GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

TAMIL NADU AGROFORESTRY POLICY 2026

Agriculture - Farmers Welfare Department

“ Agriculture is not just a profession but it's our culture ”

M.K.Stalin
Chief Minister

எம்.ஆர்.கே. பன்னீர்செல்வம்
வேளாண்மை – உழவர் நலத்துறை
அமைச்சர்

தலைமைச் செயலகம்,
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நாள் 23.02.2026

வாழ்த்துரை

"குடிதழீஇக் கோலோச்சும் மாநில மன்னன்
அடிதழீஇ நிற்கும் உலகு"

என்ற வள்ளுவரின் வாக்கிற்கிணங்க குடிமக்களை அன்போடு அரவணைத்து ஆட்சி செய்யும் மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் அவர்கள், உழவர்களின் நலன் காக்க வேளாண்மைத் துறையின் பெயரினை உழவர் நலனையும் உள்ளடக்கி வேளாண்மை – உழவர் நலத்துறை என மாற்றம் செய்து, தமிழ்நாட்டின் வரலாற்றில், வேளாண்மைக்கென தனி நிதிநிலை அறிக்கை தந்து பல திட்டங்களைத் தந்தார்கள்.

அத்தகைய உழவர்களின் வாழ்வாதாரம் மேன்மேலும் உயர்ந்து அவர்களின் பொருளாதாரம் மேம்படும் வகையில் உயர் மதிப்பு கொண்ட வனங்களில் காணப்படும் தேக்கு, சந்தனம், செம்மரம் போன்ற மர இனங்களை உழவர்கள் தங்கள் வயல்களிலேயே பயிரிட்டுப் பயன்பெறவும், அதற்குத் தேவையான வனச் சட்டங்களிலுள்ள விதிகளை எளிதாக்கவும், சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்புடன் தமிழ்நாட்டின் வனப்பரப்பை 33 சதவீதமாக அதிகரித்து எங்கும் பசுமை என்ற நிலையை உருவாக்கவும் பணித்தார்கள்.

அவ்வகையில், தமிழ்நாட்டில் வனப்பரப்பிற்கு வெளியே மரவளர்ப்பை ஊக்குவிக்கவும், தரிசு நிலங்களை மீள சாகுபடிக்குக் கொண்டுவரவும், தரமான மரக்கன்றுகளை உழவர்களுக்கு வழங்கிடவும், வனப்பொருட்கள் சார்ந்த தொழில் நிறுவனங்கள் மற்றும் பிற சந்தை இணைப்புகளை உழவர்களுக்கு ஏற்படுத்திடவும், காலநிலை மாற்றத்திற்கான மீள் தன்மையினை உருவாக்குதல், நிலத்தடிநீர், பல்லுயிர்ப்பெருக்கம் மற்றும் சுற்றுப்புறச் சூழலை பாதுகாத்தல், உணவு, பசுந்தீவனம் மற்றும் ஊட்டச்சத்து பாதுகாப்பு போன்ற பல்வேறு அம்சங்களுடன் பல்வேறு தரப்பினரையும் கலந்தாலோசித்து **"தமிழ்நாடு வேளாண் காடுகள் வளர்ப்பு கொள்கை 2026"**, வேளாண்மை – உழவர் நலத்துறையால் சிறப்பாக வடிவமைக்கப்பட்டு உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

சிறப்பு வேளாண் காடு வளர்ப்பு மண்டலங்களை ஏற்படுத்தவும், தேக்கு, சந்தனம், செம்மரம், ஈட்டி உள்ளிட்ட மரங்களை வேளாண் நிலங்களில் வளர்ப்பது, வெட்டுவது, கொண்டு சென்று விற்பனை செய்வதற்கான வரம்புகளை எளிதாக்கவும். அடங்கல் பதிவுகள் மேற்கொள்ளவும் இக்கொள்கையில் வழிவகை செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இத்தகைய பல்வேறு அம்சங்களுடன் வேளாண் நிலங்களில் பசுமை சூழ்நிலையினை உருவாக்குவதற்கான **"தமிழ்நாடு வேளாண் காடுகள் வளர்ப்பு கொள்கை 2026"**–ஐ வெளியிடப்படுவதில் பெருமகிழ்ச்சி அடைகிறேன். இதனை உருவாக்கப் பணித்ததோடு, தமிழ்நாட்டு உழவர்களின் நலன் மேம்பட அதனை வெளியிட்டுள்ள மாண்புமிகு முதலமைச்சர் அவர்களுக்கு எனது நெஞ்சார்ந்த நன்றியினை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.

