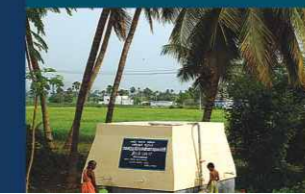
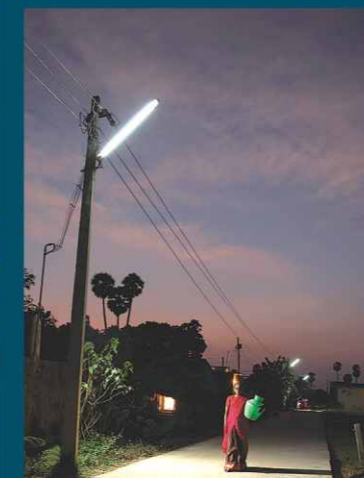
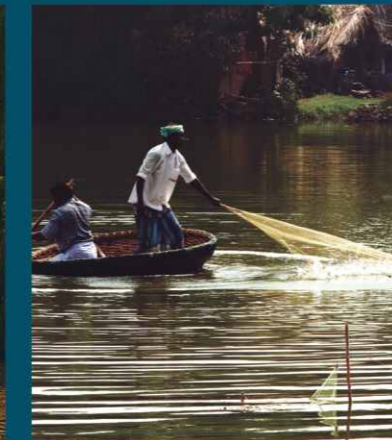




# Four Years of Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam (2006-2007 to 2009-2010)

Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Tamil Nadu



Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department,  
Government of Tamil Nadu

[www.tnrd.gov.in](http://www.tnrd.gov.in)

***Acknowledgement:***

This booklet documents the various items of work taken up under the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam (AGAMT), the flagship programme of the Government of Tamil Nadu, over the first four years of its implementation (2006-07 to 2009-10). As the saying goes, only seeing is believing. I wish to thank Thiru Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, for making available the various data and photographs; Thiru S. Sattanathan, Director of the State Institute of Rural Development, for doing an excellent job of overseeing the design and printing work; and all the other staff of the Department who helped me in different ways in bringing out this booklet.

**K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty, IAS**

Principal Secretary to Government,  
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department,  
Government of Tamil Nadu.

# Four Years of Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam (2006-2007 to 2009-2010)

**Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Tamil Nadu**

Inauguration of Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam by Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Kalignar M.Karunanidhi at Tirumathalampakkam Village of Vellore District on 21st January 2007





**Thiru M.K. Stalin**, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the driving force behind Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam, adds a personal touch by interacting with villagers during his inspections of scheme works throughout the State.



## Translating A Dream Into Reality

“When one goes abroad, one notices little or no difference between a village and a town in terms of the amenities available. Villages abroad enjoy equally beautiful houses, roads, shops, restaurants, hotels, bus stands and railway stations as their city counterparts. Thus urban migration and settlement is minimised which, in turn, reduces congestion in the cities. When villages progress like cities, villagers will not yearn for urban living.”

- Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi

Tamil Nadu has a well deserved reputation as one of the best performing States in the implementation of various Rural Development programmes. It also enjoys the distinction of pioneering a number of schemes and initiatives which became trend-setters for other States, and which were subsequently launched as All-India schemes by the Government of India. The 'Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam' (All Villages Anna Renaissance Scheme), a 5-year programme funded entirely by the State Government which is under implementation from 2006-07 onwards, is another such pioneering scheme.

Conceived by the Honourable Deputy Chief Minister, Thiru M.K.Stalin, the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam (AGAMT) was formally launched on 21st January 2007 at a grand function in Vellore District by the Honourable Chief Minister. The goal of the scheme is to bridge the urban-rural divide and enhance the quality of life in rural areas by providing a specified set of amenities to all the 12,618 Village Panchayats in the State. In short, AGAMT aims at transforming Honourable Chief Minister, Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi's dream into reality. For example, Tamil Nadu will have the unique distinction of being the only State in the country to have a library and a sports centre in each and every Village Panchayat once AGAMT is completed by 2011.

Under AGAMT, about one-fifth of the total number of Village Panchayats in the State are taken up in each financial year beginning from 2006-07 so that all the Village Panchayats are covered by 2010-11. This is done in order to avoid spreading the resources thinly which would render the taking up of substantial and meaningful works difficult. Under AGAMT, the selection of Village Panchayats is 'formula-based' giving no scope for favouritism of any kind. The Village Panchayats are selected in the ascending order of per capita income - the 'antyodaya approach'.

