

12. TAMIL NADU STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD

With the objective to co-ordinate the working of the Market committees and other affairs thereof, including programmes undertaken by the Market committees for the development of markets and market areas, the Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board is functioning since 1970.

1. Constitution

The Board consists of a President appointed by Government and have the following members:

- i. Director/Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing & Agri Business
- ii. Agricultural Marketing Advisor, Government of India
- iii. Managing Director, Tamil Nadu State Warehousing Corporation
- iv. Registrar of Co-operative Societies
- v. President, Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation
- vi. An Officer of the Agriculture Department in the Secretariat not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to Government dealing with the subject of Agricultural Marketing.
- vii. 21 Non-Official Members (Chairman / Special Officers of 21 Market Committees)

2. Source of Finance

The Market Committees contribute fifteen per cent of their Revenue to the Board. Out of the fifteen per cent contribution received, fifty per cent is utilized for market development activities and the remaining fifty per cent of the amount is utilized for administrative expenditure of the board which includes employee's salary etc.

3. Functions of Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board

3.1. Capacity Building Training to Farmers and Marketing Officials

3.1.1. Post Harvest and Scientific Storage Training to farmers

Regular training programmes to create awareness on Post harvest technology, importance of value addition and other agricultural marketing schemes to the farmers are conducted through the Publicity and Propaganda wing of the Board functioning at Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy and Madurai.

The Post harvest technology and Scientific storage training programmes are conducted as two days programme, covering 130 batches (20 farmers / batch) benefitting 2600 farmers. During 2012-13, about 2120 farmers were benefitted by this farmer's training. During 2013-14, it is proposed to conduct this training to impart skills to the farmers on scientific storage and to create awareness on Market Intelligence utilizing Market Development Fund.

3.1.2. Training to Marketing Officials:

Various training programmes like Market Intelligence training, Grader's training, Refresher training, Orientation training to new entrants, Basic computer training and food grain Storage training are organized through the Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board training centre, functioning at Salem. This centre caters the training needs of Staff of Agricultural Marketing & Agri Business department. During 2012-13, about 600 technical staff were benefitted through this training.

4. Tamil Nadu Farmers Development and Welfare Scheme

This scheme is being implemented, especially for the betterment of the farming community. Under this scheme, the farmers/tenants who sell their agricultural produce of one MT or more through Regulated Markets every year will become eligible for the grant. In case of death/ permanent disability occurring due to an accident/ death due to snake bite, the eligible farmer/tenant is eligible for a grant of ₹1,00,000/-. In case, the eligible farmer/tenant loses both of the hands / legs / eyes due to accident, he or she is eligible for a grant of ₹75000/- In case of loss of one hand or one leg or one eye or permanent hip disability due to accident the farmer/tenant is eligible for a grant of ₹50,000/-. Farmers need not pay any premium to avail this grant. The concerned Market Committee and Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board will bear the premium amount of ₹10 per individual per year equally.

5. Construction works

The Engineering wing of Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board executes civil works for creation of marketing infrastructures such as storage godowns, transaction sheds, market complexes, cold storages, drying yards, traders' shops, etc. under NADP, RIDF and TN-IAMWARM projects.

6. Marketing Endowment Chair at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board has created an endowment chair at the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore with a corpus fund of ₹50 lakhs. So far, thirty five research projects and thirty training programmes were organized for the benefit of farmers and

staff of this Department by utilizing the interest accrued from corpus fund deposit.

7. Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC)

The Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell is functioning in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at a cost of ₹44.00 lakhs with the financial assistance from Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board. The Cell collect prices of major commodities from domestic and international markets then analyze and forecast future domestic and export prices. The Cell disseminates the forecast prices and price prevailing in other states to farmers and regulated markets through media. This information helps the farmers to plan the cropping pattern and to sell their produce at right time in right market.

The DEMIC has forecasted 102 market informations for various crops and disseminated through various newspapers both in English and regional language, Television and Radio. Recently, DEMIC has started disseminating price intelligence to 1.29 lakh farmers through text SMS and Voice SMS to 2 lakh farmers. Training on market intelligence awareness is given to farmers and officials of Agriculture Department.