

AGRICULTURE

Tamil Nadu agriculture is the most overriding sector in the economy of the state. Around 70 percent of the state's population is involved in agricultural activities as this is one of the major means of livelihood in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has occupied an area of 1.3 lakh sq. km with an overall area of around 63 L.Ha for plantation. The primary responsibility of the government of Tamil Nadu is to activate stability in the agricultural sector and also increase the sustainability in the agricultural production of the state. This is done with an objective to meet the demands put forth by the growing population in the food segment as well as the raw materials department in the agro-based industries. This will take a toll on the unemployment in the rural areas. The agriculture in Tamil Nadu has executed a creditable performance over the years with the help of so many efficient farmers who are both responsive and receptive to the technological development introduced in the agricultural sector of Tamil Nadu. The agricultural department of Tamil Nadu has decided upon implementing various development schemes and generating innovative technologies to ensure growth in the state's agriculture. Tamil Nadu Agriculture Dept. has taken up various programmes to step up the agricultural production as well as to improve the economic status of the cultivation sector.

The details are below:

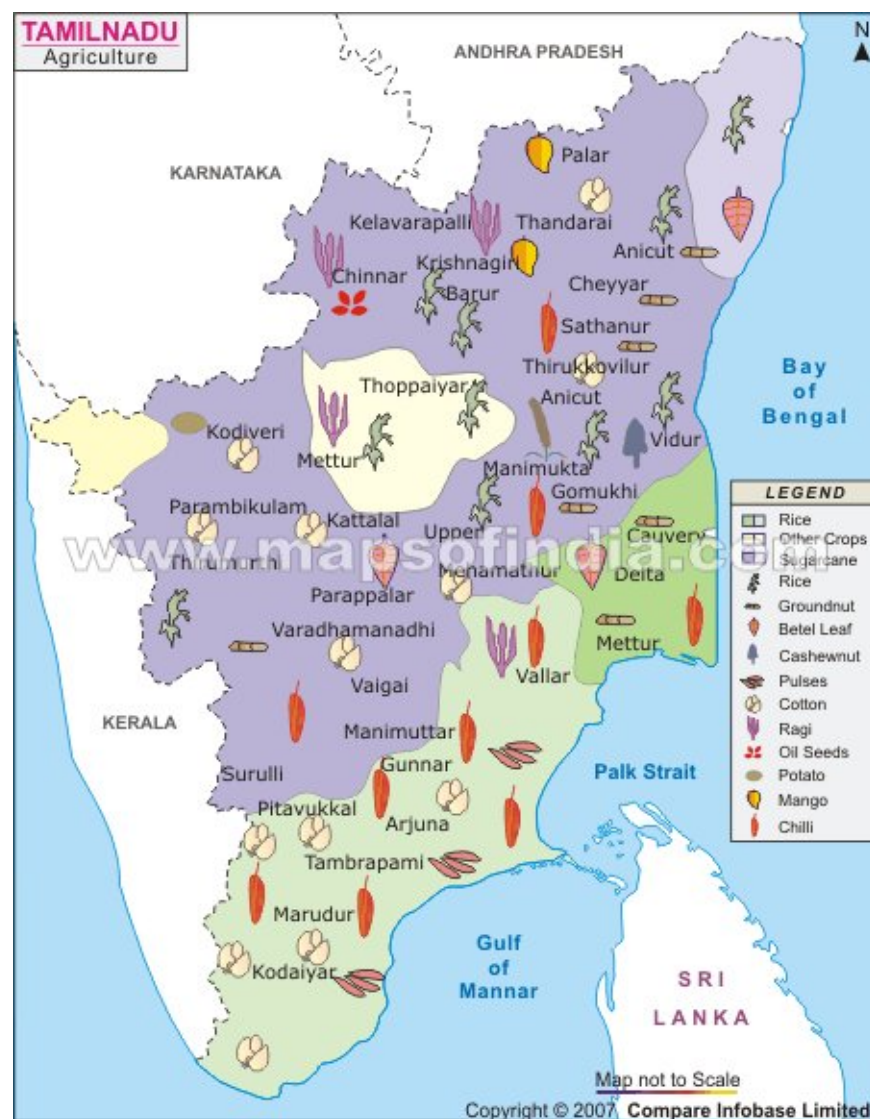
- Intensive Integrated farming system
- Massive Wasteland Development Programme
- Extensive watershed development activities
- Water management through Micro irrigation systems
- Organic farming
- Soil health improvement through Bio-fertilizer including Green Manuring
- Adoption of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies

The major crops sown in Tamil Nadu are rice, jowar, ragi, bajra, maize, and pulses. Few other crops that are highly cultivated in the regions of Tamil Nadu are cotton, sugarcane, tea, coffee, and coconut. Tamil Nadu has also gained a commendable status in the horticultural sector in its agricultural department. The

horticultural products of Tamil Nadu include cash crops and oil seed crops. Bananas and mangoes are cash crops while groundnuts, sesame, and sunflower are oil seed crops. Paddy is the most leading crop in Tamil Nadu and is found in 3 kinds namely Kuruvali, Thaladi, and Samba that varies from season to season. River tanks and wells are the main source of irrigation.

Tamil Nadu agriculture possess jatropha plant that has Bio-diesel policy which gives away the wasteland of the state to the farmers for cropping. Tamil Nadu is also widely popular as the largest producer of agricultural products in India.

Tamil Nadu Agriculture map



Agro climatic conditions of Tamil Nadu

Based on soil characteristics, rainfall distribution, irrigation pattern, cropping pattern and other ecological and social characteristics, the State Tamil Nadu has been classified into seven agro-climatic zones. The following are the seven agro-climatic zones of the State of Tamil Nadu.

1. Cauvery Delta zone
2. North Eastern zone
3. Western zone
4. North Western zone
5. High Altitude zone
6. Southern zone and
7. High Rainfall zone



RAINFALL

	<i>Ref. Year</i>		<i>Unit</i>	<i>Figure</i>
Normal	:	2012-13	In mm.	921.0
Actual	:	--	--	743.1

AREA UNDER CULTIVATION

		<i>Ref. Year</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Extent</i>
Total Cultivated Area	:	2012-13	Ha.	5139832
Net Area Sown	:	--	--	4544240
Area Sown more than once	:	--	--	595592

Area and Production of Principal Crops 2012-13

Name of the Crops	Area (Ha) (in '000)	Production (^{'000} Tonnes)	Yield Rate (In Kg/Ha)
1. Paddy (Rice)	1493.28	4050.32	2712
2. Coconut (lakh Nuts)- (Yield rate : nuts/ha.)	424	50.75	11967
3. Groundnut (Dry Pods)	339.36	785.36	2314
4. Sugarcane (Cane) (Yield rate :tonnes / ha.)	348.38	34014.10	98
5. Black gram	208.62	88.71	425
6. Cholan (Jowar)	210.89	174.97	830
7. Maize	291.05	946.36	3252
8. Greengram	118.61	33.68	284
9. Mango	144.51	1189.27	8230
10. Cotton (bales of 170 Kg. lint each) (Yield rate : terms of lint)	133.21	255.47	326
11. Tapioca	81.03	2769.47	34180
12. Banana	105.78	3909.76	36879

IRRIGATION

Net Area Irrigated	:	2012-13	Ha	2642700
Government Canals	:	--	--	589949
Private Canals	:	--	--	101
Tanks	:	--	--	420158
Tube Wells and others	:	--	--	420129
Open Wells	:	--	--	1205805
Other Sources	:	--	--	6558
Gross Area Irrigated	:	--	--	2991459
Area Irrigated more than once	:	--	--	348759

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

		<i>Ref. Year</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Figure</i>
Veterinary Institutions				
Veterinary Hospitals	:	2012-13	Nos.	139
Veterinary Dispensaries	:	--	--	1671
Clinician Centres	:	--	--	22
Livestock and Poultry Population				
Cow	:	Census 2007	Nos.	11188709
Buffaloes	:	--	--	2009002
Sheep	:	--	--	7990587
Goat	:	--	--	9274584
Poultry	:	--	--	130483851

DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

		Ref. Year	Unit	Figure
Union Dairies (Under District Union Control)	:	2012-13	Nos.	16
Federation Dairies (Under Federation Control)	:	--	--	4
Milk Chilling Plants	:	--	--	35
Automatic Vending Machine Units in Chennai	:	--	Nos.	218

FISHERIES

		Ref. year	Unit	Figure
Length of Coastal Line	:	2012-13	KM	1076
Coastal Districts	:	--	Nos.	13
Marine Fishing Villages	:	--	--	608
Estimated Marine Fish Production	:	--	Tonnes	429641.22
Inland Fish Production	:	--	--	189565.02
Coastal Blocks	:	--	Nos.	25

FORESTS

		Ref. Year	Unit	Figure
Forest Area	:	2012-13	Sq.Km	22877
Reserved Forests	:	--	--	19458
Reserved Lands	:	--	--	2152
Unclassified Forests	:	--	--	1266
Out-turn of Forest Produce		2012-13	Metric Tonnes	-
Teak Wood	:	--	(M ³)	639
Firewood	:	--	Metric Tonnes	1240
Total Pulpwood (Eucalyptus Hybrid)	:	--	--	1045
Sandalwood(Sapwood)	:	--	--	28
Sandalwood (Heart Wood)	:	--	--	73

Babul Dry	:	--	--	12460
Cashew	:	--	--	30
Tamarind	:	--	--	57
Others if any				19
Other Minor Forest Produce (Silk Cotton Pods)	:	--	--	94860

Agriculture: (All data source from Tamil Nadu website: www.tn.gov.in)

Horticulture in Tamil Nadu

The Horticulture crops grown in Tamil Nadu have been classified into six categories viz., fruits, vegetables, spices and condiments, plantation crops, flowers and medicinal and aromatic plants.

Major fruit crops are Banana, Mango, Citrus, Grapes, Guava, Sapota, Papaya, and Pine -apple. These are grown in 2,93,146 Ha mainly in districts like Krishnagiri, Dindigul, Thirunelveli, Vellore , Theni, Erode, Trichy, Thiruvallur, Dharmapuri and Madurai.

Major Vegetable crops grown are Tapioca, Onion, Tomato, Potato, Brinjal, Bhendi, Drumstick, beans and Carrot in an area of 2,26,502 Ha mainly in districts like Namakkal, Salem, Dharmapuri ,Trichy, Thiruppur ,Dindigul, Erode , Villupuram, Krishnagiri , Perambalur , Nilgiris and Theni Districts.

Important Spices and Condiments grown are Chillies, Turmeric, Tamarind , Coriander , Pepper ,Cardamom and Cloves in an area of 1,45,559 Ha. in districts like Ramnad, Thoothukudi, Erode , Salem , Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Dharmapuri and Sivagangai Districts.

Tea, Coffee, Rubber and Cashew are the important Plantation Crops grown in an area of 2,32,988 Ha in Districts like Nilgiris , Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Kanyakumari , Dindigul , Coimbatore , Pudukottai and Salem.

In addition to the traditional flowers like Jasmine, Crossandra , Tuberose, and Chrysanthemum, cut flowers like Rose, Carnations , and Gerbera are also being produced in the State. The cut-flower industry is growing day by day due to high

export prospects. Flowers are grown in an area of 25309 ha in districts like Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Salem, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Thiruvallur, Vellore and Thiruvannamalai.

Medicinal and Aromatic crops like Gloriosa, Senna, Coleus, Lemon-grass and Periwinkle are grown in an area of 11,230 Ha. in districts like Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Thiruvallur , Ariyalur ,Madurai, Thiruvarur,Dharmapuri ,Salem, Nagapattinam, Trichy .

Innovative and advanced technologies are given to horticultural farmers through various schemes to improve the productivity of almost all horticultural crops.