

Introduction

AGRICULTURE ACTION PLAN

FOR THE YEAR 2017-18

INTRODUCTION

Development of Agriculture Sector in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh State is “*the bejewelled rice bowl of India*”. Agriculture plays an important role in the livelihoods of people as 63% of the population in Andhra Pradesh live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and related livelihood opportunities. **Agriculture Sector contribute 27% share in State GDP.** The agriculture plays an important role not only in the economy but also for achieving the food security for the state and also for the country. Our main challenges are, growing water scarcity, degrading natural resources like land and decreasing per capita availability of land and water resources. Further, rainfed agriculture in the whole state and agriculture in the coastal region is very much vulnerable to the impacts of natural calamities **and state is stepping ahead against these challenges.**

The State of Andhra Pradesh with 13 districts has great potential for agriculture and allied sectors. Andhra Pradesh State consists of six agro climatic zones and five different soil types to grow wide range of crops throughout the year.

The Government accords the highest priority to the agriculture sector and the welfare of farmers. The constraints and problems which have been troubling the farmers over the years will be addressed through a systematic approach. Every effort will be to make agriculture in the state productive, profitable, and sustainable and climate resilient through building the partnerships with research organizations.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has designed a strategy to transform the agriculture and allied sectors to enable Andhra Pradesh amongst the best three performing states in India by 2022 after 75 years of independence **by implementing the Action Plan as per the Vision 2022**

The Primary Sector mission is the main mission and the following are the **objectives:**

- (a) increasing productivity of the primary sector;
- (b) mitigating the impact of droughts through water Conservation and micro irrigation;
- (c) **increasing the cropping intensity.**
- (d) **Promotion of weather specific cropping pattern to mitigate** drought situations.
- (e) post harvest management to reduce the wastage; and
- (f) establishment of processing, value addition capacity and supply chain of the identified crops.
- (e) **Doubling the net returns of the Farmers.**

As per the 2nd advance estimates the contribution of GVA from Agriculture sector alone is Rs.31,536 crores on constant price during 2016-17.

A systematic approach for achieving targetted GVA of Rs. 38,048 with growth rate of 20.65% for the year 2017-18 has been planned.

Out of the 23 growth engines identified in Agriculture and allied sectors 9 crops have been selected as growth engines in agriculture namely, paddy, maize, redgram, blackgram, bengalgram, groundnut, cotton, sugarcane and tobacco. The targeted area, production and productivity of these growth engines are furnished in the annexure.

About The Department:

Economical crop production is the life line for a farmer, who sheds his energy not only for his livelihood but also for the survival of the fast growing population. It is therefore, the fundamental duty of the government to safeguard the interests of the farmer. The Department of Agriculture as one arm of the Government has been established to perform the functions in the process of harmonizing the farming community.

The major Kharif crops viz. paddy, cereals are maize, jowar, bajra, ragi and pulses are produced in the State known for their rich nutrient content are the staple diet of millions of people. **In addition to the these crops Pules like Redgram, Blackgram, Green gram etc., are under cultivation in major extent.**

To make the mission a reality, the department is adopting the following strategies.

- ❖ **Distribution of soil health cards and Soil test based fertilizer recommendation**
- ❖ Transparency in quality Seed distribution by adopting Aadhar enable Bio-metric System.
- ❖ Promotion of self- reliance in seed production among farmers through CMSS.
- ❖ Promotion of Integrated Crop Management (ICM) through INM, IPM, efficient water management, etc.
- ❖ Encouraging of organic farming to meet the demands of World Market.
- ❖ **Supply of Micro nutrients like Zinc, Iron, Boron, Magnesium based on the Soil test results.**
- ❖ Reclamation of Problematic soils to restore the productivity
- ❖ Natural Resource Management through watershed approach for agricultural land development and environmental stability
- ❖ Calamity Management in the event of drought, floods, hailstorms etc.
- ❖ Farm Mechanization - for cost effective farming practices.
- ❖ Promoting Farmer Produce Organizations for technical and monetary benefits in Organic Farming and Millets.
- ❖ Facilitate the farmer to avail in situational Agricultural Credit with special focus on tenant Farmers.
- ❖ Providing income assurance through Crop Insurance
- ❖ Re-engineering extension approach for effective extension reach
- ❖ Empowering the farmer with advance Agricultural practices
- ❖ Capacity enhancement of Departmental Staff for an efficient extension of technology.
- ❖ Provide day-to-day information to farmer on crop production, input supply, and marketing through Internet Services and AGRISNET

The Infrastructure:

The Department has a strong man power resources consisting of more than 2254 extension staff of field and supervisory cadre. The staff is periodically oriented with the advance technology emerging from time to time by re-engineering through trainings, workshops, interactions etc., in addition, the department supports a number of Farmers Training Centers, to equip the farmer with necessary details and knowledge for successful agriculture. For further strengthening of department at village level, 4354 Multi-purpose Extension Officers were recruited in the State.