**No. of Village Panchayats covered and Annual Allocation under AGAMT**

S.No	Year	No. of Village Panchayats taken up under AGAMT	Annual Allocation of State funds (Rs. in crores)
1	2006-07	2,540	513.80
2	2007-08	2,534	511.87
3	2008-09	2,520	509.04
4	2009-10	2,510	507.02
5	2010-11	2,514	507.83
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12,618</b>	<b>2548.83</b>

The Scheme aims at a substantial injection of resources amounting to Rs. 20 lakhs per Village Panchayat or about Rs.500 crores per year for the State as a whole, making it by far the biggest, in terms of allocation, among all the Centrally-sponsored and State-funded schemes currently under implementation, with the exception of the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme. Setting up a village library, sports centre, burial ground-cum-cremation shed, water harvesting structure, and augmenting drinking water supply systems are 'compulsory items' for all Village Panchayats, and these are also the statutory responsibilities enjoined on Village Panchayats under the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994. A sum of Rs.15 lakhs out of the total available amount of Rs.20 lakhs has been earmarked for such compulsory items and is called the 'tied component'. Other amenities and services such as cement concrete streets, extension of street lights to uncovered areas, inland fisheries, threshing floors, bus shelters, village theatres, village shandies, culverts, etc are 'optional items' which Village Panchayats may take up based on need out of the 'untied component' of Rs.5 lakhs.

Further, funds from other schemes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department and other departments such as Highways, Public Works, Social Welfare, Health, Education, Agriculture Engineering, and TWAD among others will also be dovetailed as far as possible into the Village Panchayats taken up under Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam. The goal is to ensure the convergence of about Rs.60 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore of funds under various Governmental schemes to each AGAMT Village Panchayat. In addition, proposals for about Rs.400 crores in a year for forming/upgrading approach roads and link roads to the AGAMT Village Panchayats of each financial year are got sanctioned under RIDF-NABARD. The idea is to bring about an all-round and wholesome development of all the villages.

AGAMT has been a success story and is a text book example of what can be achieved through intelligent convergence of resources.

"My idea of Village Swaraj is that it is a complete republic, independent of its neighbours for its own wants and yet interdependent for many others in which dependence is necessary...It should have a reserve for its cattle, recreation and playground for adults and children...The village will maintain a village theatre, school and public hall. It will have its own waterworks ensuring clean water supply. This can be done through controlled wells or tanks".

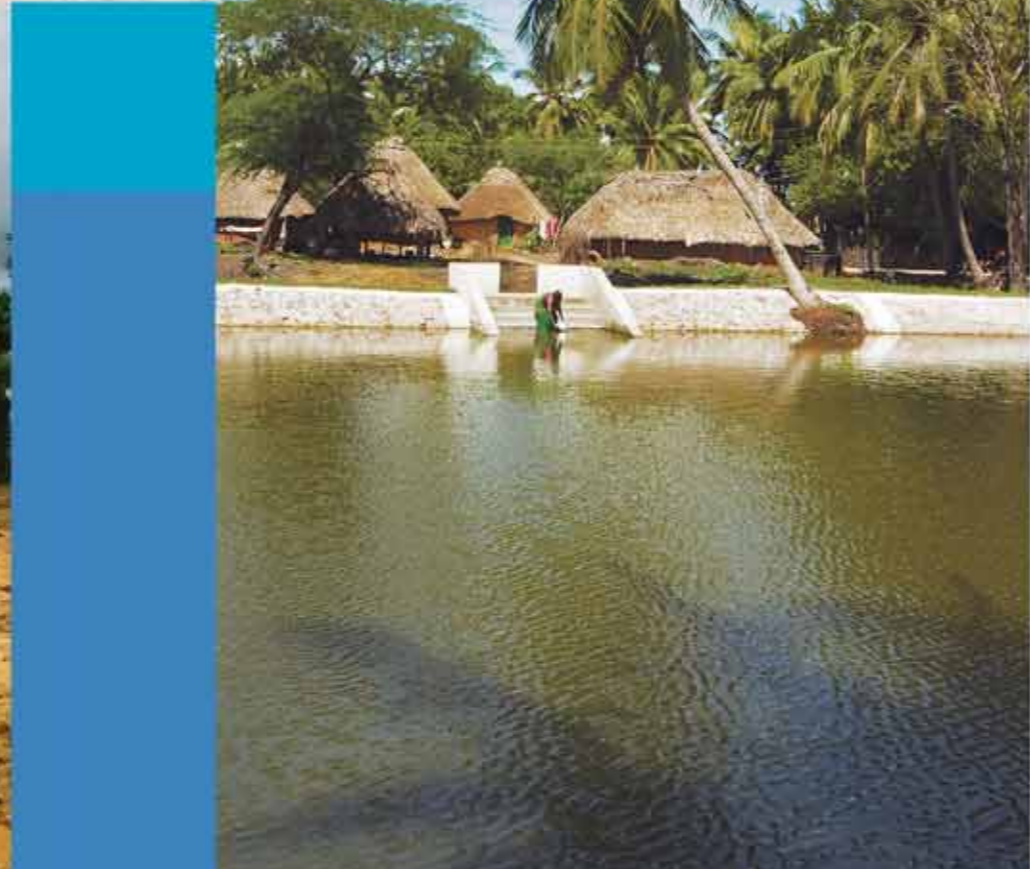
**- Mahatma Gandhi**



## Water Harvesting Structures

*The wealth of men who love the 'fitting way,' the truly wise,  
Is as when water fills the lake that village needs supplies. - Thiruvalluvar*

