

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Details of the Schemes

MILESTONES

An independent Department of Agriculture was established in the Botanical Garden, Puducherry as early as in February 1955 with an Agricultural Officer as the Head. Under the French rule it was looked after by "Service Economique", a common unit responsible for maintaining various services.

The first major milestone in the development of the Agricultural Department was the establishment of a State Seed Farm at Madur, Karaikal during the 2nd Five Year Plan (1956-61). Another State Seed Farm was also established at Madagadipet, Puducherry, during the 3rd Five Year Plan (1961-66), besides a model Orchard in an area of 8 acres.

An Experimental-cum-Research-Cum-Demonstration Farm was run on a 25-acre leased land at Kirumampakkam during the 3rd Five Year Plan. But the Farm was closed on 30.9.1969 due to lack of funds for land acquisition. The Experimental Research Farm was finally set up at Karaikal adjacent to the State Seed Farm, Madur.

The other important milestones in the growth of the Department of Agriculture are as follows:

1967 - The Vocational Agricultural School (VAS) was established on 1-7-1967 at Madur, Karaikal.

1968 - A Soil Testing Laboratory was set up in the Botanical Garden. Apart from the soil / water samples, fertilizer samples also used to be tested in the Laboratory. Prior to this, soil samples used to be sent to Coimbatore for analysis.

1971 - The Farmers' Training Centre was established under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Government Agricultural Engineering Workshop was formally set up during the year and it became fully functional from 1973-74.

1972 - The Quality Control Laboratories for Seeds and Fertilizers were established.

1973 - The Pondicherry Agricultural Produce Markets Act was enacted in 1973, and received the assent of the Lieutenant Governor on 28-3-1974. The Pondicherry Agricultural Produce Market Rules came into force in 1975. The Quality control Laboratory for Pesticides and the Ghee & Oil grading Laboratory were set up in January 1973.

1974 - The Country's first Krishi Vigyan Kendra was established on 21-3-1974 as an Agricultural Polytechnic with the support of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. It was taken over by the Government of Puducherry with effect from 1st April 1992 and registered under the Societies Registration Act on 30-5-1994. The State Ground Water Unit was established.

1975 - The Pondicherry Market Committee was constituted. Its primary auction yard at Thattanchavady was set up on 3-7-1978. Additional market yards were started at Madagadipet (20-10-1994), Kanniakoil (14-4-1997), Koonitchampet (3-3-2002), Karayamputhur (29-1-2007) and Maducarai (26-5-2008).

1976 - The State Land Use Board was constituted under the State Plan on 19-2-1976. It became a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1987 and with the discontinuation of Central assistance has once again reverted to the State Plan from 1-4-2010. As of now, the subject of land use stands transferred to Department of TCP, Puducherry. Establishment of the Sugarcane Agronomical Research Farm at Kariamanickam was also during this year..

1984 - Introduction of the Training & Visit System of agricultural extension. The Pondicherry Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., Lingareddipalayam began crushing operations on 18-1-1984. This is the second sugar mill in Puducherry besides the private sector New Horizon Sugar Mills Ltd., Ariyur which was in operation since October 1960.

1986 - With the establishment of the Pondicherry Agro Service & Industries Corporation (PASIC), the agro business was taken over from the Department by an autonomous institution. The Karaikal Market Committee was constituted in 1986 and started functioning from 13-7-1988.

1987 - An Agricultural College was started at Karaikal in October 1987. Classes at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture commenced from 15-2-1988 and the first batch of the undergraduate students came out during the academic year 1991-92. The college was upgraded as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute in 1997.

1990 - Establishment of the Yanam Market Committee.

1992 - The Vocational Agricultural School (VAS) for Puducherry region was started at the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Krishi Vigyana Kendra on 16th October 1992.

1995 - Setting up of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Madur, Karaikal.

1997 - A separate Department of Forestry was created by transferring the Social Forestry programmes of the Agricultural Department along with the staff.

2000 - The Pondicherry Seed Certification Agency was formally established by a notification issued on 25-11-1994, but was registered as an autonomous institution under the Societies Registration Act on 10-07-2000. It started functioning from the year 2001-02. Until then, the certification work used to be carried out by the Department of Seed Certification, Coimbatore.