The Allied Departments/Agencies:

The research support to the Department is endowed by the State Agriculture University and the National and International Institutes. The input support is solicited through various autonomous bodies like APSSDC, APSAIDC, APMARKFED, APOILFED, etc., The other coordinating Departments are Horticulture, Sericulture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Irrigation, Forests and Power **are also involving in preparation of Action Plan for increasing the net income of the farmer.**



Rainfall : (2016-17)

Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh is dependent on rainfall and agricultural production depends upon the distribution of rainfall. The influence of South-West monsoon is predominant. Normal rainfall was received in South-West Monsoon(-4%), Scanty Rainfall was received in North-East Monsoon (-71%) and Winter period (-90%).

S. No	Season	Rainfall 2015-16 (in mm)		
		Normal	Actual	% Deviation
1	South – West Monsoon (June – Sept.)	556	533.8	-4
2	North – East Monsoon (Oct. – Dec.)	296	85.3	-71
3	Winter Season (Jan. – Feb.)	15.7	1.6	-90
Total		867.7	620.7	-28

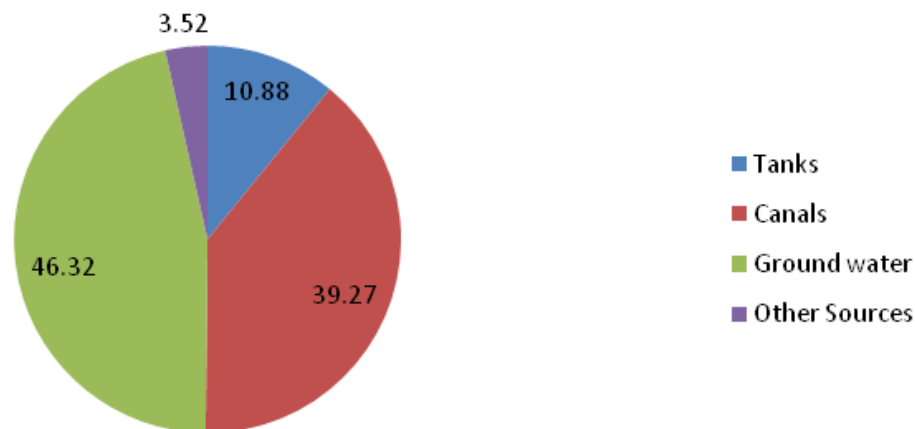
Irrigation :

The Gross Area Irrigated by different sources was 35.47 lakh ha., and the net area irrigated was 27.43 lakh ha., and the irrigation intensity was 1.29.

Area in '000' ha)

S. No	Source	Gross Area Irrigated	Net Area Irrigated	Irrigation Intensity
1	Tanks	386	363	1.06
2	Canals	1393	1081	1.29
3	Groundwater	1643	1193	1.38
4	Other Sources	125	106	1.18
Total		3547	2743	1.29

Source Wise Gross Irrigated Area Percentage



Crop wise Irrigated Area:

The Crop wise irrigated area in Andhra Pradesh for important crops in brief is as follows:

S. No	Crop	Area under the crop (lakh ha)	Area Irrigated (lakh ha)	Percentage
1	Rice	21.61	20.87	96.58
2	Maize	2.33	1.75	75.11
3	Groundnut	7.75	1.24	16
4	Cotton	6.66	1.04	15.62
5	Other crop	36.97	10.57	28.59
Gross area sown		75.32	35.47	47.09

(Source: DES) (2015-16 data)