Water Harvesting Structures are the lifeline of rural areas especially in Tamil Nadu, which is famous for its excellent network of irrigation tanks, temple tanks, ponds, ooranies, kuttais and kulams. Over the years, due to the silting up of these water bodies combined with continued neglect for want of funds, there has been a drastic reduction in their storage capacities, consequent depletion of ground water, and encroachment of these bodies by miscreants for alternative uses to the detriment of the community at large. By making renovation of existing water bodies/formation of new ones as one of the compulsory components of AGAMT, the Government has sought to address one of the most important and long felt demands of the village community.



At least one water harvesting structure is to be renovated or newly constructed at a cost of Rs.3-5 lakhs in each AGAMT village. While a pond or oorani is the preferred option, if these are not available, temple tanks or minor irrigation tanks or big check dams can also be taken up. A typical pond or oorani work taken up under AGAMT has a distinctive look and includes the following features:

- ◆ A Main Pond with a minimum depth of 2 metres beyond the existing depth.
- ◆ A Baby Pond with half the length and half the breadth of the main pond at a depth of minimum 1 metre beneath the level of the main pond, and random rubble masonry/rough stone packing to prevent caving in when the pond is full of water.
- ◆ A Bathing Ghat is compulsorily provided in each pond, and channel from the baby pond is extended to the bathing ghat in order to ensure availability of water at the footsteps even during the dry season.

- ◆ Desilting of inlet and outlet channels are also taken up along with the desilting of pond/oorani/tank.
- ◆ One or more sides of the pond are provided with retaining wall of random rubble masonry / rough stone dry packing.
- ◆ A few concrete benches are also provided along the bund of the pond for people to sit.

**No. of Ponds/Ooraries renovated under AGAMT**

Sl. No.	Year	No.of Ponds/Ooraries renovated	Amount (Rs.in crores)
1	2006-07	2,599	88.79
2	2007-08	2,546	91.27
3	2008-09	2,520	121.31
4	2009-10	2,510	115.71

- ◆ The remaining 2,514 Village Panchayats will be covered during 2010-11.







## Impact

The renovation and improvements to Water Harvesting Structures under AGAMT have resulted in:

- ◆ Revival of defunct drinking water sources and temple tanks.
- ◆ Prolonged availability of water even during summer season, thanks to the provision of baby ponds.
- ◆ Improvements in the ground water level.
- ◆ Retrieval of valuable water bodies from encroachment.
- ◆ Transformation of veritable cesspools in the midst of the Village Panchayats into beautiful Water Harvesting Structures

### Scheme component: Pond/ Oorani/ Tank

- A compulsory component under the scheme
- Baby ponds sustain water even in summer
- An eyesore turned into an icon of a rural village





## Burial ground-cum-Cremation Shed

*Existing yesterday, to day to nothing hurled!*

*Such greatness owns this transitory world. - Thiruvalluvar*

The multifarious burial/cremation practices prevailing in different cultures have a common underlying theme, namely, respectful farewell to the departed. While formulating the AGAMT, it was observed that almost all the Village Panchayats in Tamil Nadu lacked proper burial ground-cum-cremation facilities although provision of these facilities is one of the statutory responsibilities of Village Panchayats. Therefore, provision of at least one burial ground-cum-cremation shed for each Village Panchayat has been made a compulsory component of AGAMT Scheme. Today the rural landscape in Tamil Nadu is dotted with thousands of distinctive looking burial grounds-cum-cremation sheds constructed under AGAMT with the following facilities:





- ◆ A **Cement Concrete Pavement** as an approach road to the cremation platform from the burial ground gate and beyond for a length of at least 50 metres.
- ◆ A **Compound Wall** on the main entrance side with the boundaries on other three sides being demarcated with pre-cast cement concrete pillars.
- ◆ A **Cremation Shed with a raised platform** surfaced with fire resistant bricks/sand; RCC roof with chimney supported on 4 pillars; cement concrete pathway on the four sides. This can also be modified into a waiting shed in case of villages where cremation is not in practice.
- ◆ A **Hand Pump** for ablution purposes.
- ◆ **Street Lights** are provided based on necessity.
- ◆ Additional burial grounds-cum-cremation sheds within the AGAMT Village Panchayat, if deemed necessary, can be taken up from the untied component of the AGAMT Scheme.

No. of Burial Grounds established under AGAMT			
S.No	Year	No. of Burial Grounds established	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
1	2006-07	4,482	75.32
2	2007-08	3,850	70.64
3	2008-09	3,531	74.31
4	2009-10	3,531	79.60

- ◆ Improvements to Burial Grounds/Cremation Sheds will be taken up in the remaining 2,514 Village Panchayats during 2010-11.

