Introduction

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AGRICULTURE ACTION PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2018-19

INTRODUCTION

Development of Agriculture Sector in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh State is "***the bejewelled rice bowl of India.***" Agriculture play an important role in the livelihood of people, as 62% of the population in Andhra Pradesh live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and related livelihood opportunities. **Agriculture Sector contribute 30% 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 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 drought 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 3nd advance estimates the contribution of GVA from Agriculture sector alone is Rs. 30,901 crores on constant price during 2017-18.

A systematic approach for achieving targetted GVA of Rs. 36,740 with growth rate of 16.55 % for the year 2018-19 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 of Agriculture

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 is 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 like 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, Pulses 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 Producer Organizations for technical and monitory benefits in Organic Farming and Millets.
- Facilitate the farmer to avail in institutional 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 Departments has a strong man power resources consisting of more than 5,800 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.**

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Rainfall (2017-18)

Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh is dependant on rainfall and agricultural production depends upon the distribution of rainfall. The influence of South-West monsoon on Agriculture production is predominant. Normal rainfall was received during South-West Monsoon(+2 percent), deficit rainfall was received during North-East Monsoon (-40 percent), Winter period (-91 percent) and summer season (-18 percent).

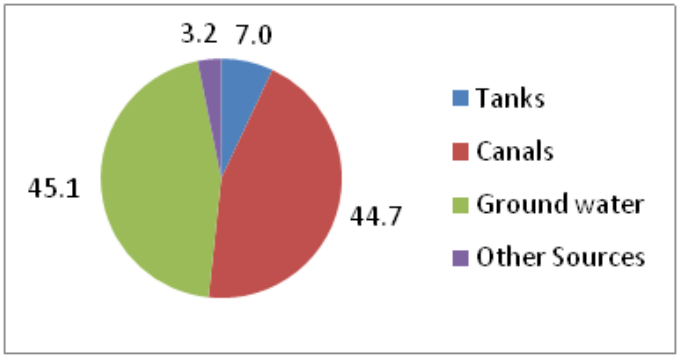
S. No.	Season	Rainfall 2017-18 (in mm)		
		Normal	Actual	% Deviation
1.	South – West Monsoon (June – Sept.)	556.0	567.1	+2
2.	North – East Monsoon (Oct. – Dec.)	296.0	177.5	-40
3.	Winter Season (Jan. – Feb.)	15.8	1.4	-91
4 .	Summer Season (March- May)	98.4	80.9	-18
	Total	966.2	826.9	-14.4

Irrigation

The gross irrigated area under different sources was 35.82 lakh ha., and the net irrigated area was 27.19 lakh ha., and the irrigation intensity was 1.32. In AP, the major source of irrigation is ground water followed by canals.

S.No.	Source	Gross Area Irrigated	Net Area Irrigated	Irrigation Intensity
1	Tanks	251	236	1.06
2	Canals	1601	1225	1.31
3	Ground water	1616	1162	1.39
4	Other Sources	114	96	1.19
TOTAL		3582	2719	1.32

Gross Irrigated Area Percentage Source Wise



Crop wise Irrigated Area

The irrigated area under important crops in AP is as follows:

(lakh ha)

S.No	Crop	Area under the crop	Area Irrigated	Percentage
1	Rice	21.05	20.35	96.67
2	Maize	2.50	1.85	74.00
3	Groundnut	10.13	1.26	12.43
4	Cotton	4.72	1.00	21.18
5	Other crops	35.78	6.33	17.69
Gross area sown		74.18	35.82	48.29

Source: DES 2016-17 data

Energization of Wells

Wells and tube wells are the major source of irrigation and irrigate a gross cropped area of about 16.16 lakh ha in Andhra Pradesh. There are around 15.09 lakh energized wells with a connected load of 75.35 lakh K.W. The district wise breakup is as follows:

S. No	District	Low Tension Agriculture	
		No. of Services	Connected Load (K.W)
1	Srikakulam	29927	88048
2	Vizianagaram	38531	118046
3	Visakhapatnam	38006	113520
4	East Godavari	47905	350864
5	West Godavari	91444	938136
6	Krishna	92484	483805
7	Guntur	88090	375155
8	Prakasam	140990	612195
9	S.P.S Nellore	158778	703078
10	Chittoor	296106	1464449
11	Y.S.R Kadapa	142428	812855
12	Anantapur	214257	890987
13	Kurnool	130549	584554
Andhra Pradesh		1509495	7535692

