CHAPTER - III
PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

The profile of the study area has been divided into six sections. Three sections explain the profile of the sample districts-Kanyakumari, Tanjavur and Madurai. The profile includes demography, climate, occupational divisions, agriculture, soil, river, infrastructure etc.. The other three sections describe the profile of the sample units. It includes the origin, capital, membership, line of activity, development etc..

3.1. PROFILE OF KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

Kanyakumari is a small, compact, homogenous district without any diverse agro"climatic conditions. It was a part of erstwhile Travancore state. It was re-organised and merged with Tamil Nadu on the 1st of November 1956. The district has an area of 1,61,784 hectares. It has been divided into two revenue divisions with 81 revenue villages in four taluks. To carry out the developmental programmes of the state and the centre, the district has been divided into nine community blocks comprising 88 village panchayats and 66 town panchayats and further 4 municipalities. The district is densely populated with 16 lakhs people which include 8,03,839 males and 7,96,510 females as per 1991 census. The
density of population is 945 persons per-square kilometers, which is highest in the state. The rural population consists of 13,30,240 while urban population is 2,70,109. Out of the total population 12 lakh people are literate and rest of them are illiterate.

Kanyakumari District is rich in its natural resources. Various food and commercial crops like paddy, coconut, rubber, palmgur, banana, cashewnut, and spices are growing in this area. These products give ample of scope for starting various industries like rubber groves, engineering, agricultural implements and electronic industries. The district is the only one in Tamil Nadu with about 21,407 hectare of land under rubber plantations. The mineral deposits of the district are not very great as they not include the important mineral like iron, copper and manganese ore. However some of the common minerals such as illuminate, zircon, Garnet, Monozite, of high quality which are being extracted in the district are made use of several industries. Marine fishing is carried out all over the coastal area which is 68 km in length in the district. The total forest area account for 49,369 being concentrated in Tholavai, Thiruvaltar and Malpuram blocks.

Kanyakumari district is fairly developed with all infrastructural requirements for industrial growth. The important agricultural and commercial centres in the district are connected by a well developed
network of roads and railways. The length of national highways is 77.80 surfaced Km, district road is 274.800 surfaced Km and the municipal road is 22.113 kms. The total length of railway is estimated at 78 Km and there are 13 railway stations. It also has a minor natural Port at Colachel on the west coast, which is proposed to be developed into a fishing harbour. The Vedaranyam canal is the only inland water way in the district. The canal is 75 Kms long and connect Vedaranya. A fairly good communication system is functioning to serve all the hook and corner of the district through 1099 post offices and 201 public call offices.

The economy of the district continues to be predominately agrarian. Not many strides have been made in the development of large and medium scale industries. In this district, there are 14 public sector banks and 12 private sector banks with 102 branches. Out of this 36 are in the Urban, whereas 66 are situated in the rural area. There are 14 large and medium scale units in this district, of which 3 are sugar factories, 3 textile units. Apart from this there are five modern rice mills, one steel rolling mill and two chemical factories. In the small scale industries, there are more than 200 rice mills in this district which process nearly 70 % of total paddy output. In this district there are 1,785 small industries, 3537 cottage industries and 3357 handicrafts. The number of units in
small scale industries under DIG are 4760 giving employment to 12,000 persons with the total investment of 280 lakh. Handloom weaving is another major small scale industry with 12,000 looms and 55 weaver cooperative societies. A large number of agricultural labourers are engaged in polymer industry. On the whole, the small scale industries in the district provide employment opportunities only to 51,256 persons. Particular reference is given to rubber based industries and agro based industries; important activities of small scale units are cashew processing, printing, coir making, bee keeping, poultry etc,. Among the cottage industries the handloom industry is the most prominent one.¹

3.2 PROFILE OF KAMYAKUMAM DISTRICT COIR COOPERATIVES

There is a close nexus between the excessive concentration of the coir industry and ecological factors in Kanyakumari district. According to a report published by the government of Tamil Nadu in 1986, Kanyakumari district occupies the pride of place among centre manufacturing coir and coir products. The simple reason is that as much as 63.5 per cent of the coir manufacturing units of the entire Tamil Nadu in Kanyakumari District.