**Scheme component:** Burial Ground/ Cremation Shed

- Additional provision of concrete approach road, raised cremation platform, compound wall, water and lighting facility
- Rainy season or darkness will neither hinder the last rites performed
- The dead offered a fitting farewell



## Libraries

*The twain that lore of numbers and of letters give  
Are eyes, the wise declare, to all on earth that live. - Thiruvalluvar*

In the beginning of 2006-07, there were a little over a thousand Village Libraries in Tamil Nadu run by the Department of Public Libraries. One of the most serious handicaps that rural youth suffer from vis-à-vis their urban counterparts is the lack of access to library facilities. AGAMT has sought to correct this by setting up a good, modern library in each and every Village Panchayat in the State so as to promote the reading habit among the rural folk, both young and old, and to improve the quality of human resources in the villages. The Village Library has been made a compulsory component of AGAMT as opening and maintaining libraries and reading rooms is one of the statutory responsibilities of Village Panchayats. On 31.3.2011, Tamil Nadu will have the distinction of becoming the first State in the country to have a library in all its 12,618 Village Panchayats.



Some of the salient features of AGAMT Library component are:

- ◆ Under this component, a new library building with a minimum plinth area of 400 sq. feet is constructed with bookshelves and lofts. An existing building with the same area may also be used after undertaking due repair works.
- ◆ Furniture like rectangular tables, chairs, book racks, etc are provided at a cost of about Rs.50,000 per library.
- ◆ A retired official or teacher is appointed as Honorary Librarian for each library on a honorarium of Rs.750 per month.
- ◆ Couplets from Thirukkural relating to education are prominently painted on the walls of the Library.
- ◆ The maps of the World, India, Tamil Nadu and the District are also displayed prominently within the library building.
- ◆ The libraries function between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. and between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. every day.
- ◆ Books worth Rs.50,000 are provided in each library, of which at least 85% are Tamil books.

#### No. of Libraries established under AGAMT

S.No	Year	No. of Libraries established	Amount (Rs. in crores)	No. of books supplied or under supply to each Library
1	2006-07	2,540	31.96	897
2	2007-08	2,534	40.18	897
3	2008-09	2,520	75.50	1013
4	2009-10	2,510	79.78	1013

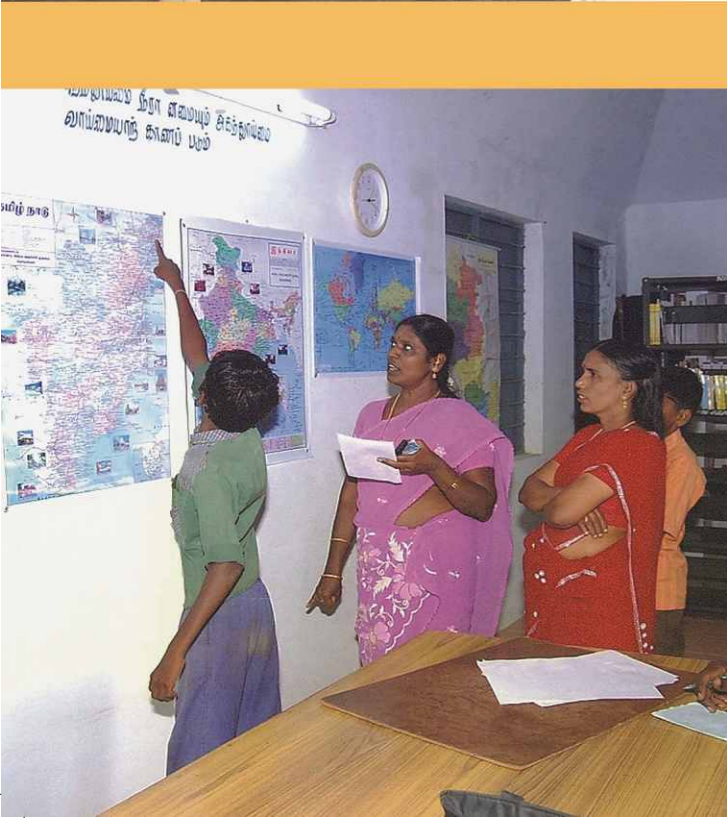
- ◆ Another 2,514 Libraries will be established during 2010-11.

#### Books for AGAMT Libraries:

A State level Committee has been formed with eminent personalities to select books for AGAMT libraries under the following categories: i) Children's books, ii) Youth books, iii) Reference books, iv) Self Help books, v) Books by great authors, vi) Books on eminent personalities, vii) Fiction, viii) Non-fiction, ix) Classics and x) Poetry.

