



STUDY ON THE PROFILE OF KOLAR DISTRICT IN KARNATAKA STATE

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Abstract:

Kolar the golden city of India, is a city in the Indian State of Karnataka. Kolar is leading in the production of Mango (National Fruit of India), Tomato and Milk, which is exported to UK, USA and UAE etc. Kolar is known for production of Milk, which recently surpassed Denmark, it is a semi – arid, drought-prone region. Agriculture, dairy farming, sericulture and floriculture are the major employment providers in the district. The district is popularly known as the Land of “silk. Milk and gold”. Majority of Farmers in Kolar depend on bore well water for irrigation and drinking. This article discusses a brief profile of Kolar District.

Key words: Agriculture, Demographic, Dairy farming, Silk, Milk, Irrigation

Introduction:

The Kolar district is located in Southern part of the Karnataka and it is situated adjacent to Bangalore rural district and Tumkur district. It comes under Eastern Dry Zone of Karnataka. Kolar district is bounded by Ananthpur district of Andhra Pradesh in the North and by North Arcot and Dharmapuri districts of Tamil Nadu in the South and Chittor district of Andhra Pradesh in the East and Bangalore Rural District of Karnataka in the West. The district is situated between 12°- 46° and 13°-58° North latitude and 77°- 21° and 78°-35° East longitude with an attitude of 860 m above sea level. The district, with an area of 8223 sq.km has its greatest length of about 135 km from north to south with almost the same distance from east to west. The district Headquarters is located at Kolar. Most of the people speak Telugu language in the district, though the official language is Kannada.

The district has 11 Taluks (before Chikka ballapur district bifurcation), 13 Towns/Urban Agglomeration, 53 Hoblies, 3321 villages and 12 Municipalities/Corporations. The villages have been grouped into 306 Gram Panchayats. The district comprises of two revenue sub-divisions and two parliamentary constituencies. The two sub-divisions are, Kolar sub-division and Chickballapur sub-division, and the parliamentary constituencies are,

Kolar and Chickballapur. There are no perennial rivers in the district; Palar, North Pinakini and South Pinakini are important rivers, which originate in the elevated regions in the district. Palar river flows to distance of 110 km in the district. The tributaries flowing in the district are Arkavathi, Chitravathi, Nangihote, Kundar, Kushavathi, Markandaya, Papagni, Vrishabhavathi and Vardhamanahole.

Climate:

Basically tropical climate exists in Karnataka. The climate is more or less salubrious and equable throughout the year. The coastal region has a mean monthly temperature ranging from 25 to 27°C all the year round. The Monthly mean temperature of Malnad region varies between 18 and 25°C. The Southern Maidan has almost uniform climate whereas the Northern Maidan has slight warm winters and hot summers. In case of Kolar district, it enjoys pleasant and moderate climate with a maximum temperature of 36°C in May and the minimum temperature of 15°C in December. The humidity in the district is 65 per cent.

Rainfall:

The extent and distribution of rainfall has a significant bearing on the choice of crops and other enterprises in any region. A major portion of rainfall is received from the South West monsoon between the months of July and October. The retreating monsoons between mid-October-November are also of some importance in the South Eastern parts of the State. The normal annual rainfall for the state is 1,189 mms though the actual rainfall during 2004 was 819 mms. The coastal area receives heavy and dependable rainfall of about 2,500 mms. Malnad region receives an assured rainfall between 1,400-2,000 mms, annually.

The Kolar district receives annual rainfall of 744 mms both from South-West monsoon and North-East monsoons, which start from June and extends up to November. Major rainfall is received in the South-West monsoon. However, during 1995-96 the actual rainfall recorded was about 879 mm, which is the highest than the normal rainfall. In 2000-2001, district received an average rainfall of 852 mm. However, there have been wide variations in rainfall from year to year and consequently the district is drought prone, which repeats once in 3-4 years.