The first Uzhavar Sandhai was launched in Puducherry near the Botanical Garden on 24-2-2000. Four more Uzhavar Sandhais have been started subsequently at Lawspet (10-1-2002), Arumbarthapuram (25-1-2006) Ariyankuppam (25-2-2009) and Karaikal (11-8-2005).

2002 - The first batch of Uzhavar Udhaviyagams were inaugurated at Bahour, Karaimanickam, Villianur & Thirukkanur in May 2002 with the objective of providing one-stop solution to the problems of farmers at their down step. So far 35 Uzhavar Udhaviyagams have been established in all four regions of the Union Territory serving 2-3 villages each. The Pondicherry Ground Water Regulation Act 2002 was enacted and pursuant to this the Pondicherry State Ground Water Authority was established in 2004.

2005 - The Pondicherry Agricultural Workers Welfare Society was established.

2008 - The Union Territory of Puducherry State Horticulture Development Society was set up to implement the programmes of the National Horticulture Mission, which is one of the Prime Minister's Flagship Schemes.

ABOUT THE SCHEMES

The objective of the Agriculture Department is to increase agricultural production, sustain the growth rate of agriculture in the Union Territory of Puducherry and enhance the economic status of the farming community.

A number of initiatives have been taken by the Government of Puducherry during the X Five Year Plan and the early years of the XI Five Year Plan to realize these goals. Revamping the agricultural extension, crop diversification, strengthening of marketing infrastructure, building an effective input delivery system, promotion of farm mechanization and ensuring quality control are some of the initiatives taken.

One of the earliest schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture was “Experiments on the effects of Musical Sounds on the growth of plants”, under which field trials were conducted to investigate the effect of music on the growth of the plants. The scheme, introduced during the 2nd and 3rd Five Year Plans, was discontinued in the 4th Five Year Plan at the instance of the Government of India.

Another scheme implemented in the 2nd Five Year Plan was setting up of tobacco curing barns in Yanam region. Virginia Tobacco was one of the major crops cultivated in Yanam in the 1950's.

Popularizing the Japanese methods of cultivation was another scheme that was implemented during the 2nd Five Year Plan.

Some other schemes implemented in the earlier Plan periods were training of Fieldmen and Maistries, Agricultural Loans, Land Reforms, cultivation of mulberry and silkworm rearing, strengthening Rural Credit, Monitoring & Evaluation, Purchase and Distribution of Lands to Landless Rural SC people.

Agricultural Department is the first Department in the U.T. administration to introduce a scheme on e-governance in 2002-03. The Scheme for the Welfare Society for Agricultural Labourers was also introduced during the 10th Five Year Plan.

The Department has evolved schemes such as Precision farming, organic farming, back ended subsidies for horticultural crops and paddy in the 11th Five Year Plan to address the problems caused by the decline in land availability and depletion of water resources etc.

At present it is implementing 15 Plan schemes under Agriculture sector and 2 schemes in Minor Irrigation sector, in addition to the negotiated loan as part of the State plan outlay. The Department is also availing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored / Central Sector schemes of the Government of India.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STATE PLAN SCHEMES

SOIL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & INPUTS QUALITY CONTROL

To monitor the soil fertility status effectively by intensive sampling

To build up a reliable database of soil resources for interpretation in relation with its production potential.

To maintain Soil Health for sustaining the production potential and generating fertilizer recommendations for individual crops to meet the farmers' requirement based on the Soil Database thus created.

To prevent further deterioration of soil productivity, fertility and sustainability.

INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR SEED PRODUCTION AND CERTIFICATION

To ensure adequate availability of certified seed to farmers, especially in the case of paddy. Pulses & Groundnut and offering suitable incentives and developing infrastructure for seed processing etc.

CROP PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

Distribution of agricultural inputs such as seeds, micronutrients, PP chemicals, PP equipment, tools and implements, farm machineries etc., needed by the farmers for increasing the production will be made available at subsidized cost.

PROMOTION OF POST-HARVEST TECHNOLOGIES

To minimize the post-harvest losses by making available improved threshing floor and storage structures to farming community. The farm machineries required for Post-Harvest operations will be made available for custom hiring to member beneficiaries based on extent and need. Tarpaulins will be provided under subsidy to protect the produce from unexpected precipitation.

PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

Farm Machinery and Implements are recognized as major power inputs for increasing Production and Productivity and reducing human drudgery. Farm Mechanization, besides reducing delays in field operations, will increase the work output per unit time, improve the quality of work done and also will enable conservation of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and irrigation water. To achieve this goal, farm machineries and improved agricultural implements will be made available to farmers at subsidized cost.

SCHEME FOR DIVERSIFICATION IN AGRICULTURE THROUGH HORTICULTURE CROPS

To bring more area under horticulture by diversification of agricultural crops, by crop rotation, inter-cropping, multi cropping, multi-tier cropping and introduction of non-traditional water consuming crops.

SCHEME FOR HI-TECH HORTICULTURE THROUGH PRECISION FARMING AND TECHNOLOGICAL INTERVENTION

To introduce changes in seedling production through community nursery – pro tray high yielding seedling production under insect proof condition, cultural practices like deep ploughing with chisel plough, drip irrigation, fertigation with water soluble fertilizer, plant protection, post-harvest handling like grading and sorting and marketing.

PROMOTION OF ORGANIC FARMING IN FIELD CROPS

To extend both organizational and financial assistance to the farmers who are coming forward to undertake organic farming by totally eliminating the use of inorganic fertilizer, chemical pesticides and other chemical inputs in a phased manner and also to extend special marketing support with premium price for the agricultural produce grown by adopting organic farming.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS

To support Agricultural Research Education and Training in the U.T. of Puducherry by providing grant-in-aid to PAJANCOA & RI, Karaikal, PKKVK, Puducherry and KVK, Karaikal.

DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES FOR AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

To ensure an effective and efficient functioning of the regulated market committees and to streamline the agricultural marketing so that the producers should get very good remunerative prices and get relief from the middlemen.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING TO DEVELOP HUMAN RESOURCES

To organize training programs for the officials and staff of the Department to channelize the human resource potential for increasing the efficiency, achieve higher productivity in all the scheme works, reorient the psychological and mental attitude of the personnel in the execution of duties and for creating a better interface between the official machinery and farming community.

SCHEME FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WELFARE SOCIETY

Various benefits are extended to the agricultural workers of the U.T. of Puducherry.

INTRODUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF E-GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES

It was felt that Information and Communication Technology is to be blended with the traditional extension activities so as to make it effective, efficient and far reaching and the maximum information should be given to the farming community to enable them to arrive at informed decisions. Further it was felt that in the changing agricultural scenario worldwide, it is necessary to build up a market oriented extension network for which ICT is an integral part. Hence the scheme.

PILOT PROJECT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURE CLINICS / SELF EMPLOYMENT

To extend both organizational and financial assistance to the farmers who are coming forward to undertake organic farming by totally eliminating the use of inorganic fertilizer, chemical pesticides and other chemical inputs in a phased manner and also to extend special marketing support with premium price for the agricultural produce grown by adopting organic farming.

SCHEME FOR SETTING UP OF RELIEF FUND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

In case of natural calamities such as drought and floods the department is now dependent upon the Revenue Department for funds to provide relief measures to the affected farmers. In order to obviate this need and to build a separate fund in the agriculture department itself to provide necessary relief measures immediately after calamity without any delay, it is proposed to set up this relief fund in order to ensure quicker and timely assistance to farmers affected by natural calamities & capacities of nature.

ADDITIONAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)

Various developmental / infrastructural activities will be undertaken such as construction of godowns, auction yards, purchase of agricultural implements / machineries, training programmes, conduct of crop demonstrations in farmers field,

popularization of precision farming in the U.T. of Puducherry and development of allied activities such as dairying, marine fisheries etc.

CROP PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

Distribution of agricultural inputs such as seeds, micronutrients, PP chemicals, PP equipment, tools and implements, farm machineries etc., needed by the farmers for increasing the production will be made available at subsidized cost.

INTEGRATED SCHEME FOR DEVELOPMENT, HARVESTING, RECHARGING AND CONSERVATION OF GROUND WATER (BNP)

In order to meet the relentless increase in the demand for water for various purposes and to achieve the goal of optimal use and sustainability and to derive the maximum benefits through development, storage, conservation, distribution and reuse, it has become necessary to make water resources development more imperative by implementing a comprehensive integrated scheme with the following objectives.

