

Chapter - IV

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

In order to have a clear understanding of the study area, some particulars relating to the location, cropping pattern, land utilisation, soil type, demographic details, literacy, live stock particulars, etc., are given in this chapter.

THANJAVUR DISTRICT

Location

Thanjavur district is one of the biggest in Tamil Nadu. The district lies on the east coast of Tamil Nadu. It is situated between 9.50° and 11.50° of northern latitude and 78.45° and 79.50° of eastern longitudes.

With a geographical area of 8217.34 sq.kms., it is bound on North by Tiruchirapalli and South Arcot District, on the west by Tiruchirapalli district, on the South by Pudukkottai district and on east by Bay of Bengal and Palk Straits. The coastal line of the district extends over a distance of 244 kms. The salt swamp in South east corner of the district are the largest of these kinds in the state over an area of 48 sq.kms. The district is devoid of any hills of prominent height. It has 20 taluks and 34 development blocks. In these blocks and taluks there are 1490 panchayats and 2034 villages.

Climate

The maximum and minimum atmospheric temperature are 32°C and 24°C respectively. January and February months are very pleasant with warm days

and cool nights. Heat becomes down gradually from June - July when South - West monsoon sets in. Very mild winter falls in December and January with temperature between 27°C and 20.30°C.

Rainfall

The South - West monsoon sets in June and continues till September. The rainfall during the period is much lower than the rainfall during the North - East monsoon which sets in October and continues more or less till contributes more than 60% of the total annual rainfall. The normal annual rainfall ranges from 800 mm to 1400 mm. The South - West monsoon's heavy rainfall on the wester ghats which invariably feed the Cauvery helping greatly the vast wet cultivation of the delta area.

Soil type and Fertility Status

The soil of the district can be classified into four categories, the alluvial, the regar (back series), the red ferruginous and the arenaceous. The Eastern part of the Thanjavur district which forms the old delta in a large, alluvial, flat plain entirely, but varies greatly in quality. The best of it is found in the western part of the district which forms the new delta, which is also a plain land, but gradually recedes in quality as one advance towards east.

Irrigation

The primary source of irrigation of the ancient network of canals of the river Cauvery and its tributes like Vennar, Kudamurutti, Arisilar, etc. It is very spectacular to say that nearly 90 percent of the net area irrigated is commanded by

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canal irrigation system. This district has about 2/3 of the total area under cultivation ranking first among the districts Tamil Nadu.

Land Utilization Pattern

Regarding land utilization pattern of Thanjavur district, the net area sown accounted for 64.47% of the total geographical area. It is 1.94%, 4.06%, 2.37%, 18.78%, 0.85%, 4.19% and 2.92% for forest, barren and uncultivable waste, land put to non agricultural uses, land under tree crops, current fallows, and other fallows respectively. The permanent pasture land is very meagre i.e. 0.42% of the total geographical area.

Table 4.1 Land Utilisation Pattern in Thanjavur District

S.No	Particular	Area [Acre]	% to the total
1.	Total Geographical Area	8,21,719	100.00
2.	Forests	15,921	1.94
3.	Barren and Uncultivable Land	33,313	4.06
4.	Cultivable Waste	19,449	2.37
5.	Land put into Non-agri Use	1,54,332	18.78
6.	Land under Tree crops	6,986	0.85
7.	Current Fallows	34,457	4.19
8.	Other Fallows	23,995	2.92
9.	Permanent Pastures	3,471	0.42
10.	Net Sown Area	5,29,795	64.47

Source : Asst. Director of statistics, District Statistical Hand Book, Thanjavur District. 1990.

Cropping Pattern

With regard to the cropping pattern food crops occupied the major cropped area i.e. 94.88 per cent and non-food crops occupied only 5.12 per cent to the cropped area. The percentage share of paddy, cholam, cumbu, ragi and sugarcane were 88.77, 0.18, 0.02, 4.0 and 3.85 respectively. Pulses got a very meagre share in the total cropped area and fibres, medicinal and narcotics share was less than one per cent to the total cropped area.

Table 4.2 Cropping Pattern in Thanjavur District, 1990.

