Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission
Post of Assistant Agricultural Officer
In Tamil Nadu Agricultural Extension Subordinate Service
Agriculture (Diploma Standard)

Unit I - Agronomic principles, practices and meteorology


Unit-II -Dry Farming and Agro-Forestry


Unit-III -Soils and Fertility Management

Unit-IV- Horticultural Crop Cultivation Techniques


Unit-V - Breeding and Seed Production


Unit-VI - Plant Protection Principles and Practices

Pesticides – Groups, Classification, Mode of Action – Formulation and Uses, Principles of Pesticides application – Hazards in the use of Pesticides and Environmental Pollution – Safe Handling of Pesticides – Pesticide residue - Behavior modifying chemicals – Use of Pheromones in pest management and behavioral modifying chemicals; approach.

Damage symptoms - life cycle and management practices of insect and non insect pests of Rice, Sorghum, Maize, Cumbu, Ragi, Cotton, Sugarcane, Pulses, Groundnut, Castor, Gingelly, Sunflower, Brinjal, Tomato, Bhendi, Cucurbits, Crucifers, Moringa, Tapioca, Chillies, Onion, Coconut, Arecanut, Turmeric, Curry-leaf, Coffee, Tea, Cardamom, Pepper, Betelvine, Flower crops, Mango, Citrus, Banana, Grapes, sapota, Guava, Pomegranate, Pests of stored materials and their management


Major diseases caused by Fungi, Bacteria, Virus and Mycoplasma in Cereals (Rice, Sorghum, Maize, Cumbu, Ragi), Pulses ( Red gram, Black gram, Green gram, Bengal gram, Cowpea, Lablab) – Oil seeds (Groundnut, Gingelly, Sunflower, Castor), Cash crops (Cotton, Sugarcane, Tobacco, Betelvine) – Fruits (Mango, Banana, Grapevine, Sapota, Pomegranate, Papaya) – Vegetables (Tomato, Chilllies, Brinjal, Bhendi, Cucurbits, Crucifers, Onion, Garlic) – Plantation crops (Coffee, Tea, Rubber, Coconut, Arecanut) – Spices (Turmeric, Pepper, Cardamom, Coriander, Ginger) – Flowers (Rose, Jasmine, Crossandra, Chrysanthemum) and their management.

Unit-VII- Livestock, Poultry Management, Artificial Insemination and Calf Rearing

Artificial Insemination – merits and demerits – Housing management – farm site selection space requirement for calves, heifer, milch animal and work bullocks – Type and design of house. – Systems of housing – Single row system – Double row system – head to head and tail to tail – merits and demerits – Care and management of new born calf and heifers – Care and management of pregnant, lactating animals and work bullocks.


Unit-VIII - Farm Machinery and Post Harvest Technology


Unit-IX Energy and Environment


**Unit X - Commercial Agriculture**

Bio-Control Agents, Mushroom Cultivation, Fruits and Vegetables Processing, Hybrid Seed Production, Nursery Technology, Organic Composting and Broiler Production

Importance – History and development of bio-control agents - classical examples of bio-control agents – Role in pest and disease management – Categories of bio-control agents. Setting up a bio-control laboratory. Mass culture of tobacco caterpillar (**Spodoptera litura**) and gram pod borer (**Helicoverpa armigera**) - synthetic diet – mass production of SINPV and HaNPV. Mass production of **Trichogramma** spp., **Chrysoperla**, coccinellid predators, **Trichoderma viride**, **Pseudomonas fluorescens** and Entomopathogenic nematodes


Definition – Production of hybrids – Development of inbreds – Single cross evaluation – Prediction of double cross performance – Production of hybrid seed – Cytoplasmic, Genetic male sterility – Maintenance of Male sterile lines – Production of single cross hybrids – Production of double cross hybrid varieties - Manual emasculation and / or Pollination – Chemically induced male sterility – Merits and demerits of hybrid varieties
– Floral biology, anthesis, pollination, selfing, emasculation and crossing technique in Rice, Sorghum, Pearl millet, Red gram, Castor, Sunflower, Cotton, Tomato, Bhendi.


Selection of nursery area – preparation of seeds and seed treatment – Sowing and raising of rootstocks (Fruits and Flower Crops) – Application of Liquid Manure and plant protection of rootstock – Potting materials and Preparation of pot mixture – Potting of Rootstock and Hardening – Selection of Scion Plants and Grafting, Aftercare of Grafted Plants, Graft Separation and Hardening – Preparation of Cuttings of Ornamental Plants, Treating the Cuttings with growth regulators and Planting in Mist Chamber in Beds/Polybags, Potting of Rooted Cuttings and Hardening – Air Layering of Ornamental/Fruit Crops – Budding of Ornamental Plants (Rose) – Maintenance of Potted Plants – Packing and Marketing.


Unit XI- Agri. Extension and Agri. Economics


Concepts and definition of marketing and agricultural marketing – Scope of agricultural marketing – Classification of Markets – Structure of markets. Characteristics

Cooperative agricultural marketing societies and regulated markets – Role of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation and TANFED. Role of specialized agencies viz., Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation, State Warehousing Corporation in marketing of agricultural commodities and CCI.


Visit to a village – Identifying resources, conducting participatory rural appraisal (PRA), conducting SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis and preparing action plan for village development.

Visiting farmers – Analysis of farm resources and studying the life style of farmers, earnings, enterprises, expenditure pattern, technical information seeking behavior and dissemination of technologies. Finding the factors of adoption of technologies.

Problem diagnosis study – visiting farmers’ fields, identifying technical and frequent problems like soil, pest, disease, disorders and other problems in agriculture, obtaining solutions from known sources and providing them to the farmers.

Visiting agro service centers – Studying the business techniques, farmers approach, distribution pattern, dealership pattern, knowing different agro chemicals available in markets and their prices, gaining experience in solving the farmers problems in agro service centers.

Visiting daily vegetable wholesale markets and assessing the price fluctuation and preparing price trend calendar for different vegetables. Preparing line chart for maximum price of different vegetables grown in the district and identifying optimum sowing period for different vegetables.

Study the potentialities, prospects and to get clear knowledge about starting agro industries.
Unit XII Computer Application