area of 7,500 acre to produce safe and chemical-free food by improving the soil health through Natural Farming under **the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)**.

- v. To promote organic farming, a sum of **Rs.10 crore** will be allocated for establishing **permanent Vermicompost production units**.
- vi. Farmers registering newly under the National Organic Production Programme (NOPP) will be exempted from the payment of registration fees and renewal fees during the conversion period and

organic “**Scope certificate**” will be provided at free of cost to the organic farmers. Last year, the payment exemption was given only to newly registered farmers. However, this year, the exemption will be extended for renewal fees during the **conversion period** so as to encourage farmers to practice organic farming continuously.

- vii. To ensure the quality of organic produce certified under the National Programme for Organic Production, a 100 per cent subsidy will be extended for undertaking Pesticide Residue Analysis. This initiative aims to identify pesticide residues, enabling farmers to command better prices in both domestic and export markets while providing residue-free commodities to consumers. An amount of **Rs.25 lakh** will be provided from the state fund.
- viii. To reclaim Alkali and Saline soils, demonstrations on soil amendment will be laid in 2,000 acres at an outlay of **Rs.2 crore**.

- ix. Awareness and publicity activities will be taken up at a cost of **Rs.2 crore** to disseminate soil health improvement technologies to the farmers.
- x. **To combat the impact of climatic changes,** farmers adopting Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), **Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)** method of irrigation, application of slow-release fertilizers and thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 50 per cent and promoting carbon sequestration in soils will be encouraged to obtain additional income through carbon trading for which an amount of **Rs.60 lakh** will be allocated from the state fund to conduct demonstrations in 2,000 acres and develop monitoring & verification protocols.

During 2026-27, the Tamil Nadu Soil Fertility Mission will be implemented with 10 components at a total outlay of Rs.122.51 crore.

2. Special Scheme for providing subsidy for Paddy Seed Production and Distribution

The Government is committed to ensure timely availability of adequate agricultural inputs to farmers

during every cropping season. Albeit, the production and distribution of quality seeds play a pivotal role in enhancing paddy productivity and production, the Government of India has discontinued the subsidy for paddy seed production and distribution from 2026-27. However, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has considered the farmers requests for seed subsidy with a compassionate heart and keeping their welfare in mind. As per the Hon'ble Chief Minister's directions, the State Government will continue to extend support by providing **"Paddy Seed Production Subsidy"** to farmers who register seed farms to produce 7,730 metric tonnes of certified paddy seeds, and supply them to the Tamil Nadu State Seed Development Agency. Further, **"Paddy Seed Distribution Subsidy"** will be provided for the distribution of 14,570 metric tonnes of certified paddy seeds at subsidised rates. During 2026-27, an amount of **Rs.34.72 crore** will be allocated from the state funds to implement this scheme.

3. Uzhavar Artificial Intelligence (AI) Scheme

Recognising that **timely information is as vital to farmers as timely rainfall**, the Government has announced a visionary scheme leveraging Artificial Intelligence to provide farmers with real-time information

on soil health and crop cultivation. Accordingly, by integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technologies, comprehensive technical advisories and services related to weather forecasts, soil health and soil fertility management, pest and disease management and crop recommendations suited to prevailing agro climatic conditions covering the entire crop cycle from sowing to harvest will be provided. In addition, Farmers can easily access knowledge-based agricultural services including market intelligence, Voice-First Agriculture Services, information on Government schemes seamlessly through their mobile phones. **During 2026–27, an amount of Rs.2 crore will be allocated from the State funds towards the implementation of the Uzhavar Artificial Intelligence (AI) Scheme.**

4. Mission for Self-Sufficiency in Pulses and Oilseed Crops

In order to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of Pulses and edible Oilseeds by increasing the area under cultivation in Tamil Nadu in the next five years, **the Mission for Self-Sufficiency in Pulses and Edible Oilseeds will be implemented with a total outlay of**

Rs.203.64 crore out of which Rs.65.28 crore will be allocated for Pulses and Rs.138.36 crore for edible Oilseeds, from the Union and State Government funds. Under this Mission, it has been planned to increase the area of Pulses including Black gram, Red gram, Green gram and Cowpea from 15.19 lakh acre to 24.70 lakh acre and production from 3.88 lakh metric tonnes to 7.72 lakh metric tonnes. Similarly, it has been planned to increase the area of edible Oilseeds such as Groundnut, Sesame, Sunflower and Castor from 9.26 lakh acre to 14.89 lakh acre and production from 8.77 lakh metric tonnes to 16.14 lakh metric tonnes.

5. Tamil Nadu Millet Mission

Rich in nutrients and medicinal values, Millets are increasingly becoming a part of daily diets in both households and restaurants. Keeping in pace with the growing demand, the **Tamil Nadu Millet Mission** is being implemented with the objective of increasing the area, production and productivity of millets such as Pearl Millet (Cumbu), Sorghum (Cholam) and Finger Millet (Ragi). During 2026–27, the Mission will be implemented at a total outlay of **Rs.63.81 crore** from the Union and State Government funds, covering interventions such as

the formation of Farmer Groups, alternate crop cultivation package subsidy, distribution of minikits, establishment of Agricultural Machinery Hiring Centres and Primary Processing Centres. About 4.75 lakh farmers cultivating millets in an extent of 11.80 lakh acre will be benefitted by this Mission.

6. Tamil Nadu Minor Millet Mission

Drought-tolerant, low water consuming, and nutrient & fibre-rich minor millets such as little millet, foxtail millet, kodo millet, barnyard millet, and proso millet are presently cultivated in an area of 61,750 acres in Tamil Nadu. With an objective of doubling the area under minor millets, **the Tamil Nadu Minor Millet Mission** will be implemented in 29 districts during 2026–27 at an outlay of Rs.7.61 crore allocated from the state fund.

7. Introduction of Nutrient-Rich Quinoa, Buckwheat and Brown Top Millet

With a view to introduce cereals such as Quinoa, Buckwheat and Brown Top Millet, which are rich in protein, dietary fibre, Calcium, Potassium, Iron and Vitamins, low in gluten content and having less glycaemic

index in Tamil Nadu, demonstration plots will be laid at an outlay of **Rs.30 lakh** from the state fund in Nilgiris, Dindigul, Krishnagiri, Salem districts which are agro-climatically suitable for cultivation of these cereals.

8. Cotton Renaissance Mission

Tamil Nadu plays a pivotal role in the growth of the country's textile and apparel sector, accounting for 46 per cent of India's total spinning capacity, 22 per cent of its power loom capacity, 12 per cent of its handloom capacity and 70 per cent of Cotton knitwear production. **Cotton, known as 'White Gold' and called the 'King of Fibre** is cultivated on an average in an area of about 3.14 lakh acres with a production of about 2.50 lakh bales in Tamil Nadu. However, 98 per cent of the 120 lakh bales required by the Cotton spinning mills operating in the State is procured from other States. Therefore, with the objective of enhancing Cotton production, the **Cotton Renaissance Mission** will be launched as a five-year mission from **2026–27**. This Mission will promote high-yielding production technologies such as High-Density Planting System (HDPS), Ultra High-Density Planting System (UHDPS), Integrated Crop Management and nipping, besides encouraging the cultivation of Extra Long

Staple (ELS) Cotton and intercropping to enhance the farmers' income. The Mission will be implemented during 2026–27 in an area of 73,360 acre at a **total outlay of Rs.27.21 crore** from the Union and State Government funds, benefitting 40,000 Cotton farmers.

9. Maize Production Enhancement Scheme

Maize serves as a major raw material for the poultry feed and ethanol industries in Tamil Nadu. In order to meet the steadily increasing demand for maize and enable farmers to realize better incomes, the Maize Production Enhancement Scheme will be implemented during 2026–27 at a total outlay of **Rs.36 crore** from the Union and State Government funds. The scheme will be implemented in an area of 3.47 lakh acres, benefitting 1.39 lakh farmers.

10. Agroforestry Scheme

With a view to mitigate the impact of climatic changes, conserving the environment and creating permanent green cover in agricultural lands of Tamil Nadu, the Agroforestry Scheme will be implemented during 2026–27 at a total outlay of **Rs.17.70 crore** from the Union and State Government funds. Under this

scheme, nurseries will be established for the production of quality tree seedlings and will be distributed to the farmers at free of cost.

Under this scheme, aimed at boosting farmers' income, environmental protection, and sustainable agriculture, 12,500 acres of cultivable fallow land will be restored to cultivation. This land will be planted with high-value tree species such as Teak, Mahogany, Sandalwood, Malai Vembu, and Red Sanders at a rate of 200 saplings per acre.

11. Certified Seeds for Higher Productivity

Use of certified seeds by the farmers can enhance crop yields upto 25 per cent. With this objective, the Tamil Nadu State Seed Development Agency during 2026–27 will establish seed farms in the Government State Seed Farms and farmers' field for crops such as Paddy, Millets, Pulses, Oilseeds and Cotton. A total of **43,400 metric tonne** of certified seeds will be procured at a cost of **Rs.250 crore** by the Tamil Nadu State Seed Development Agency and distributed to the farmers at subsidised rates under various Union and State Government schemes, benefitting about 10 lakh farmers.