அன்புடன்,

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MESSAGE

Agriculture is the lifeline of Tamil Nadu, deeply intertwined with our ecological health and economic well-being. As we face the twin challenges of climate change and the need for sustainable economic growth, diversifying our agricultural systems is essential. The Government of Tamil Nadu is proud to introduce the **Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy, 2026** a transformative initiative designed to enhance the income of our farming community while strengthening the state's ecological resilience.

This policy aims to transform agricultural landscapes by integrating, cultivating, and promoting high-value trees such as Sandalwood, Red Sanders, Rosewood, timber species like Teak, Mahogany, Vengai, Poovarasu, Kumil, Vagai, Sisoo, Industrial wood species such as Ailanthus, Acrocarpus, Silver Oak, Melia, Casuarina, Tree borne Oilseeds like Neem, Pungam, Punnai, Simarouba, Mahua and Non Timber Forest Product trees like Naval, Palmyrah, Tamarind, Kadukai etc., into the farming systems.

I appreciate the efforts taken by the Agriculture-Farmers Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu for the release of this visionary Agroforestry Policy, which sets a definitive, proactive agenda for land-use sustainability. As the State moves towards enhanced agricultural sustainability, this policy acts as a potent instrument for mitigating climate change and improving rural livelihoods through integrated tree farming. By reducing the regulatory bottlenecks and encouraging the adoption of trees on farms, we are taking a major leap towards a self-reliant and eco-friendly future. This is a timely and transformative step forward.

I request all the stakeholders to make the best use of this policy and strengthen the Government's vision to usher in a sustainable Agricultural Productive System.

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MESSAGE

Agroforestry, being a sustainable land-use management system, has gained increasing recognition for its pivotal role in addressing the challenges of sustainable agriculture in states like Tamil Nadu and delivering a wide array of environmental, economic, and social benefits. Being an age-old practice, it involves the strategic planting of trees in agricultural landscapes to optimize the synergy between trees, crops, and animals.

The Sustainable Agriculture Network believes in and promotes agroforestry as a sustainable and regenerative agriculture solution in Tamil Nadu, due to its advantages and implications for a greener future. In this context, I am very much happy to inform that the Agriculture – Farmers Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu has brought out a ***"New Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy,2026"*** aiming for a strategic shift to ensure that trees, often called the life of our fields, become a significant source of additional income for farmers, fostering a more robust and sustainable livelihood.

The key highlights of this policy include **Simplified Procedures** easing regulations regarding the registration, felling, and transportation of timber, enabling farmers to access markets easily, **Economic Empowerment** encouraging commercial tree farming to increase income and provide economic stability, **Ecological Resilience** promoting trees that improve soil health, conserve water, and provide climate resilience, aligning with our goals for environmental sustainability and **Integrated Growth** enhancing the synergy between agriculture and forestry to achieve sustainable, long-term development.

The release of this Agroforestry Policy marks a momentous day for millions of rural households, offering a robust pathway to prosperity and climate resilience. By bringing trees on farms into the mainstream, this policy directly empowers farmers to diversify their income streams, improve soil health, and combat climate change.

I extend my sincere thanks to all the departments especially Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department for their invaluable scientific input and steadfast commitment that helped shape this policy, ensuring it is rooted in evidence and practical, farmer-centric solutions.

23/2/26.

