CHAPTER 7
PROFILES OF SELECTED VILLAGES

The brief profiles of selected villages are presented here. The data is gathered from village survey made by this researcher, apart from secondary data. In order to know the land use pattern and agricultural situation the researcher visited all the eight talukas of Bellary district. By doing so he has been acquainted with the relief, drainage, land use, soils, settlements, crops, animals economy and above all the farmers of the region. The field survey was made for about 30 days during October-November 1988. In all, eight villages are selected for case study to represent each of the talukas. Since physical controls over agriculture remain more or less static over a time, its development and dynamism depends immensely upon the increasing use of modern infrastructural facilities in respect of agriculture. In the present study of eight villages we realise that certain villages are influenced by the role of the infrastructure in the transformation of agriculture from age old traditional system.
In this chapter an attempt is made to study the agricultural situation at grass root level, each village representing the typical characteristics of the area. Bellary district has 585 villages. Most of them are connected by at least a rough road if not a metalled road. Rural electrification has attained 100 per cent and each village has got at least one primary education school. More than 80 per cent of the villages have postal service linkage and protected drinking water supply.

Gudekota (Kudligi taluka):

Gudekota village is located towards the south east of Kudligi town at a distance of about 28 Kms. It has 5,748 hectares of geographical area excluding 29 hectares of village built up area, the population of Gudekota village is 4,304 and 754 houses. The net sown area in the village is 1,470 hectares (25.57 %) to the total net sown area, Forest land 2,953 hectares (51.37 %), 14.4 hectares (0.25 %) groves, 973 hectares (16.93%) fallow land, 216 hectares (3.76 %) other uncultivated land and 47 hectares (0.82 %) grazing land. The forest consists of bush and thorny plants. This land can be either converted for agriculture by providing the land to the landless people or still better species of plants can be cultivated if the forest department makes efforts on scientific lines. The hill ranges around
the village are covered with morum whereas the cultivable
land around it is medium black. The crop land use indicates
jowar as the major food crop with 373 hectares (25.37 per cent
to the net sown area), Rajra 342 hectares (23.26 %), Oil seeds
333 hectares (22.65 %), ragi 47 hectares (3.20 %), rice 40
hectares (2.72 %) pulses 335 hectares, (22.96 %) and 6 hectares
of cotton (0.41 %). About 161.45 hectares is irrigated by tanks
and wells together. There are about 65 wells to irrigate 79.10
hectare of land. The remaining 82.35 hectares is irrigated by
tanks. The crop land use shows that most of the crops depend
on rainfall. There is enough scope to convert 16.93 per cent
fallow land for agriculture purpose. The total land holdings
of Gudekota village are 452 categorised into 30 as very small
holdings, 65 as small holdings, and 357 as other holdings
(medium + large size). There are 2,219 (51.56 %) male population
and 2,085 (48.44 %) female population. The total literates in
the village are 1,290 (29.97 %). The total workers in the village
are 1,796 (41.73 % to the total population) of whom 1,202 are
male and 594 are female. There are 702 cultivators (634 male
and 168 female) and 593 agricultural labourers (232 male and
361 female). The people engaged in other than agricultural works
are 501. In this village there are 215 wooden ploughs, 28 iron
ploughs, 218 bullock carts, 15 sprayers, and five dusters.
Hanamagondanahalli (Hagaribommanahalli):

