

# AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN KARUR DISTRICT AND THE TEMPERAMENT OF AGRICULTURISTS.

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## ABSTRACT

India is an agriculture oriented country, among the states in India Tamil Nadu is mainly agriculture based since the ancient days. Due to industrialization and sociological developments the interest of the people on agriculture is diminishing. The study is fully based and analyzed the availability of land, water sources, funding and the mental attitudes of the agriculturist. As on date the literacy rate is increasing. The educated people are not interested in agriculture because it is the occupation based upon monsoon and also like such gambling. Due to uncertainty in income majority of the people not willing to undergo agriculture as their primary occupation.

The newly formed Karur district is taken for the study. Once, the district is famous for agricultural commodities like grains and vegetables. At present this study area is famous for weaving, dyeing and also bus, lorry body building and also the ground water is highly polluted. The data are collected as primary data by using direct questionnaire method. For analysis the simple arithmetical tools are used.

The objective of the study is to study the mental attitude or trend of agriculturist as on date in this occupation and estimate the future of this occupation. It is concluded from this study the rainfall is decreasing during the past 3 years, the area under agriculture is diminishing year after year, the youths or the youngsters are not interested in this occupation; totally this occupation is under neglect. It is suggested to the policy makers to make financial assistance to raise crops, make awareness of crop insurance to the agrarian society, marketing awareness and facilities, and remove indebtedness of the agriculturist.

**Key words:** *Agrarian society, sociological changes and finance.*

## Introduction

India is an agricultural country. Nearly 65 per cent of the population has engaged in agriculture and its allied activities. Agriculture forms the backbone of the Indian economy and despite concerted industrialization in the last five decades. It takes the place of pride. The significance of agriculture in the national economy can be best explained by considering the role of agriculture under various heads.

**Table-1** Share of Agriculture in the National Income (Rupees in Crores)

Year	GDP at factor cost	Agriculture	Percentage of GDP
1950-51	1.40,470	83,150	55.4
1970-71	2,96,280	1,42,580	44.5
1990-91	6,92,870	2,42,010	30.9
2003-2004	14,24,500	3,15,800	22.1

**Source:** Compiled Economic Survey 2003-2004 Table 1

The above table 1 clearly reveals that the share of agriculture in GDP has been declining but as the share of agriculture indicated a sharp decline and reached a level of 22 per cent in 2003-2004 and employment of main workers in agriculture in million table 2.

**Table-2** EMPLOYMENT OF MAIN WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE (in Million)

Details	1951	2001
Total Population	361	1027
Rural Population	299 (8.3%)	742 (72%)
Cultivators	70 (50%)	128 (32%)
Agricultural labourers	27 (20%)	107 (27%)
Other workers	43 (30%)	167 (41%)
Total Working Population	140 (100%)	402 (100%)

**Source:** Agricultural statistics at a Glance year 2002

## IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Indian agriculture has been the source of supply of raw materials to the leading industries. For example cotton and jute textile industries, sugar, vanaspathi and plantations all are depend only upon agriculture. But then in recent years the significance of agriculture to industries is going down as many more industries have come up which are not dependent on agriculture. Under the five year plans iron and steel industry, chemical, machine, tools and other engineering industries, aircraft etc., have been started and encouraged. However in recent years the importance of food processing industries is being increasingly recognized both for generation of income and for generation of employment.

## AGRICULTURAL GROWTH SINCE INDEPENDENCE

At the time of introduction of economic planning in the year 1950-51, and also with the special emphasis on agricultural development, particularly after 1965 there was a steady rise in area under cultivation, rise in average yield per hectare, rise in agricultural productivity (table 4).

**Table-3** GROWTH IN AREA OF PRINCIPAL CROPS SINCE 1950-51 (in million hectares)

Details	1950-51	1964-65	2001-2001	Rate of Growth 1950-51 to 1964-65	Rate of Growth 1964-65 to 2001-2002
Rice	30	36	45	1.3	0.6
Wheat	10	13	27	107	2.0
Coarse cereals	39	44	28	0.9	-1.1
Pulses	20	24	22	1.2	- 0.5
ALL CROPS	99	118	122	1.4	0.1

**Source:** Government of India, Ministry of Finance: Economic Survey 2003-2004.

It would be clear from the table that extension of cultivatable area before 1964-65 was experienced by all crops without exception. Among the food crops area under wheat had recorded annual growth of 1.7 per cent.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

It will be much useful to make a comparison of yield per hectare in some selected crops in India with that in other countries of the world so as to show how much India lags behind the other countries in the world.

