CONCLUSION
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During the Five Year Plan period, the Agricultural Department focused its attention on supply of improved seeds, distribution of fertilizers and popularization of plant protection measures. The net result of such endeavors’ was the increase in the yield per acre of paddy, cotton and groundnut. Reclamation of fallow land was another feature of the agricultural policy of the congress government. The Agricultural College at Coimbatore had undertaken a number of research projects in collaboration with a number of overseas research centre’s and institutes under its guidance and monitoring a number of centre’s had been set up in many parts of Tamil Nadu.

Land, the first of the agents of production, plays the most vital role in the agricultural economy of any country. Land holdings and the nature of demand made by the state and the landlord class on the produce of husbandry shapes the outlook of the cultivating class and determine the scope of their enterprise. Land Tenures may be defined as the system of rights and duties existing between the owners and cultivators of land and the state. The present system of tenure in Tamil Nadu is not what it was decades ago. There were, many complexities in the relations landlords’ and tenants and state and landholders. However, the relationship between the government and the landholders in Tamil Nadu is cordial due to the implementation of several Land Reform Acts by the Government after Independence.

In the view of the above mentioned measures, it is true that the area of cultivation expanded similarly constriction of new Dams helped to augment the irrigation sources. The general impact of the irrigation projects was quit significant throughout Tamil Nadu. It provided crop security to the old wet land extended the area under wet cultivation and
converted the single croplands in to double cropland. Tank irrigated wetlands under precarious supply position were provided with protected irrigation. Irrigation also initiated the beginning of redistribution of land and related resources. Minor irrigation works were also toned up so as to improve their capacity. Apparent defects in the system of water management were rectified and the supply efficiency of the water sources was substantially improved.

Yet, the agrarian reforms such as the Estates Abolition Legislation of 1948 and the inam settlement brought profound changes in the economic condition of the agriculturists. Due to variety of factors, the erstwhile zamindars lost their predominant control over land. With their declining control over land they lost their superior social position. The integrated rural development programmes of the Government made a new mode of agricultural awakening among the rural community which reflected in the production of agricultural products. The cooperative movement added another source of development of agriculture and the peasant community began to get loan easily. This saved the peasants from the clutches of the moneylenders who exploited the agriculturists by all possible means. The government policy on agriculture paved the way not only for the growth of agriculture but also safe guarding of agriculturists from intermediates and money lenders. Since 1967, after the congress regime, the succeeding governments too-continued the agricultural reforms such as free electricity supply to the farmers and opening of “ulavar santhai”, farmers or ploughers market gave a new impetus to agricultural development which led to Green revolution in Tamil Nadu.

The government introduced a number of innovations in the field of agriculture under Five Year Plans. They included the schemes for credit facilities through co-
operative banks, distribution of improved seeds, fertilizers and manures, Land Development, Soil conservation measures, agricultural education and Research, Plant Protection and assured water supply.

During the Fourth Five Year Plan period, the Tamil Nadu ministry headed by C.N. Annadurai witnessed remarkable development in agriculture. The Government introduced new hybrid varieties of grain. They yielded a good harvest. An intensive Agricultural Area programme was implemented with tremendous success in four districts Chingleput, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli. On the whole the period from 1951 to 1974 A.D. was a golden period. In the history of agriculture in Tamil Nadu for it witnessed very many changes in the methods of agriculture leading to considerable increase in the area under cultivation as well as in food commercial crop production.

The First Plan achieved considerable success, the performance of the Second Plan was also not unsatisfactory, the record of the Third Plan, however, had not, Prima facie, been good. The Fourth Five Year Plan was slow but steady.

The Five Year Plans in Tamil Nadu 1951-1974 were an impetus to agricultural development. They provided for major irrigation programmes and facilitated an increase in food production.