¹ District statistical report of Kanyakumari district, statistical Department, Nagercoil-2001
The brief description of the sample coir cooperative societies in Kanyakumari District is given below:

3.2.1 Kollancode Coir Workers Industrial Cooperative Society

The Kollancode coir workers Industrial Cooperative Society was registered on 22.2.1958 and started its production from 01-1959 with the total paid up share capital of Rs. 57077.50. Of which the member's contribution was Rs. 7077.50 having 160 members. The line of activity of the society is to produce and sell 2 and 3 play coir yarn. The important thing of this society was that it remained dormant for fifteen years. It was revived and put on a sound footing only from 1980-1981. The total acquired land of the society is 30 cents. The share capital of the society increased to Rs. 1.71 lakhs in 1990-91. Despite the above improvements, the society was not able to make any significant progress. The accumulated loss of the society was estimated at Rs. 2.10 lakh in 1998-99. An important problem concern towards this society that the workers went up to cashew processing unit frequently. In the ICDP scheme, the estimated block cost of this unit is Rs 17.501 lakh. Under this scheme the workshed is constructed at the cost of Rs. 3 lakh. The proposed workshed of the society is situated 425 meters from the coastal line.
Further, the society proposes order for the supply of 15 AYS machinaries and willowing machines at the cost of Rs.1 1.50 lakhs under this scheme. 

3.2.2 Painkulam Coir workers industrial cooperative unit

The Painkulam Coir workers industrial cooperative unit was established in 22.11.1958 and went into production from 25.1.1959 with 225 members and their paid up capital of Rs. 10,000. The total members available by were 285, while the workers were of 42 in 1999-2000. The society is organised to produce 2 ply coir yarn. The THADCO financed the society about Rs.1.44 for its infrastructural facilities. The society is functioning in 22 cents of acquired land. The estimated block cost of ICDP Scheme is Rs. 10.30 lakh. Under the scheme 15 AYS machines are proposed with the installed capacity of 13 kg per day per machine at the cost of Rs.6.60 lakh. Further a new workshed is to be constructed at the cost of Rs.3 lakhs. An important problem faced by the society is fibre shortage.

3.2.3 Central Coir Marketing Society (Mat and Mattings unit)

The Central Coir Marketing Society which is also undertaking mat and matting production was established in January 1961 with the paid up share capital of Rs. 1,07,903 of which the contribution of

members amounted to Rs.62,930/- and the government participation worth at Rs.45,000/-.

The society receives finished products from its member society and sells them on a consignment basis. The society is working on 1.40 Acres of its own land. The NCDC has given subsidy of about Rs.1.68 lakhs in 1987-88. The government of Tamil Nadu sanctioned loan of Rs.32,000 to the society in 1960-61 and Rs.5000 in 1961-62. The amount was increased to Rs.3,00,000 in 1985, further Rs 9.02 lakhs in 1993-94. Besides the National cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) sanctioned financial assistance of Rs4.2 lakhs for construction of godowns and Rs.2,00,000 towards share capital assistance. The estimated Cost from the ICDP scheme is Rs. 26.60 lakh of which Rs.12.75 for purchasing machinaries to produce mat and mattings.4

3.2.4o Pandaratdlai Coir Workers Cooperative Society

The Pandaravilai Coir Workers Cooperative Society was registered on 25-01-81 with the paid up share capital Rs 6,0650. out of this the members contribution was Rs.10,650 while the government participation was Rs.50,000/- When the society went into the production the society had 76 members and 15 pairs of ratts. Now the society is having 130 members and 35 workers

society undertakes to produce 2 ply yam. The disquieting feature of the society is that the share capital assistance was not increased since the society engaged in production. The value of coir production in 1981-82 was Rs. 8327 and in 1985-86 was Rs. 12,018 further it went up to Rs 3.74 lakh in 1999-2000. Like all the other societies, the Pandavilai Society faced with the problems of lack of interest on the part of members, dearth of funds and fibre. The society proposes to implement ICDP scheme for its infrastructural facilities.  

3.2.5 **Muhilianhundiyiruppu Coconut fibre cooperative society**

The Muhilianhundiyiruppu Coconut fibre cooperative society was started in the year -08-1981. It went to production from 02-1982. It was started with the government contribution of Rs. 1,50,00 and members contribution of Rs. 17,530 with 70 members. The society employed about 87 members and 30 workers in 1999-2000. The line activity of the society is extracting fibre from coconut husks. The society purchase husk mainly from the private coconut growers. The total installed capacity of the society is 2,00,000 husk per month but the society can procure only about 50,000 to 75,000 husks, because of non-availability of green husk. The total production of the society was estimated at Rs. 16.73 lakh while the sales value was
Rs. 18.82 lakh in 1999-2000. In addition to this 14 private units are functioning nearby the society, are ready to give bulk amount to purchase husk.  