12. Wild Boar Damage Prevention Scheme

Various methods have been adopted since time immemorial to protect the agricultural crops from wild animals. The rich literary heritage of Tamil Sangam literature bears testimony to these traditional practices. The *Malaipadukadam* vividly portrays women guarding Millet fields by driving away birds using slings and sounding bamboo clappers

"ஒலிகழைத் தட்டை புடையுநர் புணம்தொறும்

கிளிகடி மகளிர் விளி படு பூசல்"

The Tamil classical work in the following verse also describes about how in ancient times people guarded the narrow tracks frequented by boars by setting up rare traps known as *adar*, made of large stone slabs, designed in such a way that the boars would enter and get trapped

" விளை புணம் நிழத்தலின், கேழல் அஞ்சி,

புழைதொறும் மாட்டிய இருங் கல் அடாஅர்

அரும் பொறி "

In recent years, incidence of crop damages caused by wild boars has increased significantly across Tamil Nadu, resulting in substantial economic loss to

farmers. In response to the demand of majority of the farmers, a special scheme will be implemented during 2026–27 at a **total outlay of Rs.7.35 crore** to prevent the crop damages caused by the wild boars.

- i. The environment-friendly **liquid wild boar repellent** developed by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) will be distributed to the farmers at subsidised rates. The scheme will be implemented in an area of 14,000 acres at an outlay of **Rs.1.35 crore from the state fund.**
- ii. In order to minimise the crop damages caused not only by wild boars but also by Elephants, Gaurs and Deer, **solar-powered electric fencing systems** will be installed in the current year at subsidised rates for 134 farmers at an outlay of **Rs.2 crore.**
- iii. In many districts, dense growth of *Prosopis juliflora* (Seemai Karuvelam) has become a preferred habitat for wild boars, which subsequently damage crops in the nearby agricultural fields. Therefore, with a view to not only control the wild boar population but also to restore the soil health and

protect the environment, the removal of *Prosopis juliflora* from Government and private lands will be carried out through the District Collectors at an outlay of **Rs.4 crore from the state fund.**

13. Annal Ambedkar Agricultural Assistance Scheme

The **Annal Ambedkar Agricultural Assistance Scheme** will be implemented with the objective of facilitating Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers to access the benefits of Government schemes seamlessly, create irrigation infrastructure for enhancing the agricultural production and improve their livelihood.

- i. Small and marginal farmers belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities often find it difficult to meet the beneficiary contribution required under high-value agricultural schemes. To reduce their financial burden and facilitate them to benefit largely under various welfare schemes, **an additional subsidy of 20 per cent** will be provided under this Scheme. Accordingly, **70 per cent subsidy will be provided for components such as Integrated Farming System, Greenhouses, Shade Net**

Houses, Solar Dryers, Value Addition Machinery and Farm Machinery and 80 per cent subsidy for the installation of solar-powered pump sets under Union-State shared schemes.

- ii. To create irrigation facilities in rainfed lands belonging to 300 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers who do not have access to irrigation, **bore wells or tube wells with electric motor pumps or solar-powered pump sets** will be established with **100 per cent subsidy**.

During 2026–27, an amount of Rs.56.72 crore will be allocated from the state fund for the implementation of these schemes.

14. Distribution of Tarpaulins for Prevention of Post - Harvest Loss

In response to the long-standing demand of the farming community, tarpaulins will be distributed to 43,500 farmers during 2026–27 to prevent post-harvest loss and facilitate drying and safe storage of agricultural produce from natural events such as rainfall. A sum of

Rs.10 crore will be allocated from the State fund for this scheme.

15. Makkal Sevagar Anjalai Ammal Award for Small and Marginal farmers

With a view to encourage small and marginal farmers, State-Level Crop Yield Competitions will be conducted during 2026–27 in the name of "**Makkal Sevagar Anjalai Ammal**". The competition will be held for 10 crops, including Millets, Pulses and Oilseeds and the top three farmers achieving the highest yields in each crop category will be awarded with a prize amount of Rs.2.50 lakh, Rs.1.50 lakh and Rs.1 lakh respectively. The prize amount will be given to 30 farmers for which a sum of **Rs.50 lakh** will be allocated from the state fund.

16. District-Level "Vetri Vivasayi" Award

The **District-Level "Vetri Vivasayi" Award** will be awarded to recognize farmers cultivating at least two acre and achieving the highest productivity in nine crops, namely Paddy, Millets, Pulses, Oilseeds and Cotton. The top two farmers achieving the highest yields in each crop category will be awarded with a prize amount of Rs.50,000 and, Rs.25,000 respectively. The prize amount

will be given to 90 farmers for which a sum of **Rs.67.50 lakh** will be allocated from the state fund.

17. Nammazhvar Award for Best Organic Farmer

As a part of the State's effort to popularise Organic Farming, the "**Nammazhvar Award**" will be awarded during 2026-27 to the Best 5 Organic Farmers recognizing their excellence in organic farming practices. A cash prize of Rs.2 lakh along with a Certificate of Appreciation will be given for which an amount of **Rs.11 lakh** will be allocated from the state fund.

18. Construction of New Buildings for Integrated Agricultural Extension Centres

In order to enable farmers to access all schemes and technical advisory services of the Agriculture - Farmers Welfare Department under one roof, eight new buildings for Integrated Agricultural Extension Centres, each with a 300-metric tonne capacity godown, will be constructed in Tiruvannamalai, Katpadi and Gudiyatham (Vellore), Musiri (Tiruchirappalli), Narikudi (Virudhunagar), Bodinayakanur (Theni), Kayathar (Thoothukudi) and Thondamuthur (Coimbatore). These centres will be established at a

total outlay of **Rs.27.82 crore** from the Union and State Government funds.

19. Agriculture Expo

To create awareness among farmers and the general public on modern agricultural technologies, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), value-added agricultural products, value addition machinery, agricultural machinery, natural farming practices, an **Agriculture Expo (Agri Expo)** will be organised at **an outlay of Rs.3 crore allocated from the state fund.**

The Expo will showcase improved cultivation practices, innovative agricultural technologies and successful farming initiatives, besides providing technical guidance to farmers for enhancing crop productivity and farm income.

20. Strengthening the Infrastructure of Liquid Bio-Fertiliser Production Units

In order to strengthen the infrastructure of the 22 Liquid Bio-Fertiliser Production Units of the Department of Agriculture in Tamil Nadu, an amount of **Rs.3.56 crore** will be allocated for the installation of new fermenters, incubators and steam generators.

21. Establishment of New Seed Processing Units

With a view to enhance the seed processing capacity, **3 new Seed Processing Units**, each with a **250-metric tonne seed storage godown**, will be installed at Gangavalli in Salem district, Killikulam in Thoothukudi district, and Iruvelpattu in Villupuram district at an outlay of **Rs.7.10 crore allocated from the state fund**.

Department of Sugar

22. Seed Cane Subsidy Scheme

The Government will implement the Seed Cane Subsidy Scheme to reduce the cultivation costs, boost productivity, and encourage mechanised harvesting. Under this scheme, farmers registered with Co-operative and Public Sector Sugar Mills willing to adopt a wider row planting system using bud chip seedlings and single-budded setts of high-yielding and high sugar recovery sugarcane varieties will receive these planting materials at 50% subsidy. The State Government will allocate **Rs.9.36 crore** to implement this initiative across 17,315 acres.

23. Sugarcane Cultivation Development Programme

The Government will implement the Sugarcane Cultivation Development Programme to increase the area under sugarcane cultivation and reduce production costs. Under this programme, subsidy will be provided for breeder seed cane, tissue culture seedlings, bud chip seedlings, single-budded setts, de-trashing, shade-net establishment, trash shredding & mulching, besides distribution of micronutrient mixtures and bio-fertilisers. An amount of **Rs.9 crore** will be allocated from Union and State Government funds for the implementation of this programme.

24. Feasibility Study for Ethanol Production at Kallakurichi-I Co-operative Sugar Mill

The Government will allocate **Rs.20 lakh** from state funds to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and a Feasibility Report for establishing a 100 Kilo Litre Per Day (KLPD) ethanol distillery at the Kallakurichi-I Co-operative Sugar Mill under a consortium arrangement with the Kallakurichi-II and Chengalrayan co-operative sugar mills.

Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops

Hon'ble Speaker!

The growth of horticultural crops such as vegetables, fruits, flowers, and spices & condiments plays a significant role in Tamil Nadu by providing farmers with a continuous source of income, contributing to nutritional security for the people, and serving as raw materials for the food processing industry. The Department of Horticulture is implementing various schemes to enhance the production and productivity of horticultural crops and for production of high-quality horticultural produce that meets global market standards.

