

**The Department of Agricultural Research – ICAR
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Tamil Nadu Planning Commission
Agriculture Consultancy Management Foundation**
cordially invite you for the seminar

500 MT - 2025

Doubling food output in ten years

Mr Rajesh Lakhoni, IAS
Agricultural Production Commissioner & Secretary
Government of Tamil Nadu

Mr F C Kohli
Chairman, ACMF

Dr T Ramasami
Former Secretary, Department of Science & Technology,
Govt of India

Dr K Ramasamy
Vice Chancellor, TNAU

Dr G Palani G Periasamy
President, South Indian Sugar Mill Association and
Chairman, PGP Group of Institutions

will address the inaugural session,
0930hrs, Friday, 23 January 2015
at the TNAU Campus, Coimbatore

RSVP: B Dhanalakshmi
23501235/36/37

Seminar: on 23 & 24 January 2015

Please visit: www.agriconsulting.org / www.industrialeconomist.com

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON
AGRI ABUNDANCE: 500 MT – 2025
DOUBLING OF FOOD PRODUCTION WITHIN A DECADE
TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE
23 & 24 JANUARY, 2015**

Since mid 1990s there has been a fatigue in green revolution. Food production has been increasing at an average of less than three per cent per annum. There is a complacency and concern over managing higher levels of food output. Weaknesses in sustained high production of pulses and oilseeds persist. Apart from missing out opportunities for turning India as a food bowl, there is now the prospect of even missing out on food self sufficiency over the next decade or so.

There are serious warnings on demand for food overtaking availability. National Geographic and MIT-USA, point to the rapid increase in population and demand for higher per capita food not matched by current rate of growth in food production. The solution lies in increasing productivity, getting more from unit of land, economic use of water, fertilizers and other inputs as also reduce wastage.

The predictions are indeed alarming: global population is estimated over the next 35 years to reach over 900 crore from the present 700 crore. This would demand doubling of food output from the present billion tonnes. While the former appears inexorable, at present sights the latter is not quite feasible.

For decades, United States has been a major supplier of corn, soybean and other food products to the world. In recent years, nearly half the US output of corn, of around 350 MT goes for the production of ethanol, an important energy source. This trend is likely to continue in the context of US attempting self sufficiency in its fuel needs. Large populous countries in the developing world that register rapid economic growth demand much higher levels of food as also feed for animals. China and India will lead in this. Better living standards will also demand more nutritious and higher quality food.

Demand for land by industry, mining, infrastructure, housing, urbanisation and by the services sector will result in much reduced availability for agriculture and allied occupations. The centuries' old practice of bringing under cultivation thousands of acres of forests and grazing and other land is also ending with increased concern for ecology and environment.

The only solution lies in increased productivity.

Advantage India

An immediate need is to agglomerate the fragmented land holdings. Average size of land holdings is just around 2.5 acres. This could be done by permitting lease of land over long term without alienating ownership. States like Punjab and Rajasthan have amended their APMC Acts to lease land over 15 years without alienating ownership. This large size of land will lend for application of science, technology, farm mechanisation and holistic management.

ACMF has formulated a six point strategy, *Krishi Shashti* that's no rocket science: selecting the right crop suited to the agro climatic conditions, testing and correcting, soil, using quality seeds, optimising use of fertilizers and water, appropriate mechanization and holistic management.

We are suggesting a bold plan to double food production in ten years, *ie.* 500 MT-2025. We feel it is Advantage-India in rapidly increasing agriculture production like large arable land, agro-climatic conditions that permit farming round the year, large number of people dependant and familiar with agriculture, the present low levels of productivity... With agglomeration of land holdings through suitable farm policy changes like leasing land over long term, application of science, technology and management, a quantum growth in production is feasible. We believe India has the potential to become a food bowl of the world.