Agricultural Production Commissioner and
Secretary to Government

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Tamil Nadu
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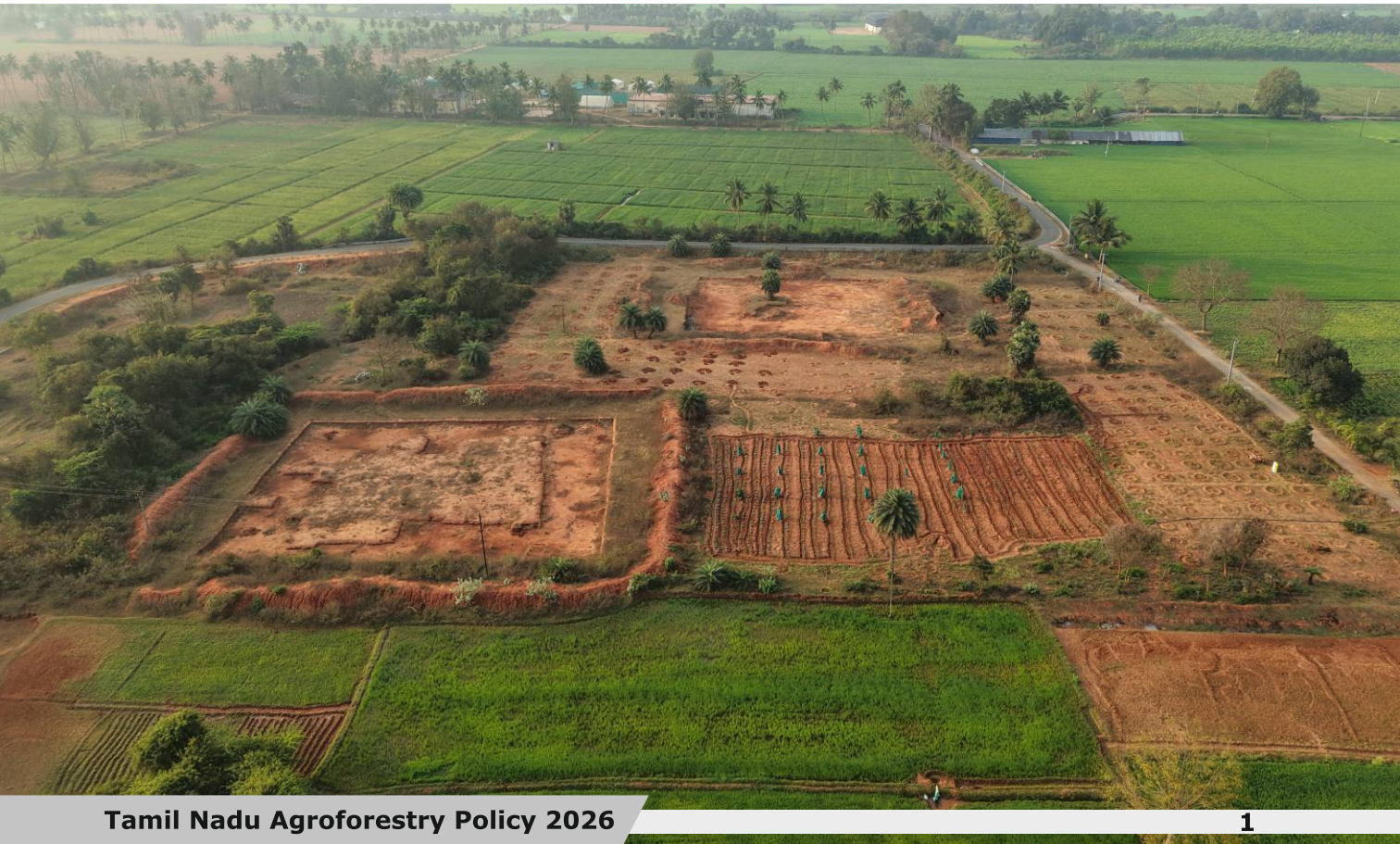
1. INTRODUCTION

As per the India State of Forest Report, 2023 (ISFR) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, the forest and tree cover in the State of Tamil Nadu is 26,450.22 sq.kms and 5370.72 sq.kms respectively which is 24.47% of the total geographical area of 1,30,060 sq.kms.

At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP26 session in Glasgow (31st October to 12th November 2021), India vouched to meet its climate change commitments by setting a net-zero goal by 2070. India's NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) to the Paris climate summit is an ambitious 2.5 to 3 billion tonne CO2 equivalent by 2030. This, however, requires covering an additional 26 million ha to reach the target of covering 33% of India's land cover under trees, by 2030. For, presently the tree cover, i.e., trees out of the forest (TOF) cover 3.41% of India's land area; totalling 25.17%, (forest and tree cover of the country).



