AGRICULTURE AS SEEN FROM THE PRESS
The Unakal tank, one of the two sources of drinking water supply to Hubli town, has 4 ft of water as against the full level of 25 ft. Water from the tank will be utilised only on special occasions, according to officials. The twin cities of Hubli-Dharwad are being supplied with water once in two days.

Water scarcity hits Dharwad dist

From Our Staff Correspondent

DHARWAD, Oct 7 — Dharwad district, which has lost 80 per cent of its kharif crops following an erratic monsoon, is now in the grip of drinking water scarcity.

Rainfall received during the last week of September in some areas has hardly helped quench the district's thirst, with water sources drying up and affecting supply to major towns, including the twin cities of Hubli-Dharwad.

Recently, residents of Shiggaon held a protest march and a dharna before the Taluk Office demanding adequate water supply to the 30,000 people. While the daily requirement is 4 lakh gallons, the municipality is supplying a mere fraction — 36,800 gallons. The town has hardly any water sources, according to the Tahsildar, and drilling borewells would be of little use.

Locals feel that the only permanent solution to the scarcity is the implementation of the Varada project.

FLUOROSIS

Tailed borewells are the nightmare of villagers of Chandapura, Banner and Himbrindes Mandals while drinking water sources in Harpuru Mandals of Gadag taluk are contaminated by excessive fluoride. The problem of villagers in Hombal Mandal, where only one out of seven borewells is functioning, is compounded by frequent power cuts, adversely affecting pumping.

The water supply scheme encompassing 11 villages in Mundnapa taluk, implemented during the '70s, suffered damage during the heavy rain in July this year, affecting the supply to villages in Hombal, Haripura, Harandi, Bagewadi and Kallem Mandals.

Mr SS Paid, a progressive farmer, alleges that the project was not properly implemented as the supply was erratic right from the start. At present, the water is supplied unfilled.

Bylapur town gets water only on alternate days at present while tankers cater to areas where the scarcity is acute.

The Water Board authorities have to resort to the present system of supply in order to stretch availability to the new monsoon. Liberal supply would exhaust the tanks within three months, they fear.

The daily water requirement of Hubli is 120 lakh gallons and of Dharwad, 50 lakh gallons. Though the Malaprabha reservoir has enough water, the pumping capacity of the first stage of the project is only 75 lakh gallons daily. Meanwhile, citizens have resigned themselves to doing without water every other day as authorities have announced...
Drought stalks Dharwad, paddy crop wiped out

From Our Staff Correspondent

DHARWAD, Sept 25 — Withering crops, scarce drinking water and fodder scarcity and migrating agricultural labourers have become a common sight in today in several areas of Dharwad district which is in the grip of scathing conditions.

Agriculturists and agriculture labourers expressed their apprehensions over the situation to a team of journalists and members of the Zilla Parishad Agriculture Standing Committee that visited the drought-affected parts last week.

Of all the crops, paddy is the worst hit and has been completely written off this season.

Kharif area occupying 6.6 lakh hectares of the 12 lakh hectares of arable land in the district, the rest being reserved for rain. The entire area is dependent on rainfall.

The drought, whose average rainfall is 95 mm, has this year received only 53.5 mm up to September 15 even that was not widespread or evenly distributed.

The scanty rainfall, followed by a 45-day dry spell from August, has wrought the drought conditions, according to people.

This season, kharif sowing covered 5.94 lakh hectares in the district, of which hybrid maize, paddy, ragi and bajra covered 2.51 lakh hectares, groundnut, gram, mustard and saurashtra 5.90 lakh hectares, chilli, cotton and onion 1.18 lakh hectares, and pulses 7.600 hectares.

PADDY DEVASTATED Some 77,000 hectares of paddy sown in five taluks under the Special Food Production for Paddy (SFPP) scheme will have to be written off for want of water.

In Kalgutage and Bypag taluks, farmers have already pulled out the useless, withered standing crop to prepare the field for rains sowing.

Agriculture Department officials, confirmed that the loss in paddy was 100 per cent while it was 80 per cent for groundnut, hybrid jowar, ragi and chillies in the district.

The worst-hit taluks are Hubli, Mundarga and Ranebennur, while the worst-hit mandals in Hubli taluk are Jagalishan, Mumbra and Unmargch.