This village is located to the west of Hagaribommanahalli town at a distance of 16 Kms. It has 850 hectares of geographical area excluding 6.70 hectares of land of the village built up. As per 1981 census the village has 719 total population, out of which 373 male and 346 are female. The total net sown area in Hanamagondanahalli village is 145.63 hectares (16.93 per cent to the total geographical area), The fallow land is 663.11 hectares (77.11 %) and the land not available for cultivation is 52.22 hectares (6.07 %). Thus the general land use itself shows that this village has lagged behind in better land utilisation for agriculture purposes. The crop land use shows that jowar is the predominant food crop with 70.26 hectares (48.25 per cent to the net sown area), the next important crop in the village is groundnut with 54.74 hectares (37.59 per cent to net sown area), followed maize 7.75 hectares (8.07 per cent to the net sown area), sunflower 3.19 hectares (2.19 per cent to net sown area), cotton 3.19 hectares (2.19 per cent to the net sown area), Ragi 2.50 hectares (1.72 per cent) and Tur 1.90 hectares (1.30 %). There is no irrigated land in the village. There are 120 houses, and 213 land holdings spread into 37 small holdings, 30 very small holdings and 4 other holdings (medium + large size). Out
of the total population 331 (46.04 per cent) are working population of them 132 are cultivators and 96 are agricultural workers. There are about 112 workers engaged in non agricultural works. The village has 18 bullock carts, 29 irrigation wells run by electricity. The land use and non irrigation situation show that Hanamagondanahalli village is very backward in the process of agricultural change. The entire taluka i.e. Hagaribommanahalli has also a similar presentation in Bellary district. The village does not have even a road to connect it to a nearby village. For most of the services the village has to depend on either Hagaribommanahalli or Gaddikeri village. Our observation reveals that all the land owners need sufficient financial help to develop their land both for irrigation and for converting the fallow land into cultivable land. Therefore, this village deserves priority for any type of development activity and any scheme.

Hiremegalgere (Harpanahalli taluka):

The village is located to the south of Harpanahalli town at a distance of 40 Kms. with the geographical area of 3,320 hectares excluding 31 hectares covered by the settlement. It has 8,067 population with 1,117 houses. Out of the geographical area 2,505 hectares (75.42 per cent) is the net sown area,
fallow land is 320 hectares (9.63 per cent), groves land is 117 hectares (3.52 per cent), cultivable waste land is 190 hectares (5.72 per cent) and the grazing land is 189 hectares (5.72 per cent). The crop land use shows that ragi with 1,259 hectares (50.26 per cent to the total net sown area) is the predominant food crop of the village. The next important crops grown in order are: jowar 672 hectares (26.83 %), rice 385 hectares (15.37 %), pulses 85 hectares (3.39 %), Sugarcane 55 hectares (2.19 %), maize 2505 hectares (1.00 %), Oil seeds 15 hectares (0.60 %) and cotton 9 hectares (0.40 %). About 32.60 hectares (1.30 %) of net sown area is under irrigation. Wells irrigate 22.26 hectares and tanks irrigate 10.34 hectares. The agricultural land use is predominantly rain oriented. There are 1,117 land holdings classed into 104 as very small, 305 as small and 708 as other holdings (large + medium size). Out of the total population 4,107 (50.91 per cent) are male and 3,960 (49.09 per cent) are female. The literates are 2,101 (26.04 %). The total working population in Hiremegalgeri are 3,266 (40.49 % to the total population) out of them 2,279 are male workers and 987 are female. Out of the total working population, 1,326 are cultivators and 1,620 are agricultural labourers. There are about 1,320 people engaged in other than agricultural works.
Though the village has 75.42 per cent net sown area yet it is not able to provide ample scope for people to get engaged in agricultural works due to failure of rains and meagre utilisation of underground water. Therefore the people engaged in other than agricultural works are unable to work in the village. Consequently they may migrate to irrigated tracts of the district. In this village there are 650 wooden ploughs, 200 iron ploughs, 310 bullock carts, 250 seed drills, 80 pesticide sprayers, 11 tractors and 1 sugarcane crushing machine. Owing to the dry land agriculture the workers rich families might have been engaged in transport activities which is evidenced by the presence of 11 tractors.

Kalvi (Hadagalli taluka):

This village is located to the north east of Hadagalli town at a distance of 23 Kms. The right bank of Tungabhadra is at a distance of about 5 Kms. to the north of this village. The total geographical area of the village is 2,019 hectares excluding 10 hectares of village built up area. Kalvi has total population of 2,669 and 457 houses. The net sown area is 1,278 hectares (63.30 per cent to the total geographical area). The total fallow land is about 689 hectares (34.12 %), the land not available for cultivation is about 36 hectares (1.78 %) and
The grazing land is 17 hectares (0.84%). The crop land use data show groundnut as the predominant crop of the village with 420 hectares (32.86%). The next crop is jowar 327 hectares (31.06%), followed by pulses 265 hectares (20.73%), maize 61 hectares (4.27%), bajra 50 hectares (3.91%), sunflower 45 hectares (3.52%), rice 31 hectares (2.42%) and ragi 9 hectares (0.70%).

