Chapter 3

Agricultural Structure
AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURE

This chapter describes the structure of agriculture in the Madras State during 1951-1967. Sowing of early dry crops were above the average in the Carnatic and below the average in the Circars, the Deccan, the Central, the Southern and the West Coast districts. Sowing of early wet crops were below the normal in all the districts of the State.

The condition of the standing crops was generally satisfactory only in the districts of Tanjore, Malabar and South Canara. Withering of crops was reported from parts of the Circars, the Deccan, the Carnatic, Central and Southern districts of the State.¹ In East Godavary district, most of the paddy seed-beds withered away in upland taluks for want of adequate rains.

The crops were affected by pests in the districts of Vizagapatnam, Krishna, South Arcot, North Arcot and Salem. The condition of the standing crops was generally fair in all the districts of the State during the period of study.²

². Ibid.,
For the State as a whole, the sowings of early wet and dry crops were above the average. The standing crops were reported to had been affected during the South-West Monsoon periods in parts of Chingleput, South Arcot, North Arcot, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Madurai, The Nilgiris and Kanyakumari districts.3

The standing crop paddy in Tiruvellore taluk of Chingleput district and groundnut and other crops in parts of Virudhachalam and Cuddalore taluks of South Arcot district and in parts of Thiruvannamalai and Polur taluks of North Arcot district, Thirumangalam, Nilakottai and Dindigul taluks of Madurai were reported to had been affected by red hairy caterpillar pest.4

In Coimbatore district, the standing crops in villages lying in a lower level to Bhavani and Cauvery rivers were damaged and flooded during the month of July 1961.5 The crop and seed beds on the banks of Cauvery in Kulithalai, Tiruchirappalli, Karur and Musiri taluks and on the banks of Coloroon in Lalguidi and Udayarpalayam taluks in Tiruchirappalli district were slightly flooded in the month of July.

Standing crops of sugarcane and plantain and betelvines in Karur and Musiri taluks of Tiruchirappalli districts were also reported to had been affected due to floods in the Cauvery river during the month of July. Kuruvai seedlings in Thanjavur, Papanasam, Kumbakonam, Mayuram, Sirkali, Nagapattinam and Nannilam taluks of Thanjavur districts were washed away due to heavy floods.

The potato crop in Kodaikanal taluk in Madurai and in parts of The Nilgiris was also affected by “Late Blight” disease. Standing paddy crop in Gudalur taluk of the Nilgiris was also affected by pest. Due to heavy rainfall in Kanyakumari district, large areas were flooded and crops damaged in parts of the district.6

Classification of Land:

Land has a multiplicity of uses. The pattern of its distribution among pasture agriculture, roads, railways, aerodromes, mining industry, commerce, residence and other uses is mainly determined by economic, social and demographic conditions.7

Land had classified in the Madras State as the area of forests, land not available for cultivation, current fallows, other uncultivated lands, net area sown.

6. Ibid.,
Land not available for cultivation:

There were two heads—'land put to non-agricultural uses' and barren lands, housing needs of the growing population, industrial sites and expanding network of roads and railways were all non-agricultural uses of land was reduction in the barren lands might however be possible if some of them could be put under trees, crops and pastures.

A major portion of the existing forest area was open for grazing for the whole of the year. A proper forest policy had to be evolved in keeping with the requirements of the country. It was ultimately decided that keeping the forests open for grazing for the whole of the year did not go well with the development of forests some sort of a rational system had to be found. In that case more of pasture lands was to be developed. ⁸

Cultivable Waste:

The term cultivable waste is defined to include all lands available for cultivation but not taken up for cultivation or abandoned after a few years for one or the other reason. Lands which were classified as 'Cultivable Waste' at the time of settlement some years ago still continue to be shown as such in the revenue records even though they could not be made cultivable after incurring any reasonable expenditure.

Similarly some of the lands which were cultivable continue to be classified as barren and uncultivable or pasture lands have been included in the category of cultivable waste.  

**Fallow lands:** Current fallows were those which not cultivate for one year and given rest.

**Forests:** This represented all actually forested areas on the lands classed or administered under any legal enactment dealing with forests whether the State owned or private.

**Barren and uncultivable land:** This represented all barren and uncultivable land like mountains, deserts, etc.,

**Land put to non-agricultural uses:** This represented all lands occupied by buildings, roads and railways or under water e.g., rivers and canals and other lands put to uses other than agricultural.

**Land under miscellaneous trees, crops and groves not include in the net area sown:** This represented all cultivable land, which was not included under net area sown but is put to some agricultural use.

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Other fallow lands: This represented all lands which were taken up for cultivation but are temporarily out of cultivation for a period of not less than one year and more than five years.

Net Aera sown: This represented net area sown with crops.

Classification of Areas in the Madras State:

The total geographical area of the Madras State according to professional survey was calculated to be 31,552,759 hectares in 1951-1952. The area according to village papers worked out to 31,475,631 acres.\(^{10}\)

'Forests' constituted 17.5 per cent of the total area of the State as against 17.7 per cent in the previous year. Barren and 'Uncultivable Land' accounted for 11 per cent as against 10.3 per cent in the previous year; 'Land put to non-agricultural uses' represented 7.4 per cent of the total area in this fasli year as against 7.9 per cent in fasli 1951-52.\(^{11}\)

' Cultivable Waste' was formed 8.1 per cent; 'Current Fallows' 7.5 per cent and other 'Fallow Lands' 4.8 per cent of the total area in 1952-53.