Soil Type:

The major soil types found in Karnataka are of four kinds. The laterites and lateric soils enveloping the areas of Western Ghats Region. Red loams and red sandy loams are the major soil types of the Southern Plain regions. The Northern Plain regions of the state have vast tracts of black soils, while, Coastal regions and river valleys are covered with alluvial soils. Kolar district has mostly red loamy soil and gravelly, which are shallow in depth and well drained but medium in plant nutrients. Besides, the district possesses laterite soils as well.

Demography:

Karnataka has a human population of 6.11 crores, according to 2011 census, of which about 30.966,657 were males and rest females. The density of population was 275 persons per sq.km. The average literates were 74.39 per cent and the sex ratio was 977. The total population of the district according to 2011 census was 15, 36,401 lakh persons, comprising of 7,76,396 lakhs males and 7,60,005 females. The rural population of the district was 17.00 lakh (76.68 per cent). Between 1981 and 1991, rural population of the district grew by 14.81 per cent whereas urban population of the district increased by 16.14 per cent. The sex ratio of the district is 979. Sex ratio of the district is 966 females per 1000 males and density of population is 386 per sq.km.

Area and Land Utilization Pattern:

The state of Karnataka has a total geographical area of 1,90,49,836 ha and it is the 6th largest state in India, sharing about 5.83 per cent of the geographical area of the country. About 80 per cent of its land is put under plough and 16.08 per cent is under forest cover. The area under permanent pasture, and trees and groves together constitute about 7 per cent of the geographical area of the state. The level of irrigation is around 31 per cent of the total cropped area and the cropping intensity is estimated at 114.76 per cent (Table-4.1).

Kolar district with a total geographical area of 7, 79,467 ha, is the 7th smallest district in the state, sharing hardly 4.09 per cent of state's total geographical area and 3.68 per cent of the net-cropped area. The net-cropped area accounts for at 49.52 per cent of the geographical area. Forest cover is also on the lower side (9.02 per cent). The striking feature is that a relatively higher percentage of land is classified as land not available for cultivation (17.58 per cent), fallow land (6.24 per cent), permanent pasture (14.29 per cent) and cultivable wasteland are very low at 1.61 per cent. The proportionate area under irrigation (30.76 per cent) compares well with the state average.

Table 4.1: Land use Pattern in Kolar and Chikkaballapura Districts and Karnataka (**land in hectares**)

Sl no	Particulars	Kolar district	Karnataka state
1	Total geographical area	779467 (100.00)	19049836 (100.00)
2	Area under forest	70324 (9.02)	3062769 (16.08)
3	Land not available for cultivation	137028 (17.58)	2094679 (11.00)
4	Fallow land	48672 (6.24)	1667841 (8.76)
5	Cultivable waste land	12540 (1.61)	435448 (2.29)
6	Permanent pasture land	111405 (14.29)	987474 (5.18)
7	Area under trees and groves	13491 (1.73)	312405 (1.64)
8	Net cropped area	386007 (49.52)	10489220 (55.06)

9	Area sown more than once	29682	1621406
10	Gross cropped area	415689	11696181
11	Area under irrigation	111569 {30.76}	3117672 {30.95}
12	Un-irrigated area	274438 {75.67}	7371548 {73.17}

Note: () Percentage to total geographical area. { } Percentage to total cultivated area.

Source: Karnataka at a Glance-2018-19, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, GOK Bangalore.

Distribution of Operational Landholdings:

Average size of operational holdings for Karnataka is 1.95 ha, while for Kolar district it is abysmally small at 1.37 ha (Table 4.2). The small and marginal farm categories constitute around 68.31 per cent of the landholdings and 30.79 of the area, while respective figures for Kolar are 80.97 and 45.04 per cent. Thus, agriculture in Kolar district is characterized by marginal and small farmers and the size of landholding is relatively very small.