25. Drop by Drop Water Scheme for Efficient Water Management

“நெடுங்கடலும் தன்நீர்மை குன்றும் தடிந்தெழிலி

தான்நல்காது ஆகி விடின்” (திருக்குறள் 17)

“Even the vast sea will lose its richness, If clouds cease and fail to bestow”

These are the words of Thiruvalluvar. Recognizing the importance of judicious water use, the Micro Irrigation Scheme is implemented with financial assistance from the Union and State Governments to enhance water

management in Tamil Nadu through the effective utilization of existing resources and to maximize productivity.

Under this scheme, 100 per cent subsidy is extended to Small & Marginal farmers and 75 per cent subsidy to other farmers.

As a part of the Government's Vision Plan, during the year 2026–27, the scheme will be implemented in an area of 2,22,794 acres with a financial allocation of **Rs.785 crore**, benefitting 95,000 farmers.

26. Palmyra Protection Mission

The palmyra tree, known as the '**Karpaga Virutcham**', is deeply intertwined with Tamil heritage, history and hailed as the State Tree of Tamil Nadu. Nearly three lakh agricultural labour families in Tamil Nadu rely on the palmyra tree for their livelihood.

To ensure the protection of palmyra trees and promote the production of palmyra and value-added palmyra products, the implementation of **Palmyra Protection Mission** will be continued from 2026–27 as per the Government's Vision Plan. Under this mission, the existing District and Block-level Committees constituted to

regulate the felling of palmyra trees will be strengthened and closely monitored. The mission encompasses components like establishment of palmyra value-addition units, distribution of palmyra seeds & seedlings, training the production of value-added palmyra products and palmyra leaf products through the Palm Products and Palmyra Development Board. The mission will be implemented during 2026–27 with an allocation of **Rs. 2.10 crore from the state fund.**

In addition, research on the development of dwarf and early-bearing palmyra varieties at the Palmyra Research Station, Killikulam, in Thoothukudi district will be expedited and technologies will be made available to the farmers at the earliest.

27. "Vetri Illatharasi Veetu Thottam" – Successful Homemaker's Home Garden

The cultivation of fruits and vegetables in home gardens using natural manures instead of chemical fertilizers ensures the production of safe, chemical-free produce, thereby enhancing nutritional security and reducing environmental pollution.

Therefore, the “**Vetri Illatharasi Veetu Thottam scheme**” will be implemented during the current year at an outlay of **Rs.10 crore** from the state fund to encourage the cultivation of vegetables, fruits and medicinal plants through grow bag kits, vertical gardens and hydroponic gardens in apartments located in urban areas and in spaces around houses in rural areas, thereby promoting well-being of people and a healthy environment.

28. Tamil Nadu Micro Greens Scheme

Microgreens are 7 to 21 day old young seedlings of Broccoli, Cabbage, Radish, Green peas, Chickpea, Flaxseed, Onion, Green gram, Horse gram, Sesame, Wheat and Leafy vegetables. These Microgreens are said to be upto 40 times more nutritious than the matured plants.

Therefore, as a new initiative to promote microgreens cultivation among the public, 20,000 microgreen kits containing seeds, seedling trays, cocopeat blocks, a hand sprayer and user manual will be distributed in major urban cities such as Chennai, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli. The scheme will be implemented during

2026-27 with an allocation of **Rs.1.20 crore from the state fund.**

29. Enhancing Horticultural Crop Production through Promotion of High-Tech Cultivation Practices

By encouraging adoption of advance technologies and necessary special infrastructure among farmers, the production and productivity of horticultural crops can be significantly increased. Hence, special schemes for this purpose will be implemented during 2026-27 with a **total financial allocation of Rs.41 crore.**

- i. In chrysanthemum cultivation, variations in photoperiod (day length) during seasonal changes significantly influence flower production. This restricts the plant growth, resulting in smaller flowers, uneven blooming, inferior flower quality and reduced yields, thereby causing substantial economic losses to farmers. To address this challenge and **in response to the demands of chrysanthemum farmers,** an LED lighting scheme will be introduced in this year to provide supplementary lighting during periods of seasonal

variation for promotion of healthy plant growth and regulate flowering based on the market demand. The scheme will be implemented with an allocation of **Rs.5 crore** from the state fund.

- ii. High-value horticultural crops cultivated in greenhouses and shade net houses are protected from adverse weather such as wind, rain, and high temperatures as well as pests and diseases, while also enabling year-round production. Protected cultivation enables farmers to obtain 5 to 7 times higher yields from a smaller area and quality produce while ensuring better market prices. To popularize this initiative, Polygreen Houses and Shade-net Houses spanning 3 lakh square meters will be established during 2026–27, with an allocation of **Rs.15.55 crore** from the Union and State funds.
- iii. The use of fruit covers and banana bunch covers improves fruit quality and appearance by protecting them from pests, diseases, birds, excessive heat, and rain. As an added benefit, pesticide usage is reduced, while the market value of the produce and

the income of farmers are increased. Based on the farmers demand, fruit covers for Mango, Guava and bunch covers for Banana will be provided for an area of 2,500 acres during 2026–27 with a financial outlay of **Rs.2.50 crore**.

- iv. Due to the impact of climate change, natural disasters cause heavy damage to horticultural pandal crops cultivated on temporary pandals, leading to severe economic losses. Therefore, **“Establishment of Permanent Pandal Scheme”** will be implemented during the current year with a financial outlay of **Rs.11.73 crore** to encourage the permanent pandal.
- v. **Farmers in banana-cultivating districts have requested financial assistance for banana propping** as this support helps to prevent yield losses resulting from the lodging of banana plants due to heavy fruit bunches and winds. Based on this demand, Banana propping will be promoted in an area of **6,175 acres** during 2026-27 with an allocation of **Rs.6.25 crore** from the state fund.

30. Quality Assurance; Export Promotion

The farmers and exporters face monetary loss whenever the fruits and vegetables exported are rejected by the importing countries due to the presence of pesticide residues. To avoid this, as a new initiative during 2026–27, farmers cultivating mango, guava, tomato, moringa and small onion in clusters over an area of 3,000 acres will be provided with capacity-building training, technical guidance and the necessary infrastructure to produce pesticide residue-free produce through Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). By this initiative, a strong market linkage will be established with exporters and markets. On this line, a scheme will be implemented in **23 crop clusters** at an outlay of **Rs.8.43 crore** to increase the production of export-quality horticultural produce and enhance the income of farmers.

31. Special Scheme for Coconut

“Root to crown, the coconut palm is beneficial;

Always been humanity's close companion”.

Coconut is cultivated in an area of about 5 lakh hectares in Tamil Nadu, with a production of 670 crore number of coconuts. At present, considering the

challenges faced by the farmers in coconut cultivation and marketing, a "**Special Scheme for Coconut**" with components such as management of pest and disease incidences, increasing the productivity, enhancing value addition will be implemented with an allocation of **Rs.16 crore** from the state fund.

- i. Application of Coconut Tonic boosts nutrient uptake from the soil, promotes palm growth, and enhances flowering and fruit set. **Based on the farmers' demand** and to improve the health and productivity of coconut palms, Coconut Tonic will be provided for an area of 86,000 acres during 2026-27 with a total allocation of **Rs.6.20 crore** from the state fund.
- ii. Root wilt disease and Rugose spiralling whitefly infestation in coconut palms cause yield losses from 35 to 80 per cent. To control this damage, Integrated Pest and Disease Management techniques along with sustainable biological control methods will be widely promoted among the coconut farmers for which the predatory insect ***Apertochrysa*** and the ***Cococon*** microbial mixture will be provided to farmers at 75 per cent subsidy

covering an area of 1,350 acres, with an allocation of **Rs.1 crore** from the state fund.

- iii. **Based on the farmers request** to produce & distribute bio-control agents such as *Chrysoperla* predatory insects, *Isaria fumosorosea* fungi in large scale for effective control of Rugose Spiralling Whitefly attack in coconut palms, **5 new Coconut Parasite Production Centers** will be established at a cost of **Rs.3 crore**. The *Chrysoperla* Production Centres will be established at Azhiyar Nagar and Kannampalayam in Coimbatore District, Vaigai Dam in Theni District, Devathanam in Virudhunagar District, and *Isaria fumosorosea* Production Centre will be established at Puthalam in Kanyakumari District.
- iv. To ensure the distribution of quality coconut seedlings to the farmers, a **new coconut nursery** will be established in an extent of 15 acres in the State Horticulture Farm, Muthalaipatti, Karur at an estimated cost of **Rs.48 lakh**.

v. Tamil Nadu Coconut Processing Corporation

To ensure a sustainable increase in the income of coconut farmers, secure remunerative prices for value-added Neera, coconut and other coconut-based products, to create sustainable market opportunities, **and fulfil the long-standing demand of coconut farmers, Tamil Nadu Coconut Processing Corporation** will be established by the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business with an allocation of **Rs.22.30 crore** from the state fund. This Corporation will provide guidance and technical support on post-harvest infrastructure, processing, quality certification, packaging and exports. Further, to render comprehensive services, the Corporation will work in tandem with the Coconut Development Board, Cooperative Societies and the Department of Horticulture & Plantation crops. **This year, an amount of Rs.5.30 crore will be allocated from the state fund.**

- vi.** To prevent the price decline of copra and stabilize the market, the Price Support Scheme (PSS) to

procure copra at Minimum Support Price (MSP) will be notified at an appropriate time and implemented.