Due to the changing climatic pattern, rainfall is becoming more erratic, making cultivation a high risk and less productive profession over the years. It has therefore, become increasingly difficult for the majority of the Indian farmers to sustain their farm production, productivity and income. Agroforestry is known to have the potential to mitigate the climate change effects through microclimate moderation, conservation of natural resources and creation of additional source of livelihood and income opportunities.

Agroforestry is gaining significant attention due to the growing demand for wood and wood products and the associated environmental services.

Promoting agroforestry as a land-use practice is critical for augmenting biological carbon sequestration to mitigate climate change and increase the country's forest and tree cover for biodiversity conservation. Undeniably, the two most debated global agenda today are climate change and biodiversity loss. Agroforestry has the potential to ameliorate both.

2. AGROFORESTRY STATISTICS

The carbon stock for 2023 has been estimated as 7,285.5 million tonnes. The annual increase of carbon stock is estimated as 40.75 million tonnes, which is 149.42 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent. The matured trees hardly sequester any carbon, as their sequestration through the growth balances the emission through litterfall. The growing, young trees such as agroforestry or block plantations of fast-growing multipurpose trees that sequester carbon, up to 50 MT/ha over a 7-year rotation period contribute more.

Tree cover on agricultural lands improves the terrestrial carbon stocks by sequestration in soil and biomass, implying its prospects in the national climate change mitigation debate, being a low-cost option. Agroforestry can also help achieve land degradation neutrality (one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals; Target 15.3), import substitution of wood products, and sustainable land-use intensification, thus creating synergy between the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

However, historically there were constraints for large-scale adoption of agroforestry in India. For example, there are strict regulatory regimes (the legal restrictions for harvesting and transportation of trees planted on farmlands in several States, a colonial legacy), lack of institutional support mechanisms, dearth of quality planting stock, inadequate marketing

infrastructure for agroforestry products, lack of post-harvest processing technologies vis-à-vis value chain, lack of credit and insurance support, and a weak agroforestry extension system impeded agroforestry development in India in the past.

About 65% of the country's timber requirement is met from the trees grown on farms. There are specific Acts and Rules to regulate tree felling and transport of timber in Tamil Nadu such as Tamil Nadu Hill Areas (Preservation of Trees) Act, 1955, Tamil Nadu Sandalwood Rules, 1967, Tamil Nadu Timber Transit Rules, 1968, Tamil Nadu Sandalwood Possession Rules, 1970, Tamil Nadu Hill Stations (Preservation of Trees) Amendment Act, 1979 and Tamil Nadu Rosewood (Conservation) Act, 1994.

Under the "Green Tamil Nadu Mission", the Government of Tamil Nadu proposes to increase the forest and tree cover in the State from the 23.6% in 2021 to 33% by the year 2030-2031 in alignment with the National Forest Policy 1988, and the Tamil Nadu State Forest Policy, 2018. It is also recognized that agroforestry is by and large the only alternative to meeting the target of increasing forest or tree cover to 33 per cent from the present level of less than 25 per cent, as envisaged in the National Forest Policy (1988). The agroforestry area of the State as per the estimate of Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Agroforestry Research Institute (ICAR-CAFRI) is 1.12 million ha. There is ample scope and potential for agroforestry in the State of Tamil Nadu.

3. AGROFORESTRY-DEFINITION

Agroforestry is a collective name for a land-use system and technology whereby woody perennials are deliberately used on the same land management unit as agricultural crops and/or animals in some form of spatial arrangement or temporal sequence. In agroforestry system there are both ecological and economical interactions between the various components.

Agroforestry involves i) Production of multiple outputs with protection of resource base; ii) Places emphasis on the use of multiple indigenous trees and shrubs; iii) Particularly suitable for low-input conditions and fragile environments; iv) It involves the interplay of socio-cultural values more than in most other land-use systems; and v)It is structurally and functionally more complex than monoculture.