Table 4.2: Distribution of operational landholdings in Kolar and Chikkaballapura Districts and Karnataka

Land size	Kolar District			Karnataka State		
	Number	Area (ha)	Average size of holdings (ha)	Number	Area (ha)	Avg. size of holdings (ha)
Marginal (< 1 ha)	191492 (56.69)	92179 (19.98)	0.48	2609513 (41.95)	1248282 (10.31)	0.48
Small (1-2 ha)	82002 (24.28)	115633 (25.06)	1.41	1706839 (27.44)	2479903 (20.48)	1.45
Semi-Medium (2-4 ha)	44322 (13.12)	120311 (26.08)	2.71	1204185 (19.36)	3298412 (27.24)	2.74
Medium (4-10 ha)	17681 (5.23)	99767 (21.62)	5.64	594232 (9.55)	3489168 (28.82)	5.87
Large (> 10 ha)	2275 (0.67)	33478 (7.26)	14.72	106029 (1.70)	1592902 (13.16)	15.02
Total	337772 (100.00)	461368 (100.00)	1.37	6220798 (100.00)	12108667 (100.00)	1.95

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to total.

Source: Karnataka at a Glance-20016-17, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, GOK

Cropping Pattern:

Karnataka's crop production displays distinct features in its cropping pattern. By and large, coastal region and Western Ghats have rain-fed agriculture and paddy is the dominant crop, coupled with areca nut, coconut and other plantation crops. The Northern Plain Region represents dry land agriculture and jowar is the most predominant crop with cotton and wheat as other important crops. While, Southern Plain Region is featured primarily by ragi and

paddy as the main food crops and sericulture, groundnut and sugarcane being important cash crops, with reasonably good irrigation facilities. A cursory look at (Table 4.3) indicates that for Karnataka, Jowar, paddy, groundnut, ragi and pulses are important crops. Cereals and minor millets occupied 45.45 per cent of the gross cropped area.

Ragi, paddy, maize and minor millets are the important food crops in Kolar district. Pulse crops like red gram, field bean, cow- pea and horse gram are also grown. The important commercial crops in the district are groundnut, sugarcane, cotton and mulberry. The vegetable crops include potato, carrot, beetroot, cauliflower, brinjal, beans, red onion and leafy vegetables. The major fruit crops are mango, sapota and grapes, and the flower crops like rose, aster, crossandra, jasmine and champaka are grown in the district. Ragi crop occupied 28.49 per cent of the gross cropped area, while groundnut shared about 21 per cent. Next important was the mulberry, which accounted for nearly 8 per cent, paddy shared 7.04 per cent and total pulses occupied 9.24 per cent of the gross cropped area.

Table 4.3: Area under Important Crops.

Crops	Kolar		Karnataka	
	Area (ha)	Production (Tonnes)	Area (ha)	Production (Tonnes)
Paddy	29267 (7.04)	79828	1426805 (11.59)	3656811
Ragi	118444 (28.49)	223034	1030679 (8.37)	1734076
Jowar	0 (0.00)	0	1849867 (15.03)	1643239
Maize	14021 (3.37)	47194	512368 (4.16)	1671292
Total cereals and millets	162974 (39.21)	350915	5595790 (45.45)	9249706
Groundnut	86894 (20.90)	71506	1230022 (9.99)	1192134
Total pulses	38423 (9.24)	21480	1819963 (14.78)	746889
Sugarcane	3803 (0.91)	267351	338761 (2.75)	34770919
Cotton (in bales)	30 (0.01)	53	636495 (5.17)	976876
Mulberry (cocoon production)	32492 (7.82)	23099	112557 (0.91)	66516
Gross cropped area	415689 (100.00)		12311594 (100.00)	

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to the total.

Livestock Population:

Karnataka occupies a unique place in respect of livestock wealth. The State occupies an important place in India as far as its livestock wealth and economy is concerned. According to latest Census of Karnataka (2018), the total livestock population was about 53442030. Of which 9516484 cattle, 3470505 buffaloes 9583761 sheep, 4796147 goats, 304798 pigs and others like rabbit, dogs etc. approximating to 26 lakhs.

In the case of Kolar, the total livestock population was about 8,46,985 of which, 55,416 lakh indigenous cattle, 1,73,620 crossbred cattle, 45,876 buffaloes, 4,45,100 sheep, 86,263 goats, 4257 pigs and others like rabbit, dogs etc. approximating to 26 lakhs. By and large, the Kolar district possesses lower share of indigenous cattle and buffaloes, and higher percentage of crossbred and exotic cattle, as compared to the state average.

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