The finished products are sold in the coir marketing society at Vadesari. The accumulated loss of the society was estimated in 1998-99 at 1.05 lakh. Under the ICDP scheme the society availed Rs.4.24 lakh as financial assistance for repairing the existing machinaries and purchasing new machinaries.

3.2.6 *Mullanlkavilai* Coir workers society

The Mullankavilai Coir workers society came into being on 28-01-1981 with 73 members and a total paid up share capital of Rs 57,81,01. The main activity of the society is to produce 2 and 3 ply coir yarn. The total value of production was estimated in 1990’s to be Rs.36223 while it had the total amount of loss, about Rs.7,000 in the same year. The society, at present, have 131 members and only 12 workers In 1999-2000. The production was estimated in the year by Rs 1.56 lakh. The society proposes a plan to construct a new workshed at the cost Rs.4 lakhs under the ICDP scheme. The important problem faced by the society concerns itself with the quality of yarn production.
3.2.7 Enayam. Coir Cooperative Society

The Enayam Coir Cooperative Society was started with the paid up share capital of Rs.57,340/- by 74 members and Government on 07-03-1982 and it has functioned from 20.3.82. The main aim of the society is to provide employment opportunities to the fisher women in nearby coastal villages. The society is functioning on a 20 cents leased land. The activity of the society is producing 2 ply yarn and curled coir. The society undertakes production with 5 pairs of ratts. The total production was estimated at Rs. 10,157 in 1982-83 that again went up to Rs 2.02 lakh in 1992-93 while the total sales proceeds amounted of Rs. 11700 raised to 2.25 lakh in between the above mentioned years. The main problem faced by the society is inadequacy of working capital assistance. The society proposes to implement ICDP scheme for construction of new buildings and other infrastructural facilities.  

3.2.8 Kootalumoodu Coir industrial cooperative society

The Kootalumoodu Coir industrial cooperative society was registered on 02-1982 having 220 members with the total paid up capital of Rs.53830. The society was functioned with ten paired ratts since -03-1982. But the utilisation of full capacity of production was not able to made due to acute shortage of fibre. The total value of
production of this society estimated in 1982-83 was about 10,818 and went up to 1,10,493 in 1985-86 and it further raised to Rs 8.90 lakh in 1999-2000. The sales of the society was Rs.1 160 in 1986-87 and went up to 15.27 lakh in 1998-99. There are 270 members and 62 workers are actively participated in coir production. The line activity of the society is to produce 2 play yarn and coir rope. The unit is carrying its production activities with 33 cents on a leased land. The Coir Board financed the society with about Rs. 30, 670 in the form of managerial assistance. Under the ICDP scheme the society is to be supplied 10 AYS machines to standardize its products at the cost of Rs.4.251akh. The main constraint of this society is that it has a limited order for coir rope.\textsuperscript{9}

3.2.9 Bludesam Adi dravidar Coir Society

The Eludesam Adi dravidar Coir Society established on -09-1982 and it functioned from - 10-1982 with the paid up share capital of Rs.26,940 having 275 members. Now the society is having about 360 members and 33 workers. The total production in 1999-2000 estimated at Rs 8.90 lakh. For many years since its inception the society was running in a rental buildings. Now the society possess 96 cents of promboke lands. As it is an adidravidar society.
it received a margin money about Rs.1.27 lakh from THADCO. The society undertakes production of 2ply yarn and fibre extraction.  

3.2.10 Manavilai Adidravidar Coir industrial society

The Manavilai Adidravidar Coir industrial society was started on 03-1982 and functioned from 01-1983 with the total paid up capital of Rs.50,500 while the membership strength was 70. The line of activity of the society is producing 2 ply coir yarn. The main object of this society is to provide gainful employment to adidravidars who reside in the nearby areas, the share capital of the society was remaining almost the same. Since the time of inception, the society had 5 pair of ratts to produce the coir yarn. The total value of production was estimated in 1985-86 as Rs.40,206, while the total sales of the society was estimated at Rs.9,364 during the year. At present the society has about Rs.3.98 of cumulative loss. The society has got its own problem that there are only 5 ratts in the society and nearly 15 workers only. Under the ICDP scheme, the society is to built new workshed about 3 lakh and about 10.30 lakh proposed to purchase machinates.\textsuperscript{11}

