CONCLUSIONS:

- The study area is gifted with diversified geographical, climatical, physical and infrastructural facilities.
- The net sown area is found to be stagnant for the last 50 years.
- The shares of pulses, groundnut, cotton, and chillies in gross cropped area have increased significantly.
- The shares of cereals like jowar, bajra and maize under rainfed cultivation have been more or less stagnant, while the share of rainfed groundnut in total groundnut area has decreased.
- The shares of pulses like redgram, greengram, blackgram and bengalgram have been almost stagnant.
- The growth indicators of selected crops in dryland regions found to be fluctuating widely. These fluctuations will have direct and indirect impact on socio-economic conditions of the farmers.
- Per acre investment by all cost concepts is found to be high among large farmers when compared to the other four farming categories.
- The intensity of labour use is significantly high in chillies followed by cotton and groundnut.
- The intensity of use of modern inputs like fertilisers and pesticides is found to be high in commercial crops like chillies, cotton and groundnut.
- There is a positive relation between farm size and per acre gross income in all the selected crops.
- The gross returns are high in chillies followed by cotton and groundnut. It is very low in case of sunflower, redgram, greengram and jowar.
The family labour income is found to be negative in the cultivation of sunflower among marginal and small farms. It is in greengram among semi-medium farms and in jowar among marginal farms.

In case of redgram cultivation the family labour income is negative among all sizes of groups.

The net income from cultivation of cotton and chillies is found to be increasing with farm size.

Per acre loss is found to be high in redgram followed by sunflower and greengram.

Marginal farm households incurred losses in cultivation of cotton and groundnut.

The income per a rupee of investment is found to be low in study area.

Cultivation of crops in dryland regions is not economical.

Housing status clearly indicates the low standard of living of the farm household i.e. 44 per cent without a pucca house reflect the poverty among farm households.

57 per cent of the heads of the farm households do not have any formal education, 11.33 per cent of the farmers have primary education, 22 per cent of the farmers have school level education and 10 per cent of the dryland farmers have had education of above 10th class. The data on literacy among the dryland farmers appeared to be low when compared to overall state rural population literacy, which is 47 per cent.

The institutional agencies are not able to meet the credit requirements of the farmers. The farmers in the study area borrow loan from money lenders, commission agents and input dealers at high interest rates.

The loan borrowed per acre is found to be increasing with the decreasing of farm size.
- Low return to cultivation and absence of non-farm opportunities are said to be the indication of the larger socio-economic deprivement in dryland cultivation. This will be alienated by multiple risks like, income, yield, price and credit among others. This led to the incidence of indebtedness among farm households.

- Eighty percent of farm households are reported to be indebted.

- The prevalence of indebtedness is increasing with the farm size. The percentage of indebted farm households is high among large and medium farms.

- It is observed that 72 percent farm households have used the amount borrowed on productive purposes and 28 percent of farm households have used on unproductive purposes.

- The income of marginal and small farm households from cultivation is found to be much lower than the other farm households.

- The monthly per capita consumption expenditure is increasing with the size of the land possessed and family size also found to be increasing with the size of the land possessed. i.e., even large and medium farm households are consuming less than the recommended minimum intake levels in the study area.

- The socio-economic conditions of the farm households are poor in the study area. The socio-economic structure does not have any direct influence on the cultivation.

- Composite index of standard of living reveals that the marginal and small farms are found to be the most disadvantaged category in terms of standard of living.

- 70 percent of semi-medium, 50 percent of medium and large farm households are not in a better condition than the marginal and small farm households in both economic and social aspects.
• The index of deprivation reveals that 78 per cent of dryland farm households are in deprived state and only 2 per cent of farm households are in not deprived state and the remaining 20 per cent of farm households are in less deprived state.

• Nearly 47 per cent of the total farm households are found to be in most deprived state.

• The result indicates that the literacy percentage, farm size, mandays of employment, percentage of adults in the household and income from agriculture are found to be negative and significant. This indicates that one unit change in the negative and significant slope of coefficient would decrease the probability of household being deprived by their appropriate percentages.

• The coefficient of the other explanatory variable, family size is positive and significant, which indicates that the change in the family size would increase the probability of respondent to be poor.

• The coefficient of the other variable, social status is positive and not significant. This indicates that the change in the social status of respondents would also increase the probability of households to be deprived.

• The results reveal that the social status of the farm households could not influence their probability of being deprived, i.e., non SC, ST households are also found to be deprived by their appropriate percentages. Thus the results of analysis, imply that the probability of a household being deprived could be influenced by the variables considered in this model except that of social status.