



12.2 FOOD SECURITY

Introduction

Food Security refers to ensuring a sustainable access to food (both physical and economic) for the entire population, taking into account the dietary needs and food preferences. In other words, food security means ensuring sufficient, safe and nutritious food for all. The household has emerged as the basic unit for assessing food security by measuring the food energy intake (quality and quantity) at the household level.

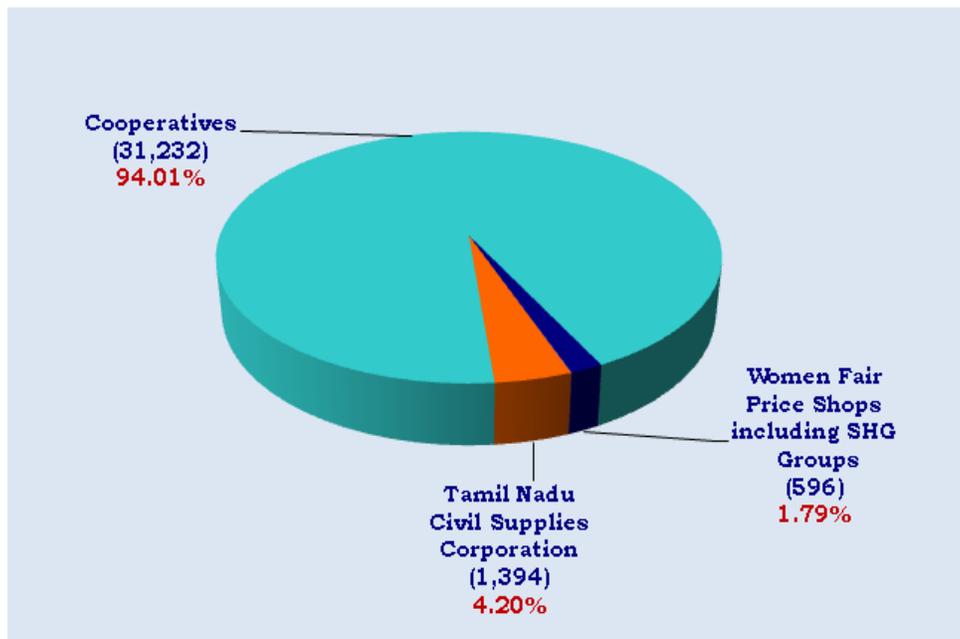
The Tamil Nadu State Food Policy pursues a Universal Public Distribution System (PDS) to ensure non-excludability, easy access and adequate availability of food grains at affordable prices. The focus is to ensure that genuinely poor households do not get excluded from the PDS owing to administrative infeasibility and errors in estimation and enumeration of families

Below Poverty Line (BPL). The PDS in Tamil Nadu is administered by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department (CCS&CP). Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) acts as the facilitator in procurement and storing. The Fair Price Shops in the State are run mostly by the Cooperatives and the TNCSC.

Fair Price Shops

At present, 33,222 Fair Price Shops are serving 1.98 crore families. Out of 33,222 Fair Price shops, 31,232 are run by the Cooperative Societies, 1,394 are run by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation and 596 are run by Women Self Help Groups. To improve accessibility to PDS, it is necessary that they are located in close proximity to habitations. Accordingly, it has been proposed to open new fair price shops so that, no card holder walks more than 1.5 km.

Graph 12.2.1: Fair Price Shops in Tamil Nadu



Source: Dept. of Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection, GoTN.

