

TAMIL NADU PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

CODE: 409

(DEGREE STANDARD)

UNIT-I: SURVEYING AND HYDROLOGY

Surveying – Instruments - Methods of surveying – Linear measurements - Computation of area – Triangulation, intersection, traversing, cross staff survey – Plane table survey – Earth work computation -Simpson’s and trapezoidal rule - Levelling - Definition - Types of benchmarks - Different types of levels – Reduced level by rise and fall method and height of collimation method - Contouring – Profile surveying - Cross section survey - Use of Minor instruments - Theodolite survey - Total station - GPS survey. Hydrology – Measurement of rainfall, evaporation and infiltration – Estimation of runoff – Factors affecting runoff – Computation of volume of runoff and peak flow – Unit hydrograph - Occurrence and movement of ground water - ground water exploration techniques - hydraulics of wells, types of wells and their construction - Well drilling – Methods and machinery - Techniques for different formations - Well logging - Types of well screen - Design of well screens - Well development - Yield testing.

UNIT-II: SOIL EROSION AND CONSERVATION

Soil erosion – Types – Factors affecting erosion by water and wind - Stages of water erosion - Biological control measures and their suitability - Contour farming, strip cropping, mixed cropping, intercropping and mulching - Mechanical control measures and their suitability – Design and construction of contour bunds, graded bunds, terraces, contour stone walls, contour trenches, staggered trenches and diversion drain - Gully control structures and check dams - Wind erosion – Types and control - Wind breaks and shelter belts - Dry farming techniques for improving crop production - Estimation of soil erosion - Universal Soil Loss Equation.

UNIT-III: WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Watershed – Concept, types and delineation - Land capability classification - Participatory Rural Appraisal Technique – Watershed development plan – Estimation of cost and benefits -Gully and ravine reclamation – In-situ & Ex-situ water harvesting, micro catchments – Ground water recharge - Artificial recharge techniques and methods - Farm pond and percolation pond – Selection of suitable soil and water conservation practices – Afforestation – Holistic planning - Watershed based rural development – Use of aerial photography and remote sensing in watershed management - Applications of Remote sensing and GIS in planning and development of watersheds including forest cover and water resources.

UNIT-IV: IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Irrigation - Sources – Soil- water- Plant relationship - Water requirement of crops – Measurement of irrigation water - Weirs and flumes - Methods of irrigation - Surface, Sprinkler, Rain gun and drip irrigation - Irrigation automation - Drip irrigation – Components - Wetting pattern - Filters and Fertigation tanks - Design of laterals - Submain - Main lines - Pump capacity - Operation and maintenance - Sprinkler irrigation - Components - Sprinkler performance - Hydraulic design of sprinkler systems - Duty and delta relationship – Irrigation scheduling - Irrigation efficiencies and their estimation - Pumps - Types, selection and installation - Drainage - Causes of water logging and salt problem - Methods of drainage - Design of surface, sub-surface and vertical drainage systems - Improvement and utilization of poor quality water - Reclamation of saline and alkali soils.

UNIT-V: FARM AND IRRIGATION STRUCTURES

Design and construction of farm structures – Site selection - Materials of construction – Quality– types of masonry – RCC - Foundation, basement and superstructure – Types of roofs – building plan and estimation, requirements of farm house, threshing floor, drying floor, poultry house, dairy farm, rat proof godown and farm roads - Design features earthen dams and gravity dams - Water conveyance structures – Earthen channels and lined channels – Advantages of lining – materials of lining – Design of channel cross section – Crossing control structures – Drop spillway, chute spillway, pipe inlet spill way – Road crossing structures – Culvert, inverted siphon aqueduct – Their uses - Underground pipe line system – Components and their functions – Structures for plant environment – Green houses, polyhouses and shade nets – Construction and utilization - Soilless culture.

UNIT-VI: FARM POWER

Sources of Farm Power- Construction and working of IC engines-SI and CI engines- Thermodynamic principles of SI an CI engine - two stroke and four stroke engines- Turbo charging - Fuel, Ignition, lubrication, air cleaning, cooling, governing, electrical, systems of IC engines- Different types of tractors, bull dozers and power tillers - power transmission systems, clutches, gear system, differential, Final drive system, Brake system, steering system, hydraulic system, hitching system, three point linkage- tractor power outlets-traction-traction theory-operations using bull dozer, wheels and tyres-terminology-tractor stability-mechanics of tractor implement combination, weight transfer - Ergonomical considerations in operation of tractors and safety devices in tractor-care and maintenance of tractors. Single phase induction motor - three phase power measurement methods- Power factor- Electrical pump sets - regulated DC power supply, DC machine, DC generator, DC motor, starter - torque and efficiency - Electronics in Agriculture - Semi conductors, transistors, operational amplifiers - Digital

electronics, counters, encoders, decoders, Digital to Analog and Analog to digital converter-Instrumentation - transducers - strain gauges, types and gauge factor - force measurement using strain gauges, Torque measurement, pressure measurement, flow measurement temperature measurement, thermocouples, speed measurement micro processors, micro controllers, PID controllers, PLC - Electric vehicles in Agriculture.

