

CHAPTER IV

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TANWA PROGRAMME AND ITS PROGRESS

Small and marginal farmers play a crucial role in Tamil Nadu's agricultural scene. They account for 87 per cent of all land holdings in the state covering 49 per cent of the extent of cultivable land. Any effort excluding small and marginal farmers from agriculture would be a futile exercise.

Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA) had been assisting Government of India since early eighties to initiate farm women-oriented extension programmes in 4 states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. TANWA was one of such massive projects implemented in Tamil Nadu. The TANWA project aimed at familiarizing the small and marginal farmwomen with improved technological skills in agriculture which would be appropriate to their holdings through training cum extension programme.

OBJECTIVES

The long term objectives of TANWA relates to

- Increased productivity and improved security in small and marginal holdings.
- Recognition of farmwomen's productive role.
- Full utilization of the potential of the farmwomen in increasing agricultural production in small and marginal holdings.

The immediate objectives of the project relates to

- Farm women's ability to choose and adopt relevant agricultural technology and practices.
- Dissemination of agricultural knowledge and skills from trained farmwomen to un-trained fellow farmwomen.
- Improved access to existing agricultural extension services for women from small and marginal farms.
- Improved ability of such women to utilize the existing extension services effectively.
- Increased number of female extension officers in the Department of Agriculture.

ACTIVITIES OF TANWA

I. **Selection** of Farmwomen for training

- The women have to be wives of small and marginal farmers who work on their own land or the female heads of small and marginal farm holdings cultivating their own land.
- The women are to be in between 20-45 years of age.
- The women are interested in improving their agricultural practices.
- The women should have the ability, commitment to share their newly acquired knowledge with other farmwomen.
- The compositions of the farmwomen trainees reflect the caste composition.
- Literacy should not be a criterion. Rather preference should be given to illiterate.

