GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. **Agricultural Labourer**: a person who works in another person’s land for wages in cash, kind or share of produce.

2. **General Labour**: income derived through non-agricultural operations like wood-cutting, construction works, road laying etc.,

3. **Self employment**: income derived by employing capital. Examples of this category are (a) buying and selling tender coconuts (b) purchase and sale of vegetables through temporary shops or hawking, catching and selling fishes from canals and river water, etc.,

4. **Dependent income**: In agricultural labourer’s family, almost all the members who are above 10-12 years of age are normally made to work in the agricultural farm or elsewhere. On this basis the income of the head of the family is taken as agricultural labour income and the income of other members of the family are considered as dependent income.

5. **Livestock Income**: The rearing of sheep, milch animals and poultry farming are common features. More than 50 percent of these families derive income through one or more of these sources. Such income is termed in this project as livestock income.

6. **Government assistance**: It is the assistance extended by the government
of Tamil Nadu to the agricultural labourers in the form of free supply of dhothis, sarees, text-books to children, etc.,

7. **Borrowings**: Borrowings from land owners, money lenders and co-workers are taken into account as borrowings by agricultural labourers.

8. **Mettur Dam**: It is a dam constructed on the river Cauvery at Mettur in Salem District of Tamilnadu. It is a reservoir where the water is being blocked and released for cultivation. It is the main source of water for cultivation. Recently the flow of water to the dam is restricted by the Karnataka Government and a tribunal is constituted by the Central Government for release of water to Tamilnadu and still remains a source of irrigation to the entire region of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts. The delta region suffers mainly because of non-release of water from this dam on time.

9. **Below Poverty Level (BPL)**: The definition of poverty level in India has been changing every time say, by a decade or two. According to the latest report submitted to the Planning Commission of Government of India, the BPL is defined as "a family is considered to be living under below poverty line wherein the family consists of five members and the annual income is less than Rs. 20,700/-"

10. **Agricultural activities**: Levelling the land, ploughing the field, nursery preparation, sizing the bund, transplantation and harvest related work.

11. **Kuruvai Crop Season**: In Kuruvai, generally short-term crops of paddy
varieties which yield in about 100 days are cultivated. The Kuruvai crop generally matures for harvest before the north-east monsoon sets.

12. **Thaladi Crop Season**: The Thaladi crops are generally of finer varieties and the crop period is also a little longer i.e. 100 to 120 days. The second season follows immediately after the harvest of Kuruvai Crop i.e. in the month of September. Harvesting time generally falls in January.