District Collectors also take efforts to secure new and second-hand books through sponsorship. Subscriptions to newspapers and magazines are mobilized through service organizations such as Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs etc., and also through philanthropists. Books available in the existing libraries such as 'Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Noolagam' are also pooled and kept in the AGAMT Libraries.





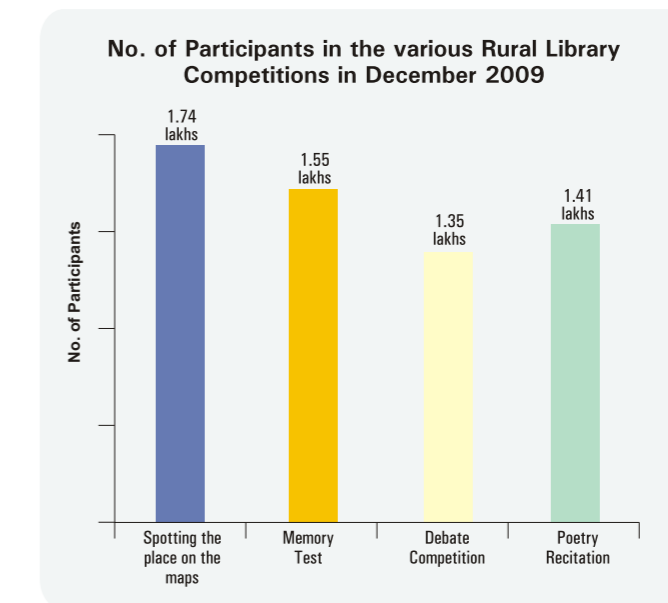
### Rural Library Competitions

To popularize the usage of libraries and to bring out the literary talents of the children and youth living in rural areas, Rural Library Competitions in AGAMT 2006-07 & 2007-08 Village Panchayat Libraries were held in the 2nd fortnight of December, 2009. The participants in these competitions were divided into 3 categories:

- ◆ Primary and Middle school - Students (both boys and girls) presently studying up to Class 8th.
- ◆ High School & Higher Secondary School - Students (both boys and girls) presently studying in Class 9th to 12th.
- ◆ Other - Children and youth (both boys and girls) not falling in categories 1 & 2 above, including school dropouts.

Four events were organized for all the categories of participants:

- ◆ Spotting the places on the maps.
- ◆ Memory test based on the books available in AGAMT library.
- ◆ Debate Competition.
- ◆ Poetry Recitation.



**Scheme component: Libraries**

- Rural Library competitions for children and youth to show off their literary acumen
- 1.41 Lakh participants for poetry recitation alone
- Inclusion of school dropouts too in the competitions



## Sports Centres

*No need of medicine to heal your body's pain,  
If, what you ate before digested well, you eat again. - Thiruvalluvar*

Sports and physical culture are essential for the all round development of children and youth. Although establishment of Sports Centres is a statutory duty of the Village Panchayats, there were barely any in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu till 2006-07. Rural youth were unable to fulfill their potential in sports and physical culture owing to lack of access to sports and gym facilities. An earlier attempt to set up Sports-cum-Recreation Centres in all the Village Panchayats initiated during 2000-01 failed due to lack of continued support. AGAMT has sought to make a real contribution to the promotion of sports in rural areas by making it compulsory to establish a Sports Centre in each and every Village Panchayat. On 1.4.2011, Tamil Nadu will become the first State in the country to have a well-equipped Sports Centre in all its 12,618 Village Panchayats. It may be noted that the Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) Scheme of the Government of India has been modelled on the Sports component of AGAMT.

Wherever a Village Panchayat has a Government High School or a Higher Secondary School located within it, a School Sports Centre is to be set up. In other Village Panchayats, Community Sports Centres are to be set up.



**School Sports Centres** are established at a cost of approximately Rs. 1.5 Lakhs with the following facilities along with their accessories:

- ◆ A Volley ball court.
- ◆ A Ball badminton court.
- ◆ A Tennikoit court for girls.
- ◆ Foot ball and Hockey goal posts with kits.
- ◆ Cricket kits with mat and practice net.
- ◆ Basket ball court.
- ◆ Long jump and High jump pits.
- ◆ Javelin, Discus, Shot-put.
- ◆ Pull-up bars, Parallel bars, Multiple sets of weights, Dumb-bells, Bench press, etc.
- ◆ Table tennis board.
- ◆ Chess boards and Carrom boards (4 sets each)

**Community Sports Centres** are established at a cost of approximately Rs. 1 Lakh with the following facilities along with their accessories:

- ◆ A Volleyball court.
- ◆ A Ball badminton court.
- ◆ A Tennikoit court for girls.
- ◆ Long jump and High jump pits.
- ◆ Pull-up bars, Parallel bars, Multiple sets of weights, Dumb-bells, Bench press, etc.
- ◆ Chess boards and Carrom Boards (4 Sets each)
- ◆ See-saws, Slides and Swings for children (2 sets)

**Scheme component: Sports Centres**

- School Sports Centres in Village Panchayats having High School or Higher Secondary School and Community Sports Centres in other Villages
- Rural Sports Competitions conducted twice a year in September and January
- Rs. 10,000/- earmarked as annual maintenance grant to keep sporting alive in the years to come





### Rural Sports Competitions:

The Village Panchayats are encouraged to organize sports events during local festivals using the Rural Sports Centres. Further, Rural Sports Competitions are now being conducted at least twice a year i.e. on 15th September (Perarignar Anna's Birth Day) and during the Pongal season in the 2nd week of January.

