

## Tamil Nadu Agricultural University - Seed Vending Machine



As a first of its kind in the State, seed vending machines will be introduced by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) where people can buy vegetable and flower seeds from the machine by paying money similar to vending machines selling soft drinks. This is being introduced as a pilot project by TNAU aiming to help those who want to purchase seeds in small quantities for nurturing their kitchen and terrace gardens. Seed vending machine is kept at the entrance of the Botanical Garden on Marudhamalai Road.

According to Vice-Chancellor of the University Dr.K.Ramasamy, the Rs. 2.4 lakh-seed dispenser from Haryana is the first to be installed in Tamil Nadu and is aimed at easing the financial burden of those who often end up paying huge amounts for large quantities of seeds they do not require. The machine will be maintained by the Seed Centre of the university and will dispense TNAU seeds.

Dr.M.Bhaskaran, Special Officer, Seeds at TNAU said that they had introduced this concept based on the Kerala Agricultural University's concept. "They have installed such machines in several places in Kerala including bus stands. We visited the spots and saw they were receiving tremendous response," he said.

The packets of vegetable and flower seeds can be seen stacked inside the machine through the transparent glass door. The machine will be kept refrigerated to avoid spoiling of seeds. After inserting the money, the customer should press the respective button of the seed he wants and the packet will be released by the machine, falling into the collection box.

"This is specifically aimed at people desiring to grow popular vegetables including tomatoes and brinjal in their limited space at home. Usually, seeds are available only in large quantities which may not be suitable for such people," said Dr.Bhaskaran.

The machine will dispense 36 varieties of seeds (between 10 grams to 100 grams), both vegetable and flower, at the touch of a button. It contains six racks - four to hold vegetable seeds and two to hold flower seeds, all in pouches. Hence, a person wanting a pouch from a particular rack has to insert a Rs. 10 note in the given cavity and punch the assigned button on the console near the door of the machine.

The university plans to subsequently install more vending machines that will dispense seeds of private companies too.

### **For further details contact**

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