

CHAPTER V

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

5.1 Profile of Tamil Nadu State

Tamilnadu State is situated at the South Eastern extremity of the Indian Peninsula bounded on the north by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh on the east by Bay of Bengal, on the South by the Indian Ocean and on the West by Kerala State. Tamil Nadu covers a little over 1,30,000 sq.k.m., representing about four percent of India's geographical area. In terms of area Tamil Nadu ranks eleventh in the country.

5.1.1 Population

According to the 2011 census, Tamil Nadu had a population of 62.1 million which makes it the seventh largest populous state in the country. Tamil Nadu is one of the most densely populated states in Tamil Nadu with 378 persons per square kilometre as against the all-India figure of 324. As regards the density of population Tamil Nadu stands fifth rank among the states of India.

5.1.2 Geographical Profile of Tamil Nadu

The State can be divided broadly into two natural divisions (a) the Coastal plains of South India and (b) the hilly western area. Parallel to the coast and gradually rising from it is the broad strip of plain country. It can further be subdivided into Coromandal plains comprising the districts of Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Cuddalore and Vellore. The alluvial plains of the Cauvery Delta extending over Thanjavur and part of Tiruchirappalli districts and dry southern plains in Madurai, Dindigul, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts. It extends a little beyond Western Ghats in Kanyakumari District.

The Cauvery Delta presents some extremely distinctive physical and human features, its power being a main factor in the remarkable growth, the towns of Tamilnadu have witnessed.

4.1.3 Economy and Infrastructure

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the majority of the population. Irrigation has been practiced since the earliest times; today there are more than 20,000 km (12,430 mi) of irrigation channels. Important crops include sugarcane, groundnuts, oilseeds, cotton, bananas, potatoes, tea, and spices. Major forest products are timber, sandalwood, pulpwood and fuel wood, while the minor products include bamboo, eucalyptus, rubber, tea, cashew, honey and ivory.

Tamil Nadu has a well-developed transportation network, including national and state highways; rail network; airports at Chennai, Madurai, and Tiruchchirappalli; and major ports at Chennai and Tuticorin.

5. 2. Karur District

52.1 Origin of Karur District

In the earlier Karur Taluk was located in the Coimbatore District. In the year 1910 it was merged with Tiruchirappalli district. Karur District was separated from Tiruchirappalli district on 30th September 1995 by trifurcating Tiruchirappalli district as per the Government Order 913. New Karur district was formed with three taluks namely Karur, Kulithalai and Manaparai. Consequently Manaparai taluk was decoupled and Musiri Taluk was included in Karur. Then Musiri Taluk was decoupled from Karur District.

Karur is the headquarters of the newly formed Tiruchirappalli district. It is located in the centre district of Tamil Nadu and it is 371 km south west of Chennai.

Karur district is bounded by Dindigul district on the south, Namakkal district on the north, Tiruchirappalli district on the east and Erode district on the west.

5.2.2 Past History of Karur

Karur is one of the ancient cities in Tamil Nadu and it was ruled by the Cheras, Cholas and Naickers. It was found from the history evidences that Karur was the centre for the manufacturing of jewellery and also it was famous for gem setting. Gold are imported from Rome. It was proved from many excavations. As per the Hindu legends Brahma began the work of creation here which is mentioned to as the 'place of the sacred cow'.

Karur has a very long past history and has been sung by many poets belongs to the Sangam era. It has been the battleground of many Kings namely Chera, Chola, Pandya and Pallava. It also has a very rich and varied cultural inheritance..

Karuvoor Thevar who was one of the devotees among the nine devotees who sung the divine music Thiruvichaippa, of ninth Thirumurai was born in Karur. He is the single largest composer among the nine authors of Thiruvichaippa. He lived during the period of the great King Raja Raja Chola I. In addition to the Pasupatheeswar Temple, there is a Vishnu temple located at Thiruvithuvakkodu, a suburb of Karur. It was sung by the famous Kulasekara Alwar during 7-8th century AD. He was the noted ruler of Kongu Nadu. The same temple is presumably mentioned in epic Silappadikaram as Adaha Maadam Ranganathar whose blessings Cheran Senguttuvan wanted prior to his north Indian expedition.