\textsuperscript{11} Evaluation Report, Manavilai Adidravidar Coir Industrial Society , 2000 -2001
3.3 PROFILE OF TAWJAVUR DISTRICT

Tanjavur district is the granery of Tamil Nadu. The district is also rightly called the cultural central of the Cavery delta having been the capital of the great Chola Empire, which flourished between 10th and 14th centuries. The Tanjavur district is bounded on the north by Tiruchirapalli and south Arcot districts, on the south by Pudukkottai district and on the east by Bay of Bengal and the balk straits. The district is extended over an area of 33965.57 Sq.Kms. of which the greater part of the district consist mainly of an undertaking plain directed by the Cauvery valley.

The district has a high mean temperature and low degree of humidity. Eventhough the district is not subjected to extreme of climate, the summer months are quite not. The normal maximum and minimum temperature are 39.07C and 20.97C respectively. The district also has a modest rainfall, having two sessions of Monsoon namely south-east and north west. The north west monsoon gives modest rainfall as compared to the south west monsoon. The rainfall of north east is 632.6 mm in actual and 525 mm in normal while south west gives 153.5 mm. in actual and 320.9 mm in normal rain. The soil of the district are fertile. Alluvial, Sandy Clay, and red soil are found in this district.
Tanjavur district is rich in its natural resources. Various food and commercial crops like, paddy, sugarcane, greengram, black grams, and banana, and the non food Crop are groundnut, Gingelly and coconut are grown in the area. The total cultivated area of the district is 26,785 hectares. Among the crops which are produced in this district, rice ranks first place having 189 hectares with 610 production in Tonnes. Sugarcane is next to rice, having 12 hectares, of area with 1095 tones of production.

Tanjavur district is densely populated with 32 lakhs people which include 10,99,050 are male and 10,99,740 are female as per the census of Tanjavur district in 1991. The rural population consists 14,86,977 while urban population is 5,66,783. Out of the total population, 12 lakh people are literate. The density of Population is 605 persons per square kilometers. The district has been divided into three revenue divisions; with 904 revenue villages in 8 taluks and 50 revenue firkas. To carry out the developmental programmes of the state and centre the district has been divided into 3 community development divisions, comprising 14 panchayats unions, 22 town panchayats and 589 village panchayats. Further 3 municipalities are functioning in this district.
Regarding its infrastructure all places of commercial and agricultural importance are well linked together by a good network of road having a total length of comprising 58 km National Highway, 269 Km of state highway, Municipality road is 389 Km, Panchayat road 3465 Kms and 1865 Km are other roads. The district is well served by meterguage railway. The total length of rail network is 385 Km of which 282 Km is track length and 183 Km are route length. All important places and taluk headquarters except Orathanadu are connected by rail. A fairly good communication system is functioning to serve all the nook and corner of the district through 195 post and telegraph offices and 305 using post offices above. The total number of telephone users more in 92243 having 92 telephones exchanges during this year.

The economy of the district continues to be predominately agrarian. Not much strides has been made in the development of large and medium scale industries. In this district the cooperative societies such as cooperative banks, industrial cooperatives and agricultural cooperatives, have grown significantly. There are 16 cooperative banks functioning to provide medium and long term oans to the agrarian sector. Apart from this 256 primary agriculture societies 39 housing societies and 52 employees cooperatives societies play a major role to help the farmers and employees more.
Of the industrial cooperatives, 101 cooperative are functioning! of which 26 are weaver cooperative societies, 59 khadi and village industries and 32 primary industrial societies play a commendable role to enhance the growth of village cooperatives.\textsuperscript{12}

3.4 PROFILE OF COIR SOCIETIES M TAWJAVUR DISTRICT

The brief description of the sample coir cooperative in Tanjavur district is given below.