32. Promotion of Cultivation of High value Fruit crops

In the recent days, the consumption of high-value fruit crops such as Blueberries, Rambutan, Litchi, Dragon fruit, Avocado, Kiwi, Mangosteen and Passion fruit has increased among the public. Hence, to promote these fruits, an amount of **Rs.1.87 crore** will be allotted for cultivation in 930 acres as both mono and intercrops by the farmers. Besides, necessary steps will be taken to popularise Thailand Sweet Tamarind, suitable Apple varieties like KLD and HRMN-99 among farmers in non-temperate regions.

33. Promotion of Tamarind Cultivation in Rainfed Areas

Promoting alternative crops is imperative for providing sustainable, stable income to farmers in drought-prone regions of Tamil Nadu. This is especially critical in water-scarce districts like Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Dindigul, and Tiruchirappalli.

Accordingly, high-yielding grafted tamarind, which can withstand drought and thrive in areas receiving an annual rainfall of 500 to 700 mm, will be promoted for area expansion in an extent of 1,250 acres over five years with a total outlay of **Rs.1 crore**, and financial assistance of Rs.20,000 per hectare. In the current year, the scheme will be implemented in 250 acres with an allocation of **Rs.20 lakh** from the state fund.

34. Introduction of New Varieties at Pomological Station, Coonoor.

New varieties of Apple, Plum, Peach, Pear, Kiwi, Avocado and Persimmon will be introduced at the century-old Pomological Station, Coonoor, and a gene pool will be established at an outlay of **Rs.75 lakh**. By this, planting materials of these newly introduced varieties suitable for temperate regions will be produced and supplied to farmers.

35. Establishment of Mushroom Production units

Mushroom cultivation is an important small-scale enterprise that generates higher income with minimal investment, and it requires a limited area. Mushrooms are increasingly gaining popularity owing to their rich

nutritional value, proteins, and dietary fibre essential for good health, and their taste, which is comparable to that of non-vegetarian food.

To promote mushroom cultivation and ensure the uninterrupted availability of fresh mushrooms to consumers, 50 small-scale mushroom production units at a financial outlay of **Rs.50 lakh** will be established during 2026–27 for the benefit of rural youth and women.

36. Increasing the area under Rhizomatic Spice Crops

It can be understood that the cuisine of ancient Tamils was rich in flavour, given that *Pattinappalai* explicitly highlights fragrant turmeric (*Kamazh Manjal*) and tender ginger (*Mulai Inji*) as valuable cash crops. In addition to these spice crops, garlic is also cultivated extensively as a Rhizomatic spice crop in Tamil Nadu. All these crops have a high demand as food and medicine, contributing significantly to domestic and international markets and thereby increasing farmers' income.

Therefore, with a view to promote the cultivation of these Rhizomatic spice crops, area expansion will be

taken up in an area of 2,500 acres during 2026–27 at an outlay of **Rs.4 crore**.

37. Establishment of Onion Storage Structures

Since onion is a seasonal crop, creating adequate storage facilities is essential to ensure its continuous availability to consumers throughout the year. This will address onion price volatility, supply fluctuations and prevent sudden price hikes.

Therefore, Onion storage structures with a capacity of **57,000 metric tonnes** will be established during 2026-27 at an outlay of **Rs.22.80 crore**.

38. Promoting traditional varieties of Fruits and Vegetables

It has become essential to create awareness among the present generation about the food habits of ancient people, and to revive and promote the large-scale cultivation of traditional fruit and vegetable varieties that are presently grown only in home gardens and hilly areas.

During 2026-27, an amount of **Rs.3.88 crore** will be allocated to promote the cultivation of traditional Mango varieties such as Sengavarukkai, Vettaian and Soorankudi Vettaian, Jackfruit varieties such as Panruti

Jackfruit, Mundan Chakka and Sembaruthi, Banana varieties such as Matti, Namaran, Sirumalai, Virupatchi, Ladan, Uthiran and traditional vegetable varieties by the farmers.

39. Promoting the cultivation of medicinal crops

The use of medicinal crops has been highly significant since ancient times in Tamil Nadu. With the continuous increase in demand for raw materials in the modern medical sector, these crops are now cultivated commercially rather than being collected only from forests. This scheme will be implemented to further promote the cultivation of medicinal crops and expand the production of soursop, which is considered to possess potential anti-cancer properties.

During 2026–27, this scheme will be implemented in an area of 1,720 acres with a financial outlay of Rs.1.51 crore.

40. Creation of Infrastructure Facilities at State Horticulture Farm in Vellore district

Spread over 85 acres, the State Horticulture Farm in Agaramseri, Vellore District, produces about 35 lakh horticultural planting materials annually. The Protray

vegetable seedlings, fruit trees, tree saplings, ornamental plants produced are supplied to farmers through Government schemes and direct sales.

In order to enhance the operational efficiency of the State Horticulture Farm further, essential infrastructure facilities will be established at an outlay of **Rs.2.03 crore.**

41. Establishment of a Large-Scale Nursery at Putlur, Tiruvallur district

A large-scale nursery will be established in an extent of 51 acres at Putlur, Tiruvallur District, for the production of quality ornamental plants and various tree species, thereby ensuring the ready availability of quality planting materials to the farmers and public.

It is planned to implement this scheme over a period of five years at an outlay of Rs.7 crore. In the first year, Rs.3 crore will be allocated for the creation of essential infrastructure facilities.

42. Establishment of Block level Horticulture Sale Outlets

In all 74 State Horticulture Farms and 24 Parks, products such as vermicompost, biocontrol agents,

planting materials, Horticulture tools, fruits, vegetables, and spices & condiments are being produced & made available to the public at fair prices. To facilitate the easy availability of these products, 100 Horticulture sale Outlets will be established in the Block Integrated Agriculture Extension Centres at an outlay of Rs.5 crore.

43. Urban Landscaping

Exclusive online platform will be developed by TANHODA to facilitate the registration of requests from Government institutions, local bodies, public spaces, residential premises, and other establishments for landscape development. Through the Landscape Wing, cost-effective landscaping services, including the establishment of home gardens, lawns, and planting of ornamental and flowering plants will be provided.

For this, the Landscape Wing of the Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency (TANHODA) will be strengthened to transform urban areas into greener, more attractive and environmentally sustainable spaces.

Agricultural Engineering Department

Hon'ble Speaker!

Timely execution of agricultural operations is essential to achieve optimum crop yields. To address the shortage of agricultural labour, promote farm mechanization, conserve and augment natural resources such as soil and water, and encourage the use of renewable energy in agriculture, the Department of Agricultural Engineering is implementing multifarious schemes.

44. Distribution of Farm Machinery and Implements to individual farmers with subsidy

The use of agricultural implements in agriculture can be learned through the Sangam literature. The **later-period poet Kambar who wrote a book on the significance of Agriculture named it as "Aerezhupathu", prioritized the main tool, the plough (Aer) among all implements** besides eulogizing the specific accessories such as plough handle, fastener, yoke, yoke hole, yoke pin, yoke rope, plough body, plough share, plough share pin, cattle prod stick and ox separately.

To promote mechanization at the village level, agricultural machinery, implements, value addition equipment, and solar driers are provided to farmers with subsidy. During 2026-27, Agricultural Mechanization scheme will be implemented at an outlay of **Rs.227.20 crore** from the Union and State Government funds benefitting 24,000 farmers. Under this scheme, about 8,870 Power Tillers, 5,090 Power Weeders, 1,400 Rotovators, 855 Tractors will be distributed. From this year onwards, the **maximum subsidy for installation of Solar driers** will be **increased from Rs.3.50 lakh to Rs.4.40 lakh**. In order to promote Agricultural mechanization among women farmers, priority will be given to them under this scheme.

45. Establishment of Agricultural Machinery Custom Hiring Centres

In order to facilitate farmers to easily access the agricultural machinery, implements and modern equipment such as drones for pesticide application on a rental basis and thereby execute timely agricultural operations and enhance income, Village level Agricultural Machinery Custom Hiring Centres will be established at an estimate of Rs.10 lakh each with a subsidy of 80 per cent,

subject to a maximum subsidy of Rs.8 lakh. A total of 50 Village level Agricultural Machinery Custom Hiring Centres will be established with a financial allocation of **Rs.4 crore. Further, 30 per cent of the total outlay allocated for this scheme will be earmarked for Women Self Help Groups.**

46. “Vetri Vaanmagal” Scheme

Drone technology in India is creating new job opportunities in agriculture, construction, freight transport, surveillance, and disaster management sectors. **With the United Nations having declared 2026 as the “International Year of Women Farmers”**, enabling women to work as drone operators will ease agricultural activities such as fertilizer, pesticide spraying, crop monitoring while addressing labour shortages in the sector.