Fig. 4.1. TANWA - PROBLEM TREE

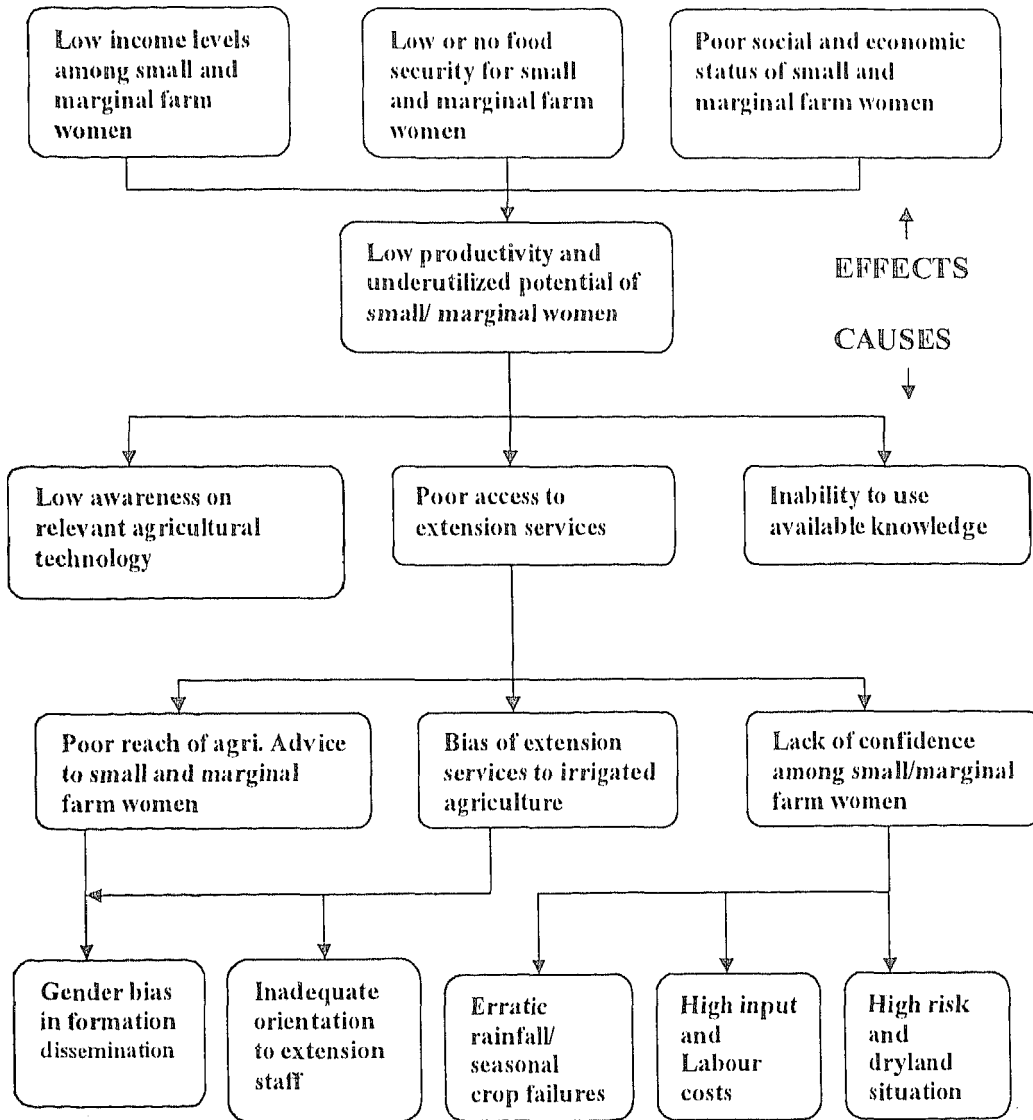
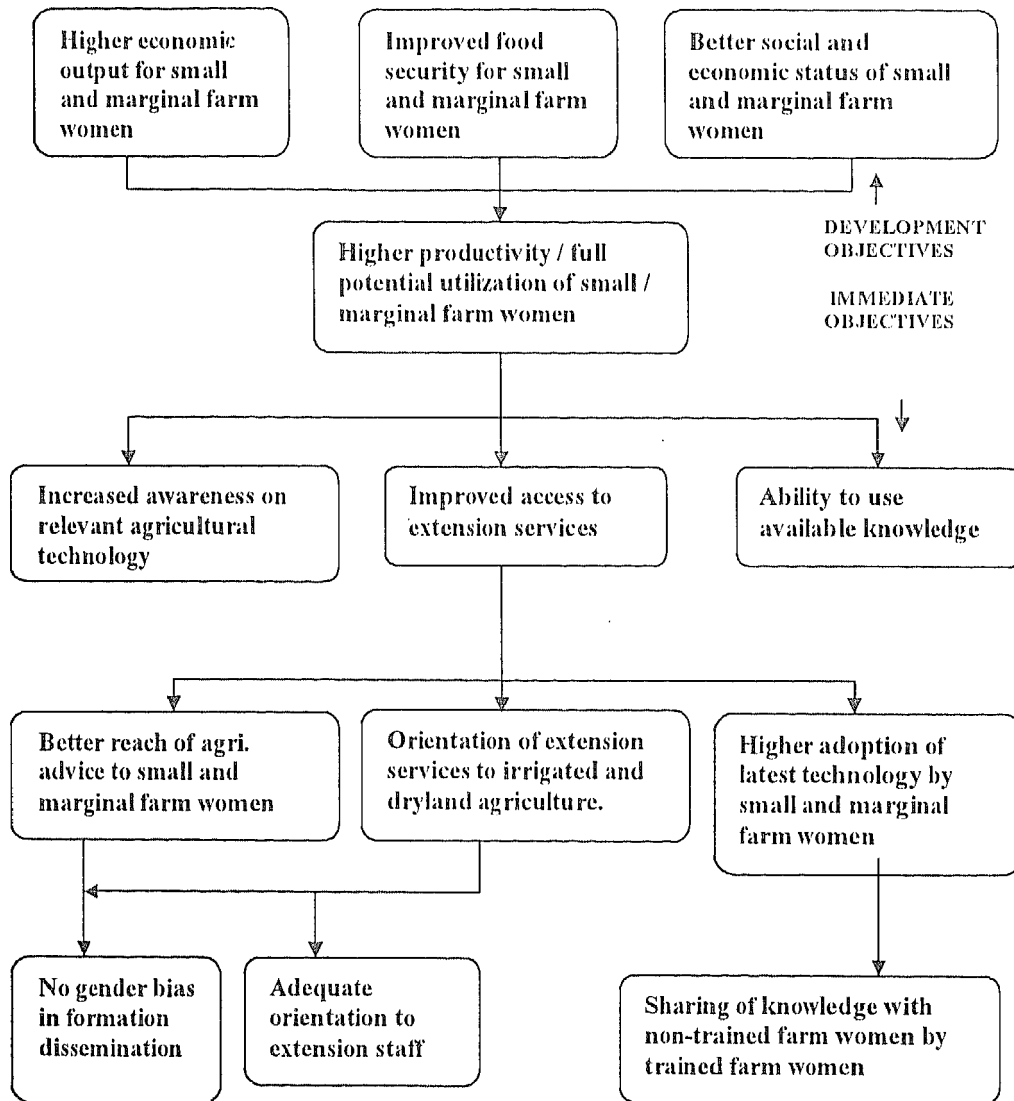