Land utilization

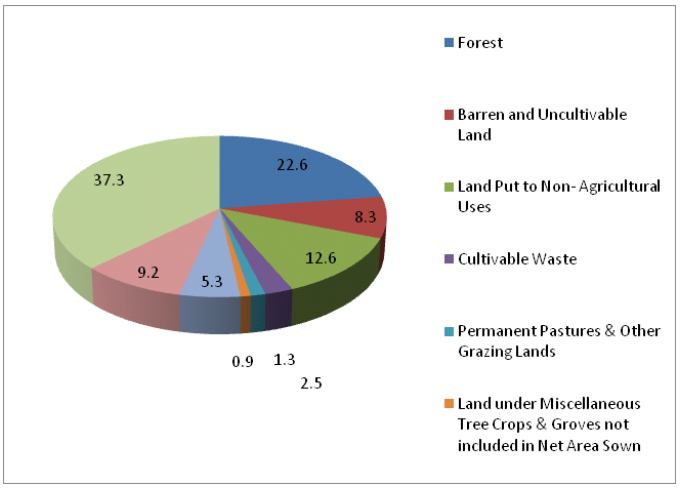
Net sown area under different crops is 59.38 lakh ha. and area under fish culture is 1.39 lakh ha. The land utilization particulars in A.P. are as follows.

S.No	Category	Area (lakh ha)	% to Total Geographical area
1	Geographical Area	162.97	100.00
2	Forest	36.88	22.6
3	Barren and Uncultivable Land	13.46	8.3
4	Land Put to Non- Agricultural Uses	20.48	12.6
5	Cultivable Waste	4.14	2.5
6	Permanent Pastures & Other Grazing Lands	2.11	1.3
7	Land under Miscellaneous Tree Crops & Groves not included in Net Area Sown	1.57	0.9
8	Other Fallow Lands	8.60	5.3
9	Current Fallows	14.96	9.2
10	Net Area Sown (including fish & Prawn culture)	60.77	37.3

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 1.25. The level of cropping intensity moves in consonance with the behavior of the monsoon and availability of irrigation water.

Geographical Area (in percentage)



Land holdings

Agriculture production depends upon the size of farm holdings to a considerable extent. According to the 2010-11 census, the average size of farm holding in the state is 1.06 hectares and the same is likely to decline year after year due to further fragmentation of the farm holdings on account of increasing population.

Andhra Pradesh has 76.21 lakh farm holdings with an area of 80.96 lakh ha. The number of farm holdings under 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 (upto 1.0 ha)	4983611	2160351	65.39	26.68
2	Small (1.0 to 2.0 ha)	1591012	2250594	20.88	27.80
3	Semi Medium (2.0 to 4.0 ha)	796198	2099811	10.45	25.93
4	Medium (4.0 to 10.0 ha)	230419	1282010	3.02	15.83
5	Large (10.0 ha &above)	19878	303674	0.26	3.76
Total		**7621118**	**8096440**	**100.00**	**100.00**

It is evident from the above table that the marginal farmers are about 65.39 percent operating only 26.68 percent of area, small farmers are 20.88 percent in number operating 27.80 percent of area where as semi medium to large farmers who have 13.73 percent holdings operate 45.52 percent of the area. The average size of holding in Andhra Pradesh state is 1.06 ha.

Cropping Pattern (as per DES 3rd Advance Estimates)

In AP during 2017-18, 28 important crops are cultivated in both the seasons i.e in an area of 59.63 lakh ha. The important crops grown are Rice (22.08 lakh ha), Maize (3.27 lakh ha), Pulses (13.69 lakh ha), Groundnut (7.33 lakh ha), Cotton (6.46 lakh ha), Chillies (1.20 lakh ha) Tobacco (0.82 lakh ha) and Sugarcane (0.99 lakh ha). During 2017-18, out of total area sown, 61 percent covered under Kharif crops and remaining 39 percent under Rabi crops.

Production Targets for 2018-19

The targeted food grain production for 2018-19 is 186.41 lakh MTs which is an increase of 16 percent over 2017-18. It includes increased production of 14 percent in Paddy, 15 percent in Maize, 33 percent in Pulses, and 30 percent in Oil seeds.

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