

Project title	AICRP 24- Combating desertification by enhancing vegetation cover and people livelihoods in degraded drylands and deserts of India
Principal Investigator	Dr.A.C. Surya Prabha, Scientist-D
Co-Investigators	Dr. C. Buvaneswaran, Scientist-F
Project duration (Start & End)	2019-2024
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey and selection of indigenous herbs/grass, shrubs, and trees species and their combinations for effective use in various restoration programmes. 2. People mobilization and development of live fencing around a cluster of farmer's field for soil and water conservation to enhance farm production and people livelihoods. 3. Restoration of degraded hills, hillslopes, sand dunes, ravines and saline areas through introduction of new genotypes/ varieties/ species and natural resource conservation in different landscape. 4. Assessment of the impact of different species under afforestation/reforestation on vegetation recovery, soil health improvement and carbon storage. 5. Popularization of ecological, environmental and economic benefits of improved practices of mitigation of the effect of land degradation and desertification among the local people.
Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cluster of farmers for erection of boundary plantations in salt-affected soils of Cauvery delta zone, Southern and Western zones were identified. • Soil samples collected from the selected salt-affected farmers field were analyzed for various physico-chemical properties. • Seedlings of Casuarina and neem were planted as boundary plantation in the Cauvery delta and Southern zones in about 2 ha in the selected farmer's fields.
Funding agency	CAMPA, MOEFCC, GOI