Fig. 4.2 TANWA OBJECTIVE TREE



El Training under TANWA

® Village based training

Each training batch had 25 farmwomen. The training session lasted for 5 days each. Trainees were exposed to 10 - 12 agricultural skills, relevant to local condition and of immediate adoption that were most productive and income generative. Five Women agricultural officers worked together with each batch.

o Specialized training

The trained farmwomen were further trained in specialized training in agriculture, Animal husbandry, Agro forestry, Sericulture, Siviculture etc. This was to enable them to earn additional income by having a small subsidiary enterprise of their own.

• Farm women Conferences

Farmwomen conferences enable the trained farmwomen to exchange their experiences and views. About 100 - 125 farmwomen participated in the one-day conference.

• Sharing Workshops

Sharing of experiences and assessment of the programme and refined training methodology were the objectives. Sharing workshops were organized twice a year for duration of 3 days.

III Follow up

The follow up visits were intended to monitor and support the farm women in the adoption of skills learnt and assist the farmwomen in having improved access to the normal extension services, Each trained farmwomen had ten follow up visits spread over two years.

IV TANWA Farm women group

The external review mission from Denmark visited TANWA project during May 1997 and recommended that for the benefit of farmwomen Self Help Groups could be formed for improving saving habits and involving micro enterprises thereby improving socio-economic status.

TANWA is an informal homogeneous group of 10 to 20 women, formed by TANWA trainees with trained and untrained farm women. Groups are cost effective way to deliver extension services to farmers. Many cultural difficulties are alleviated when male agents work with women groups rather than with individuals. Moreover women tend to speak out more freely in single-sex groups. This is one of the sustainable factors to continue TANWA activities even after withdrawal of the project.

Main objectives of TANWA farm women groups are:

- To enable the farm women to increase their family income by starting agricultural and allied activities.
- To encourage group savings (Micro-credit system).
- To foster an 'entrepreneurial' culture.

The savings of the members are collected in the weekly/fortnightly/ monthly intervals and are lent among members for their emergent credit needs. Lending procedure adopted by the groups is very simple and loans are provided on the basis of the combined wisdom.

The group decides on the rate of savings, on the timing of the loans, on the schedule of payments and repayments and on the interest rates. It assesses when and whether the member needs a loan and whether the farm women are able to use the loan effectively and to repay according to the schedule decides earlier.