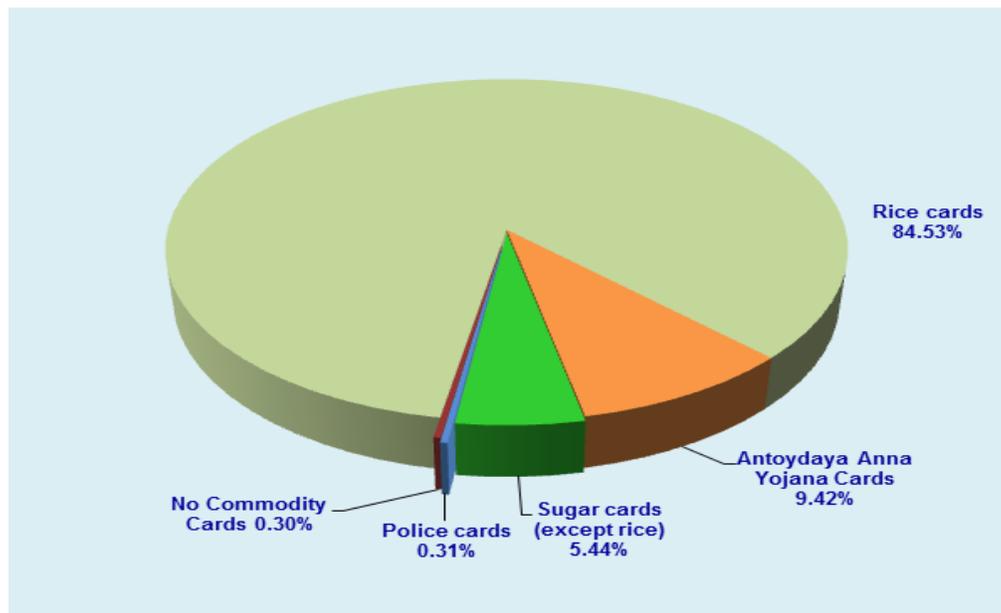


Family Card

Family Cards are issued to the people of the State based on their needs and preferences. The family cards are segregated as Rice Cards (rice with all other commodities), Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme Cards, Sugar Cards (additional sugar in lieu of rice and all other commodities) and No Commodity Cards

(cards for identification purposes). Besides, Police personnel are issued with family cards in distinct colour. Transgenders living in a house as a group are treated as family and family cards are issued to them. A total of 1.98 crore Family Cards have been issued to the citizens in Tamil Nadu.

Graph 12.2.2: Family Cards



Source: Dept. of Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection, GoTN.

Under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Scheme of the Government of India, which targets the poorest of the poor, the Government of Tamil Nadu provides 35 kg rice per month to all the AAY family cards in the State. The essential commodities supplied through the PDS in Tamil Nadu include rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene. The Special PDS which was initiated to protect people from steep increase in prices of essential commodities includes pulses like Toor and Urid dhal, Palmolein oil and Fortified Flour.



Fig. 12.2.1: Free Distribution of Rice

Tamil Nadu is a pioneering State with regard to successfully applying Information



Technology based transparency measures to the PDS. The Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection has put in place a system to monitor the stocks of PDS commodities at each fair price shop. The department has also established a very effective and well functioning Grievance and Redressal Mechanism.

Review of Eleventh Plan

During Eleventh Five Year Plan, Government had introduced Special Public Distribution System. Under the scheme, Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation procured essential commodities like toor dhal, urid dhal and palmolein oil in open market and supplied them under highly subsidised prices under Special Public Distribution System to card holders.

An outlay of ₹84.40 crore was allocated during the Eleventh Plan and the actual expenditure incurred was ₹1,697.00 crore. The major chunk in the expenditure is due to the supply of LPG connections, Fans/ Induction Stoves, Mixies and Grinders.

Twelfth Five Year Plan

Objectives

- Complete elimination of hunger in the State through a Universal PDS.
- Devising ways to stabilise food prices.
- Providing adequate nutrition through fortification of PDS commodities.

Thrust Areas and Strategies

- Ensuring availability of all essential commodities under PDS in adequate quantity and of good quality.
- Construction of direct purchase centres, new scientific godowns and new fair price shops.
- Elimination of bogus cards and diversion of essential commodities meant for the PDS.

- The rise in food prices hits the poor the most and contributes to increase in hunger. During the times of high inflation, the prices of commodities can be stabilised by effective implementation of relevant Acts to prevent hoarding, speculation and black marketing.
- Awareness creation on consumer rights.

Twelfth Plan Schemes

Construction of New Godowns

The Policy followed by the Government of Tamil Nadu is that each taluk should have its own operational godown. The godowns will be constructed in taluks in a phased manner where there are no godowns owned by TNCSC. An amount of ₹11.00 crore has been proposed for the construction of 11 new godowns during the Twelfth Plan period.

Construction of Direct Purchase Centres (DPC)

At present, 250 Direct Purchase (Collection) Centres are functioning in the buildings owned by TNCSC and 1,371 DPC are in private or rented buildings with inadequate infrastructure facilities. It is proposed to improve the infrastructure of the DPC in a phased manner. During the last Plan period, the TNCSC constructed 28 DPCs. It is proposed to construct 10 DPCs during Twelfth Plan period.

Construction of Fair Price Shops

The TNCSC operates 1,394 fair price shops, out of which 911 shops are functioning in private buildings on rental basis. During the Twelfth Plan, it is proposed to construct 50 Fair Price Shops. An amount of ₹15.00 crore has been proposed for this purpose.



