TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

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Vice-Chancellor

Coimbatore - 641 003
Tamil Nadu, India

06.11.2020

To
Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
Hon'ble Minister,
210, Shram Shakti Bhawan,
Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110 001.

Respectable and Hon'ble Minister ji,

Sub: Conservation of water - "Catch the Rain" - activities undertaken at TNAU- details - sending - reg.

Ref: (i) D.O. No. M.65022/09/2020- NVM dt. 21.10.2020 addressed to Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu.
(ii) Hon'ble Governor's Letter Dt. 28.10.2020 addressed to the Vice-Chancellor,TNAU, Coimbatore.

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We are highly thankful to the Hon'ble Minister for **'Jal Shakti'** and Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu for providing an opportunity to appraise the activities undertaken at this University especially with reference to the conservation and conjunctive use of water (available from underground, surface and rain water) for agricultural and household purposes. As this University is primarily an Agricultural University which underlines raising of various crops in varied seasons, the stress is mostly on **"More crop per drop"** as underlined in the TN- Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project besides judicious use of rain water and underground water. Some of the activities undertaken in this regard are detailed below.

A. Water conservation practices

- **Waste water treatment**: This unit is presently functioning at the Main campus of the University and directions have been given to all the constituent Colleges of the University to practice the same. The Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of 175 KLD Capacity has been renovated and another 100 KLD capacity is under installation. Treated water from the plant is mainly used for irrigating the fodder crops, agroforestry trees etc. and the water quality is near potable.

- Besides, **Water Harvesting Structures** (WHS) are also available in the Main campus and other centres and their capacity is detailed.

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Water harvesting structures (WHS):

No	Types	No/Area	Capacity (m^3)	Year	Location	Investment (lakh Rs.)	Benefits derived
1	Roof top collection for Direct Storage	2	386	1906	Main Building	Data not available as the constructions were old	Annually collected water-8000 m^3
		2	770	1959	Free Man Building		
		2	268	1962	Library		
		1	395	1960	Transgenic Green House		
		1	113	2009	Centenary Building	**5 crores**	
2	Farm pond	1	400	2007	Eastern Block-1	0.25	Annual collected water -800 m^3
3	Percolation Pond	1	1400	2007	Forage	1.50	Annual Recharged water -2800 m^3
4	Recharge shaft	3	12	2019	WTC-1 Eastern Block-1 New area-1	1.60	Annual recharged water -100 m^3
5	Recharge pits	15	150	2008	Main Building -2 East to P.Office-1 Crop Phys-1 Eastern Block-4 New Staff Q-1 Bot.Gard.1 Centenary-1 Farm. Resid-1 Cauvery hostel-1 Sew. Treat-1 New Res.Trial-1	3.75	Annual recharged water -1500 m^3

B. Advocacies:

- This University regularly conducts training cum awareness programme, field demonstrations on minimizing the usage of water through modern irrigation systems to enhance the crop yield, awareness programme on flouride contamination in ground water and its rectification, **World Water day**, World Soil day, World Environment day etc. in the Main campus and also in the constituent Colleges to define and refine the technologies that could go with minimized use of water.

C. Jal Sakthi Abhiyan Programme:

- State level water conservation awareness programme was implemented under the Jal Sakthi Abhiyan programme by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University through Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Water Technology Centre. Agriculture and allied sector officials along with District administrators played a vital role in implementing this programme.

D. Research:

- For enhancing the water use efficiency in the crops and for identifying climate resilient crops with enhanced yield productivity, research in teams comprising of the scientists from the University along with National and International Institutes are being taken up. Efforts are invested to evolve crops with more water use efficiency *vis-a-vis* drought tolerance through plant breeding, physiological, biochemical, biotechnological and Nano-technological interventions.

- For enhancing the understanding of water use efficiency and water conservation in various systems, special interactive sessions are arranged with water experts like Dr. R.K. Sivanappan, Dr. K. Palanisamy etc.

This University also collaborates with the private firms like Ms. Jain irrigation, Netafim etc. in enhancing the water productivity and water use efficiency. Few photographs relating to the water conservation practices being undertaken in the Main campus and **Jal Sakthi Abhiyan** are enclosed.