1.4.1 \textit{Kumhak\&nam} Coir workers Industrial Cooperative Society

The Kumbakonam Coir workers Industrial Cooperative Society /as registered on 07-2-1947. Initially this society was reorganised to reduce employment with cotton yarn rope manufacturing and subsequently changed as coir industrial cooperative society. Now there are 229 members with the paid up capital of Rs.0.89 lakhs in its society. At present the society is manufacturing mechanised ply yarn in AYS.machines. The total production was estimated at Rs .60 lakh while the total sale proceeds amounted of Rs 4.64 lakh in 399-2000. The society has availed the ICDP benefit to modernise its oducts. Now the society has the total assets of Rs.15.76 lakh, of which Rs.11.30 lakh are machinaries assets remaining are land and arksheds. The society is now working on a cumulative loss of

Rs. 3.72 lakh of which depreciation reserve is Rs. 3.20 lakhs. The society has been equipped two semi automatic looms for coir mattings and geo-textiles.\(^{13}\)

3.4.2 Poondi Pudumaimatha Coir Workers Industrial Cooperative Society

The Poondi Pudumaimatha Coir Workers Industrial Cooperative Society was established on 27-08-1986 and commenced its business activities from 01.10.1986. The society displays coir yarn production and mainly engages Choodi coir yarn. The society now is having 110 members with the paid up share capital of Rs. 2.16 lakh. The production was estimated at Rs 2.21 lakh in 1999-2000. The society has availed the financial assistance from the coir Board at Rs. 1,03,340 and they got subsidy to about 0.89 lakh. Of the 110 members, only 40 members were availed training in motorized ratts and the number of motarised ratts now available in the society is 22. This society also procured accumulated lossess to about 0.80 lakh.\(^{14}\)

3.4.3 Peravurani Coconut fibre Industrial Cooperative Society

The Peravurani Coconut fibre Industrial Cooperative Society was organised and registered on 24-06-1986. Among the 191 total

\(^{13}\) Kumbakonam coir industrial cooperative society, Kumbakonam 2000-2001
members, 45 to 60 women workers are actively participated the production of coir fibre. The society purchase coconut husk in the near by area. The society has its own land which was purchased for Rs.0.90 lakhs. The total production was estimated at Rs 3.60 lakh while the sale proceeds amounted of the same figure in 1999-2000. The society entrusted the construction of a workshed cum office to the Kathidonayam, by DRDA Tanjavur in 1995-96. As sufficient funds are not available the building could not be completed. The society has approached the Coir Board under the model coir village scheme to sanction funds for construction of a buildings. The society has selected 20 women workers to give effective training.

3.4.4 Kuruvikarambai Adidravidar industrial coir cooperative society;

The Kuruvikarambai Adidravidar industrial coir cooperative society was registered on 07-04-87 and its work commenced on 17-12-1987. The main object of the society is to give continuous and gainful employment to the poor downtrodden women folk and adidravidars so as to ameliorate their economic condition. Now there are 320 adidravidar womens as a members in this society. The line of

activity is to produce 2 ply coir yarn. There are 345 members and 63 workers actively participated in coir production. The society has implemented THADCO scheme. Under the scheme 1.83 acres of land has been purchased, further the society is planning to purchase automatic yarn spinning machinaries at the cost of Rs. 8.45 lakh. The society has availed subsidy in the form of land and building at Rs. 2,72,500 and a machinery subsidy of Rs. 1,30,000 from the Coir Board. However the society faces a set back having Rs 0.93 lakh of cumulative losses.16

3.4.S Tamil Nadu industrial Cooperative Rubberised Coir products Society;

The Tamil Nadu Industrial Cooperative Rubberised Coir products Society was registered on 16-10-1986 and started production on 08.01.1987, with the authorised share capital of Rs. 2 lakhs. Primary and central coir producers and marketing industrial cooperative societies are the members of this society. The society now is having 47 members with the paid up capital of Rs. 36.50 lakh. The total value of production was estimated at Rs 207.34 lakh in 1999-2000. The unit is located in the most backward taluk of Orthanadu in district of Tanjavur. The installed production capacity

this unit is 240 M.T.S. per annum as well as per shift. However society has the cumulative losses of Rs. 45 lakhs during 1999-00. The society has availed NCDC term loan to installed the Lchinaries to produce quality of rubberised products.\textsuperscript{17}

4.5 \textit{Manalur Adidravidar coir cooperative society}

The Manalur Adidravidar coir cooperative society was registered on 12-10-87 and was commenced from 22-12-1987. Now the society is having 214 members and only 13 workers. The society age 2 ply and 3 ply yarn production. The society has availed the ICDP scheme. Under the ICDP scheme, 5 automatic spinning ratts, are established in January 2000. The society already had 6 lowing and shivering machines and started its production since inception of the society. The production was estimated at Rs 1.10 highh in 1999-2000. One of the impediments of this society is that it often got repairing its machinaries, with this consequence it was able to make its performance as better. After the society availed ICDP loan the above said elements has been recovered well.\textsuperscript{18}
3.4.7 Mogaikarkasi Adidravidar Industrial Coir Cooperative Society

