Chapter IV

Findings and Suggestions

As we had seen in the previous chapters, soil and water play a very dominant role in changing the conditions of Indian agriculture. In India 70% of the population are engaged in agriculture. Moreover 72% of the available lands are cultivated under rainfed conditions, making the farmers to depend on the vagaries of monsoon. To remove this situation and give the farmers a hope from the available sources of their own village infrastructure, Government has launched the programme called as NATIONAL WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR RAINFED AGRICULTURE. Government of Tamil Nadu has launched this National Programme in many districts of Tamil Nadu.

To find out the impacts of the implementation of this programme a micro study had been conducted in Thathavalli watershed, a village which is part of Thirupathur block of vellore district. Many schemes of this programme had been analysed and the findings of the study and suggestions are given below.

IV 1. FINDINGS

* This study of NWDPRA covers a period of four years only from 1991-95. During this study period, it has been observed that this programme had completely changed the cropping pattern of the village Thathavalli in Tirupattur block.

* The cropping pattern followed before the implementation of the programme had been changed. It is found out that the farmers of Thathavalli village preferred the production of Gingelly as an intercrop. The Government also took keen interest in announcing Gingelly as an inter crop in this block.
* This study brings out the fact that the villagers of Thathavalli are taught to go in for the inter cropping system, as well as border cropping system.

* This study reveals the vast potentials of Agro forestry in the study village. Farmers are assured of a definite income in the future.

* It is revealed from this study that dryland horticulture offers scope to improve returns particularly from the margin lands. Moreover dryland horticulture can be profitably incorporated in this watershed especially a crop like mango has good potential in this watershed.

* It is revealed that in Thathavalli watershed the families are interested in growing vegetables and trees. (Pappaya and Moringa) in their backyard. Backyard horticulture not only takes care of the problems of the individual families but also generates additional income to the families.

* It is revealed from this study that this watershed offered lot of scope to the villagers to have Gully control measures such as construction of check dams, Runoff storage pond etc.

* This study revealed that the vegetation measures to this watershed by planting of trees, planting of shrubs, planting of grass. By doing this the preservation of water and conservation of soil are taken care of, resulting in, to enable the farmers of Thathavalli to go for double cropping.

* Live stock available in this water shed are very meagre. So urgent measures have to be taken to improve the animal husbandry in this area.

* This study reveals that fodder was not grown separately in this watershed. But there is the potentiality to grow fodder as a separate crop in this block.
* As agricultural lands are situated below the hills of forests in this watershed, soil and water preservation methods are undertaken under forestry. Fencing, Regeneration of hedge plants, over seeding of grasses, planting shrubs are also done in this block with Bank stabilisation programmes.

**SUGGESTIONS**

Based on the above analysis the following suggestions or made

* Since the NWDPRA has been proved to be very successful in the study village of Thathavalli, it can be practiced in all parts of the country also, with little variations based on the suitabilities of the region.

* Water sheds are helpful to a greater extent to overcome the rainfed agricultural conditions. So more attention should be given to find out the potential watersheds through out the country.

* Farmers of every village should be provided with necessary information regarding the cropping pattern and its advantages.

* Agro forestry provides a vast scope as a subsidy for the rainfed agriculture. So farmers should be educated regarding the value of Agroforestry.

* Finally Dry land horticulture opens a vast pонтential to the farmers, who cultivate their lands in dry areas.