In an ironic twist in the chronically drought-prone taluk of Mundarga, the base of farmers this year was unprecedented, even in mid-July. Following which several tanks were breached and drinking water supply affected.

To make matters worse, diseases attacked hybrid jowar and groundnut. According to mandal pradhans, there is unprecedented rain in mid-July, following which several tanks were breached and drinking water supply affected.

To make matters worse, diseases attacked hybrid jowar and groundnut. According to mandal pradhans, there is widespread migration of the labour force from the taluk.

In Nagav, Sverka and Kanklash mandals in Gadag taluk, the average crop loss is 50 per cent while the remaining seven mandals anticipate a 75 per cent loss. Green gram and groundnut crops have withered completely.

Paddy and cotton have suffered a similar fate in Hubli taluk but farmers hope to salvage some 30 per cent of groundnut and cotton.

Shobabettu, the most backward taluk in the district has recorded 77 per cent sowing this year, of which 80 per cent has already yielded, unlike last year when the harvest was annulled.

Kadalak in Swareja taluk has suffered 90 per cent loss in groundnut crop and 80 per cent in pulses.

Agriculturists and agriculture labourers expressed their apprehensions over the situation to a team of journalists and members of the Zilla Parishad Agriculture Standing Committee that visited the drought-affected parts last week.

Of all the crops, paddy is the worst hit and has been completely written off this season.

Kharif area occupying 6.6 lakh hectares of the 12 lakh hectares of arable land in the district, the rest being reserved for rain. The entire area is dependent on rainfall.

The drought, whose average rainfall is 95 mm, has this year received only 53.5 mm up to September 15 even that was not widespread or evenly distributed.

The scanty rainfall, followed by a 45-day dry spell from August, has wrought the drought conditions, according to people.

This season, kharif sowing covered 5.94 lakh hectares in the district, of which hybrid maize, paddy, ragi and bajra covered 2.51 lakh hectares, groundnut, gram, mustard and saurashtra 5.90 lakh hectares, chilli, cotton and onion 1.18 lakh hectares, and pulses 7.600 hectares.

PADDY DEVASTATED Some 77,000 hectares of paddy sown in five taluks under the Special Food Production for Paddy (SFPP) scheme will have to be written off for want of water.

In Kalgutage and Bypag taluks, farmers have already pulled out the useless, withered standing crop to prepare the field for rains sowing.

Agriculture Department officials, confirmed that the loss in paddy was 100 per cent while it was 80 per cent for groundnut, hybrid jowar, ragi and chillies in the district.

The worst-hit taluks are Hubli, Mundarga and Ranebennur, while the worst-hit mandals in Hubli taluk are Jagalishan, Mumbra and Unmargch.

In an ironic twist in the chronically drought-prone taluk of Mundarga, the base of farmers this year was unprecedented, even in mid-July. Following which several tanks were breached and drinking water supply affected.

To make matters worse, diseases attacked hybrid jowar and groundnut. According to mandal pradhans, there is widespread migration of the labour force from the taluk.

In Nagav, Sverka and Kanklash mandals in Gadag taluk, the average crop loss is 50 per cent while the remaining seven mandals anticipate a 75 per cent loss. Green gram and groundnut crops have withered completely.

Paddy and cotton have suffered a similar fate in Hubli taluk but farmers hope to salvage some 30 per cent of groundnut and cotton.

Shobabettu, the most backward taluk in the district has recorded 77 per cent sowing this year, of which 80 per cent has already yielded, unlike last year when the harvest was annulled.

Kadalak in Swareja taluk has suffered 90 per cent loss in groundnut crop and 80 per cent in pulses.
Cattle graze in the dried-up bed of the Neerasagar tank, one of the main sources of drinking water for Hubli citizens. While the tank has a capacity to store 38 ft of water, the level has dropped to 18 ft.
Insurance cover isn’t easy

Efforts to introduce crop insurance date back to the years immediately after independence when some state governments toyed with the idea of providing insurance for agriculture. However, the government of India introduced the comprehensive crop insurance scheme (CCIS) in India only in 1985.

Agriculture

The scheme covers all farmers taking crop loans from cooperative credit institutions, commercial banks and regional rural banks for raising rice, wheat, millets, oilseeds and pulses.