The Mangayarkarasi Adidravidar Industrial Coir Cooperative Society was established on 08-12-1988, with 85 members and paid up capital of 0.65 lakhs. The society has imparted coir training for a minimum period of two months at the society to 8 SC and 4 BC womens to the subcentre at Keezakorakkai. The line of activity of the society is to produce 2 ply coir yarn and the finished products send mainly to the marketing society in Tanjavur. In Lr. No. 22248 / ICCI / 93 dated 18-02-1999 the commissioner has approved constitution of a purchase committee for the purchase of one set of automatic spinning units to effect the production of this unit. The total members available by 95 and the workers strength was 23 in 1999-2000.

3.4.8 Cholanadu Coir Industrial Estate Cooperative Society

The Cholanadu Coir Industrial Estate Cooperative Society exclusively accommodates coir units and was registered on 10-03-1989 and functioned its production from 01.02.1992. There are 360 members and 62 workers available in 1999-2000. The society has 8 to 10 machines for producing coir mat and mattings, coir tea leaf bags, etc., Action is being taken to produce coir geo
textiles for exports through exporters. There are 24 tiny worksheds in 66 blocks to have constructed so far. The society proposes to avail ICDP scheme and install semi automatic looms, and spinning machinaries with the assistance of NCDC. The society has the cumulative loss about 4.60 lakhs in 1999-2000.  

3.4.9 Tamil Nadu central Coir Marketing Cooperative Society (Coir Rope unit)

The Tamil Nadu central Coir Marketing Cooperative Society has functioned from 31-08-1975. In the initial stage it was marketing the products of the members only. Since 1993-94 the society has enrolled the primary coir society as members. The society is having one curled coir production unit which has been sanctioned by the NCDC New Delhi at a black cost of Rs.9.56 lakh. Now the society is not functioning well. It has the cumulative loss about Rs.10.29 lakhs. At present, the society is having trading about 30 tonnes worth about Rs.4.50 lakhs and the sale is to be effected during this year.  


3.5 PROFILE OF MADURAI DISTRICT

The Madurai district is bordered by Dindigul and Trichirapalli district in the north Thevar District in the east Kamarajar district in the south and Theni district in the west. The district is at the foot of western ghats lying between 9°30’ and 10°50’ northern latitude and 77°10’ and 78°20’ eastern longitude. The geographical extent of Madurai is 3741.73 sq.Km accounting for 2.9 per cent of geographical area of Tamil Nadu state. There are 2 revenue division and 13 blocks in the district. The district has 9 taluks with 596 villages. The Madurai district is classified into 6 sub zones (Southern plateau and Hill region) under zone x among the 13 agro climatic zones in the country. The district has a total population of about 24 lakhs comprising of 12.15 lakh males and 11.85 lakhs females. Around 56 per cent of the population come under non worker classification which reveals the magnitude of unemployment in the district of the 34 percent of the working population, 61 per cent are engaged in agricultural work.

By and large, the climate of Madurai district is hot and dry. Normally subtropical climate prevails over the district without any share variations. The average annual rainfall of the district is 867.5 mm. There are Four distinct season viz., south-west monsoon,
north-east monsoon winter and summer. The types of soil available in the district are thin red, deepred, laetrile, black and red sandy. Among the types, half of the area of this district is covered with red and black land soil. As regards mineral resources, lime stone deposits, granite etc., are available in the district. Nature has endowed Madurai district with two rivers namely, Vaigai and Periyar. These rivers have the origin in the Western Ghats. But Vaigai only flows through the various parts of Madurai district. The rivers in Madurai are seasonal one. The main irrigational sources in Madurai district are well, tanks, and canals. The net irrigated area of the district is 92671 hectares, of which the contribution about 50334 hectare, and through the wells about 21405 hectares and remaining 21405 hectare by other sources.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of this district. The main cereal crops grown in this district are paddy, cholam, ragi. Pulses, sugar cane, cotton, groundnut and Gingelly are some of the commercial crops. The total net sown area of the district is 1,44,145 hectares, of which paddy is cultivated around 1,19,000 hectares. Some of the major fruits grown in this district are banana, mango, guava and grapes. The district has well developed transport systems and facilities to free movement of goods and services. The inter district roadways are also fairly connected with almost all the
villages. The total length of roads in this district is 7,759.4 km of which surface roads are 4,667.5 km and unsurfaced road have a length of 3,071.9 km. The total length of national and state highways in the district are 69.4 and 54.4 km respectively. The district is served by a network of 238 bank branches administered by national banks besides 6 branches of schedule banks. In addition to these banks the State Financial Corporation and (SFC) Tamil Nadu Industrial and Investment Corporation TIIC also meet the credit requirement of Maduari district.