**Table- 4** ACTUAL YIELD PER HECTARE IN QUINTALS DURING 1999  
(Quintal/hectare)

Details	Potential of high yielding Indian varieties	Actual Yield in India	Actual yield of the world's largest producer	Country	World's highest yield	Country
Rice (Paddy)	40-58	29.3	63.2	China	88.8	Egypt
Wheat	60-68	25.8	39.7	China	80.5	U.K
Maize	60-80	16.7	83.9	USA	96.9	Italy

**Source:** FAO production year book 1999; Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2002

Analysis of the above table, very particular about paddy cultivation which is taken for study in this paper the highest yield in the world is nearly 89 quintals per hectare recorded by Egypt. In the case of wheat the highest yield is recorded by England over 80 quintals per hectare. China is the single largest producer of both paddy and wheat in the world records.

## REASONS FOR THE STUDY

Agriculture is the backbone for all industries. The steel, Chemical and a very few are exempted from agriculture. Due to globalization majority of the cultivators has left their profession and engage themselves in some other profession. Due to that the cultivatable land has left as barren lands.

### PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA:

The study area Karur district is a newly formed district It is further sub divided into 2 Revenue Divisions, 6 Taluks, 2 municipalities, 11 town panchayats 157 village panchayats, and 203 revenue villages. The River Amaravathy which flows from the Anamalai and Travancore hills traverse through the part of the district. The rivers Cauvery and Amaravathy, their tributaries and distributaries which ensure irrigation potentiality of the northern part of the district. The district falls under the agro climate zone of the southern plateau and hills, with semi-arid and dry sub humid climate, Red soil is predominant in this district.

### TOPOGRAPHY:

The topography of the district is almost plain except Rengamalai hills in extreme south of Aravakurichi Taluk. Thipasamimalai and vellimalai hills in Kulithalaitaluk. There is another river, Amaravathy runs through Karur and confluences with Cauvery at Thiumukkudalur. There are Kudakanaru, Nanganchariver which flow during rainy days.

**SOIL TYPE:**

The major soil series in Karur district and Irugur and Thulukkanur. The soils are generally sandy loam and clay type. The Irugur soil is red to dark red, fine loamy, non- calcareous, well drained, lightly acidic to neutral soils. The Tulukkanur soil is reddish brown to dark grayish brown, moderately deep to very deep, fine loamy, calcareous, well drained slightly acidic to neutral soils.

**COLLECTION OF DATA:**

The required data collected by direct questionnaire method and the collected data are tabulated for analysis. Six hundred samples are collected in this study. The convenient sampling method has used for collection of data.

**TOOLS USED FOR ANALYSIS:** For analytical purpose the simple arithmetical tools has used in this study.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

The main objective of the study is to find out the status of cultivators under socio economic characters, ownership of land, Income of the dependent on agriculture, their interest in agriculture and its allied activities.

**ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

The land use pattern or classification of land is discussed in the table given below:

**Table – 5.**

Pattern	Area in Hectares
Forests	6187
Uncultivable	2897
Land put on agricultural use	35457
Cultivable wastes	67431
Permanent pastures	10779
Land under trees not included	
Net area sown	1079
Current fallows	10322
Other fallows	57241
Net area sown	98508
Total Geographical area	289557
Area covered more than once	2123
Total area irrigated	47409
Total area rainfed	50971

**Source:** District information of Statistical Department year 2013-2014

The Table No. 5 reveals the land availability under geographical conditions and use of land by various crop patterns and waste land. In addition to that the total area covered more than one crop, the total area irrigated by river etc., and also the area which is fully facing the rainfall or monsoon, in other words it is called as area of rain fed. Very particularly total area irrigated is less than the area of rain fed. So, it clearly shows major part of cultivatable land in this area is facing the monsoon which is having the fluctuations. The monsoon is heavy or low the cultivator has to face low productivity or rent from the land. *It is construed that there is un-certainty in cultivation in this study area.*

**SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE POPULATION IN THE STUDY AREA****Table – 6 MARITAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLE POPULATION IN THIS AREA**

Details	Frequency	Percentage
Married	498	83%

Unmarried	59	9.8%
Divorce	27	4.5
Remarried	8	1.3%
Widow/Widower	8	1.3
Total	600	100%

**Source:** Compilation of data

On analysis of the above table 6 nearly 83% of the population has got married 7 % of the population has also married and facing various problem like such widow, widower or remarried. The unmarried population is only 10% of the total sample population. It shows under social pattern the society is having a good behavior even though there is a poor income in the cultivation. *It is concluded income is not playing an important role in their marital life.*