Out of the net sown area 131.10 hectares (9.85%) is under irrigation which is irrigated by wells and lift irrigation. The land use indicates about 34.12% fallow land which might have occurred due to scarcity of rain/irrigation facility. Jowar and groundnut are also grown as rainfed crops. Therefore, our field observation points out that lot of fallow land can be brought under cultivation if well irrigation facilities are provided to the farmers. There are 401 land holdings distributed into 75 as very small holdings, 102 as small holdings and 224 as other holdings (medium + large size). Out of the total population 1,345 (50.40%) are male and 1,324 (49.60%) are female. There are 367 literates (13.52%). The total workers are 1,444 (54.11%) out of them 806 are male and 638 are female. Out of the total workers 1,336 are engaged in agricultural works of whom 647 are cultivators and 689 are agricultural labourers. The people engaged in other than agricultural works are only 108. Thus the
data indicate that Kalvi is preeminently an agricultural settlement. In this village 650 are wooden ploughs, 32 iron ploughs, one oil crusher run by oxen, 15 sprayers, 2 dusters, 220 seed drills and 56 bullock carts. There are about 100 milching animals and about 150 draught animals. Hadagalli taluka is mediumly developed in its agriculture. Therefore, the Kalvi village represents moderate development in land utilisation.

K. Sugar Village (Sirguppa taluka):

The village is located in Sirguppa taluka to the south east of Sirguppa town at a distance of 15 Kms. The village is situated on the right bank of Hagari river. It has 1,350 hectares of geographical area excluding 4.35 hectares of village built up area. The total population of the village is 1,998 with 250 houses. The net sown area of K. Sugar is 57.33 per cent (774 hectares) to the total geographical area. There is about 361 hectares of fallow land, 187 hectares of uncultivable land, 21 hectares of cultivable waste and 8 hectares of forest. The crop land use of K-Sugar village shows that cotton is the dominant crop occupying 42.24 per cent of the (327 hectares) of the net sown area. The second important crop is jowar 31.65 per cent of the (245 hectares) Other crops grown in the village are rice 11.24 per cent (87 hectares), oil seeds 7.27 per cent (56.24 hectares) and bajra
6.46 per cent (50 hectares). In this village we notice about 100 hectares of irrigated land by the right bank canal of the Tungabhadra. There are about 20 hectares of land irrigated by other sources like wells and lift irrigation. Out of the net sown area there are about 121 hectares of land sown more than once, due to irrigation facilities. About 5 hectares of land is used for high yielding varieties of cotton. There are 334 land holdings classed into very small 56, small 75 and others (medium + large) 204.

The village has 686 (49.07 %) male and 712 (50.93 %) female population. Out of this 231 (16.52 %) are literate. The total workers are 793 (56.72 per cent to the total population) of these 441 are male and 352 are female. The total cultivators in the village are 318 (22.75 per cent to the total population). The agricultural labourers are 381 (27.25 per cent to the total population). There are 330 wooden ploughs and 5 iron ploughs, 12 sprayers, 4 dusters, 2 power tillers, 109 bullock carts, 352 oxen and 201 cows. Though Sirguppa taluka appears as one of the developed talukas of the district, K.Sugar village appears still lagging behind in agricultural development which is indicated by 35 per cent land left uncultivated due to various reasons. Though underground and canal water is available in the village its use is not made adequately due to the need
for land management. Our visit to the village indicates that people are interested in the receipt of innovations in agriculture. Therefore, by development of irrigation the agricultural productivity in the village can be increased coupled with spread of agricultural innovations.