UNIT- VII: FARM MACHINERY

Earth moving equipment - Back hoe with front end loader, Crawler excavator - Bull dozer - blades-shovels-soil digging machines-primary tillage implements-indigenous plough, Mould board plough, disc plough, chisel plough, sub soiler, methods of ploughing – secondary tillage implements-cultivators, harrows, rotary tillers, rotavator, land shaping machinery- laser leveller, ridger, bund former, raised bed former, puddler. Calculation of field capacity, field efficiency. Sowing and transplanting –seed drills, types - different types of metering mechanisms, planters, broadcasters and rice transplanters, pneumatic planters- intercultural implements - dryland weeders, wetland weeders, manual and power operated weeders - plant protection equipments -sprayers - types of sprayers - Drone sprayer - calibration of sprayer, types of nozzles, drift – harvesters - sickle, mower, cutter bar, reaper, binders, windrowers - threshers - principle of threshing, types of threshers, threshing drums, calculation of output capacity, combines, working principles, components of combine. Root crop harvesters, cotton harvesters, cotton strippers, sugarcane harvester, maize harvesters, vegetable and fruit harvesters, crop residue management machinery - cost estimation of farm machinery.

UNIT-VIII: UNIT OPERATIONS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

Heat transfer principles – Conduction, convection and radiation - Types of heat exchangers - Unit operations – Evaporators - Types - Mechanical separation – Filtration – Sedimentation – Settling – Centrifugal separation – Cyclone separation - Size reduction – Mixing – Blending – emulsification - Food processing operations - Pasteurization – Sterilization – Canning - Retort processing - Extrusion processing of foods - Methods of drying of foods – Preservation of food by irradiation - Microwave and dielectric heating - Fats and oil processing – Extraction methods and equipments - Food packaging – Materials and characteristics – Suitability - Processing of milk and milk products, packaging of milk - Principles of refrigeration and applications in food industries – Cold storage of fruits and vegetables - Design aspects.

UNIT- IX: PROCESS ENGINEERING OF AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURALCROPS

Engineering properties of food materials – Moisture content – Methods of determination – Psychrometry - Drying – Thin layer and deep bed drying – Types of heat sources and types of dryers - Cleaning and grading – Principles – Separators – Efficiency – Performance index - Shelling and decortication – Seed processing and layout of seed processing units - Rice processing – Parboiling and dehusking of paddy – Machines used - Milling of corn, pulses and millets - Material handling equipments - Conveyors and elevators - Storage – Conditions for safe storage – Bag and bulk storage – Silo storage - Design aspects - Modified atmosphere storage – Storage structures - Equipments used for processing of horticultural crops – Preservation of fresh fruits and vegetables – Drying and dehydration – Processing of coffee, tea, rubber, cashew nut, coconut, oil palm, aromatic plants, flowers and spices.

UNIT-X: RENEWABLE AND BIOENERGY

Solar energy – Solar collectors – Air heaters - Solar dryers – Water heaters - Solar cold storage– Solar photovoltaic systems and applications- Solar PV pump, fencing - Wind energy - Suitable sites – Types of wind mills – Wind mill components – Applications – Performance of wind mills - Biomass resources – Agro residues – Characteristics - Conversion technologies – Biochemical conversion – Biogas plant – Types and selection, construction, operation and maintenance - Slurry handling - Thermochemical conversion – Stoves – Types - Improved stoves – Pyrolysis – Charcoal production – Gasification – Briquetting – Alternate renewable energy systems - Hydro power, Geothermal, ocean and hydrogen energy- Energy storage systems- Energy Conservation- Cogeneration - Energy plantation and environmental impact – Global warming – Clean development mechanism (CDM) and role of afforestation - Biofuels – Biodiesel feedstock, production and by-product utilization – Ethanol – Production and utilization – Emission - Standards and control.

Note: Medium of Instruction is English only.