For this, 500 eligible persons, including 100 women, will be provided drone operator training and a drone pilot license through the Remote Pilot Training Organization of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at State government cost of **Rs.1.50 crore. Drones will be provided with 50 per cent subsidy to 50 trained women**, at an allocation of **Rs.2.50 crore** from the state

fund. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister, who established the *Singappen* (Lioness) force to protect women, is now set to create the *Vaanmagal* Force to safeguard agriculture.

47. Creation and Desilting of Farm Ponds

"If Rain is the gift of nature, irrigation is the preparedness by mankind". That is why this Government, by executing the **'Water Governance Scheme'**, is determined to maintain irrigation tanks and create new farm ponds. To augment irrigation by effectively storing rainwater, **new farm ponds will be created in 500 farmers field with a 100 per cent subsidy**. Further, to improve the rainwater storage capacity, 500 existing farm ponds will be desilted at 75 per cent subsidy using machinery from the Agricultural Engineering Department. This initiative will be implemented during 2026-27 with an allocation of **Rs.8.50 crore**.

48. Creation of Water Sources to bring 1,000 acres under Irrigation

With a vision to increase the area under irrigation, water sources such as borewells or tubewells will be created for general category farmers owning land in safe

firkas with no assured source of irrigation. This includes 60 percent back ended subsidy assistance up to a maximum of Rs.1.20 lakh per well for small, marginal, and women farmers, and 50 percent back ended subsidy assistance up to a maximum of Rs.1 lakh per well for other categories of farmers. Further, this scheme will be dovetailed with the existing Solar Pumpset and Micro Irrigation schemes. This scheme will be implemented with an allocation of **Rs.6 crore** from the State fund, benefitting 500 farmers.

49. Solar Powered Pumpsets Scheme

To promote renewable energy in agriculture and ensure reliable irrigation facilities to farmers, subsidized standalone solar powered pumpsets as an alternative to diesel pumpsets will be installed for 1,000 farmers who have a water source but lack an electricity connection. To avoid recurring costs for irrigation purposes for farmers, this eco-friendly scheme will be implemented during 2026-27 with a financial allocation of **Rs.23.06 crore.**

50. Integrated Agricultural Machinery Hiring Business Centre for Crop cultivation and Value addition

Labour shortage, low prices for agricultural produce are the main challenges currently faced by the farmers. To address these challenges, the **visionary scheme focuses on creating Integrated Agricultural Machinery Hiring Business Centres** that provide farmers with rental machinery for crop cultivation and value addition. In the current year, 50 Integrated Agricultural Machinery Hiring Business Centres will be established at a unit cost of Rs.25 lakh each. A subsidy of 75 per cent will be provided to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Women entrepreneurs, youth holding a diploma or degree in Agricultural Engineering and 50 per cent subsidy for other entrepreneurs. An amount of **Rs.8.13 crore** will be allocated from the State fund for the implementation of this scheme.

51. Coastal Horticulture Scheme

“The seashore, a precious gift to us;

A loving gift that brings joy to the people”

To promote the cultivation of horticultural crops in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu through the utilization of the freshwater overlying saline groundwater and for establishing **Blue Green Horticulture Parks**, as a pilot project, a maximum subsidy of Rs.1.50 lakh per well will be provided to 10 farmers to construct skimming wells. In addition, standalone solar powered pumpsets and micro irrigation systems will be installed in convergence with the existing schemes. By utilizing this water source, cultivation of chilli and coriander will be encouraged in an extent of 10 hectares. Totally, an amount of **Rs.49.40 lakh** will be allocated from the State fund for the implementation of this scheme.

52. Provision of Threshing floors with subsidy assistance to farmers

To thresh, sort, dry and store paddy, groundnut, pearl millet, maize, sesame and black gram produced by the farmers and to fetch fair price by minimising the post-harvest losses, 100 threshing floors will be constructed in the individual farmer's fields at a total outlay of **Rs.2.80 crore** funded by the Union and State Governments.

53. Strengthening Farm Machinery Hiring Services of the Agricultural Engineering Department

- i. To strengthen the farm machinery hiring services of the Agricultural Engineering Department through the e-Vaadagai 2.0 platform, 60 Tractors with accessories, 463 agricultural machinery and implements including Paddy Combine Harvesters will be procured during the current year at an estimated cost of **Rs.19.22 crore**.
- ii. Agricultural Machinery Sheds will be constructed in five blocks at an estimated cost of **Rs.1.08 crore**.
- iii. To popularize the technology of bund sectioning and shaping works in paddy fields using Tractor operated ridge moulder, an amount of **Rs.1.25 lakh** will be allocated.

A total allocation of **Rs.20.31 crore** will be made for the implementation of these components.

54. Establishment of Agricultural Machinery Service Centres

To support the increasing use of agricultural machinery and solar powered pumpsets, and to provide

timely repair and maintenance in rural areas through rural youth and entrepreneurs, an amount of **Rs.1.12 crore** will be allocated to establish 15 Agricultural machinery and Solar powered pumpset service centres.

55. End to End Mechanization in cultivation of crops

End to end mechanization reduces cultivation costs by using machinery for every farm operation, from land preparation to residue management. Hence, field demonstrations on End-to-end mechanization in the cultivation of crops viz., maize, groundnut, blackgram, and coconut in farmers' fields will be taken up in an extent of 225 acres through Agri-Tech entrepreneurs with 100 per cent subsidy assistance at an outlay of **Rs.46.37 lakh.**

56. Construction of Agricultural Engineering Extension and Training Centres

To facilitate the farmers to enhance the crop production by adopting advanced technologies in crop cultivation and post-harvest management activities and to promote the agricultural engineering technologies among farmers, Agricultural Engineering Extension and Training

Centres will be constructed at Thirukoilur, Karaikudi, Musiri, Dharapuram and Kumbakonam at an outlay of **Rs.4.60 crore** from Union and State Government fund.

57. Mega exhibition of Modern Agricultural Machinery and Implements

A mega exhibition will be organized in Thanjavur district during current year to create awareness among farmers about the benefits of modern and innovative agricultural machinery, implements and equipment suitable for various crops and agricultural operations. This exhibition will establish a link between farmers, agricultural machinery manufacturers and department officials and thus will lead to the adoption of mechanized cultivation practices by farmers on a large scale.

Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business

Hon'ble Speaker!

The journey of agricultural produce, cultivated through the unwavering dedication and hard work of our farmers, begins at farm and progress through multiple stages before reaching consumers. Beyond serving domestic markets, this journey extends to international

destinations through exports, enabling the agricultural produce of Tamil Nadu establish a strong presence in global markets. The Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business plays a pivotal role in facilitating and strengthening this value chain, ensuring better market access and enhanced opportunities to our farmers.

In view of this, the Department proposes to implement a series of strategic initiatives during 2026-27. These initiatives are aimed at enhancing farmers' incomes, promoting value addition, strengthening market linkages and advancing the Government's long - term vision of sustainable and inclusive agricultural development. With these farmer centric schemes of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, who is deeply committed to the welfare of farmers, no one can halt the growth of agriculture sector under this government.

58. Tamil Nadu Farmers' Income Enhancement Commission

**"Ensuring remunerative price for farmers' produce!
prosperity for the State through sustainable
agriculture!"**

With the objective of sustainably enhancing farmers' income and securing their economic self-reliance, the **Tamil Nadu Farmers' Income Enhancement Commission** will be established with an outlay of **Rs.23 crore**. This year, an amount of **Rs.5.20 crore** will be allocated from the state fund to carry out these activities.

59. Marketing Organic Agricultural Produce

With the growing awareness on organic agricultural produce in the recent times, organic farmers and interested FPOs will be linked with traders to expand market and export opportunities. Initiatives like buyer-seller meets, market linkages, participation in national and international expos, and organised marketing support, will help them fetch higher incomes.

This year, necessary facilities will be created for marketing organic produce like traditional rice, chilli, pepper, turmeric etc., and a dedicated expert cell will be established for this purpose. The programme will be implemented in a 5-year period with a **total State outlay of Rs.19 crore, of which Rs.3 crore will be allocated during 2026–27.**

Further, to expand market opportunities, farmers producing organic products will be facilitated to sell their produce once a week at Uzhavar Sandhais.

60. Formation of New Farmer Producer Companies

New Farmer Producer Companies will be formed by collectivizing small and marginal farmers to improve market access and increase their income. Each shareholder of a newly formed FPC will receive equity grant support of Rs.2,000/- in the first year, followed by Rs.1,500/- each in the second and third years, totalling **Rs.5,000/- per shareholder.**

This scheme will be implemented with a total State outlay of Rs.30 crore, of which Rs.12 crore will be allocated this year.

61. Strengthening Farmer Producer Organisations

In Tamil Nadu, 1,686 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) have been promoted through various agencies, with 397 FPCs promoted by the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business. To ensure their sustainable growth, a **"Farmer Producer Companies Management Cell"** will be established to provide technical guidance and institutional support. Selected

FPCs will receive Rs.10,000/- towards the cost incurred for online submission of ROC filings, as well as 50 per cent reimbursement on the Chief Executive Officer's salary, up to a maximum of Rs.12,500/- per month.