Individual and team events are conducted in the following disciplines.

1. Long jump and High jump
  - i) Junior-Boys    ii) Senior-Boys    iii) Junior-Girls    iv) Senior-Girls
2. Chess, Carrom, 100m Sprint
  - i) Sub Junior-Boys    ii) Sub Junior-Girls    iii) Junior-Boys
  - iv) Senior-Boys    v) Junior-Girls    vi) Senior-Girls

### Team Events

1. Volley Ball - Senior-Boys
2. Tennikoit i) Junior-Girls    ii) Senior-Girls

### Participation in the Rural Sports Competitions

S. No.	Event	No. of Participants in September 2009	No. of Participants in January 2010
1	Volley ball	32,465	30,878
2	Tenni koit	39,149	43,584
3	Chess	1,44,990	1,89,900
4	Carrom	1,67,371	2,14,689
5	100m Sprint	2,69,102	3,03,649
6	Long jump	1,83,013	2,03,970
7	High jump	1,61,904	1,89,363
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,97,994</b>	<b>11,76,033</b>

### No. of Sports Centres installed under AGAMT

S.No	Year	No. of Community Sports Centres	No. of School Sports Centres	Total Sports Centres	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2006-07	2,083	457	2,540	24.41
2	2007-08	2,044	490	2,534	26.71
3	2008-09	2,041	479	2,520	27.59
4	2009-10	2,055	455	2,510	28.58

◆ The remaining 2,514 Sports Centres will be established under AGAMT in the year 2010-11.



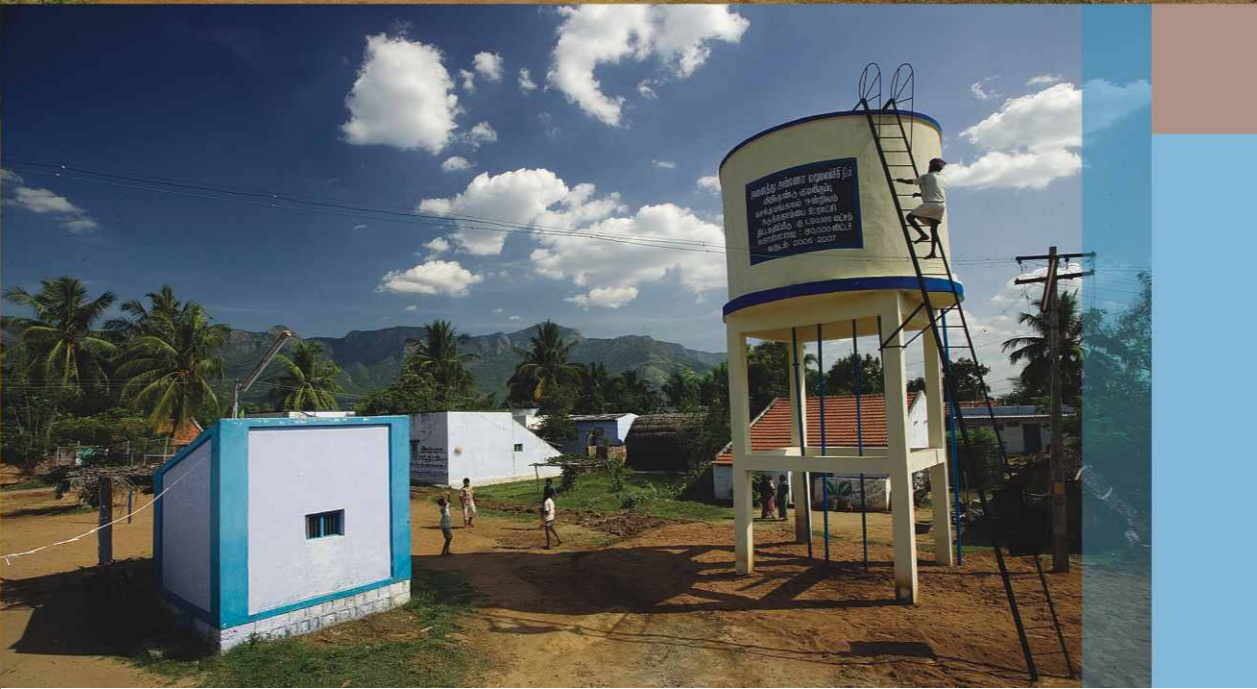


## Water Supply Systems

*When water fails, functions of nature cease, you say;*

*Thus when rain fails, no men can walk in 'duty's ordered way'. - Thiruvalluvar.*

Water is the elixir of life. Given the high priority accorded to drinking water by the Government of Tamil Nadu, provision of Water Supply Systems is a compulsory component under AGAMT with a minimum outlay of Rs. 1 Lakh or more per Village Panchayat. The works include installation or replacement of Hand Pumps, Power Pumps, mini Power Pumps, Public Fountains, construction of new Over Head Tanks, extension of pipelines and any other works such as flushing and fishing of borewells.