Next to Coimbatore district, a large share of industrial and trading population is in Madurai district. The district comprises of all categories of industries. Handloom weaving is the major household industries in this district. Nearly 35 per cent of Urban population are engaged in household industry are fashioning toys and dolls, food processing and manufacturing of safety matches. Nearly 20 per cent of total industries in the district are small scale. The small scale industries produce articles like stainless steel, aluminum, tin containers, agriculture implements and steel furniture. Among the food products, sweets, biscuits, pickles, jams are important items. Some important medium and large scale industries are spinning and weaving, transport equipments. Besides next, to Chennai 'Aavin', Tamil Nadu Dairy Development Corporation
produce Dairy products. Even though the district is basically agrarian and agriculture is main occupation. This district also offers scope in the field of textiles, readymade garments, floriculture, coir units, bakery units, toy making etc.,

3.6 PROFILE OF COIR COOPERATIVES M MADURAI DISTRICT

The brief description of the sample coir cooperative on Madurai District is given below.

3.6.1 Pallapatti Coconut fibre and Coir Twisting Industrial Cooperative Society

The Pallapatti Coconut fibre and Coir Twisting Industrial Cooperative Society was registered with 90 members on 29-03-82 and started on 06-04-82. The society engages mainly in fibre extraction but also in coir twisting. The society has implemented ICDP scheme, under the scheme a factory building for Rs.2.69 lakh was completed; as well as the society has taken into account to purchase more fibre extracting machinaries. The frequent power cuts affect the production of fibre. The goods are sold to coir marketing society in Salem.

3.6.2 Kottur Harijan Coir workers industrial cooperative society

The Kottur Harijan Coir workers industrial cooperative society was registered 20-02-1982 and came into business on 20-03-82. The society now is coming under dormancy, because of the society had about 3.97 lakhs of cumulative loss in 1999-2000. The society availed subsidy from DRDA about Rs. 12,000 in 1994-95. ²⁴

3.6.3 Periyakulam Coconut Fibre Extraction Cooperative Society;

The Periyakulam Coconut Fibre Extraction Cooperative Society was registered on 03.02.1981. It went to commence business from 27-01-1991. The line of activity of the society is to extracting coconut fibre from the coconut husks. The society procure coconut husks from the private coconut growers in the nearby areas at a cost of 15 paise per husk. There is land of 1 acre 85 cents in area and a pucca workshed of about 1600 sq feet. The society was near dormancy in 1998-99. The financial position of the society at present is not very encouraging. The outside liabilities is Rs.41,645 - prime land, work shed, pucca in good condition etc., so it is felt that reviving the society will be prudent. The finished good are sent to Chennai marketing society. ²⁵

3.6.4 Kondytpatti Adidravidar Coir Industrial Cooperative Society

The Kondympatti Adidravidar Coir Industrial Society was registered on 29-04-1992 and started their production from 6-1992. A government share of 10,000 and the member share 46,690 were also utilized. The line of activity of the society is to produce and sale 2 ply yarn. The society now is having Rs.0.39 lakh of cumulative loss due to the member non-interest to carry the work as they are more interested in agricultural work. 25

3.6.5 Kombai Industrial Coir cooperative Society

The Kombai Industrial Coir cooperative Society was registered on 2-03-1992 and went into production from 04-1992 with the government share of Rs. 1 lakh and the members share of 0.64 lakh. The society engages 2 ply yarn making. The yarn is taking with 3 ratts and action is being taken more 2 ratts purchasing. The finished coir yoga products are sold at Salem Coir marketing. The society have proposed to construct workshed at the cost of Rs.3.15 lakh under the ICDP scheme. 27

The brief profile of the study districts and the sample coir cooperative societies pave the way for the researcher to study the economic analysis of the coir cooperative societies in famil Nadu.