



ORGANIZATION OF REGULATED MARKETS IN TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

Under the traditional system of buying and selling, the agricultural produce changes hands many times between the farmer and the ultimate consumer involving the intervention of several intermediaries like village traders, itinerant traders, wholesalers, commission agents, brokers and retailers in the process of marketing the produce. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Markets Act 1959 is intended to provide better regulation of buying and selling of agricultural produce and for the establishment and proper administration of Regulated Markets. A form of organization is necessary to enforce the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1959, and the rules framed there under. A Market Committee is established for the purpose, with a jurisdiction over a Revenue District. The Committee is constituted under the Act to administer the Regulated Market in the concerned area.

KEYWORDS : Market Committee, Regulated Markets, Agricultural produce**Introduction**

The primary object of regulating the markets is to safeguard the interest of the farmers and to raise the standard of local markets where the first exchange takes place. With a view to achieving this object, the Market Committees were established in Tamil Nadu under the provisions of the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act, 1933. This Act was amended in 1959 and renamed in 1987 as the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing Act, 1987. Before 1970, these Market Committees were under the control of the Department of Agriculture of the Government of Tamil Nadu. For the purpose of effective control over the Market Committees, the Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board was constituted in the year 1970 by an order of the Government.

Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board

In the year 1970, the Government considered the desirability of speeding up the development and functioning of Regulated Markets in the State and coordinating the activities of various Market Committees by entrusting the work to a separate body. Accordingly the Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board was constituted as an apex organization to coordinate the activities of the Market Committees in Tamil Nadu and maintaining to the extent possible uniform standards of practice in trading and to serve as an effective and crucial link between the Market Committees and the Government. The Board is a body corporate with jurisdiction over the entire state of Tamil Nadu for exercising the powers conferred on it, performing and discharging the duties imposed on it.

The Government has assigned the following duties to the Board:

- Propaganda, demonstration and publicity in respect of the development of agricultural marketing.
- Imparting education in Regulated Marketing of Agricultural produce.
- Training of officers and staff of Market Committees
- Grading and standardization of agricultural produce.
- Formation of new Market Committees.
- Conducting periodical inspection of Market Committees.

In the absence of statutory powers, the Board has carried out non-statutory functions. With a view to making all Regulated Markets active, the Board has taken action for intensive propaganda and publicity campaigns in all the districts with the active co-operation of the Market Committees. With a view to assist the propaganda campaign very effectively, a colour documentary film on Regulated Markets has been developed in the Arasu Studios. The Board was also publishing a market bulletin Seidhikadir containing valuable and useful information on Regulated Markets showing the arrivals

and prices. These two activities were dropped due to the heavy expenditure involved.

Another important landmark in the activities of the Board is the commencement of the training classes for the Market Committee staff. The training is given in all aspects of marketing with emphasis on Regulated Markets for a period of four weeks to all categories of employees of the Market Committees from the clerical grade and above.

In the meanwhile, the Government felt the need to create a separate Directorate for Agricultural Marketing for improving further activities of the Regulated Markets. As laid down under section 38 of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing Act, 1987, the Board has the statutory power to control the Market Committees functioning in Tamil Nadu.

It is observed that the departmental activities of the board comprise of exercising control over the regulatory activities of the Market Committees and inspecting the working of the Regulated Markets besides exercising the statutory powers.

Directorate of Agricultural Marketing

The Tamil Nadu Government materialized the idea of a separate Directorate of Agricultural Marketing on 14th October, 1977. The aim was to promote and develop the Agricultural Marketing Schemes in the State. The office of the Directorate of Agricultural Marketing functions at Trichy and the Directorate is assisted by a Deputy Director at Alandur, Madras, and eight Assistant Directors of Agriculture (Marketing) at Vellore, Kancheepuram, Salem, Cuddalore, Trichy, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore besides the administrative staff. The Market Committees is now functioning under Special Officers appointed in the cadre of Joint Director of Agriculture with effect from 7.6.1978 in the place of the committees as an emergency measure. There are fourteen Special Officers for each of the Market Committees functioning under the control of the Directorate of Agricultural Marketing to look after the developmental activities of the Regulated Markets. A Deputy Director of Agriculture stationed at Madras with an Assistant Director of Agriculture (Grading) looks after the grading and quality control works. He is assisted by a Regional Assistant Director of Agriculture (Marketing). Besides there are two Assistant Directors of Agriculture functioning at Tiruppur and Rajapalayam exclusively in charge of cotton certification and enforcement schemes.

The departmental activities of the Directorate of Agricultural Marketing are:

- To take action for timely and proper conduct of the election of

- the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Market Committees;
- To scrutinize the budget of Market Committees and to forward them to the Government with its recommendations;
- To grade and standardize all the notified agricultural produces; and
- To supervise the Market Committees for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing Act and the Rules made under this Act.

Market Committee

Under the traditional system of buying and selling, the agricultural produce changes hands many times between the farmer and the ultimate consumer involving the intervention of several intermediaries like village traders, itinerant traders, wholesalers, commission agents, brokers and retailers in the process of marketing the produce. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Markets Act 1959 is intended to provide better regulation of buying and selling of agricultural produce and for the establishment and proper administration of Regulated Markets.

A form of organization is necessary to enforce the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1959, and the rules framed there under. A Market Committee is established for the purpose, with a jurisdiction over a Revenue District. The Market Committee consists of persons representing the interests of the farmers, traders and local bodies. The Committee is constituted under the Act to administer the Regulated Market in the concerned area.

Constitution of Market Committees

An area covering a Revenue District is declared as a notified area and the Director of the Directorate of Agricultural Marketing constitutes a Market Committee with jurisdiction over the entire District. The Director nominates the persons. Then the members elect the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman from among themselves. The Committee finalizes the bye-law for the regulation of marketing the agricultural produce and starts functioning after the registration of the bye-laws. The second and subsequent committees are to be elected.

Composition of Market Committees

There was no fixed pattern of maximum and minimum number of members of the Market Committees in India before 1959. The number of members from various interested groups, such as farmers and traders also varies. For example, in Tamil Nadu the number of members is fixed as 16. In Karnataka the minimum is 12 and the maximum is 18. In Andhra Pradesh, the total number of members varies from committee to committee. Similarly, the number of representatives from farmers is fixed by the Government in Tamil Nadu whereas in Karnataka the rules stipulate the number as 'not less than half of the total number to be elected'. The composition of Market Committee differs from one State to another.

Services Rendered in the Regulated Markets

The services such as correct weightment go down facilities, banking facilities, immediate payment, price information, rest sheds, drinking water facility, cattle sheds, free medical aid to farmers, input shops, payment counter for easy disbursement and phone and fax facilities are rendered in the regulated markets. In order to avoid distress sales by the small and marginal farmers in the peak season, Regulated Markets are extending pledge loan facility to farmers. Under this scheme, the farmers can store their agricultural produce in the go downs of Regulated Markets for a maximum period of 6 months and take pledge loan of 75 per cent of the total value of the produce.

It could be seen that the Regulated Market Committees functioning in Tamil Nadu have followed no uniformity in providing the required facilities and amenities to the regulated markets controlled by them.

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