Further, I wish to bring to the kind notice of Hon'ble Minister that an exclusive Directorate referred as Water Technology Centre is **functioning** at TNAU, Coimbatore with the main mandate of conserving and efficiently utilizing the available water for maximizing the crop productivity. An achievement of this centre is also enclosed for kind perusal.

Thanking you Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Vice-Chancellor

Copy to the Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor, Government of Tamil Nadu, Raj Bhavan, Chennai for the kind perusal of the Hon'ble Governor.

Jal Sakthi Abhiyan Programme

Jal Sakthi Abhiyan Meeting attended on 08.07.2019 at KVK, Avinasilangam College, Coimbatore

Jal Sakthi Abahiyan Meeting attended on 03.09.2019 at KVK, Dharmapuri

Jal Sakthi Abahiyan Meeting attended on 05.09.2019 at KVK, Tirupur- Pongalore

Jal Sakthi Abahiyan Meeting attended on 14.11.2019 at ICAR - KVK, Coimbatore

Water Conservation Activities undertaken at TNAU, Coimbatore

Groundwater Recharge Shaft

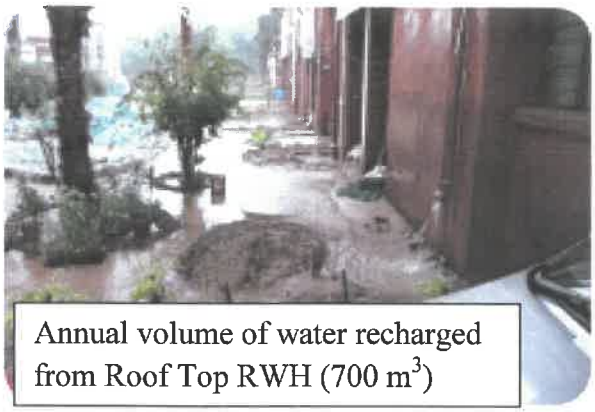
Percolation Pond

Rain water Collection Tank near R.S block

Rainwater Collection tank -1 at Free man Block

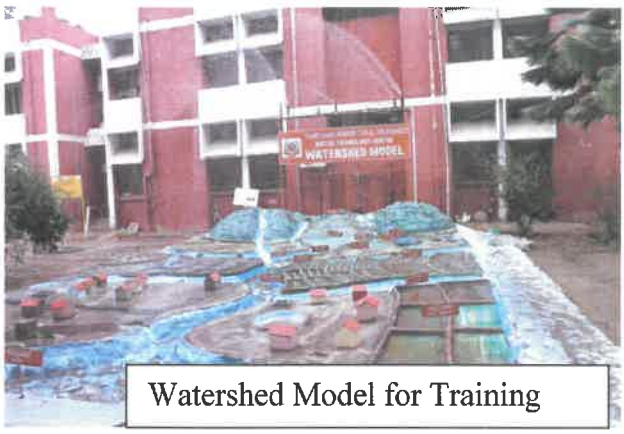
Rainwater Collection tank -2 at Free Man Block

Recharge Pit being serviced every year

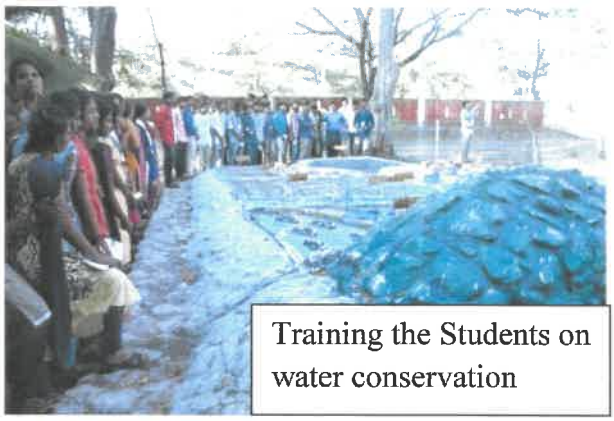


Annual volume of water recharged from Roof Top RWH (700 m^3)

Vice-Chancellor inspecting a Rain Water Harvesting Structure



Watershed Model for Training



Training the Students on water conservation