- Rainwater harvesting and recharging ground water
- Water conservation and Management
- Construction of rain water harvesting structures like mini lakes and ponds in Karaikal region
- Assessment of ground water potential and monitoring of ground water quality
- Stabilization of irrigation command To regulate the exploitation of ground water in the Union Territory of Puducherry, the “Pondicherry Ground Water Authority” will be created during 2004 under the Pondicherry Ground Water (Control and Regulation), Act 2002.

HYDROLOGY PROJECT PHASE-II WITH WORLD BANK LOAN ASSISTANCE (EAP)

The Government of Puducherry is implementing a project titled “Hydrology Project Phase-II” with loan assistance of World Bank since the year 2005-06 with an outlay of ₹ 13.18 crores and for a period of 6 years.

The main objective of the project is to create water information system comprising exhaustive information on surface water, groundwater and

hydrometeorology and water quality for better water resources planning in future. State of the art data center and a Level-II plus laboratory for water quality analysis are to be established under the project. Besides, full climatic stations and network of observation tube wells and current meters across the rivers for measurements of surface water flow are to be established at strategic locations and data to be generated from this observation points are to be computerized in a standardized format. Implementation of this project will result in groundwater recharge and facilitate efficient irrigation for sustained agricultural production and generation of higher farm income.

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

FARM MECHANIZATION

The Government of Puducherry is implementing the programme 'Farm Mechanization' from 2011-12 onwards. The implementation of the Farm Mechanization programme through the assistance provided by the Government of India under Macro Management of Agriculture will serve the following objectives

- Helping the farmers solve the problems arising out of labour scarcity
- Efficient utilization of farm inputs
- Alleviating the drudgery associated with the various farm operations
- Increasing the productivity of agriculture
- Farming becomes more economic and profitable to farmers

NATIONAL HORTICULTURE MISSION

This is one of the flagship schemes of the Prime Minister of India implemented in the Union Territory for the first time in 2009-2010. As per the guidelines of the National Horticulture Mission, State Puducherry Horticulture Society was established and registered under the Societies Registration Act in November 2008 and subsidies are extended for various horticultural activities.

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (ATMA)

This is a novel scheme of the Government of India, which aims at an integrated approach to agricultural extension involving all the allied departments such as

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Forestry, Dairy, etc. and implemented through an autonomous organization called the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

Two ATMA Societies have been registered under the Societies Registration Act for Puducherry and Karaikal Districts.

The Department of Agriculture is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely “Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)” programme since 2006 onwards. An amount of ₹ 88.97 lakhs has been released so far from the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Co-operation under the Extension Reforms (ATMA) schemes. The Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Krishi Vigyan Kendra (PKKVK) has been notified as SAMETI, Puducherry. In the scheme, 34 nos. of Farm Information Advisory Centres (FIAC), 130 nos. of Commodity Interest Groups (CIG) are to be formed to serve as a link between the farmers and extension workers

AGRISNET

Under this scheme, the Government of India is supporting the Department of Agriculture for the purchase of hardware and software required for its e-governance programme.

AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS / CORPORATION / SOCIETIES COMES UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PANDIT JAWHARLAL NEHRU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PAJANCOA & RI)

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture & Research Institute (PAJANCOA) located at Serumavilangai village of Nedungadu Commune, is spread over an area of 225 acres.

Affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, the Institute offers Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with an intake of 60 students (51 for Puducherry residents and 9 for other States), and Post-graduate programme in six disciplines viz in Agronomy,

Plant Breeding and Genetics, Agricultural Entomology, Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Agricultural Economics and Horticulture. Six additional seats in the undergraduate programme are allotted for foreign nationals/Non Resident Indians

The Institute offers financial assistance to all the Postgraduate students @ of ₹2000/- per month not exceeding ₹40,000/- for four semesters subject to compulsory residence in the College Hostel. Merit-cum-means based scholarships are given to the undergraduate students.

Apart from the academic programs, the institute conducts location specific and need based research programs to cater to the diverse needs of the farming community. The paddy variety "Karaikal-1" was released by the College in 2007. It also provides technology support to extension personnel of development departments and farmers.

PERUNTHALAIVAR KAMARAJ KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA,PUDUCHERRY

The Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Krishi Vigyan Kendra was established on 21st March 1974 and it was the first of its kind in the country with a total area of 145 hectares covering 62.5 ac. under wet lands for rice farming, 50.5 ac. for rainfed and garden land farming with orchards, plantations & farm forestry, 5.0 ac for Horticultural wing and the rest 27 ac. comprises buildings, roads, institutional activities, demonstration units, etc. nearby 8 kms west of Puducherry town.

