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Tamilnadu

TN going all out to help farmers



NT Bureau | Thu, 04 Aug, 2011, 04:53 PM

The State has fixed an ambitious target of Rs 3,000 crore of crop loans free of interest in the case of prompt repayment to be disbursed to farmers through co-operatives this year, Tamilnadu Finance Minister O Panneerselvam today said.

Tabling the Budget for the year 2011-2012, Panneerselvam said the State government will prepare a comprehensive seed plan to ensure timely availability of quality seeds to farmers. During the current year, we have set apart Rs 85.92 crore for seed subsidy, he added.

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The State has set for itself an ambitious target of 115 lakh metric tonnes of food grain production during 2011-2012 as against last year's production of 85.35 lakh metric tonnes, he noted.

Pannerselvam further said, 'we will usher in a second green revolution to improve agricultural production by addressing the

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productivity gap and through value addition. Also an ambitious target of increase by two to three times in farmers' per capita income is set by the government to be achieved within five years.

During 2011-12, a total of 22.24 lakh acres will be covered under System of Rice Intensification (SRI) to enhance paddy productivity. Similarly 14,000 acres of sugarcane will be brought under Sustainable Sugarcane Initiatives (SSI) this year, the Finance Minister said.

Productivity of pulses will be improved by bringing a larger area under irrigated pure crops with better crop management. Precision Farming will be adopted on 22,000 acres at a cost of Rs 20.93 crore and protected cultivation on four lakh square metres to increase productivity of fruits and vegetables, he added.

A new veterinary college will be set up at Orathanadu and an institute of Poultry Production and Management will be established at Hosur with state-of-the-art facilities, he added.

An amount of Rs 135 crore is being allocated this year for distributing four goats or sheep to one lakh families living below the poverty line. After five years, a total of seven lakh families would have been covered, he added.

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