Kolur (Bellary taluka):

This village is located to the north of Bellary city at a distance of 22 Kms. on State high way No. 19. The total geographical area of the village is 3,005 hectares excluding 14 hectares of the village built up area. This village is the best representative of a high developed taluka (Bellary). There are 442 houses and 2,468 people in the village. The total net sown area is 2,055 hectares (72.61 per cent to the total geographical area), 687 hectares (24.27 per cent) as a fallow land and 81 hectares (2.86 per cent) as a uncultivable land. The Tungabhadra right bank canal irrigates about 1,616.22 hectares of land whereas about 5.18 hectares is irrigated by wells. These figures indicate that nearly 80 per cent of the net sown area is irrigated. As a result of this we come across a typical type of crop land use which cannot be seen in the dry land farming villages. Cotton is the predominant commercial crop occupying
1,150 hectares (56.01 per cent of net sown area). The second important crop is jowar occupying 377 hectares of land (18.34 %) and the third one maize occupies 250 hectares (12.16 %). The remaining crops grown in the village are rice under 194 hectares (9.44 %), bajra 31 hectares (1.51 %), oil seeds 32 hectares (1.55 %), pulses 11 hectares, (0.53 %) and wheat 9 hectares (0.44 %). The significant feature of crop land use in this village is that in all crops cultivated the HYV seeds are used.

The total number of land holdings in Kolur village are 514 divided into 170 as very small holdings, 260 as small holdings and 84 other holdings (medium and large size). Out of the total population 1,226 (49.68 %) are male and 1,242 (50.32 %) are female. This figure of high percentage (almost equal to the male) is a rare significant feature of the Indian villages. One of the reasons for such sex compositions may be the dominant impact of irrigation which might have given opportunity for work and thereby females might have also migrated from the surrounding regions including the city of Bellary. The total main workers of Kolur village are 1,411 (57.17 per cent to the total population). Out of them 818 (53.30 per cent to the total workers) are cultivators and 593 (46.70 %) are agricultural labourers. Of the total workers (1,411) 712 are male and 699 are female. The total literate population is 547 (14 per cent to the total population).
This exhibits that there is urgent need to increase the percentage of literacy rate in the village, especially among the adults through whom the diffusion of agricultural innovation is expected. The village has 2 tractors, 24 sprayers, 9 dusters, and 15 bullock carts. The total bovine population is 1,848. There are 161 milching animals, 15 sheep, 877 goat, 850 poultry birds and 44 pigs. This variety of animal strength is a reflection of land use which is influenced by irrigation. The visit to this village has revealed to this researcher that irrigation will definitely improve the land use pattern, increasing productivity, creation of occasions for jobs, upliftment of people who are below the poverty line and further zeal of people (the land owners) to obtain financial aid from aid giving agencies to enhance the diversity of the land use pattern.

Kurekuppa Village (Sandur taluka):

This village is located to the north east of Sandur town at a distance of 23 Kms. It is connected by broad gauge rail line at a distance of 3 Kms. The Narihalla stream passes through this village. It has 2,166 hectares of geographical land excluding 69.4 hectares of village built up area. The village has 6,584 total population consisting of 3,411 male and 3,173 female.
The total number of houses are 1,318. The net sown area is 238.77 hectares (11.02 per cent to the total geographical area) whereas the forest land 256.32 (11.83 %) hectares, the uncultivated land 1,087 hectares (55.00 %) and there is about 463 hectares (21.36 %) fallow land. The crop land use of Kurekuppa village shows that jowar as the predominant staple food crop consisting 182 hectares (76.22 per cent to the net sown area). Maize with 20 hectares of land (8.30 %) is the second important crop, next important crops are cotton 17 hectares (7.12 %), oil seeds 13.30 hectares (5.57 %) and pulses 6 hectares (2.51 %). Out of net sown area 113.31 hectares of land is irrigated by tanks as well as wells. The total land holdings of the village are 265, out of which 104 are small holdings, 96 are very small holdings and 65 are other holdings (medium + large size). Out of the total population 2,720 (41.31 %) are total workers which constitute 2,005 are male workers and 715 are female workers. Out of total workers 325 are cultivators and 403 are agricultural labourers. The remaining 1,992 workers are engaged in other than agricultural works. Sandur being a packet of iron ore and manganese minerals most of the work force are attracted to mining activities. This may be one of the reasons for this village being very under developed in agriculture. The crop
land use and general land use data indicate that agriculture in this village can be improved by way of converting non-agricultural lands. Sandur taluka appears as one of the backward talukas in agriculture. The main reason for this is the vast spread of hills consisting of iron ore and manganese and wasteland. In Kurekuppa village we notice 175 wooden ploughs, 18 iron ploughs, 18 pesticide sprayers, 2 dusters, 31 bullock carts, 32 milching cows and one sugarcane crusher. The village has a weekly market serving the surrounding region. This village needs lot of encouragement for the development of groundwater irrigation and dry land farming management.