4. STEPS TAKEN TO PROMOTE AGROFORESTRY IN INDIA

I. **National Agroforestry Policy** was launched in 2014 with an aim to support and expand agroforestry practices.

ii. **Sub-Mission on Agroforestry** was launched in 2016-17 to encourage tree plantation on farm land alongside crops/cropping systems under the scheme "Har Medh Par Ped". To mitigate the adverse climatic change effects and to make agriculture less vulnerable to climate aberrations / global warming, SMAF under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) was initiated by the Government of Indai. The policy recommends for setting up a Mission or Board to address development of agroforestry sector in an organized manner and expand the tree coverage on farmlands in complementary with agricultural crops.

iii. **All India Coordinated Research Project on Agroforestry (AICRP)** led by the ICAR-CAFRI has been conducting systematic research on agroforestry and addressing the region-specific agroforestry issues.

iv. **Trees Outside of Forests India** is a joint initiative by USAID and India's Ministry of Environment to increase tree covers in 7 States (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh) to expand the area under trees outside forests for the benefit of livelihoods and the ecosystem.

v. **Greening and Restoration of Wasteland (GROW) with Agroforestry** is a NITI Aayog report that focuses on using agroforestry for greening wastelands and carbon sequestration to combat climate change.

vi. **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme** was launched in 2023 by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to promote sustainable management of forests and agroforestry.

vii. **Green India Mission** was launched in 2014 under National Action Plan on Climate Change. The road map of Green India Mission has been updated with the objectives in alignment with national climate targets of an extra 2.5–3 billion tonnes CO_2 sink by 2030 and restoration of 26 million hectares of degraded land.

5. AGROFORESTRY IN TAMIL NADU

During the year 2021-22, the State Government launched Tamil Nadu Mission on Sustainable Green cover in Farm lands (TNMSGCF) combined with the Sub-Mission on Agro forestry (SMAF) scheme under which 211 lakh tree seedlings have been distributed so far from the year 2021-22. The mission aims to promote tree plantation in agricultural lands by distributing high-value tree saplings to farmers.

From the year 2023-24 onwards, the centrally sponsored scheme of Agroforestry is implemented as per revised guidelines under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for Production and Supply of Quality Planting Material (QPM) to farmers by giving assistance for the establishment and strengthening of nurseries and ICAR-CAFRI has been notified as the nodal agency for the technical support for agroforestry.

Furthermore, the Government of Tamil Nadu has envisioned and launched Green Tamil Nadu Mission during the year 2022 with the mission goals that include i) Increasing the State's forest and tree cover from 23.6% (in 2021) to 33% by 2030-2031 ii) Planting native trees of ecological and economic significance iii) Creating an additional carbon sink of 50-60 million MT in the State's forest and tree cover by 2030-2031 iv) Engaging the public, private organizations, and people in the mission v) Encouraging farmers to grow trees like sandalwood and red sanders.

Above all, several industries like timber, pulp and paper, plywood, energy, non-timber forest products etc. are implementing various out grower schemes in order to source their own raw material resources. Besides these, several public and private sector undertaking are also implementing several forestry and agroforestry projects, which also demand speciality seedlings both in terms of quality through improved genetic resources and quantity in terms of required number. All these developments require systematic establishment and production of quality seedlings to cater to the needs of various stakeholders.

6. CHALLENGES IN AGROFORESTRY

6.1 Interference of trees decreases crop yield when compared to mono-cropping as there is competition for light, water & nutrients between the tree crops & agricultural crops.

6.2 Some trees act as alternate hosts to pests and diseases.

6.3 Allelopathic effect of trees on crops the direct or indirect effect of one plant upon another through the production of chemical inhibitors that are released into the environment is also a factor in analyzing the mechanisms of plant interactions.

6.4 Longer gestation period of tree crops causing delayed returns to the farmer.

6.5 Rapid absorption of nutrients leading to reduction in soil fertility.

7. NEED FOR AGROFORESTRY POLICY IN TAMIL NADU:

7.1 **Agroforestry practices** in Tamil Nadu (TN) have existed since time immemorial and are evidenced in many parts of the State with less or no scientific management. Agroforestry research is a new field that is gaining momentum in recent times with the advent of industrial agroforestry. In the present context, to meet the national target of forest cover (33%) and to reduce pressure on natural forests, agroforestry plays a vital role and provides additional income to the farming community.

7.2 **Weather induced changes-** Challenges like frequent cyclone, flood induced damage prompted farmers in Tamil Nadu to transit to agroforestry by planting trees like jackfruit and mangoes, leading to increased profits.

7.3 **Predominance of small landholders-** The majority of farmers in Tamil Nadu are small landholders who depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Agroforestry offers them opportunities to improve their income and food security through diversified production systems that include crops, trees, and livestock.