This Kendra takes care of the training needs of the farming community on Crop Husbandry, Horticulture, Inland Fishing, Animal Husbandry & Home Science, conducts refresher courses for the technical staff of the Department of Agriculture, conducting front line demonstrations in the farmers' fields and undertake research in the field of Agriculture.

Since its inception six varieties of rice have been released. The tissue culture, laboratory and bio control laboratory facilities caters to the bio-technological need of the farming community. This Kendra also offers a certificate course on Vocational Agriculture with an intake capacity of 24 students.

Some of the achievements by the Kendra since its inception are:

- Identification of the Kendra as one of the test centers under All India Co-ordinated Rice Improvement Project (AICRIP), Hyderabad (1979-80.)
- The release of six new paddy varieties viz. PY-1 or Pudukai Ponni (1979), PY-2 or Punithavathi (1980), PY-3 or Bharathidasan (1984), PY-4 or Jawahar (1989), PY-5 or Arvindar (1994), PY-6 or Subramania Bharathi (2000) and PY-7 or Annalakshmi (2007).
- Starting of a one year certificate course in Vocational Agriculture (16.12.1992).
- Establishment of Tissue Culture Laboratory in collaboration with Baba Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai (13-1-1996).
- Establishment of Bio Control Laboratory with financial assistance from the Government of India and under the technical guidance of National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (ICAR), Bangalore (1997).
- Launching of the Precision Farming Project with the Department of Agriculture as the coordinating and funding agency (22.08.2008)

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA, KARAIKAL

A Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the Karaikal region of this Union Territory was established during March 1995 at Madur under the Transfer of Technology (ToT) project of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR).

The core objectives of this institute to undertake and co-ordinate extension, research and its application in agriculture and allied sciences, to update the technical skill of farmers and to link with departments towards integrated development of rural community of Karaikal region.

PUDUCHERRY AGRO SERVICE AND INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED

The Puducherry Agro Service and Industries Corporation Limited, shortly known as "PASIC" was incorporated in the year 1986 under the Companies Act 1956.

The main activity of the Corporation is the supply and distribution of all agricultural inputs through a network of 42 Agro Depots and 4 horticultural show rooms called "Vasantham". It also sells vegetables through 5 retail outlets in Puducherry

and Karaikal regions, apart from supplying fruits, vegetables, eggs etc. to the hostels/hospitals run by the Departments of Social Welfare, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Health etc.

It produces and markets the mineral water "Puducherry" with ISO 9001 Mark. It also undertakes construction of buildings of Government Departments and other autonomous Institutions, besides being involved in the trade of cement, pipes, cables, solar equipment etc. and drilling of tube wells. In Karaikal Region, PASIC maintains 87 community bore wells and supplies water to the farmers for irrigation at nominal cost of ₹5/- per hour.

An Integrated Solid Waste Management Project Proposal for processing urban garbage into compost has been approved by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.

Foreseeing the future requirements, the Corporation has started another prestigious project of producing organic manure from urban waste with the latest know-how on composting and production of bio-fertilizers. A Joint-Venture has been entered into between PASIC and Pondicherry Co-operative Sugar Mills for production of enriched press mud compost by utilization of the press mud (PCSM) sugar mill effluent and Fly ash.

MARKET COMMITTEES

This Union Territory, with the object of safeguarding the interest of farmers from the exploitation of unscrupulous market forces like brokers, middlemen and to ensure the better remunerative prices in commensuration with the produce, correct weight and prompt payment for the agricultural produce has established Regulated Markets in all the four regions of this U.T.

1. PONDICHERRY MARKET COMMITTEE (PMC)

With the principal market at Thattanchavady and other sub-yards at Madagadipet, Kanniakoil, Koonitchampet, Karaiamputhur and Maducarai, the Pondicherry Market Committee deals with the marketing of Paddy, Millets, Groundnut, Gingelly, Pulses and Cotton.

Traders are enrolled by the Committee charging a license fee of ₹25 to ₹ 75 per year based on the number of crops they trade in. Upon successful bidding, they also have to pay a service charge @ 1 % on the total value of the produce and ₹0.30 paise per bag for wear and tear of gunnies. Hirers and weigh men are also registered by collecting license fee similarly.