Karur town is the oldest and very famous historical place in Tamil Nadu and it has occupied an important role in the history and culture of the Tamils. Its history dates back over 2000 years, and has been a prosperous trading centre even in the early

Sangam days. Epigraphical, numismatic, archaeological and literary supports have proved that Karur was the capital of early Chera kings of Sangam age. In the earlier it was called Karuvor or Vanji during the period of Sangam era. There has been a plethora of atypical findings at the time of archaeological excavations undertaken in Karur. It include pottery with mat design, bricks, mud-toys, Coins of Chera, Chola and Pallava period, Roman Amphorae, Rasset coated ware, rare rings etc. Karur was located on the banks of river Amaravathi which was also called as Aanporunai during the Sangam periods. The names of the early Chera Kings, who ruled from Karur, have been found in the rock inscriptions in Aru Nattar Malai which was also called as Pugazhi Malai and it was located at Velayuthampalayam. From the Tamil epic Silappadikaram, it was noticed that the famous Chera King Cheran Senguttuvan ruled from Karur. From 150 Greek scholars Ptolemy stated "Korevora" (Karur) was famous inland trading centre in Tamil Nadu. After the early Cheras, Karur was occupied and ruled by Pandya Kings followed by Pallavas and later Cholas. Karur was under the rule of Cholas for long years. Then the Naickers and Tippu Sultan were also ruled Karur. The British Government included the Karur town to their control after destroyed the famous Karur Fort during the war against the King Tipu Sultan in the year 1783. There is a monument at Rayanur which was located near to Karur for the warriors who lost their lives in the struggle against the British in the Anglo-Mysore wars. After that Karur became part of British India and was first part of Coimbatore District and later Tiruchirappalli District.

Karur is the one of the most important part of Kongunadu. The profile of Kongunadu dates back to 8th century. The name Kongunadu invented from the word "Kongu", which denotes 'honey'. After the civilization Kongu came to be called as

Kongunadu. In the past it was included the districts and taluks which are presently called as Palani, Dharapuram, Karur, Namakkal, Tiruchengode, Erode, Salem, Dharmapuri, Satyamangalam, Nilgiris, Avinashi, Coimbatore, Pollachi and Udumalpet. Kongunadu was blessed with enormous wealth, a pleasant climate and distinct features. Chera, Chola, Pandya, Hoysala, Muslim are the rulers of Kongu Nadu.

5.2.3 Geographical Profile of Karur District

Karur district lies between 10° 63' and 11° 14' north latitude and 77°90' and 78°61' east longitude. Karur town is located on the bank of Amaravathi River. District Collector is the Head of the District administration and District Collector's Office is the centre of District Administration located in Master Plan Complex in Thanthondimalai. It is nearly 6 Km from Karur bus stand and 8 Km from Railway Station on the way to Dindigul via Vellianai.

Karur district consist 2 Revenue Divisions, 6 Taluks, 2 Municipalities, 11 Town Panchayats and 157 Village Panchayats and 203 Revenue Villages. Karur District has 4 Assembly constituencies of which one is a reserved namely Krishnarayapuram Constituency. Karur Parliamentary constitutes 6 Assembly constituencies, one from Tiruchirappalli revenue district, namely Manapparai, one from Pudukkottai revenue district, namely Viralimalai, one from Dindigul revenue district, namely Vendasandur and 3 Assembly Constituencies from Karur revenue districts, namely Aravakurichi, Karur and Krishnarayapuram.

5.2.4 Topography

The Topography of the district is almost plain except Rengamalai hills in extreme south of Karur Taluk. Tipasamymalai & Vellimalai hills in Kulithalai Taluk.

Cauvery is the Major river flowing on northern and eastern boundaries. Amaravathi runs through Karur and Confluences with Cauveery at Nerur. There are Kudaganaru, Narganji Aru which flow during rainy days. The soils are generally sandy loam and Clay type. But large areas are under red soil and black cotton soil. The average rainfall is 683.5mm. Major rainfall occurs during north east monsoon only.

The Karur District is comprised with khondolite and charnockite group of rocks, both constituting the Eastern Ghat super group of Archaean age. The khondolite group comprises sillimanite gneiss with or without garnet, calc granulite and crystalline limestone, while the charnockite group includes magnetite quartzite with or without grunerite, basic granulite and charnockite. They were all formed due to granulite facies grade metamorphism of pre-existing aluminous, calcareous, silicious sediments and basic flows. Low grade to Cement grade limestone is found extensively at Kulithalai Taluk (Thevarmalai, Melapaguthi, Varavanai, Vellalapatti, Keeranur, Pothuravutham patti, Kalladai, Kaliyapatti etc., villages), at Aravakurichi Taluk (Esanatham, Ammapadi. Alamarathupatti, Thennilai etc., villages) and K.Pitchampatti of Karur Taluk. The limestone is being used at Cement industries, as fillers in the fertilizer and in the cement factories. Presently 30 leases are existing at Karur District. Milky to glassy variety of Quartz and Potash feldspar with an average of 12% potash is the common economic mineral available extensively at Aravakurichi Taluk (Pungambadi-West, Nagampalli, Punjaikalakurichi, Pavithram, Soodamani, Venjamangudalur (East), Aravakurichi, Kodanthur (South), Rajapuram, Kodaiyur etc., villages) less prominently at Kulithalai Taluk (D.Edayapatti, Sengal, Varavanai, Pannapatti, Vadavambadi etc., Villages) and at Karur Taluk (Velliyanai South Village). High grade Quartz is being exported, low grade used in the manufacture of