7.4 **Water management-** Agroforestry based watershed management can help conserve water, recharge aquifers, and improve water-use efficiency in agriculture as erratic rainfall patterns and overexploitation of groundwater resources is a cause of concern for Tamil Nadu.

7.5 **Biodiversity conservation-** It promotes biodiversity conservation by providing habitats for native species preserving genetic diversity and restoring degraded ecosystems.

7.6 **Rural development-** It can contribute to rural development by generating employment opportunities, fostering entrepreneurship and revitalizing local economies.

7.7 **Food security-** It can integrate food crops with fruit and nut trees and can contribute to diversified diets and improved nutrition outcomes, thereby enhancing food security at the household and community levels.

8. VISION

The vision of TN agroforestry policy is to position Tamil Nadu as a pioneer in sustainable agroforestry by seamlessly integrating agriculture and forestry systems, enhancing farmer livelihoods, fostering environmental sustainability and driving inclusive rural economic growth and prosperity and increase green cover in line with the goals set under “Green Tamil Nadu Mission."

9. GOALS

The major goals to achieve the vision of the policy are:

9.1 Increasing the productivity of farm lands by introducing suitable and profitable agroforestry systems thereby increasing the returns per unit area besides increasing the scope for employment in the agroforestry sector.

9.2 Creating and strengthening better forward and backward linkages for agroforestry through enhanced quality planting material availability and industrial opportunities for the outputs.

9.3 Increasing the green cover in the State **in line with the Green Tamil Nadu Mission** and creating carbon sinks to facilitate farmers to reap maximum benefits in terms of goods and services.

9.4 Establishing well defined institutional mechanisms at the State and District levels to have better coordination among departments and various stakeholders to promote agroforestry initiatives in a pro-active and exhaustive manner.

9.5 Creating a dedicated technical and extension support system by utilizing the existing manpower to build the capacities of stakeholders and handhold them for production, value addition and marketing of agroforestry produce and also creating a digital platform for registering and monitoring various initiatives.

10. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy are:

10.1 **To enhance green cover within agro-ecological systems** by integrating agroforestry practices with agricultural crops and effectively utilizing identified wastelands and marginal lands in both public and private sectors by introducing suitable agroforestry systems.

10.2 **To ensure economic viability and sustainability** of agroforestry by establishing robust market linkages, empowering small landholders, and promoting sustainable practices.

10.3 **To enrich soil organic matter and conserve moisture,** thereby enhancing soil fertility and productivity on farmlands.

10.4 **To mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and adapt to its impact** and reduce agriculture's vulnerability to climate variability, global warming, and other climate aberrations.

10.5 **To promote native and climate-resilient tree species,** ensuring long-term sustainability, ecological balance, and biodiversity conservation.

10.6 **To reduce the pressure on natural forests** and better protection of ecological systems by producing output outside forest areas.

10.7 **To strengthen technical capacities for training and research** on agroforestry tree species to improve productivity, promote value addition, and foster innovation.

10.8 **To develop effective incentive mechanisms** for the establishment or maintenance Agroforestry by extension support in terms of technical know-how, guidance, better quality seedlings, establishment of adequate nurseries under Green India Mission, National Horticulture Mission and Green Tamil Nadu Mission. Further, efforts will be taken to obtain carbon credits for the Agroforestry systems established under the policy as per the

principles of nature-centered economics and payment for ecosystem services. Wood based industries will be persuaded to provide buy-back arrangements and medium term contracts with growers.

10.9 **To ensure a continuous supply of quality green fodder** for livestock, thereby supporting the livelihoods of farmers and improving livestock productivity.

10.10 **To make certified quality planting materials readily available** to farmers by strengthening accreditation systems for private nurseries and government farms.

10.11 **To systematically document and map agroforestry-covered areas** through streamlined adangal entries and digitization, ensuring transparency and accountability.

10.12 **To collaborate with national and international organizations** to tap into carbon credits and voluntary carbon markets, promoting agroforestry as a climate-positive solution.

10.13 **To integrate agroforestry under the scope of crop loans and propagate awareness about available tree insurance products,** while facilitating collateral benefits such as green finance to encourage industries utilizing agroforestry outputs.