No. of Water Supply works provided under AGAMT

S.No	Year	No. of Water Supply works provided	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2006-07	8,576	42.42
2	2007-08	7,265	46.48
3	2008-09	5,693	40.04
4	2009-10	4,820	40.89

◆ The remaining 2,514 Village Panchayats will be covered during 2010-11.

**Scheme component: Water Supply System**

- One of the basic needs of human being fulfilled and maintained
- 26,217 water supply works completed in 4 years
- A system of supply created for distribution of water



## Cement Concrete Streets

Village streets in Tamil Nadu are being paved with cement concrete in a phased manner over the past ten years in order to make them last longer and reduce maintenance costs. This has been an immensely popular item of work. A large number of cement concrete street works have been taken up under AGAMT during the past 4 years as shown below:

No. of Cement Concrete Pavements laid under AGAMT

S.No	Year	No. of Cement Concrete Pavement works	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2006-07	9,972	11.74
2	2007-08	8,158	10.14
3	2008-09	5,519	6.95
4	2009-10	4,224	5.78



## Street Lights

Though all the Village Panchayats in Tamil Nadu had been electrified even by the late 1950s, individual hamlets of many Village Panchayats and newly developed layouts had not been electrified. The Government of Tamil Nadu has given top priority to extending rural electrification to all such hamlets and newly developed layouts, and as of 31.3.2010, over 99.5% of all the hamlets have been covered. Under AGAMT, street lights have been extended to almost all the left-out hamlets in the State, and additional light-bearing poles have been provided wherever their numbers were less. Sodium Vapour lamps have also been provided at places such as bus stands, village shandies, public distribution shops, Village Panchayat offices, Rural Sports Centres where people tend to congregate.

No. of Street Lights provided under AGAMT

S.No	Year	No. of Street Lights provided	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2006-07	33,186	31.53
2	2007-08	29,316	27.85
3	2008-09	24,432	23.21
4	2009-10	20,657	19.62



## Inland fisheries

With coastal fishing have been exploited almost to the hilt, there is plenty of scope for developing Inland fisheries due to the large number of ponds, lakes and tanks in Tamil Nadu. AGAMT provides for undertaking Inland fisheries in those Village Panchayats where there is a good scope for taking it up profitably. Quality fingerlings are obtained with the assistance of Fisheries Department for fish culture, and the harvesting is done by the villagers themselves, with priority given to the women's Self Help Groups of the Village Panchayat.

**No. of Fish Ponds established under AGAMT**

S.No	Year	No. of Fish Ponds established	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2006-07	1,031	2.38
2	2007-08	1,097	2.45
3	2008-09	908	1.36
4	2009-10	666	1.51

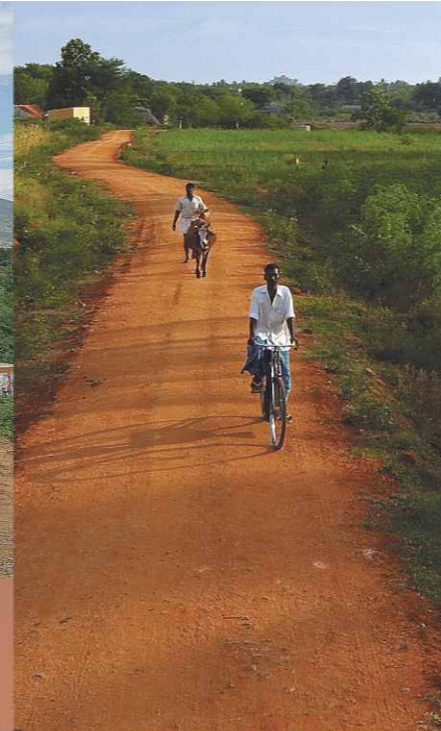


## Village Shandies

Improvement to existing Village Shandies by way of provision of adequate infrastructure such as stalls, permanent platforms, drinking water, lighting, proper approach road, and parking facilities for bullock carts and vehicles is one of the optional components of AGAMT.