In addition, awareness programmes on best practices, capacity-building programmes on market linkage, value addition, and sustainable income generation, as well as regional-level exhibitions, will be organised. An amount of **Rs.5 crore** will be allocated from the State fund for implementing these initiatives.

62. Establishment of "Agri Business Guidance Bureau"

An Agri Business Guidance Bureau will be established in Chennai at an outlay of **Rs.50 lakh** from the state fund to provide guidance to farmers, innovative agripreneurs and Farmer Producer Companies on modern technologies, credit linkage, subsidy assistance, crop insurance, investment planning, preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) etc.

63. Construction of 1,000 MT Storage Godown in Regulated Markets

To enable farmers to store their produce during gluts and price-fall periods and to sell when market prices improve, 1,000 MT storage godowns will be established in both the Polur (Tiruvannamalai) and Ammoor (Ranipet) Regulated Markets, with an allocation of **Rs.4.80 crore** from Union and State funds.

64. Establishment of Cold Storage Facilities

To minimise post-harvest losses, extend shelf life and preserve the quality of produce like vegetables, fruits, pulses, tamarind, dry chillies and lemons, 500 MT cold storage facilities will be established through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in Kancheepuram, Tiruchirappalli, and Thoothukudi districts, which are strategically located near ports and airports to enable export opportunities.

65. Upgradation of Primary Processing Centres and Specialised Market Complexes in the Union Region

Primary Processing Centres established at M.Pudur for Banana, P.K. Agaram for Onion in Trichy district and Gopalpatti for tamarind, Vendasandur for moringa in

Dindigul district, along with the Onion Market Complex at Chettikulam in Perambalur district and Coconut Market Complex at Rajendrapuram in Pudukottai district, will be upgraded with secondary and tertiary processing facilities. Farmer Producer Companies, entrepreneurs and exporters utilising these centres will be given 50 per cent subsidy for installing machinery. A sum of **Rs.3 crore** will be allocated from the State Fund.

66. Additional facilities at the Pochampalli Primary Processing Centre for export.

To expand the export of mangoes, pomegranates, and vegetables to China, South Korea, Japan, and the European Union, additional facilities including a hot water treatment unit, a grading & sorting hall, and a cold storage unit will be established at an outlay of **Rs.1.94 crore** using Union and State funds.

67. Modernisation of Uzhavar Sandhais (Farmers Markets)

An amount of **Rs.20 crore** will be allocated from the State Fund during 2026-27 to upgrade the basic infrastructure facilities in 10 Uzhavar Sandhais; redeveloping Chennai's Pallavaram and Avadi Uzhavar

Sandhais into modernized integrated farmers' markets; relocation of Perambalur's non-functional Veppanthattai Uzhavar sandhai to Elambalur, and Tiruvarur's Mannargudi-I market to its earlier location with construction of new buildings.

68. Electronic Price Display Boards in Uzhavar Sandhais

In Tamil Nadu, the prices of produce sold by farmers in 194 Uzhavar Sandhais are fixed on a daily basis in such a way that the prices are higher than the wholesale market price and lower than the retail price paid by consumers. To ensure that the price fixed for all vegetables and fruits is made transparent and visible to farmers & consumers, electronic price display boards will be installed in 59 Uzhavar Sandhais with an allocation of **Rs.2.04 crore from the state fund.**

69. Market Intervention Scheme – Price Stabilization Revolving Fund (MIS-PSRF)

A Market Intervention Scheme – Price Stabilization Revolving Fund (MIS-PSRF) will be created by the Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board with a State fund of **Rs.4.26 crore** to protect farmers from price

fall of perishable commodities like tomatoes. This scheme will help in stabilizing the market prices of tomatoes and onions.

70. Agricultural Intelligence and Market Excellence Centre (AIMEC)

Tamil Nadu is a leading State in agricultural marketing. To further strengthen this position, an **Agricultural Intelligence and Market Excellence Centre (AIMEC)** will be established. This centre will integrate data from 285 Regulated Markets, 213 e-NAM markets, 194 Uzhavar Sandhais, and 1,686 Farmer Producer Companies and all connected facilities to provide real-time market intelligence and decision support for farmers, policymakers and other stakeholders using Artificial Intelligence (AI), predictive analytics and Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies. In the current year, an amount of **Rs.4 crore** will be allocated from the State fund to establish this Centre.

DEPARTMENT OF SEED CERTIFICATION AND ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

“It is because of seeds that life and plants continue to exist on Earth even today. Since their formation, seeds

are naturally endowed with required nutrients and a protective outer coat. Ensuring that these seeds, which are the very foundation of crop cultivation, are of high quality” is the primary mandate of the Department of Seed Certification and Organic Certification.

71. Integrated Website for the Organic and Natural Farmers

The Union Government currently maintains separate websites for the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), Participatory Guarantee System (PGS–India Organic), and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS–Natural Farming) schemes. The details of farmers registered under these schemes are inaccessible to consumers and traders. Therefore, an integrated website containing the data of all farmers registered under the above three schemes will be created at an estimated cost of **Rs.20 lakh**.

72. Obtaining NABL Accreditation for Seed Testing Laboratories

To ensure seed quality and improve the credibility of testing results, NABL accreditation will be obtained for eight Seed Testing Laboratories located in Nagapattinam,

Theni, Namakkal, Tiruvallur, Erode, Ramanathapuram, Dindigul, and Krishnagiri at an outlay of **Rs.40 lakh**.

73. Provision of QR-code-enabled certification tags for certified seeds by the Department of Seed Certification

QR code-enabled certification tags will be provided for certified seeds by the Department of Seed Certification. This initiative will establish complete seed traceability, enabling end-to-end monitoring of seeds from production to distribution. This scheme will be implemented with a fund allocation of **Rs.1 crore**.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, by extending Agricultural Education and Extension and engaged in Research and acts as a pillar for the Agricultural growth and economic development in Tamil Nadu.

74. Establishment of an Agricultural Technology Research Centre at Ooty, The Nilgiris

The Kurinji region of Nilgiris district is renowned for the cultivation of **tea, hill vegetables, aromatic crops, and flowers**. However, farmers in the region continue to face challenges in producing high-quality produce and

marketing the products. Hence, the Government has planned to encourage & enhance the livelihoods of the Nilgiris District farmers by promoting chemical-free and sustainable farming practices, and create better market opportunities for their produce. In the first phase, the existing **Ooty Horticultural Research Station at Nilgiris will be** upgraded as a state-of-the-art **Agricultural Technology Research Centre** at an estimated cost of **Rs.10 crore**. As per the Government's long term vision plan, an amount of **Rs.5 Crore** will initially be allocated from the state fund to establish the centre.

75. Establishment of a new Diploma College for Organic Agriculture at Sakkottai, Thanjavur District

In line with the Government's long-term vision to make Tamil Nadu a pioneer state in organic farming, a new **Diploma College for Organic Agriculture**, in the name of natural farming scientist **Nammalvar**, will be established at Sakkottai, near Kumbakonam with a budget allocation of **Rs.15 crore from the state fund**. Initially, an amount of **Rs.5 crore** will be released from the state fund during the year 2026-27.

In this diploma college, students will be educated on all aspects related to organic farming through hands on experience and suitably guided on job opportunities.

76. Establishment of Export-Oriented Technology Hubs for Horticultural Crops

Export-oriented technology hubs will be established for crops highly suited for export such as mango, turmeric, and chilli to promote awareness on residue-free cultivation practices among farmers and connect them with global markets. These centres will provide farmers with advanced training, proper guidance, and extensive technological support. Accordingly, a **Mango Technology Centre at Paiyur, Krishnagiri district, Chilli Technology Centres at Ramanathapuram and Kovilpatti in Thoothukudi district and a Turmeric Technology Centre at Bhavanisagar, Erode district** will be newly established. An allocation of **Rs.1.50 crore** from state funds will be made for each centre, amounting to a **total of Rs.6 crore** to establish these facilities. In the first phase, **1,000 farmers** will be identified and directly linked to international export markets.

77. Expansion of Student Hostel Facilities at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) admits approximately 2,400 to 3,500 undergraduate and postgraduate students annually. Most of these students come from rural backgrounds, and over 70 per cent are girls. With the objective of providing hostel rooms with the necessary infrastructure and ensuring that students pursue their education without hassles, the student hostels on the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University campus in Coimbatore will be expanded at an estimated cost of Rs.10 crore. For this, an amount of **Rs.5 crore will be provided from the state fund**, and the remaining **Rs.5 crore** by the University from its own financial resources.

78. Research on Production of manure from Poultry Waste for soil health improvement

Tamil Nadu is a leading state in egg and broiler production. The districts of Namakkal, Salem, Karur, Erode, Tiruppur, and Coimbatore serve as the major hubs for this industry. Poultry farms in Tamil Nadu generate between 5,400 and 6,700 metric tonnes of waste every

day. Currently, this waste is often dumped in open areas without safety precautions, leading to environmental pollution.