11. STRATEGIES

The Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy applies multipronged strategies to achieve the vision by creating an enabling environment for agroforestry in the State.

11.1 Provision of Strong Institutional Support Mechanism

A State Agroforestry Board will be constituted under the Chairpersonship of the Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government with the Additional Chief Secretary of Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Additional Chief Secretary of Finance Department, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Director of Agriculture, Director of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce, representative of Forest Department handling afforestation outside Reserve Forests, Director, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Tamil Nadu Newsprints and Papers Ltd, Representatives of Association of Timber Industries, one Farmer Producer Organizations involved in Agroforestry and farmers as members and Dean, Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam as the Member Secretary. **An expert from Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi will be added as a special invitee.**

The objectives of the State Agroforestry Board are

i) to mainstream Agroforestry, encompassing all aspects of tree-based production systems, for effective coordination, convergence, and synergy between various elements of agroforestry and

ii) to coordinate with Agriculture Department, Forest Department, Industries Department, Expert Institutes, Individual experts and Farmer Producer Organizations for leveraging resources in undertaking focused and synchronized interventions for agroforestry sector.

A State Level Steering Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary to Government will be formed, for reviewing the progress made on all aspects of agroforestry promotion in the State. The District Green Committee under the Chairpersonship of the District Collector will be repurposed at the district level to promote and monitor the agroforestry initiatives of departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Forest, Industries and Transport, Farmer Producer Organizations, Research Institutions etc.

Forest College and Research Institute at Mettupalayam will act as the Nodal Agency to act as a Centre of Excellence and provide technical support for Agroforestry promotion in the State. An exclusive Agroforestry Cell will be created at the Directorate of Agriculture/ Directorate of Horticulture and Plantation Crops with a dedicated team of officials deputed for the purpose and scientific representatives from National and State agencies to carry out the activities/schemes related to agroforestry in the State.

Forest Act and Rules will be amended to incentivize the cultivation of high value trees on private agricultural lands. To support this initiative, the Forest Department will streamline the regulatory compliances and reduce the burden of the farmers and enhance their economic welfare.

While reforming the regulatory framework, the requirement related to sustainability and export to the overseas markets shall also be looked into to facilitate and promote exports. The ambit of felling and transit exemptions for preferred agroforestry tree species like teak, sandal, red sanders and rosewood will be further widened to encourage the farming communities to take up agroforestry voluntarily and successfully.

11.2 **Identification of potential areas and recommendation of suitable Agroforestry models and tree species:**

The areas and land parcels including wastelands and marginal lands in the State that have potential for agroforestry need to be clearly identified and concentrated upon. Community based tree plantation models will be developed harnessing the potential of Self Help Groups, Farmer Producer Groups and other User Groups to promote agroforestry in tank bunds, meikkal poramboke lands etc with shared benefit mechanisms. Agroforestry models already developed by ICAR-CAFRI and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for each of the Seven agro-climatic zone will be recommended. An agroforestry tree manual will be prepared for the State. A district-wise tree suitability chart based on the soil type, water availability and agro-climatic conditions will be prepared. The high-value tree species that grow well in local agro-climatic and land use conditions and species that are highly preferred by industries in the State and indigenous tree species are recommended. (Annexure)

11.3 **Ensuring quality and availability of Planting materials for Agroforestry:**

The accreditation protocol given by Government of India to assess factors like the quality of mother plants, techniques for nursery development, infrastructural facilities, bio-security and disease-free conditions will be adhered to. Further, to strengthen the accreditation and certification systems for nurseries especially agroforestry nurseries, suitable regulatory mechanism will be devised. The list of accredited nurseries in private as well as government institutions along with their capacities and availability of tree species will be made available in public domain. All available government schemes will be converged effectively to develop nursery infrastructure.

11.4 Capacity Building and Extension Services

Capacity building for both department officials and farmers to integrate trees with crops as part of the farming system will be strengthened through crash training modules, for agroforestry enhancement. The existing extension systems in Agriculture-Farmers Welfare Department/Tamil Nadu Agricultural University/Krishi Vigyan Kendra's/Van Vigyan Kendra's/Forest Extension Centres and other such extension centres will be strengthened and effectively utilized to disseminate technical know-how related to agroforestry including suitable location specific agroforestry models and silvicultural practices.