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While the corresponding percentages in 1951-52 were 7.6, 7.2, and 5.1, 'Permanent pastures and other grazing lands' occupied 2.3 per cent in 1952-53, as against 2.1 per cent in 1951-52.12

The percentage figure for 'Land under miscellaneous trees, groves etc.,' was 2.2% in 1952-53 compared with 2.1 per cent in 1951-52. The area cultivated (net area sown) was 39.2 per cent of the total area of the State in this fasli as against 40 per cent in 1951-52.13

3.1 CLASSIFICATION OF AREA IN 1951-52

The total area of the Madras State according to the professional survey was calculated to be 32,011,870 acres in 1956-57. The area according to the village papers worked out to 32,020,484 acres.\(^{14}\)

The area under ‘Forests’ accounted for 13.8 per cent of the total area of the State as against 14 per cent in the previous year. The area under ‘Barren and uncultivable land’ constituted 7.6 per cent as against 7.3 per cent for the previous year. ‘Land put to non-agricultural uses’ represented 9.8 per cent of the total area as against 10 per cent in the previous year.

‘Cultivable Waste’ formed 6 per cent, ‘Current Fallows’ 7.7 per cent and ‘Other Fallows Lands’ 5.2 per cent of the total area in 1956-57 while the corresponding per centages in the previous year were 6.6, 8.1 and 5.0 per cent respectively. ‘Permanent pastures and other grazing lands’ occupies 2.9 per cent in this fasli which was the same as that for the previous fasli.\(^{15}\)

The per centage figure of ‘Land under miscellaneous tree, crops and groves not included in the net area sown’ was 2.0 per cent in 1956-57, as against 1.8 per cent in 1955-56.


\(^{15}\) Ibid.
The area cultivated was 45.0 per cent as against 44.3 per cent in the previous fasli.\textsuperscript{16} The net area sown in Madras State rose from 14,171,363 acres in 1955-56 to 14,413,692 acres in 1956-57.\textsuperscript{17} This was an increase of 2,42,329 acres or 1.7 per cent more than that of the previous year.

This increase in ‘net area sown’ was chiefly due to the decrease in area under the cultivable waste and current fallows as a result of favourable seasonal conditions.

The area under ‘Cultivable Waste’ declined by 1,88,526 acres from 21,05,669 acres in 1955 – 56 to 19,71,143 acres in 1956-57 and the area under “Current Fallows” contracted by 1,21,647 acres from 2,594,214 acres in 1955-56 to 2,472,567 acres in 1956-57. The net area irrigated in the Madras State increased by 211,177 acres from 5,309,250 acres in 1955-56 to 5,517,427 acres in 1956-57.\textsuperscript{18}

Better seasonal conditions, irrigational facilities, coupled with the special efforts made under the First Five-Year Plan had contributed to the overall increase of area in 1956-57.

\textsuperscript{18} Ibid.,
The total geographical area of the Madras State according to professional survey was calculated to be 32,152,879 acres in 1961-62. The area according to village papers was 32,160,332 acres.\textsuperscript{19}

The area under 'Forests' accounted for 14.5 per cent of the total area of the State as against 14.3 per cent in the previous year. The area under 'Permanent pastures and other grazing lands' constituted 2.8 per cent of the total area of the State in 1961-62 as in the previous year.\textsuperscript{20}

The area under 'Barren and uncultivable land' formed 6.8 per cent. 'Land put to non agricultural uses' 10 per cent 'Cultivable Waste' 5.3 per cent,' 'Land under miscellaneous trees, crops and groves not included in the 'Net area sown' 2.0 per cent 'Current Fallows' 7.4 per cent and other. 'Fallow Lands' 5.0 per cent, while the corresponding per centages in the previous year were 7.3, 9.9, 5.4, 1.9, 7.5 and 4.8 respectively. The area cultivated was 46.2 per cent of the total area as against 46.1 per cent in the previous year.\textsuperscript{21}

The 'Net area sown' in the Madras State which was 14, 817, 736 acres in 1960 – 61 increased to 14, 868,351 acres in 1961-62. This was an increase of 50, 615 acres or 0.3 per cent over that the previous year.\textsuperscript{22}

\begin{footnotesize}
20. Ibid.,
22. Ibid.,
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The total geographical area of TamilNadu according to the professional survey was calculated to be 12,996,600 hectares which was the same as for the previous year.\textsuperscript{23}

These figures are according to village papers was 13,011,007 hectares as against 13,014,851 hectares in the previous year. The small reduction in area was mainly due to the revised figure furnished for Coimbatore district.

The area under ‘Forests’, ‘Barren and uncultivable land’, ‘Land put to non agricultural uses’, ‘Cultivable Waste’, constituted 14.7 per cent, 6.7 per cent, 10.4 per cent and 5.0 per cent respectively of the total area of the State in 1966-67.\(^{24}\)

The area under ‘Permanent pastures and other grazing lands’ and ‘Land under miscellaneous trees, crops and groves not included in the net area sown’ accounted for 2.6 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively as in 1965-66.\(^{25}\)

The area under ‘Current Fallows’ and ‘Other Fallow Lands’ formed 7.1 per cent and 4.6 per cent while the corresponding figures of the previous year were 7.9 per cent and 4.8 per cent. The area under cultivation was 46.8 per cent as against 45.6 per cent in the previous fasli.

The ‘net area sown’ in the TamilNadu increased from 5,933,638 hectares in 1965-66 to 6,085,004 hectares in 1966-67. This was an increase of 1,51,366 hectares or by 2.5 per cent as compared with the previous year.\(^{26}\)

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25. Ibid.,
This increase in the net area sown was chiefly due to the decrease in area under ‘Current Fallows’, the area under ‘Other Fallow Lands’ also decreased.

### 3.4 CLASSIFICATION OF AREA IN 1966-67

After explaining the classification of areas in Madras State with references to classification of soils and land, the attention is drawn as irrigation facilities in the State.