**No. of Village Shandies constructed under AGAMT**

S.No	Year	No. of Village Shandies constructed	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2006-07	122	1.21
2	2007-08	46	0.69
3	2008-09	32	0.59
4	2009-10	14	0.25



## Other Works

The provision of untied component of Rs. 5 lakhs under AGAMT offers the latitude to Village Panchayats to take up various types of works based on local needs such as culverts, village theatres, drainages, threshing floors, bus shelters, public distribution shops etc.

No. of other works taken up under under AGAMT

S.No	Year	No. of other works taken up	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2006-07	7,691	74.08
2	2007-08	6,712	72.09
3	2008-09	4,713	47.32
4	2009-10	4,381	51.15







## Road Works

About one-fifth of Village Panchayats in the State are taken up under AGAMT each year. Panchayat Union roads and Village Panchayat roads which are in bad condition and lead directly or indirectly to or are in the vicinity of the AGAMT villages and which are important from a socio-economic point of view are taken up for improvement up to BT standard under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD. The roads pertaining to the AGAMT Village Panchayats of a given year are taken up under NABARD-RIDF in the following year. Till 31.3.2010, about Rs. 1,018.93 crores of NABARD-RIDF assistance has been availed of to provide a robust road infrastructure to AGAMT Village Panchayats.

Year	NABARD-RIDF Road works in AGAMT Village Panchayats	
	km	Amount
2007-08	3,643.05	439.67
2008-09	2,691.76	379.17
2009-10	1,495.57	200.09
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9,316.68</b>	<b>1,018.93</b>



## Panchayat Union School Renovation Programme:

The 22,000 Panchayat Union Primary schools and 4,500 Panchayat Union Middle schools in the State are being repaired and renovated in a phased manner by adopting the 'AGAMT Village Panchayats' approach, i.e. all the dilapidated school buildings coming within the AGAMT Village Panchayats of a given year are taken up for repairs and renovation in that year. The old and damaged tiled or asbestos roofs have been replaced with new tiled roofs; damaged weathering course in RCC-roofed buildings has been replaced with new ones; cracks in roofs, walls and flooring have been repaired; broken doors and windows have been replaced; and whitewashing and colour-washing of the buildings have been done in order to give a complete facelift to the Panchayat Union School buildings.

**Details of works taken up under Panchayat Union School Renovation Programme**

Year	Details of works taken up	Amount (Rs. in crores)
2006-07 & 2007-08	9,547	104.25
2008-09	4,432	69.30
2009-10	4,124	67.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,103</b>	<b>241.11</b>



## Dovetailing of Funds from Other Schemes:

While Rs.20 lakhs for each AGAMT Village Panchayat is a substantial allocation of funds, it is supplemented by dovetailing funds from other Rural Development Schemes (such as IAY, SGSY, TSC and so on) and from the Schemes of other Departments such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Sericulture, Highways, Public Works Department, Social Welfare, and so on in order to facilitate the wholesome development of that Village Panchayat. While the goal is to ensure the convergence of about Rs.60 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore of funds under various Governmental schemes to each AGAMT Village Panchayat, the same has been achieved as may be seen from the following table.

**AGAMT-Dovetailing of other Schemes and Convergence of funds**

S. No.	Year	Average dovetailing amount per AGAMT Village Panchayat (Rs. in crores)
1	2006-07	0.84
2	2007-08	0.88
3	2008-09	1.04
4	2009-10	1.10

## Conclusion

AGAMT represents a new way of implementing rural development programmes. Instead of spreading resources thinly over all the 12,618 Village Panchayats each year, only one-fifth of the Village Panchayats were taken up each year under AGAMT and a generous allocation of Rs.20 lakhs per Village Panchayat is made in order to enable the taking up of substantial works. The implementation of the Scheme in only a handful of Village Panchayats in each Block in a year facilitated speedier execution and better monitoring. The selection of Village Panchayats in the ascending order of per capita income not only enabled the poorer Village Panchayats to be taken up first but was perceived as a fair mode of selection by all concerned. The AGAMT Village Panchayats for all the five financial years from 2006-07 to 2010-11 were fixed upfront in 2006-07 itself with no scope for any changes. This enabled advance planning and substantial dovetailing of funds from other Schemes into the AGAMT Village Panchayats at the beginning of each financial year. Instead of focussing only on physical infrastructure, AGAMT gives importance also to the provision of social infrastructure in all the Village Panchayats in the form of Libraries and Sports Centres – which is a ‘first’ in the country. The Centrally sponsored schemes usually have tight guidelines and do not offer the flexibility to take up works that may be locally desirable nor do they provide funds enabling Village Panchayats to carry out their statutory functions under the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994. AGAMT endeavours to plug both these ‘gaps’ by providing ‘untied funds’ of Rs.5 lakhs (out of Rs.20 lakhs allocation per Village Panchayat), with the remaining funds to be spent on statutory duties of the Village Panchayats. It is not an exaggeration to say that AGAMT has transformed the rural landscape of Tamil Nadu and placed it far ahead of other States in terms of both physical and social infrastructure.