Issuance of Smart Cards

The Government of Tamil Nadu has declared that SMART family cards will be issued in lieu of existing family cards. It has also been mentioned that the Director of Census Operations under the National Population Registry is conducting bio-metric capturing of 10 finger prints, two Iris and face scan of citizens to issue Unique Identification Number. After completion of this process of bio-metric capturing, it has been proposed to adopt this data to issue bio-metric SMART family cards. The advantage is that, since it is based on unique identity, the data duplication of members and bogus cards can be eliminated. Further, in the fair price shops, bills can be drawn only if the cards are physically brought to the fair price shop and hence, bogus billing can also be eliminated. During Twelfth plan, it is proposed to issue bio-metric based SMART family cards at an expenditure of ₹800.00 crore (Out of which ₹400.00 crore will be the assistance from the Government of India).

Proposal for Implementation of SEVOTTAM and Quality-Management Systems under IS 15700:2005

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has established an Indian Standard (IS)15700:2005 – for ‘Requirements for Service Quality by Public Service Organisations’. This is specifically designed for public service organisations with a stress on the three key elements viz. citizen charter, service delivery processes and effective complaint handling system. The Government of India has already issued instructions to BIS to help State Governments in their capacity building efforts for implementation of the said standard. In addition to this, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances – Government of India has introduced a system of bringing excellence in Public Service Delivery (Sevottam) which can be implemented along with IS 15700:2005 certification by BIS.

This scheme of bringing excellence in Public Service Delivery (Sevottam) with IS 15700:2005 certification may be introduced as a pilot project in Chennai City and adjoining areas for a period of three years (which is also the licensing period by BIS) and after evaluation of the system, the same can be extended throughout the State. A sum of ₹0.03 crore has been proposed for implementation.

Installation of IP Video Camera in Fair Price Shops

As a trial run, surveillance cameras have already been installed in four FPSs functioning in Chennai city and this yielded good results such as reduction of rice and kerosene off-take, reduction of outsiders menace, improved cleanliness in shops and improved behaviour both on the part of salesman and public. This facility will be extended to all the FPS in Chennai city at a cost of ₹2.25 crore.

Electronic Weighing Machines in Fair Price Shops

The Government has supplied electronic weighing machines to all the cooperative and TNCSC fair price shops in the State with a Digital Display Board that can be seen from both the sides. This has enabled the cardholders to see the display of weight and ensure commodities are supplied in correct measurement to them. After the introduction of electronic weighing machines in the FPSs, correct measurement has been ensured. An amount of ₹0.36 crore has been proposed for this scheme.

Stock Monitoring System through SMS

The State Government has introduced online monitoring of stock position of essential commodities in the Fair Price Shops through SMS Monitoring System. Under this system, the salesman of the FPS has to send a SMS



message to the Central Server on the closing stock position on a daily basis. Officials can monitor the stock position of essential commodities online at any time and move stocks to FPSs which are running out of stock of essential commodities or which have a critical stock position. Public can also access the shop's stock data through their mobile phones. After the introduction of this system, the stock position of essential commodities in the FPS has drastically improved. An amount of ₹0.15 crore has been proposed for this purpose.

Electronic Billing Machines in Fair Price Shops

To speed up the billing process, to minimise accounting work and to monitor stock position online, Hand Held Billing Machines (HHBM) have been introduced in all FPSs functioning in Chennai city and its suburbs and all kerosene bunks in the State. Net PCs are also being tried as an alternative to HHBMs in shops where transaction is heavy. The provision of HHBMs (in Chennai City) is proposed to be extended to other districts in a phased manner at a cost of ₹18.78 crore.

Distribution of Electric Fans/ Induction Stoves, Mixies and Grinders

The Government is implementing the scheme of distribution of Electric Fans,



Fig. 12.2.2: Distribution of Electric Fans, Mixies, Grinders

Mixies and Grinders to women of all rice card holder families and Induction Stoves in lieu of Electric Fans to women residing in hilly areas such as The Nilgiris and Kodaikanal. This scheme covering all families without any restriction of income has emancipated women from the drudgery of household work and has unlocked valuable time for them to devote to economically and socially productive activities. The scheme was introduced during 2011-12 with a target of 25 lakh sets of Electric Fans/ Induction Stoves, Mixies and Grinders and the scheme will be continued in the Twelfth Plan period. An amount of ₹3000.00 crore has been proposed for this scheme.

