PREFACE

Agriculture has always been a leading factor for enriching the economic needs of India. Agriculture was the mainstay of Indian economy, and it was practiced in one form or the other since time immemorial. Agriculture was the basic profession in the Tamil Country even from the Sangam age itself. Agriculture was also known for its indigenous traditions and had a harmonious blending with the socio-economic activities of the Tamils.

The thesis entitled, “The Agrarian Life of the Ancient Tamils from the Sangam Age to 1070 A.D.”, endeavours to bring out a comprehensive analysis of the different agricultural processes and their content and growth during the period taken up for study. The total agricultural scenario of the Tamils is exposed subsequently.

The facts required for this thesis are collected from Annual Reports on Epigraphy, Annual Reports on Indian Epigraphy, Epigraphia Indica volumes, Pudukkottai State Inscriptions, South Indian Temple Inscriptions, Pallava and Pandya Copper Plates. The various Sangam works compiled as Pathuppattu, Ettu togai and Pattinen Kil Kanakku are also consulted. Beyond the above mentioned primary source
materials many scholarly works written by M.Arokiasamy, Burton Stein, J.W.M.C.Crin-dle, R.Dutt, Frykenperg, R.Gopalan, V.Kanagasabai, S.Krishnaswami Aiyangar, C.Minakshi, K.A.Nilakanta Sastri are also utilised and they are all given in the foot notes at appropriate places and they are appended in the Bibliography also.

In this study, attempt is made to highlight the various system executed and extended for the betterment of agrarian life of the people. The irrigation in the study area is discussed in detail. The study also covers the impact of economy based agriculture and throws new light on this aspect. The present study is an attempt to make an intensive and elaborate analysis of the major aspects of the Agrarian Life of the Tamil upto 1070 A.D. It is a study on the socio – cultural and politico – economic life of the people. The study is mostly based on original sources, though few secondary sources are used.

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