The daily functioning of the Regulated Market is as follows: The produce brought by the farmer is received and assigned with a lot number. A token containing the lot number is issued to the farmer and a lot stick is inserted on the particular lot for identification. Subsequently, each lot is weighed by the licensed weigh men and the weight is entered in the chitta bill.

Closed bidding system is adopted for determining the price. The licensed traders inspect the various lots displayed in the yard and offer their price for each lot through a bid slip and deposit the bid slips in the bid box kept for that purpose. At the scheduled hour, the Yard Superintendent opens the bid box, takes out all the bid slips and declares the highest price. The price thus declared for each lot is entered in the bid declaration Slip. Based on the price so declared and the corresponding quantity of the produce entered earlier in the chitta bill, the payment to be made is calculated and accordingly the trader makes the payment to the farmer.

2. KARAIKAL MARKET COMMITTEE (KMC)

The Karaikal Market Committee has been established at Thirunallar Road, Karaikal and has started functioning from 13-07-1988 onwards. On an average the Regulated Market handles about 11,000 quintals of produce worth about ₹ 100 lakhs per annum. The crops covered are Paddy, Black gram, Green gram, Cotton, Groundnut and Gingelly.

3. YANAM MARKET COMMITTEE (YMC)

Coconut and paddy are the two major crops notified in the Yanam region. There are 28 traders licensed by the Yanam Market Committee, which include 12 rice millers, 8 coconut traders and 11 rice stores. Cess is collected from Rice millers @ 0.7 % on the

50 % value of the paddy marketed in Yanam region. Similar cess is collected on coconut on the entire value of coconuts traded.

The committee arranges for auction /sale of agricultural produce brought into its regulated markets by open bid system.

The Yanam Market committee has one storage godown, one closed auction yard and one godown complex. One rest house has also been built by the Committee to provide accommodation to farmers at a reduced tariff in time of need. The godowns are used for the storage of paddy seeds produced by registered seed growers as well as the Government seed farm. One of these godowns is leased to Puducherry Agro Service and Industries Corporation Limited for the storage of seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs required by the farming community.

Besides its normal activities, the Yanam Market Committee is also selling paddy seeds to the farmers from Kharif 2009 onwards after obtaining a Seed Dealer Licence under the Seeds (Control) Order. With a view to control the prices of vegetables in Yanam region, a vegetable sales outlet was started in January 2009 for supply of vegetables at rates by procuring them from local vegetable growers at remunerative prices.

PUDUCHERRY SEED CERTIFICATION AGENCY (PSCA)

The Pondicherry Seed Certification Agency is a autonomous body established under the Seeds Act, 1966. Its primary function is to undertake certification of the breeder/foundation/certified seeds produced by the Department of Agriculture as well as private seed growers. Seed certification ensures that the genetic and physical purity of the seeds is protected and farmers get good quality seeds. Every year about 800 M.T. of paddy seeds are certified by the Agency. The Agency also conducts training programmes for seed growers and producers.

Establishment of a separate Seed Certification Agency for the Union Territory of Pondicherry has helped the Department of Agriculture in substantially increasing the area under certified seeds and achieved a Seed Replacement Rate of 71 % in respect of paddy and also brings considerable area under Pulses, Groundnut and Vegetables under Certification programme.

PUDUCHERRY GROUND WATER AUTHORITY (PGWA)

In order to protect the ground water regime of Puducherry from desaturation, attention was given for rain water harvesting and water conservation programmes during the 10th and 11th Five Year Plan periods under the “Integrated scheme for development, harvesting, recharging and conservation of groundwater”.

In addition to this “The Pondicherry Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Act, 2002” was enacted, and the provisions of the act are being implemented by a separate body “Pondicherry Ground Water Authority”. The behavior of ground water is being monitored intensively in terms of quality and quantity.

PUDUCHERRY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WELFARE SOCIETY (PAWWS)

“The Pondicherry Agricultural Workers’ Welfare Society” was established by the Department of Agriculture in March 2005 with the objective of extending various benefits to the agricultural workers such as providing financial assistance in case of untimely death, group insurance for death/permanent disability, old age pension, maternity benefits to the female agricultural workers and providing tools at subsidized/free of cost to the agricultural workers etc.

For more details

contact the

Agricultural Officer of your nearest Uzhavar Udhaviyagam