In response to the request of the farming community, research and demonstrations will be conducted by the Sandiyur Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Salem district on technologies to improve soil fertility by drying and powdering poultry wastes generated in Namakkal, Salem, Karur, and surrounding districts and converting them into nutrient-rich fertilizer pellets. For this, an amount of **Rs.1 crore** will be allocated from the state fund.

79. Providing New Buses for Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for Students' field visits

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) offers 14 undergraduate degree programmes, with more than 3,000 students pursuing their studies at the Coimbatore main campus. As part of their academic curriculum, students regularly undertake educational visits to cooperative banks, research institutes, agricultural fields, and agricultural markets across various agro-climatic zones in Tamil Nadu to gain practical exposure and hands-on learning.

In order to undertake such field visits safely and in a hassle-free manner by the students, **an amount of Rs.1.50 crore from the state fund and Rs.1.50 crore from the revenue of the TNAU** will be provided for the purchase of six new buses.

**Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Agri Export
Promotion Corporation (TNAPEX)**

80. Establishment of “Centre for Refining and Advancing Food Technology (CRAFT)” at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore

A “Centre for Refining and Advancing Food Technology (CRAFT)” will be established through TNAPEX at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, at an estimated cost of **Rs.2.62 crore**. The Centre will strengthen the food processing ecosystem through innovation, value-added product development, analytical services, and technical support, thereby benefiting Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Tamil Nadu.

81. Support for Branding, Packaging, Marketing, Input & Output Supply Chain development and New Food Product development

To strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in food processing, TNAPEX will provide a range of services, including branding, packaging, marketing, supply chain development, and new food product development. The scheme will be implemented for the benefit of food processing MSMEs with a total allocation of **Rs.8.61 crore**.

82. Support for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises engaged in Food Processing

Support will be provided for market linkage, branding, and platform integration to encourage food processing MSMEs to join e-commerce and quick-commerce platforms. Additionally, export readiness training, assistance for international regulatory compliance and quality certification will be extended to 100 food processing MSMEs, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and entrepreneurs, with an allocation of approximately **Rs.2 crore**. Traceability services will also be provided for key agricultural and export-oriented commodities such as chilli, drumstick,

mango, coconut, banana, tomato, and shrimp. These measures will enhance global market opportunities for agricultural and value-added food products.

83. Establishment of TNAPEX Regional Centres at Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore

To enhance the regional outreach and inclusive growth of the Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Agri Export Promotion Corporation (TNAPEX), Regional Centres will be established at Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore at an estimated cost of **Rs.78 lakh**. These centres will provide comprehensive support services to farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), exporters, entrepreneurs, and food processing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

84. Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection

I. Co-operation

- i. During 2026-27, Crop loan to the tune of Rs.17,000 crore will be provided to meet the short-term Agricultural credit requirements for crop cultivation in Tamil Nadu.
- ii. To meet out the short-term credit requirements of farmers to take up Agriculture related activities like

Animal husbandry, Fisheries and beekeeping, working capital loan of Rs.3,000 crore will be provided during 2026-27.

- iii. To Purchase goats and sheep and for their maintenance, Agriculture based medium term loans and capital loans for livestock maintenance will be provided through Co-operative banks to landless people in scheduled caste category.
- iv. During 2026-27, till 15.07.2026, Crop loan to the tune of Rs.159.41 crore and livestock maintenance loan of Rs.140.91 crore have been disbursed to 12,752 farmers and 19,324 individuals respectively.
- v. In order to waive the crop loan of eligible farmers of the year 2026, an amount of Rs.100 crore, as first instalment, Rs.3,000 crore as second instalment, Rs.1,820 crore as third instalment and Rs.347 crore as fourth instalment totalling to Rs.5,267 crore have been disbursed by the Government during 2026.

II.Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation

Incentive for Paddy Procurement

The Government of Tamil Nadu is providing an incentive of Rs.1560/-per metric tonne for Grade 'A'

and Rs.1310/- per metric tonne for common varieties of paddy procured directly from the farmers. In the current procurement season - KMS, 2025- 2026, Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation has procured 62,72,720 MT of Paddy from 6,14,580 farmers through direct paddy purchase centers till 29.07.2026. So far, A total incentive of Rs.917 crore has been directly credited into the farmers bank account.

85. Water Resources Department

The main objective of the Water Resources Department is to store rain water, which is an essential resource for irrigation and drinking purposes in Dams, Anicuts and Tanks and distribute it in an efficient manner.

To ensure that the water released from the Dams for irrigation reaches the tail end area without any hindrance, in 2026-27, 1,161 desilting works for a length of 5,955 km in the Rivers, Channels, Canals and drains are taken up by the Water Resources Department at an estimated cost of Rs.125 crore. By this, the area coverage and production targets for paddy and other crops of the State can be achieved and the farmers income can also be enhanced.

86. Animal Husbandry

Hon'ble Speaker!

The Animal Husbandry Department plays a vital role in ensuring food security, nutritional security, and sustainable livelihoods, while serving as a key component of the rural economy, particularly in promoting the socio-economic empowerment of women.

i. Improving Buffalo Breeding Efficiency

To improve the reproductive efficiency of buffaloes, nutritional support will be provided to 1,000 buffalo heifers and 1,000 pregnant buffaloes. An amount of Rs.2.04 crore will be allocated for this scheme.

ii. Revival of Tamil Nadu's traditional cattle breeds

Tamil Nadu is home for several indigenous livestock breeds. As many as 1,52,000 Kangayam cattle, 14,000 Pulikulam cattle, 42,000 Umbalachery cattle, 55,000 Bargur cattle, and 20,000 Toda buffaloes are owned by individuals. Of these, livestock maintenance assistance of Rs.5,000/- per animal will be provided for 5,000 indigenous livestock owned by Women Self-Help Groups. A sum of Rs.2.50 crore will be allocated for this scheme. Further, appropriate convergence measures will

be undertaken with Government agencies such as the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) to enable Women Self-Help Groups to market their livestock-based products to farmers at fair prices.

87. Dairy Development

With a daily milk production of approximately 3 crore litres, Tamil Nadu contributes to around 4.7 per cent of India's total milk production. Since the state's per capita daily milk availability is 407 grams, the Dairy Development Department plays a significant role in ensuring nutritional security across the State.

i. Establishment of 500 Medium Dairy Farms

With the objective of promoting dairy entrepreneurship among small and marginal milk producers and ensuring a sustainable source of income, 500 medium-scale dairy farms, each comprising five milch animals (3+2 model), will be established. Under this scheme, a capital subsidy of 25 per cent of the project cost will be provided. Institutional credit at concessional interest rates will be facilitated for the remaining project cost. This initiative will enhance milk production, generate year-round employment and improve the livelihoods of

milk producers, particularly women. Necessary funds will be provided from the state fund for the implementation of this scheme.

ii. Mini Dairies

To ensure a stable year-round income for milk producers, an interest subsidy of 4 per cent is being provided for the establishment of 5,000 **Mini Dairy units** across the State. To ensure continued support to eligible milk producers under the Mini Dairy Scheme, the programme will be continued during 2026–27 with a financial allocation of Rs.4.19 crore.

iii. Supply of Cattle Feed at subsidized Price

With the objective of reducing the cost of milk production and supporting economically weaker milk producers, quality balanced cattle feed will be supplied to eligible milk producers living below the poverty line at a subsidy of Rs.2/- per kilogram, at the rate of 3 kg per animal per day for 300 days. This scheme will promote scientific feed management practices, enhance milk productivity, and improve the income of milk producers. Adequate state funds will be provided for the implementation of this scheme.

iv. Supply of Mineral Mixture at subsidized price

Healthy heifer calves are the foundation of future milk production. With the objective of improving the growth, reproductive performance, and lifetime productivity of dairy animals, mineral mixture will be supplied for one year at 50 per cent subsidy to 50,000 heifer calves. A sum of Rs.2.76 crore will be allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

88. Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare

Inland fisheries and aquaculture have emerged as vital pillars of Tamil Nadu's rural economy, contributing significantly to food security, nutritional well-being, employment generation and sustainable livelihoods. The State is endowed with an extensive network of inland water resources, covering about 3.85 lakh hectares, offering immense potential for fisheries development and enhancing the livelihoods of thousands of rural families.

i. Enhancement of inland fish production in Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department tanks in Tamil Nadu through fish seed stocking

Tamil Nadu has 21,608 tanks under the control of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

With the objective of increasing inland fish production and enhancing fish productivity in these water bodies, quality fish fingerlings will be stocked at the rate of 2,000 fingerlings per hectare in 5,000 hectares at a cost of Rs.75 lakh. This initiative will ensure the availability of affordable, high-quality protein-rich food for rural communities.

ii. Promotion of Fish Culture in Multipurpose Farm Ponds in Tamil Nadu

To encourage fish farmers to undertake fish culture in farm ponds, subsidy assistance will be provided for the purchase of essential inputs such as fish fingerlings and feed for 200 farm ponds. This initiative will improve the livelihoods of fish farmers while ensuring the availability of protein-rich food for rural communities. The scheme will be implemented in selected districts at an estimated cost of Rs.80 lakh.