glass and Feldspar in the ceramic and tile manufacturing industries. Presently 42 leases are existing at Karur District. Apart from the above good quality of Gem variety such as Ruby (cordierite in the cordierite sillimanite gneiss) and beryl (aquamarine in the pegmatite vein in acicular shapes) are the common man's hunt at Keeranur, Muthunaickenpatti, Varavanai and Pannapatti villages of Kulithalai Taluk. Other gem variety such glassy crystallised quartz, amethyst and moonstone (catseye) etc., are also prevalent.

5.2.5 Climatic Conditions and Rainfall

Karur District comes under the North western Agro climatic zone (Excluding Tiruchengode Taluk) of Tamil Nadu. It is situated in the dividing portion of two water sheds between Cauvery and Vellar system. Karur district experiences semi and tropical climate wherein four distinct seasons are experienced. The maximum temperature ranges from 28⁰ to 40⁰C and the minimum from 14⁰ to 26⁰ C. During January and February lowest temperatures are recorded while maximum temperature recorded during April – May. Annual Normal rainfall (Normal means average of 75 years rainfall) of the district is 784.10mm. Nearly 80% of the total rainfall is received during the Southwest (June to September) and Northeast (October to December) monsoon period. The table below shows the month wise normal and actual rainfall of the district for the year 2007 – 08 (June 07 to May 2008).

5.2.6 Land Use Pattern

The land use pattern of the district depends mainly on topography, land form, soil cover etc. Out of the total geographical area of the district, only 2.14 percent is covered by forest and 11.6 percent of the area is put into non agricultural use. Cultivable waste accounts for 23.5 percentage.

5.2.7 Rainfall and climate

The district receives the rain under the influence of both southwest and northeast monsoons. The northeast monsoon chiefly contributes to the rainfall in the district. Most of the precipitation occurs in the form of cyclonic storms caused due to the depression in Bay of Bengal. The southwest monsoon rainfall is highly erratic and summer rains are negligible. Rainfall data from three stations over the period 1901-2000 were utilised and a perusal of the analysis shows that the normal annual rainfall over the district varies from about 620mm to 745 mm. It is the minimum around Aravakurichi (622.7mm) in the western part of the district. It gradually increases towards eastwards and attains a maximum around Kulithalai (744.6mm). The average annual rainfall of the district is 635.68 mm. The district enjoys tropical climate. The period from March to May is generally hot and dry. The weather is pleasant during the period from November to January. Usually mornings are more humid than afternoon. The relative humidities are generally between 40 and 80 percent. The mean maximum temperature ranges from 26.7 to 38.56 ° C. The daytime heat is oppressive and the temperature is as high as 43.9 ° C. The lowest temperature recorded is of the order of 13.9 ° C.

5.2.8 Soil Types

Soil types of the area are more important, since they are the main criteria for agricultural production and also for the recharge of groundwater. Different types of soil are derived from a wide range of geological formations. A soil map of Karur district based on the survey by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Department indicates four types of soils viz. Red Soil, Thin Red Soil, Red Loam and River Alluvium Soil. The red soils are predominantly seen Kadavur, Kulithalai, Krishnarayapuram, Thanthoni and Thogamalai blocks. The thin red soils are seen in Aravakurichi and K. Paramathy blocks. Major

portion of Karur block is covered by red loam. These details are given in the following Table. Various types of crops raised in different types of soil in different parts of Karur district is also given in the Table.