Meetings are held regularly, preferably every month. Group training is held to enable all to participate effectively, especially the weaker members, to build group culture and raise the level of commitment to mutual support and acceptance of group decisions, to develop self confidence in private and public life to help members acquire the skills or conflict resolutions etc.

Implementation of the project

The Department of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu was the implementing agency of the project. At district level Joint Director of Agriculture and in Taluk level Assistant Director and support training teams. Agricultural Officer (farmwomen co-ordination) and Agricultural Officer (farmwomen) were posted at various districts and Agricultural Divisions for implementing the project activities. The services of Assistant Agricultural Officers (AAO's) already working in Department of Agriculture were made available. The training teams were provided

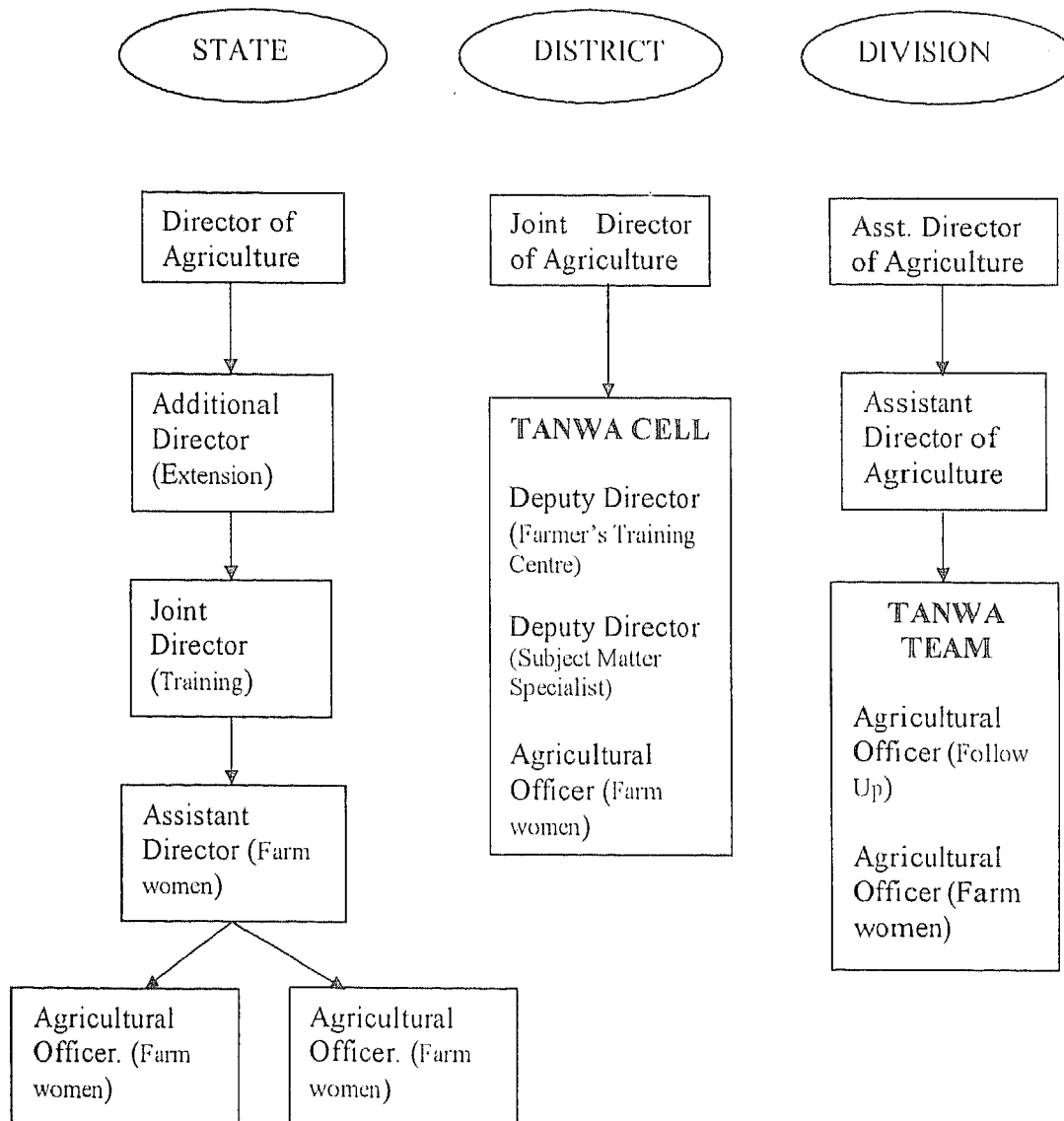
with vehicle and driver for mobility and also Audio-Visual aids for conducting training.