Nariyammanahalli (Hospet taluka):

The village is located to the south of Hospet city at a distance of 16 Kms. along the railway line used for mining purpose. It is connected by narrow gauge. It has a geographical area of 317.92 hectares in addition to the settlement built up area of 103.50 hectares. As per 1981 census the population of this village is 9,286. The village has 122.03 hectares of (38.38 % to the geographical area) net sown area, about 123 (38.69 %) hectares of land not available for cultivation, 56.19
(17.67 %) hectares current fallow land and about 16.70 (5.29 %) hectares cultivable waste land. Out of the net sown area jowar occupies the highest share (49.68 %) of 60.61 hectares of land of net sown area. The second important crop is potato (17.65 %) occupying 21.54 hectares of land of net sown area. bajra is the third crop (16.86 %) with 20.57 hectares of net sown area. The next important crops of the village are pulses (10.26 %), 12.52 hectares and oil seeds (5.16 %) with 6.29 hectares of area.

There is no irrigated land in Mariyammahalli, because its location is towards the up topography of the right bank canal of Tungabhadra dam. However, this village has enough potentiality of underground water which is not utilised by the farmers. It is evident from the total working population that out of a total working population of 3,132 about 1,294 workers are engaged in other than agricultural works. Most of these workers are engaged in mining activity (manganese/iron ore). Therefore there is little attention by the farmers as well as work force towards the utilisation of underground water for agricultural development. There are as many as 116 land holdings grouped into 50 holdings as very small, 35 as small and 30 holdings as other holdings (medium + large size). This indicates that there is every possibility of backwardness in the agriculture of this village. Though the Hospet taluka falls in the high developed
category of overall agricultural development yet one can notice agriculturally backward village like Mariyammanahalli village. The land use of the village can be dynamic provided the working force of the village is very much after it. But this is not evidenced here as the working population (other than the agricultural works) are more attracted towards lucrative jobs like mining and migration to nearby Hospet city. Considering the quality of soil (red soil) the village area is quite suitable for utilisation of ground water. The village has 1,562 houses consisting of 4,646 (50.03%) male and 4,640 (49.97%) female population. There are 2,740 (29.51%) literate population. The agricultural workers are 1,838. The total 116 land holdings (317.92 hectares) are cultivated by 977 people. Out of the total cultivators 977, men are 807, the remaining 170 being women. The agricultural labourers (who are not land owners) are 861. Thus, the total number of people engaged in the various activities of agriculture in the village is 1,838. The total working force of the village is 33.73 per cent (3,132) to the total population. There are 350 bullock carts, 600 wooden plough, 10 iron plough, 40 chemical sprayers and 20 indigenous oil crushers. The study of this village reveals that the agricultural growth is very slow and rather traditional. The impact of Hospet city on better development of agriculture in the village is not felt.
Observations Based on All the Sample Villages:

These case studies reveal that agriculture in the village is still of subsistence type. Our visits in the highly irrigated tracts like Hospet, Bellary and Sirguppa talukas show that the villages which have more than 50 per cent net sown area under irrigation are inclining towards commercial type of agriculture. The villages above 75 per cent land under irrigation are able to produce excess production than the expected optimum level. Therefore this indicates that the spread of agricultural innovations have a profound impact on the increased productivity as well as multiple crop land use. Such villages are able to transact with financial aid giving institutes to obtain loans, subsidies, etc. which is used for the development of over all agriculture. The co-operative societies located in the central places surrounded by irrigated lands are functioning actively to develop agricultural productivity in these villages.

The villages of the other than the irrigated tracts are struggling hard for survival. In such villages the present available utilisation of tank and well irrigation is quite meagre. These villagers need crores of rupees to harness the
underground water for irrigation. It is high time that underground water is tapped by digging different types of wells which can be convenient to all types of land holdings and land holders. It is already brought to the notice of our planners that they have failed by not attempting the underground water utilisation right from the beginning of the Green Revolution period in India. The villagers insist that they want first water to improve the agriculture and only then other infrastructural needs for the villages.