**Table – 7 FAMILY SIZE OF THE POPULATION**

Family size	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 2	59	9.8
2 to 4	291	48.5
4 and above	250	41.7
Total	600	100

**Source :** Compilation of data

From the table number 7 it is arrived that small family is nearly 10% the medium family size is 49% the remaining large family is nearly 41%. It shows in the study area medium and large families are more than small family. *It is construed there is more number of joint families in this study area.*

**Table – 8 TYPES OF FAMILY**

Family type	Frequency	Percentage
Nuclear	208	34.7
Joint	392	65.3
Total	600	100

**Source:** Compilation of data

On analysis of this table -8 it proves large families are only joint families and its occupation is 65% . It clearly shows that overcrowding in agriculture in this study area. The agricultural labourers can change their occupation to various position at the same the cultivator or owner of the land is having no other way to go to another occupation. *Hence, the owner/cultivators still engaging only in agricultural activities.*

**Table – 9 LAND OWNERSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE CULTIVATORS**

Details	Frequency	Percentage
Agricultural labourers	87	14.5%
Own land cultivators	513	85.5
Total	600	100

**Source:** Compilation of data

The above table number 9 explains the ownership of land and their occupation. Under this 85.5% of the population is having their own land for cultivation. The labourers occupying only 14.5% in agriculture. *On oral conversation with the cultivators it is observed that they have no other way to left from agriculture.*

**Table -10** EDUCATION AND INCOME STATUS OF THE POPULATION

Details	Frequency	Percentage	Details	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	163	27.2	< Rs.1500	131	21.8
5 years schooling	191	31.8	1500-3000	68	11.3
8 years schooling	131	21.8	3000-4500	215	35.8
10 years schooling	89	14.8	4500-6000	109	18.2
12 years plus	26	4.0	>6000	77	12.8
Total	600	100	Total	600	100

**Source:** Compilation of data

The population engaged in agriculture is poor in literacy status as per the above table - 10. On perusal upto 10 years schooling occupies nearly 96% and only 4% of the population alone 12 years of schooling and above. So the illiterate poor has no other way to go any technical work. All the family members are fully engaged only on agriculture and its allied occupations. Due to that monthly income status below Rs.6000/- occupies 87% of the population. *So, economically the agriculturist or agricultural cooly is under low income or below poverty line in the study area.*

**Table – 11** KNOWLEDGE OF CROP INSURANCE AND TEMPERAMENT IN THIS OCCUPATION

Details	Frequency	Percentage	Details	Frequency	Percentage
Insurance yes	89	14.8	Like	222	37
Insurance No	511	85.2	Unlike/Compulsion	387	63
Total	600	100	Total	600	100

**Source :** Compilation of data

According to the table – 11 the knowledge about crop insurance and the temperament of the population engaged in this occupation has analyzed. It is seen that majority of the population has answered they have no knowledge about crop insurance, which shows the information, education and communication regarding with crop insurance has not reached to the downtrodden people. *Hence it is suggested to the policy makers to take steps to spread the crop insurance and its benefits to make the poor free from indebtedness in this occupation.*

In the same table the temperament of the population and their occupation has analysed. It reveals that unlike or compelled to do the occupation without interest occupies nearly 63%. Any work done without interest make the work more hard. It is seen in the study area. *So, it is suggested to introduce more benefits like such financial assistance, un disturbed supply of electricity to pull up the ground water for irrigation, free supply of foundation or certified seed to raise their production.*

### Summary of Findings:

*It is construed that there is un-certainty in cultivation in this study area.*

*It is concluded income is not playing an important role in their marital life.*

*It is construed there is more number of joint families in this study area.*

*Hence, the owner/cultivators still engage only in agricultural activities.*

*On oral conversation with the cultivators it is observed that they have no other way to go from agriculture.*

So, economically the agriculturist or agricultural cooly is under low income or below poverty line in the study area.

**Suggestions:**

*The most important consideration affecting the cropping pattern is the economic consideration. Experience in recent years has been that the farmer does accept the logic for a change wherever he is shown a better cropping pattern. The main reason for that that farmer may not have the requisite capital to invest for changing crops.*

*Hence it is suggested to the policy makers, to take steps to spread the crop insurance and its benefits to make the poor free from indebtedness in this occupation.*

*It is suggested to introduce more benefits like such financial assistance; un-disturbed supply of electricity to pull up the ground water for irrigation, free supply of foundation or certified seed to raise their production.*

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