Tamil Nadu is divided into a number of districts for revenue and administrative purposes. Each district is subdivided into a number of agricultural divisions (Taluks) for operational purposes for executing the various programmes in the agricultural sector. There are 185 Taluks currently in existence.

Each agricultural division has number of Assistant Agricultural Officer (AAO) groups which are the basic units of operation for the agricultural extension activities. The AAO group is also the basic unit for organizing TANWA operations. Each AAO group covers on an average 4 to 5 village with around 800 farm holds. Presently there are about 3997 AAO groups in the state.

The Phase II of the TANWA project originally scheduled up to September 2000 was extended up to March 2003. Presently all the TANWA trained farm women are listed as 'Contact farmers' with whom AAO's keep in constant touch by visiting them regularly, providing them technical information and advice.

Fig. 4.3. TANWA ORGANOGRAM



PROGRESS OF TANWA PROGRAMME IN TAMILNADU

Table 4.1: OUTPUT OF TANWA - PHASE I (1986-1993)

S.No		Output realized from TANWA Phase I 1986 - 1993
1.	No. of small and marginal farm women trained	14782
2.	No. of training teams	6
3.	No. of women agricultural officers per team	5
4.	No. of districts covered	6
5.	No. of assistant agricultural officers group covered	495
6.	No. of non-trained farm women exposed to agriculture	3000
7.	No. of follow-up visits	990
8.	Special training	36
9.	Total number of women agricultural officer.	30

Source: Director of Agriculture, Chennai-5.

TANWA project phase I was in operation during the period 1986-1993. Over the seven year period it has raised awareness levels among 14,782 farm women, with small and marginal landholdings on use of latest agricultural techniques. The first phase covered six districts namely Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Ramnad and Tirunelveli. Each district had a training team with five women Agricultural Officers (AO) thus thirty women AO's in total. About 495 Assistant Agricultural Officer groups were trained. About 36 special training camps were organize in phase I of TANWA. Exposure was given to more than 3000 non-trained farm women. Due care was given to follow up visits during the first phase as reflected in 990 follow up visits that happened. The total project cost of phase I was Rs. 4 crores.

Table 4.2: OUTPUT OF TANWA - PHASE II (1993-2003)

	Achievement up to 2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	Total
Training Teams	55	-	-		55
Agricultural Officers (Head Quarters)	2	2	2	2	2
Agricultural Officers (Taluk Level)	165	-	-	-	165
Agricultural Officers (farm women)	21	185	185	185	185
Agricultural Officers (Farm Women Coordination)	27	28	28	28	28
Skill based Training	2081	505	370	370	3326
Women Farmers Trained	52021	12625	9250	9250	83145
Link Leaders	372	312	500	200	1212
Group based Special Training	1362	370	370	370	2472
Farm women Trained in Group Based Training/ Special Training	27240	7400	7400	7400	49490
Farmwomen Conferences	718	54	56	56	884
Farmwomen Groups	613	370	370	370	1723
Model Farms	731	480	555	555	2321
Assistant Agricultural Officers Oriented in TANWA	2096	548	370	370	3384
Spread Effect- Co-Farmwomen trained	481325	-	37000	37000	555325

Source: Director of Agriculture, Chennai-5.