The scheme operates in defined areas for each crop as notified by the state crop insurance fund. This may be a district, taluk, block, or a smaller contiguous area depending on whether the state government has yield data for the last three years (in the case of wheat and paddy) and five years for (millets, oilseeds and pulses).

It should also be possible to conduct at least 16 crop-cutting experiments in each of those areas at the end of the season.

If the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for a defined area falls short of the specified guaranteed or threshold yield, all the insured farmers growing that crop in the area are deemed to have suffered a shortfall and are entitled to indemnity.

The guaranteed or threshold yield was initially 80 per cent of actual average yield for the preceding five years for all the crops covered under the scheme.

The CCIS which was suspended at the kharif 1988 season was reintroduced with certain changes from the 1988-89 rice season. The sum insured was limited to Rs. 10,000 per farmer irrespective of the amount of loan taken by him. And the insurance coverage was reduced from 150 per cent to 100 per cent of the loan amount.

The present scheme is more comprehensive than the earlier schemes in terms of the range of risks, geographical area and variety of crops covered. In most states, the defined area which is the basic unit for insurance is either a taluk or a block.

For quite some time now, there has been a demand from the farming community that a village or at least a cluster of villages be made a unit because such compact units are preferable to purely geographical area and variety of crops covered.

Agriculture

The scheme covers all farmers taking crop loans from cooperative credit institutions, commercial banks and regional rural banks for raising rice, wheat, millets, oilseeds and pulses.

The scheme operates in defined areas for each crop as notified by the state crop insurance fund. This may be a district, taluk, block, or a smaller contiguous area depending on whether the state government has yield data for the last three years (in the case of wheat and paddy) and five years for (millets, oilseeds and pulses).

It should also be possible to conduct at least 16 crop-cutting experiments in each of those areas at the end of the season.

If the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for a defined area falls short of the specified guaranteed or threshold yield, all the insured farmers growing that crop in the area are deemed to have suffered a shortfall and are entitled to indemnity.

The guaranteed or threshold yield was initially 80 per cent of actual average yield for the preceding five years for all the crops covered under the scheme.

The CCIS which was suspended at the kharif 1988 season was reintroduced with certain changes from the 1988-89 rice season. The sum insured was limited to Rs. 10,000 per farmer irrespective of the amount of loan taken by him. And the insurance coverage was reduced from 150 per cent to 100 per cent of the loan amount.

The present scheme is more comprehensive than the earlier schemes in terms of the range of risks, geographical area and variety of crops covered. In most states, the defined area which is the basic unit for insurance is either a taluk or a block.

For quite some time now, there has been a demand from the farming community that a village or at least a cluster of villages be made a unit because such compact units are preferable to purely geographical area and variety of crops covered.

Agriculture

The scheme covers all farmers taking crop loans from cooperative credit institutions, commercial banks and regional rural banks for raising rice, wheat, millets, oilseeds and pulses.

The scheme operates in defined areas for each crop as notified by the state crop insurance fund. This may be a district, taluk, block, or a smaller contiguous area depending on whether the state government has yield data for the last three years (in the case of wheat and paddy) and five years for (millets, oilseeds and pulses).

It should also be possible to conduct at least 16 crop-cutting experiments in each of those areas at the end of the season.

If the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for a defined area falls short of the specified guaranteed or threshold yield, all the insured farmers growing that crop in the area are deemed to have suffered a shortfall and are entitled to indemnity.

The guaranteed or threshold yield was initially 80 per cent of actual average yield for the preceding five years for all the crops covered under the scheme.

The CCIS which was suspended at the kharif 1988 season was reintroduced with certain changes from the 1988-89 rice season. The sum insured was limited to Rs. 10,000 per farmer irrespective of the amount of loan taken by him. And the insurance coverage was reduced from 150 per cent to 100 per cent of the loan amount.

The present scheme is more comprehensive than the earlier schemes in terms of the range of risks, geographical area and variety of crops covered. In most states, the defined area which is the basic unit for insurance is either a taluk or a block.

For quite some time now, there has been a demand from the farming community that a village or at least a cluster of villages be made a unit because such compact units are preferable to purely geographical area and variety of crops covered.