Tracking of PDS Commodities movement by GPS and e-Tracking

For improving the monitoring of movement of food grains from Food Corporation of India to TNCSC godowns, vehicles carrying food grains are fitted with GPS to ensure that the grains reach the TNCSC godowns without diversion or pilferage en-route. Further, movement of commodities from TNCSC godowns to FPSs are now being tracked through a GSM based SIM card in mobile phones carried by a movement assistant. This system is currently being implemented in two border districts Thiruvallur and Krishnagiri as a pilot project.

Supply of Millets through PDS

A major challenge to food security comes from dietary diversification of the poor. It is suggested to provide 3 kg of any one of the available millets to all family card holders. The family card holders eligible for rice will be provided 3 kg of millet per month which is provided on 100 percent subsidy basis. The second category of family card holders will be provided with 3 kg of millets at subsidised rate. The total requirement of millets for 1.98 crore family card holders will be 59,100 tonnes/month. The total requirement per annum is 7 lakh tonnes.



Box 12.2.1: Koozh in Chennai

Koozh is a drink made from the flour of kelvaragu (Finger Millet). There are many koozh stalls spread across the city of Chennai. These are popular among urban daily wage labourers. These koozh stalls are an excellent entry point for bringing back the neglected and underutilised millets for achieving better nutritional security for the population.

Source: V. Nambi Maria Philip, MSSRF, Chennai

If cereal pricing is left to the market forces with Government playing only a facilitating role, land will be released from rice and wheat cultivation to meet the growing demand for non-cereal crops such as oilseeds, fruits and vegetables in accordance with diet diversification. This policy would facilitate agricultural diversification in tune with emerging demand patterns. In order to ensure a long term food security, it is necessary to promote research inputs with regard to production technology of non-cereal food and nutritious food. Also, technology access to the poor small producers should be promoted.

Consumer Protection

The main focus of consumer policy of State Government is to ensure that good services are available to consumers at prices and quality as per laws of the land. In view of complexity of the market place, ever changing technology and impact of globalization, consumers need to be protected. Trade practices need to be identified and regulated to prevent exploitation of gullible consumers and enable consumers to reach higher state of well being. The Government has taken various measures by implementing consumer welfare schemes and thereby increase the knowledge of general public towards consumer protection.

Tamil Nadu State Society for Consumer Protection and Empowerment (TANSSCOPE)

For implementing various consumer welfare activities, the Government has constituted TANSSCOPE, which is running the State Consumer Helpline and Consumer Advice Centres publishing the monthly journal “Nugarvor Kavasam” and conducting training programmes and workshops with GoI funding.

e-Governance

An exclusive website providing valuable information for consumers like duties and responsibilities of consumers, details of all programmes on consumer protection/awareness etc., is being maintained. The site has a provision for filing complaints regarding exploitation of consumer rights and also gives information about the services of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department.

Tamil Nadu State Consumer Welfare Fund

Government of Tamil Nadu in G.O.Ms. No.26, Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection (H2) Department dated 20.2.2006, issued orders constituting a corpus fund called “Tamil Nadu State Consumer Welfare Fund” and accorded sanction for a sum of ₹50 lakh as the State’s share of Seed Money for implementation of consumer welfare schemes. GoI have also sanctioned ₹50 lakh to this fund as its share.

Gender Focus

Food Security is not just about delivering food grain to families. As women are directly responsible for feeding and caring their families, Food Security should be more gender friendly both in domestic and work environments. The women of Tamil Nadu are provided with Mixies, Grinders and Induction Stoves to ease their domestic work, which also enables them to spend their time more productively.



Outlay for the Twelfth Plan

The PDS is closely connected with the food security of the State. In order to

ensure Food Security in the State, an outlay of ₹3,449.57 crore has been proposed for the Twelfth Plan as shown in the Table 12.2.1.

Table 12.2.1: Twelfth Plan Outlay - Food Security

		(₹ crore)
S.No.	Name of the Scheme/ Programme	Outlay
1.	Construction of Godowns	11.00
2.	Construction of DPC	2.00
3.	Quality Management System	0.03
4.	Installation of IP Video Camera	2.25
5.	Electronic Weighing Machines in FPS	0.36
6.	Stock Monitoring System	0.15
7.	Electronic Billing Machines in FPS	18.78
8.	Construction of Fair Price Shops	15.00
9.	Issue of Smart Card	400.00
10.	Issue of Fan/ Induction Stove, Mixie and Grinder	3000.00
TOTAL		3449.57

Graph 12.2.3: PDS Outlay for Twelfth Plan