The phase II of TANWA extended from 1993 to 2003. Fifty five training tesms functioned for conducting training programmes in different areas. I ho project coat ot phase II was Rs. 34 crores. Women farm graduates were appointed as Agricultural Officers at headquarters, district and division levels totaling to 215 positions for conducting training programmes. About 83,145 farm women were trained in phase II and 3326 skill based village level training programme were conducted. Farm women with leadership and communication skills were identified during the training programmes and designated as link leaders. They were given special focus based on which they motivated their fellow farm women and helped in formation and orientation of new TANWA groups.

Around 49,490 farm women were trained in 2472 group based special training. In the phase II of TANWA 884 farm women conferences were organized to facilitate sharing of know-how. About 1723 farm women groups were formed during the period. To prove worth of innovative agricultural technologies 2321 model farms were created at various locations across the state. These model farms served as learning centers for TANWA groups who came on an exposure visit to experience the implications of the techniques taught to them in the training. Even non-participants of TANWA were also inspired by these model farms. Orientation under TANWA was given to 3384 AAO's to enable them in the art of disseminating modem farm practices to farm women. In tune with the objectives of TANWA due attention was given to spread effect wherein 555325 co-farm women were benefited through dissemination of knowledge by TANWA participants.

Table 4.3: ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER TANWA PROGRAMME (Phase II)

S.no	DISTRICT	TANWA FARM WOMEN GROUPS	FARM WOMEN NETWORKING CONFERENCE	MODEL FARMS	MODEL FARM FIELD DAYS	SPREAD EFFECT TRAINING
1	Kancheepuram	39	6	35	126	24
2	Tiruvallur	58	6	40	144	28
3	Cuddalore	72	6	30	108	24
4	Villupuram	56	6	40	144	30
5	Vellore	70	6	35	126	26
6	Namakkal	47	6	36	72	16
7	Erode	35	6	35	126	28
8	Nilgiris	20	6	17	54	12
9	Coimbatore	55	6	35	126	28
10	Dindigul	20	6	28	108	24
11	Karur	37	6	26	72	16
12	Tiruchirappalli	37	6	35	126	26
13	Perambalur	40	6	32	108	16
14	Nagapattinam	13	6	24	108	18
15	Thiruvarur	57	6	33	126	18
16	Thanjavur	102	6	38	144	30
17	Pudukottai	44	6	35	126	22
18	Sivagangai	49	6	38	108	24
19	Madurai	80	6	35	126	28
20	Theni	34	6	29	90	20
21	Virudhunagar	78	6	36	144	32
22	Tuticorin	50	6	43	126	26
23	Tirunelveli	206	6	49	198	44
24	Kanyakumari	107	6	26	72	16
25	Thiruvannamalai	74	6	36	108	18
26	Dharmapuri	73	6	35	103	19
27	Salem	31	6	40	144	32
28	Ramanathapuram	6	6	27	90	12

Source: Director of Agriculture, Chennai-5.

Table 4.3 depicts the array of activities undertaken during phase II of TANWA programme, across various districts of Tamilnadu. It is to be noted that the achievement curve was not linear since the programme was implemented in phases with limited manpower. Moreover the motivation and support of the bureaucracy was not uniform in all the districts. It is quite natural that patronage of industrialized districts for TANWA would be lesser than that of agri based districts. Tirunelveli

district with 206 TANWA groups tops the list in formation where the District Collector was pro-TANWA and initiated special efforts towards the effective implementation of the programme, followed by Kanyakumari (105) and Thanjavur (102). With this encouragement, Mrs. Jansirani, a TANWA trainee from Tirunelveli won the ASPEE L.M. Patel farmer of the year National Award in the year 2000 for practicing dry land agriculture, agro forestry, mushroom cultivation and nursery preparation. More than 100 model farms were created in most of the districts barring a few which were limited by geographical factors. With highest number of groups in its fold, Tirunelveli district also has the highest model farms created and spread effect campaigns conducted to its credit.