Agriculture

The scheme covers all farmers taking crop loans from cooperative credit institutions, commercial banks and regional rural banks for raising rice, wheat, millets, oilseeds and pulses.

The scheme operates in defined areas for each crop as notified by the state crop insurance fund. This may be a district, taluk, block, or a smaller contiguous area depending on whether the state government has yield data for the last three years (in the case of wheat and paddy) and five years for (millets, oilseeds and pulses).

It should also be possible to conduct at least 16 crop-cutting experiments in each of those areas at the end of the season.

If the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for a defined area falls short of the specified guaranteed or threshold yield, all the insured farmers growing that crop in the area are deemed to have suffered a shortfall and are entitled to indemnity.

The guaranteed or threshold yield was initially 80 per cent of actual average yield for the preceding five years for all the crops covered under the scheme.

The CCIS which was suspended at the kharif 1988 season was reintroduced with certain changes from the 1988-89 rice season. The sum insured was limited to Rs. 10,000 per farmer irrespective of the amount of loan taken by him. And the insurance coverage was reduced from 150 per cent to 100 per cent of the loan amount.

The present scheme is more comprehensive than the earlier schemes in terms of the range of risks, geographical area and variety of crops covered. In most states, the defined area which is the basic unit for insurance is either a taluk or a block.

For quite some time now, there has been a demand from the farming community that a village or at least a cluster of villages be made a unit because such compact units are preferable to purely geographical area and variety of crops covered.

Agriculture

The scheme covers all farmers taking crop loans from cooperative credit institutions, commercial banks and regional rural banks for raising rice, wheat, millets, oilseeds and pulses.

The scheme operates in defined areas for each crop as notified by the state crop insurance fund. This may be a district, taluk, block, or a smaller contiguous area depending on whether the state government has yield data for the last three years (in the case of wheat and paddy) and five years for (millets, oilseeds and pulses).

It should also be possible to conduct at least 16 crop-cutting experiments in each of those areas at the end of the season.

If the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for a defined area falls short of the specified guaranteed or threshold yield, all the insured farmers growing that crop in the area are deemed to have suffered a shortfall and are entitled to indemnity.

The guaranteed or threshold yield was initially 80 per cent of actual average yield for the preceding five years for all the crops covered under the scheme.

The CCIS which was suspended at the kharif 1988 season was reintroduced with certain changes from the 1988-89 rice season. The sum insured was limited to Rs. 10,000 per farmer irrespective of the amount of loan taken by him. And the insurance coverage was reduced from 150 per cent to 100 per cent of the loan amount.

The present scheme is more comprehensive than the earlier schemes in terms of the range of risks, geographical area and variety of crops covered. In most states, the defined area which is the basic unit for insurance is either a taluk or a block.

For quite some time now, there has been a demand from the farming community that a village or at least a cluster of villages be made a unit because such compact units are preferable to purely geographical area and variety of crops covered.

Agriculture

The scheme covers all farmers taking crop loans from cooperative credit institutions, commercial banks and regional rural banks for raising rice, wheat, millets, oilseeds and pulses.

The scheme operates in defined areas for each crop as notified by the state crop insurance fund. This may be a district, taluk, block, or a smaller contiguous area depending on whether the state government has yield data for the last three years (in the case of wheat and paddy) and five years for (millets, oilseeds and pulses).

It should also be possible to conduct at least 16 crop-cutting experiments in each of those areas at the end of the season.

If the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for a defined area falls short of the specified guaranteed or threshold yield, all the insured farmers growing that crop in the area are deemed to have suffered a shortfall and are entitled to indemnity.

The guaranteed or threshold yield was initially 80 per cent of actual average yield for the preceding five years for all the crops covered under the scheme.

The CCIS which was suspended at the kharif 1988 season was reintroduced with certain changes from the 1988-89 rice season. The sum insured was limited to Rs. 10,000 per farmer irrespective of the amount of loan taken by him. And the insurance coverage was reduced from 150 per cent to 100 per cent of the loan amount.

The present scheme is more comprehensive than the earlier schemes in terms of the range of risks, geographical area and variety of crops covered. In most states, the defined area which is the basic unit for insurance is either a taluk or a block.

For quite some time now, there has been a demand from the farming community that a village or at least a cluster of villages be made a unit because such compact units are preferable to purely geographical area and variety of crops covered.