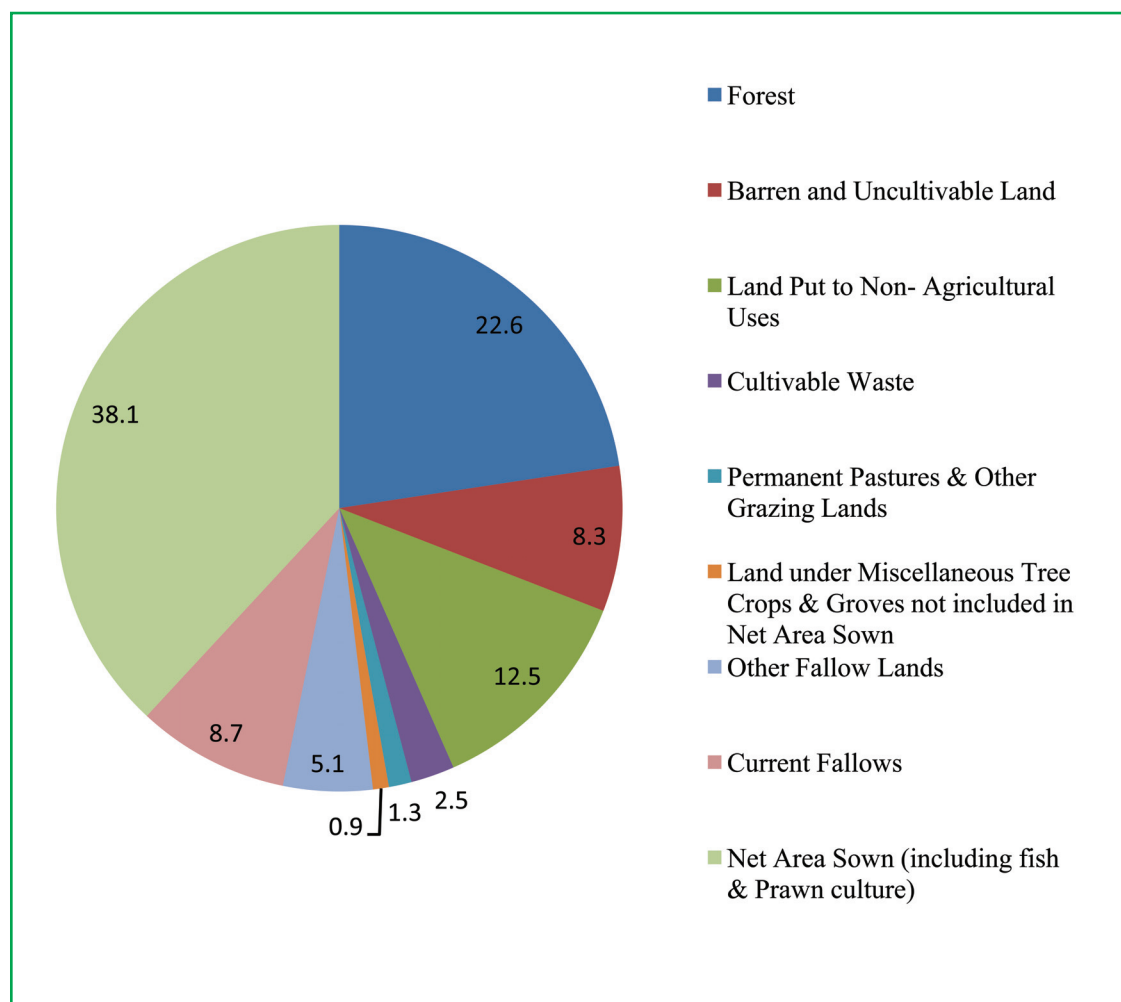
LAND UTILIZATION:

The land utilization particulars are given below.

S. No	Category	Area (lakh ha)	% to Total Geographical
1	Geographical Area	162.97	100
2	Forest	36.88	22.6
3	Barren and Uncultivable Land	13.47	8.3
4	Land Put to Non- Agricultural Uses	20.32	12.5
5	Cultivable Waste	4.11	2.5
6	Permanent Pastures & Other Grazing Lands	2.12	1.3
7	not included in Net Area Sown	1.57	0.9
8	Other Fallow Lands	8.32	5.1
9	Current Fallows	14.1	8.7
10	Net Area Sown (including fish & Prawn culture)	62.08	38.1

CROPPING INTENSITY:

Cropping intensity is one of the indices for assessing the efficiency of agriculture sector. The cropping intensity i.e. the ratio of gross area sown to net area sown is 1.24. The level of cropping intensity moves in consonance with the behavior of the monsoon and availability of irrigation water.



Land Holdings:

Agriculture production depends, to a considerable extent, upon the size of the unit of cultivation. According to the census, the average size of land holding per farmer in the state during 2010-11 is at 1.06 hectares and the same is likely to fall below due to further fragmentation of the farm holdings, since more than 70 % of rural population is dependent on Agriculture only.

Andhra Pradesh has 76.21 lakh farm holdings with an area of 80.96 lakh ha. The Number of farm holdings belonging to various categories and the land operated by them (2010-11) is indicated below:

S. No	Category	Number of Holdings	Area Operated (ha)	Percentage	
				Number of Holdings	Area Operated
1	Marginal	4983611	2160351	65.39	26.68
2	Small	1591012	2250593	20.88	27.8
3	Semi Medium	796198	2099810	10.45	25.93
4	Medium	230419	1282009	3.02	15.83
5	Large	19878	303674	0.26	3.75
	Total	7621118	8096437	100	100

As could be seen above marginal farmers are about 65.39% operating only 26.68% of area, small farmers are 20.88% in number operating 27.80% of area where as semi medium to large farmers who have 13.73% holdings operate 41.76% of the area. The average size of holding in Andhra Pradesh state is 1.06 ha.

Cropping Pattern: 2016-17 (as per DES 3rd Advance Estimate)

Andhra Pradesh grows 28 important crops during 2016-17 both seasons put together an area of about 60.74 lakh ha., has been covered. The important crops grown are Rice (21.06) lakh ha, Maize (2.45) lakh ha, Pulses (14.55) lakh ha, Groundnut (10.15) lakh ha, Cotton (4.71) lakh ha, Chillies (2.06) lakh ha Tobacco (0.77) lakh ha and Sugarcane (1.03) lakh ha., etc. cultivating 65.20% of Kharif crops and remaining 34.8% covering in Rabi against the total cultivation.

Production Targets for 2017-18 compared to 2016-17 (as per the DE&S 3rd Advance Estimates)

The Targeted Food grain production for 2017-18 is 176.64 lakh MTs with an increase of 17%. It includes 14%, 30%, 52%, and 52% increased production in Paddy, Maize, Pulses and Oilseeds respectively.

