

# **Drought Prone Areas Programme (Dpap) and Rural Development in Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu**

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## **Abstract**

A large number of watershed based dry land farming projects have been launched in arid and semi-arid regions of the country. The long term objective of this national effort is the rational utilization of natural resources of soil and water for increasing and stabilizing the productivity of dry lands on a sustainable basis. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) on watershed basis was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, along with other two departmental programmes namely, Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) with effect from 01.04.1995. Thoothukudi district is one among the 17 districts selected for the implementation of DPAP in Tamil Nadu. There are 12 blocks in this district, of which DPAP is implanted in 8 blocks. This paper deals with only Lingampatti watershed is situated in Kovilpatti Block of Thoothukudi District. The Lingampatti has 15.39.0 Ha level of wet land, 801.35.5 Ha of Dry land, and 246.42.5 Ha of Porampoke and other land.

**Keywords:** Watershed, DPAP, Thoothukudi, Lingampatti