

## **WAGES PAID TO AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS**

Statistics relating to daily wages paid to agricultural and skilled labourers are collected every month from four selected centres at Puducherry region, two selected centres at Karaikal region and one selected center at Yanam region of the Union Territory of Puducherry. The agricultural labourers are mainly classified into two groups viz.,

- i) Field Labourers and
- ii) Skilled labourers.

Field labourers comprise of Ploughmen, Sowers, Transplanters, Weeders, Reapers and Harvesters. Skilled labourers are Carpenters and Blacksmiths. Data regarding average daily wages paid to agricultural labourers during 2005-06 in Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions are detailed in the tables VII-A, VII- B and VII-C. The summary table consists of the average daily wages in respect of Union Territory of Puducherry. The index number of agricultural wages are also given in a separate table taking the agricultural year 1986-87 as base year.

The average daily wages paid to each category of labourers have been computed with simple arithmetic mean of the wage rates that prevailed in the seven selected centers on the last working day of every month during the year 2005- 06. The base year average of daily wages has been worked out with the simple average of all months of the year 1986-87.

The monthly wage relative computed by expressing the average daily wages paid to each category of Labour during a month of the current year as percentage of the corresponding base year average wage rates.

The index number of wages paid are discussed in detail below:

### **FIELD LABOUR**

#### **PLOUGH MEN**

The average index number of wages paid to Ploughmen which was reported as 927 for the year 2005-06 as against 797 in 2004-05.

### **SOWERS AND TRANSPLANTERS**

The index number of wages paid to men which was reported to 766 for the year 2005-06, whereas for women, the average figure was reported as 773.

### **WEEDERS**

The index number of wages paid to weeders (women) varied from 648 and 1051 during 2005-06 the annual average being 708.

### **REAPERS AND HARVESTERS**

The index number of wages paid to Reapers and Harvesters (men) ranged between 590 and 1625 and that of woman between 491 and 834.

### **OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS**

The index number of wages paid to this category (men) slightly decreased from 780 in August 2005 to 747 in September 2005, thereafter significant increase in April 2006 at 1383. The respective figure for women reported as 797.

### **SKILLED LABOURERS**

The index number for Carpenters reported as 546 from July 2005 to January 2006 and increased at 937 and stood at 559 in June 2006. The same for Blacksmith varied from 504 to 931.