S.No.	Particulars	Area [acres]	% to the total
I.	Cereals	4,61,774	89.01
	Paddy	4,60,493	88.77
	Cholam	949	9.18
	Cumbu	124	0.02
	Ragi	208	4.00
	Other millets	---	---
II.	Pulses	4,813	0.93
III.	Tasty Food Grains	384	0.17
IV.	Fruits & Vegetables	5,239	1.00
V.	Sugar cane	19,968	3.85
	Planted	10,923	2.10
	Ratoon	9,055	1.75
VI.	Cotton	3,852	0.74
VII.	Oil Seeds	21,503	4.15
VIII.	Medicinal & Narcotics	911	0.18
IX.	Other Non Food Crops	271	0.05
	Total Food Crops	4,92,196	94.88
	Total Non-food Crops	26,537	5.12
	Total Food and Non-food Crops	5,18,733	100.00

Source : District Statistical Hand Book, Thanjavur District. 1990.

Demography

According to the provisional census report 1991, Thanjavur District has a population of 45,26,709 of which males are 22,68,389 [50.1%] and females are 22,58,320 [49.1%]. In this district the sex ratio is 996 females for 1000 males and the density of population is 547 per kilometres.

Literacy

In Thanjavur district, the literate population is 26,08,728 i.e. 57.6% of the total population. Male literacy rate [58.6%] is higher than that of female literacy rate [41.4%].

Occupational Distribution

In this district, the share of non workers is higher than that of workers in total population. The non workers are accounted for 60.94% to the total population. The percentage share of agricultural labourers are 16.78 and it is 9.05, 2.67 and 1.01 for cultivators, marginal workers & household industry and manufacturing, processing, servicing & repairs respectively. Then the male workers are more than female workers in the case of main workers on one side and the number of female are more than that of male in the case of marginal workers on the other.

Livestock

In this district, the total livestock population in 1989-90 was 21,69,687. The cattle population accounted for majority of the share to the total livestock

population, i.e. 45.9% [9,96,003] followed by goats 36.5% [7,92,416], Buffaloes 13.4% [2,91,483], sheep 3.7% [79,126] and pigs, 0.5% [10,659].

Table 4.3 Demographic Distribution of Thanjavur District.

S.No	Particulars	Male	Female	Total
1.	Total population	2268389	2258320	4526709
2.	Literates	1529357	1079871	2609228
3.	Total Workers	1274683	561050	1835733
4.	Main Workers	1259989	446454	1706443
5.	Marginal Workers	14694	114596	129290
6.	Cultivators	327074	52541	832723
7.	Agri. Labourers	505529	327244	832773
8.	Household Industry Workers	32166	12814	44980
9.	Other Workers	395220	53855	449075

Source : Govt. Of India Census, 1991.

Table 4.4 Livestock population in Thanjavur District,1989-90.

S.No.	Particulars	Number	% to the total
1.	Cattle	9,96,003	45.9
2.	Buffaloes	2,91,483	13.4
3.	Sheeps	79,126	3.7
4.	Goats	7,92,416	36.5
5.	Pigs	10,659	0.5
	Total	21,69,687	100.00
6.	Hens, Cocks and Chicken	14,84,364	
7.	Ducks, Dracks and Duckings	6,525	
8.	Total Poultry	14,90,889	

Source : District Statistical Hand Book, Thanjavur, 1990.

Backward Taluks In Thanjavur District

The following taluks have been declared as industrially backward taluks and industrially most backward taluks.

THANJAVUR : Pattukkottai, Valangaiman, Orathanadu, Kumbakonam,

Thanjavur, Peravurani, Papanasam, Thiruvaiyaru,

Thiruvidaimaruthur.

NAGAPATTINAM: Kudavasal, Nannilam, Thiruthuraipoondi,
Needamangalam, Thiruvarur, Sirkazhi, Vedaranyam,
Nagapattinam, Mannargudi, Tranqubar.

In October 18, 1991, the Thanjavur district was bifurcated into two for the sake of administrative convenience, namely, Thanjavur and Nagai Quaid-E-Milleth. The present study area, Mayiladuthurai block belongs to the newly framed district Quaid-E-Milleth. It is located at North west of Nagapattinam. So, it is essential to know the features of Nagai Quaid e Milleth district.

A BRIEF NOTE ON NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT.