89. Rural Development

I. Rural Employment Guarantee and Livelihood Mission

Under the Rural Employment Guarantee and Livelihood Mission – Tamil Nadu, planned interventions

are being undertaken for natural resource management and water conservation. In addition, agriculture and allied activities such as drought-proofing, land development, desilting of supply channels and irrigation canals, and restoration of traditional water bodies are being carried out to improve groundwater recharge and soil moisture.

To strengthen connectivity between farmers and markets in rural areas and facilitate the transportation of agricultural produce, single-layer gravel roads are being laid to unconnected Adi Dravidar habitations, tribal settlements, and hilly areas. During 2026–27, 12,000 works including farm ponds, new ponds, percolation ponds, water recharge trenches, water recharge shafts, recharge wells, nurseries, tree planting, earthen bunds and stone bunds will be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.1,500 crore.

II. Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women

The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) has been implementing various farm livelihood programmes by providing training to Women Self-Help Group members in rural areas on modern technologies in agriculture, horticulture, agricultural

engineering, animal husbandry, and agroforestry. These initiatives enable them to adopt improved technologies on their farms and earn a sustainable year-round income.

i. Pulses Seed Production by Women SHGs

To promote the production of quality pulse seeds, 100 pulses seed production clusters have been established through Women Self-Help Groups. To strengthen these clusters and enhance the availability of pulses seeds, additional 50 pulses seed production clusters will be established during 2026–27 at a cost of Rs.1 crore. The pulses seeds produced through these 150 seed production clusters will be procured by the Agriculture Department and distributed to farmers under various Government schemes.

ii. Production and Supply of Quality Coconut Seedlings to Farmers

During 2024–25, 60 coconut nurseries were established through Women Self-Help Groups for the production of quality coconut seedlings, which were distributed to farmers through the Horticulture Department during 2025–26. In 2026-27, an additional

2.50 lakh quality coconut seedlings will be produced and distributed to farmers through the Horticulture Department.

iii. Establishment of Natural Farming Clusters

With the objective of improving the soil health and promoting the production of healthy food without the use of any chemical inputs, 6 additional Natural Farming Clusters will be established in 6 districts during 2026–27 at an estimated cost of Rs.3.30 crore. These clusters will serve as demonstration centres, enabling farmers to learn and adopt various traditional natural farming practices involving the use of bio-inputs.

90. Forest Department

During the year 2026–27, under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, it is proposed to plant 5 lakh sandalwood seedlings, 51,000 teak clonal seedlings and 20 lakh miscellaneous agroforestry species in farmlands across the State to promote agroforestry, diversify farm incomes, and enhance climate resilience. In addition, it is proposed to plant 10 lakh Silver Oak seedlings in the tribal farmlands of the Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats

to promote sustainable agroforestry, improve livelihoods, and strengthen ecological resilience.

Totally, 35.51 lakh tree seedlings will be planted across Tamil Nadu under agroforestry development component of Green Tamil Nadu Mission during 2026-27.

91. Energy

Energy department plays an indispensable role in safeguarding crops by providing irrigation water for agriculture. With the aim of boosting the state's agricultural production and enhancing the welfare of farmers, free three-phase electricity is being supplied to 23,97,732 agricultural electricity connections and are being utilized by farmers.

92. Revenue and Disaster Management

I. Disaster Management

Under the Catalytic Assistance Scheme of the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF), various drought mitigation projects will be implemented at a total cost of Rs.111 crore in 75 selected villages across 28 blocks in the districts of Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai. As first instalment, the Union Government

has released Rs.50 crore and Government of Tamil Nadu has contributed its matching share of Rs.5 crore to implement this scheme.

II. Survey and Land Records

i. Patta Transfer (Rural)

Rural land records have already been fully computerised and made available through an online platform. From January 2025 to July 2026, a total of 60.68 lakh online applications for rural patta transfer were received, of which 47.96 lakh online patta transfers have been completed.

ii. Georeferencing for the AgriStack Initiative

Under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), all 16,810 village maps in the State have been digitised and georeferenced for the AgriStack initiative. Further, the digitised cadastral maps have been integrated with the georeferenced village maps prepared under the AgriStack Initiative. So far, 48.93 lakh unique farmer identification numbers and approximately 4.38 crore unique agricultural land parcel identification numbers have been generated.

Hon'ble Speaker,

“கொடைஅளி செங்கோல் குடிஓம்பல் நான்கும்

உடையாணாம் வேந்தர்க்கு ஒளி”

***“The light among Kings is he who has Grace,
Bounty, Justice and Concern”.***

(Thirukkural: 390)

Poet Thiruvalluvar's above words depict that a ruler possessing the qualities of generosity, compassion, impartial governance and the protection of the vulnerable people shines as a radiant light. The world is spell bound to witness the achievements and visionary initiatives accomplished through exemplary good governance by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu within just three months after creating history. Legislative Assembly proceedings, which were inaccessible earlier, have now become a subject of interest, watched eagerly by the common people.

To add feather to all these efforts, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has pledged to transform Tamil Nadu into a \$1.5 trillion economy by the year 2035-36 and has formulated a vision statement to achieve this goal.

The great poet Kambar describes the importance of farmers in his work *Aerezhupathu as*

“As the crops of the great tillers grow, goodness will grow; the rule of valiant Kings will grow; Fame will grow; the riches of Merchants will grow; beauty will grow; wealth will grow; Food will grow and the Sea-Girt World will grow”.

This illustrates that when agriculture thrives, all other sectors of the nation prosper alongside it. Therefore, the schemes and activities of this department will be structured to ensure that the Agriculture - Farmers Welfare Department makes the maximum possible contribution to the journey towards the \$1.5 trillion economic goal.

What is learned is but a handful;

What remains unlearned is an ocean!

I, too, continue to learn every day, striving to better understand what is required to lead this noble agriculture sector and to promote agricultural development while safeguarding the welfare of our farmers.

As this is the first year, schemes aimed at the upliftment of farmers have been formulated in accordance

with priority based on available financial resources. I firmly believe that these schemes will go a long way in improving the lives and livelihoods of our farmers. I also wish to assure this august House that, in the years to come, many more innovative initiatives will be introduced to accelerate agricultural growth in a widespread manner. As our Hon'ble Chief Minister often says, **"Great things await"**.

I conclude by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to **Chief Secretary, Dr. M. Saikumar, IAS; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Thiru. M.A. Siddique, IAS; Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Dr. P. Sankar, IAS** and all Heads of Departments for their invaluable support in formulating this Agriculture Budget, featuring various schemes aimed at enhancing farmers' welfare and presenting it to this august House.

Let agriculture triumph to realize a victorious Tamil Nadu!

Nandri! Vanakkam!

ANNEXURE

Outlay under Capital and Revenue under Agriculture & Allied Sectors during 2026-27				
(Rs.in Thousands)				
S. No	Department	RBE 2026-2027		
		Capital	Revenue	Total
1	Directorate of Agriculture	83,34,55	11,029,80,31	11,113,14,86
2	Directorate of Horticulture and Plantation Crops	37,60,47	1,739,75,19	1,777,35,66
3	Agricultural Engineering Department	18,22,37	605,11,00	623,33,37
4	Directorate of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business	22,57,24	300,11,53	322,68,77
5	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	40,00,00	741,79,28	781,79,28
6	Directorate of Seed Certification and Organic Certification	...	78,41,43	78,41,43
7	Directorate of Sugar	...	261,74,00	261,74,00
8	Directorate of Animal Husbandry	166,00,65	1,416,56,60	1,582,57,25
9	Dairy Development	600,00,09	250,30,71	850,30,80
10	Directorate of Fisheries	736,14,02	799,86,03	1,536,00,05
11	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	20,69,50	377,04,83	397,74,33

Outlay under Capital and Revenue under Agriculture & Allied Sectors during 2026-27				
(Rs.in Thousands)				
S. No	Department	RBE 2026-2027		
		Capital	Revenue	Total
12	Tamil Nadu Fisheries University, Nagapattinam	61,94	50,23,61	50,85,55
13	Co-operation (Crop Loan)	...	701,49,25	701,49,25
14	Civil Supplies Department (DPC Procurement)	...	14,018,64,52	14,018,64,52
15	Rural Development & Panchayat (MGNRES now restructured as VB-G RAM-G, Rural Road, NRLM and AGAMT)	2,137,78,01	15,965,24,82	18,103,02,83
16	Food Processing	...	183,79,47	183,79,47
17	Sericulture	...	102,98,71	102,98,71
18	Forestry (Agro Forestry/ Man- animal Conflict)	800,42,66	730,95,82	1531,38,48
19	Revenue (Crop Damage/ Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam)	...	331,17,26	331,17,26
20	Canal Restoration	4,025,63,21	...	4,025,63,21
	Total	8,689,04,71	49,685,04,37	58,374,09,08