11.5 Market Linkages and Value Addition

Farmers' access to markets for tree products will be strengthened and participation of industries dealing with agroforestry will be facilitated. A separate Platform called Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Portal will be developed integrating Farmer Registration and Plantation tracking, Real-time market-prices for timber and tree products, Buyer-seller connect for farmers, traders and industries and Nursery and planting material availability. All efforts will be taken to integrate the TN Agroforestry Portal with the e-NAM portal.

11.6 Policy, Incentives and Financial Support

The existing insurance products to cover losses due to specified perils (fire, flood, cyclone, pests etc.) available for high value trees will be promoted so as to protect the farmers from income loss. To make agroforestry financially attractive, a High-powered Committee comprising senior officials from Revenue, Agriculture, Environment and Forests, Cooperative and other departments will be constituted to suggest measures for providing credit from financial institutions and to record the trees grown in Adangal itself so as to facilitate traceability and harvesting and transporting the harvested trees. A Single Window portal for sanction of timber clearance/tree harvest permission in a hassle-free manner will be created.

Dovetailing of GoI Schemes like the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme and others will be carried out. Green Credit Scheme framework will be worked out. A blue-print for convergence of schemes of Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu will be prepared. Action will be taken to exempt Agroforestry Plantation from Land Ceiling Act. Agro Forestry Board will be constituted to coordinate with stakeholders and provide technical guidance.

11.7. **Focused Research and Education:**

Research on various beneficial combinations of field/ horticulture /fodder crops and multi-purpose tree species will be undertaken. Thrust will be given to develop short duration, early rotation and high yielding tree species, product development and value addition technology shall be concentrated upon. Collaboration among the institutions involved in agroforestry research shall be ensured for cross learnings and finding solutions quickly and at the same time avoiding reinventing the wheel. All published research findings on agroforestry shall be made available in a single web portal for the benefit of all stakeholders.

12. WAY FORWARD

The following activities shall be prioritized to ensure the timely and effective realization of this policy's objectives:

- Institutional arrangements for the long-term development of Agroforestry in the State.
- Identification of "Specific Agroforestry Zones" to focus on agroforestry development and preparation of detailed Information, Education & Communication on proven agroforestry models suitable for the different agro-climatic zones in the State.
- Preparation of Action Plan for species wise, year wise production of agroforestry tree species
- Formulation of standards for certification of nurseries for production of quality planting materials of agroforestry tree species and establish institutional mechanism for registration, accreditation and star rating of nurseries across the state.
- Development of portal to disseminate Information, Education & Communication and provide single window clearance for tree harvesting.
- Preparation of convergence plan to dovetail various Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu schemes to incentivize and catalyze Agroforestry.

ANNEXURE

Prioritized Species for promotion

Prioritized Species	Common Name	Scientific Name
Timber Species	Teak	*Tectona grandis*
	Mahogany	*Swietenia macrophylla*
	Vengai	*Pterocarpus marsupium*
	Poovarasu	*Thespesia populnea*
	Kumil	*Gmelina arborea*
	Vaagai	*Albizia falcataria*
	Sissoo	*Dalbergia sissoo*
High Value Species	Sandal	*Santalum album*
	Red Sanders	*Pterocarpus santalinus*
	Rosewood	*Dalbergia latifolia*
Industrial wood Species	Melia	*Melia dubia*
	Kadam	*Neolamarckia cadamba*
	Acrocarpus	*Acrocarpus fraxinifolius*
	Ailanthus	*Ailanthus excelsa*
	Toona	*Toona ciliata*
	Chukrasia	*Chukrasia tabularis*
	Kalyana murungai	*Erythrina indica*
	Silver oak	*Grevillea robusta*
	Savukku	*Casuarina*
Tree Borne OilSeeds	Neem	*Azadirachta indica*
	Pungam	*Pongamia pinnata*
	Punnai	*Callophyllum inophyllum*
	Simarouba	*Simarouba glauca*
	Mahua	*Maduca latifolia*
Non Timber Forest Products Trees (NTFP)	Thandri	*Terminalia bellerica*
	Kadukai	*Terminalia chebula*
	Manila tamarind	*Pithecellobium dulce*
	Naval	*Syzygium cumini*
	Palmyrah	*Borassus flabellifer*

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