Nagai Quaid-E-Milleth district got much more of land, population coastline and pilgrims centers than Thanjavur district from which it was bifurcated on October 18, 1991. Out of a total of 5,30,819 hectares of cultivable land of Thanjavur district 3,01,740 hectares went to Nagai Q Milleth district. Out of a total of 1,51,311 hectares of other lands, the N Q M district got 78,304 hectares. Even with respect to waste land the share of Nagapattinam district was 70,366 hectares against 53,302 hectares which remained in Thanjavur district. With respect to paddy cultivation also 80,514 hectares in Thanjavur. Samba is cultivated on 1,85,836 hectares in Nagapattinam while this kind of paddy is cultivated only on 1,12,707 hectares in Thanjavur district. Similar is the case with respect of thaladi, and Ayacut areas under Cauvery, Vennar. Even with respect to farmers and farm workers the number is more in Nagapattinam district than Thanjavur district.

In a way the bifurcation deprived Thanjavur of many of its resources and famous places of worship. Shrine Velankanni, Nagore Dharga, Thiruvarur Thiyagaraja Temple, Dharmapuram Adeenam and its temples which can be cited as instances of the district's secular credentials went to Nagapattinam district. Be it salt Sathyagraha fame Vedaranyam, silapathiharam significant land mark Poombukar, Danish related Tharangambadi, the wildlife and Bird sanctuary site of Kodikkarai and Udayamarthandapuram - the infant district got all of them rendering the parent Thanjavur district into a land-locked strip with a small coastline of 48 km. from Thambikkottai to Sedubavasathram.

Oil struck by the ONGC at Narimanam became an additional asset to the district, placing it on the industrial map of the country. Rapid industrialization is going on in the district which became a major rice producing district in the state after bifurcation.

Where Thanjavur district scored over the other was with respect to educational institutions, Medicals College, Tamil University, South Zone Cultural Centre, Rice Research Institute at Aduthurai, Coconut Research Institute at Veppankulam, Soil and Water Management Research Institute Kattuthottam, Saraswathi Mahal Library all of which retained by virtue of their geographical location.

Nagapattinam port has its own history. Ships from, Srilanka passed via Nagapattinam during 1476 A.D. Nagapattinam was the head quarter of Thanjavur

district under the British from 1799 A.D. to 1845 A.D. The development of Nagapattinam port went a long way in the development of the district.

Features of Nagai District

Total Area	:	4,61,433 sq. km.
Revenue Villages	:	Nagapattinam, Mannargudi and Mayiladuthurai.
Taluks	:	Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Nannilam, Kodavasal, Mayiladuthurai, Tharangambadi, Sirkali, Mannargudi, Needamangalam, Thiruthuraipoondi and Vedaranyam.
Revenue Villages	:	1,185.
Municipalities	:	Five
Population	:	23.88 lakhs Men : 11.98 Women : 11.90
Total No. of Farmers	:	3,29,318.
Cultivable Lands	:	3,01,740 hectares.
Other Useful Lands	:	78,304 hectares.
Forest Land	:	11,023 hectares.
Waste Lands	:	70,366 hectares.
Paddy Cultivation		
Kuruvai	:	87,598 hectares.
Samba	:	1,85,836 hectares.
Thaladi	:	80,565 hectares.
Ayacut Cauvery		
Cauvery	:	1,19,269 hectares.
Vennar	:	1,40,345 hectares.
Grand Anaicut Canal	:	13,820 hectares.
Farm Labour	:	4,00,856
Roads		
State High Ways	:	60 km.
District Roads	:	833.8 km.
Other District Roads	:	1,099 km.
Total	:	2042.8 km.
Educational Insitutions		
Polytechnics	:	4
Engineering Colleges	:	2
Teacher Training Schools	:	4
ITIs	:	4
Arts Colleges	:	8
Libraries	:	59.

Places for Tourist

Importance : Point Calimere, Poompukar, Tharangambadi, Thirukadaiyur, Thiruvarur, Sirkali, Nagore, Velankanni and Udayamarthanpuram.

**Table 4.5. Total Number of Registered SSI Units in Thanjavur District
1982-83 TO 1991-92**

Year	Number of units	Growth Index
1982-83	1,721	100.00
1983-84	1,893	109.91
1984-85	2,167	125.91
1985-86	2,654	154.21
1986-87	3,210	186.51
1987-88	3,446	200.23
1988-89	3,930	228.35
1989-90	4,221	245.26
1990-91	4,556	264.47
1991-92	3,931	228.41

Source : District Industries Centre, Annual Report, 1993, Thanjavur.

Chapter - IV

Page No	Paragraph	Line	As it is	As it should be
61	Second	v	Wester	Western
62	First	II	districts Tamilnadu	districts of Tamilnadu
68	Third	II	Medicals College	Medical College
70	First	I	Places for Tourist	Places of Tourist