Table 5.1

Distribution of Major Soil Types (%)

Sl. No.	Taluk	Red Loam	Thin Red Soil	Red Soil	River Alluvium	Total
1	Aravakurichi	-	100	-	-	100
2	Karur	60	-	40	-	100
3	Krishnarayapuram	-	-	70	30	100
4	Kulithalai	-	-	50	50	100

Source: Karur District Profile

Table 5.2

Cropping Pattern Adopted in Major Soil Types

Sl. No.	Name of the Major Soil Group	Crops Grown
1	Thin Red Soil	Paddy, Pulses, Rainfed crops, Sugarcane, Vegetables
2	Red Soil	Paddy, Pulses, Rainfed crops, Sugarcane, Vegetables
3	River Alluvium	Paddy, Pulses, Cotton, Groundnut, Sugarcane, Banana
4	Red Loam	Paddy, Pulses, Cotton, Groundnut, Sugarcane, Banana

Source: Karur District Profile

5.2.9 Irrigation by Surface and Ground Water

Generally, for agricultural purposes maximum amount of available water resources are utilised through minor irrigation. In Karur district, 270 tanks, 14 canals and one reservoir serve as the main source of irrigation. Cauvery river and Amaravathi river are two main rivers. The details of minor irrigation sources in the

district are given in Table 5.3. Due to vagaries of the monsoon, the river system, which are main sources of the surface water irrigation, fail to cater to the needs of farmers. Hence the chief source of irrigation in the district is through well which play a significant role in the irrigation of the district followed by surface water structures. The net area irrigated by canals, tanks and tube wells are given in Table 5.4.

Table 5.3

Minor Irrigation Sources of Karur District

Sl. No.	Taluk	Canals	Reservoirs	Tanks
1	Aravakurichi	3	1	6
2	Karur	3	-	9
3	Krishnarayapuram	3	-	123
4	Kulithalai	5	-	132
	Total	14	1	270

Source: Department of Statistics, Karur

Table 5.3

Minor Irrigation Sources of Karur District

Period	Irrigation Development in hect.	
	Canals and Tanks	Tube wells and open wells
2008-09	24316	23706
2009-10	24755	25798
2010-11	27497	31124
2011-12	22454	25214
2012-13	12313	26374

Source: Department of Statistics, Karur

Agriculture is the major source of livelihood of the people in the district. The major food crops are paddy, cumbu, cholam and the pulses are redgram, greengram and blackgram. Chief commercial crops are tapioca, onion, groundnut, sugarcane, turmeric, banana and betelvine. The major irrigational source in the district is well irrigation. A portion of this district is irrigated by the rivers Cauvery and its tributary Thirumanimutharu. Tank irrigation constitutes some area of this district. The table 4.2 shows the land use pattern in the district.

5.2.10 Geology Profile

Geologically, the entire district can be classified into hard rock and sedimentary formations. Hard Rock Formation: More than 90 percent of the district is underlain by hard rock of Archaean age. The gneissic type of formation is the major formation among the various types of hard rocks. Charnockites occurs in this district as pockets in Karur and Aravakurichi taluks. Quartzites which are resistant to weathering are also seen as patches in Charnockites and gneissic varieties.

5.2.11 Features of Population

As per 2011 census the total population of the district is 935686 out of which 465538 are males and 470148 are females.

5.2.12 Rural and Urban Population

Nearly 624430 persons are living in rural areas and 311256 persons are living in Urban areas

5.2.13 Work Force

Total main workers of the district as per 2011 census are 496464 among the total workers male workers are 294150 and female workers are 202314. Rural workers are 350637 and urban workers are 136827. From the census it was noticed that 100875 persons are engaged in cultivation works and marginal workers are 51014.

CHAPTER VI

DATA ANALYSIS

The present chapter is allotted for analysing the collected primary data pertaining to the socio economic conditions of the 400 selected respondents of the study area during the study period under consideration. The researcher divided the data analysis into three parts in the first part primary data related to socio economic conditions are analysed. In the second part the researcher analysed the data related to production and marketing of paddy cultivation during the study period. In third part the researcher analysed the data related to cost and revenue aspects of paddy cultivation of the study.

6.1 Age Wise Distribution of the Respondents

The Table 6.1 shows the age wise classification of the selected respondents of the present study during the study period.

TABLE 6.1
AGE WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS

Age Group	Size of the Farmers				Total
	Marginal Farmers	Small Farmers	Medium Farmers	Large Farmers.	
21-30	28 (22)	23 (21)	13 (13)	7 (12)	71 (18)
31-40	83 (66)	66 (59)	78 (72)	40 (72)	267 (67)
41-50	8 (7)	13 (12)	9 (8)	4 (8)	34 (8)
<51	7 (5)	9 (8)	8 (7)	4 (8)	28 (7)
Total	126 (100)	111 (100)	108 (100)	55 (100)	400 (100)
χ^2	15.329 with 9 degree of difference				

Source: Primary Data