

Training in Agriculture by BARC & State Agri Department

The Tamil Nadu Government has established an Open-Air-Prison, at Purasadai udaippu in Sivaganga District, in a sprawling 97.4 acres of fertile land, intended for reforming the inmates with agricultural background, and reforming & reintegrating them, as responsible citizens, on their



release. The premier research Organization of the Country, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, has extended its technological expertise and guidance in training the inmates in agriculture-related activities. BARC made available 350 kg of the high-yielding, drought-tolerant, disease-resistant & early-maturing Trombay Groundnut variety TG-37A free-of-cost, as a goodwill gesture, for cultivation in the Purasadaiudaippu OAP. The passionate inmates developed the crop under the supervision and advice of the State Agricultural Officers and the BARC Scientists, and the harvested seeds were distributed to the Central Prisons throughout the State.



The Palayamkottai Prison inmates demonstrated their skill-sets and the superiority of TG-37A through reaping a rich-harvest of 5,600 kg from 140 kg of the seeds sown in 1.6 Hectare of land, in 101 days, with minimum cost of cultivation. BARC's TG-37A groundnut has in-deed excited the inmates and contributed to the

reforming & correctional endeavours of the Prison Department. These high-quality seeds were also distributed to the progressive agriculturalists of Tirunelveli District, besides being used for their consumption. One such farmer, Shri T.Selvaraj of Kudankulam village showcased the repeat



performance of TG-37A in his field and also shared his joy and proceeds with his fellow-farmers.

Sowing of the home-grown third generation TG-37A crop was launched by Dr.M.Karunakaran, IAS District Collector, Tirunelveli District at Palayamkottai Central Prison on 15th April 2015, in the presence of Shri J.Daniel Chellappa, Senior Scientist (TCW), BARC, Chennai and Shri R.Kanagaraj, the Superintendent of Prison.