Chapter –III

STUDY AREA
This district derives its name from its chief town Kurnool the capital of former Nawabs, Capital of Andhra Pradesh State from 1st October 1953 to 1st November, 1956 and at presents the headquarters of the district. The name Kurnool is said to have been derived from Kandanavolu. Kurnool District lies between the northern latitudes of 14°54' and 16° 18' and eastern longitudes of 76° 58' and 79° 34'. The altitude of the district varies from 100 ft above the mean sea level. This district is bounded on the north by Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers as well as Mahabubnagar district, on the south by Kadapa and Anantapur Districts on the west by the Bellary district of Karnataka State and on the east by Prakasam District. The district ranks 10 in population with 8.47 crores of population with 7 per cent in national population according to 2011 provisional Population Census, while in area it occupies the 3rd place with 17658 Sq. Kms., which account for 6.41% of the total area of the state. At present Kurnool District comprises 3 Revenue Divisions, 54 Revenue Mandals 53 Mandal Parishads, One Municipal Corporation, 4 Municipalities, 898 Gram Panchayats, 926 Revenue Villages and 647 Hamlet Villages.

Nallamalas and Erramalas are the two important mountain ranges in the district running in parallel from North to South. The Erramalas divide the district into two well defined tracts from East to West. Between Erramalas and Nallamalas lies the Eastern part of the district comprises Nandikotkur, Pagidyala, Kothapalli, Pamulapadu,
Atmakur, Velgodu, J.Bunglow, Midthur, BandiAtmakur, Gadivemula, Nandyal, Mahanandi, Panyam, Banaganapalli, Owk, Koilakuntla, Rudravaram and Chagalamarri Mandals. This tract is crossed by the crest of Krishna and Pennar, watershed at the North part of the Pagidyala mandal at about 1000 above the sea level. From this height the ground slopes to the South along the river Kundu till it traverses into Pennar valley. Major part of its tract is predominantly black cotton soils.

The western tract comprises Pathikonda, Tuggali, Maddikera, Devanakonda, Gonegandla, Dhone, Peapully, Veldurthy, Bethamcherla, Krishnagiri, Kurnool, Orvakal, Kallur, Kodumur, C.Belagal, Gudur, Yemmiganur, Nandavaram, Mantralayam, Adoni, Peddakadubur, Kosigi, Kowthalam, Alur, Aspari, Holagunda, Halaharvi, and Chippagiri Mandals. The terrain here slopes from South to North and it is drained by the river Hundri which joins the river Tungabhadra at Kurnool. The soils in the North Western traversed parts by the river Hundri are black cotton while the South Eastern parts are predominantly pure red soils.

The Climate of the district is normally good and healthy. January, February and March months are usually pleasant with moderate winds from South-East. April and May are hottest months of the year, during these months the wind shifts to Southwest with increased force and brings welcome showers by the end of May.
During the succeeding four months the wind blows from Western side in Major parts of the district and brings fair quantum of rainfall. By the end of September the wind is light and pleasant forecasting the onset of Northeast monsoon. In November and December the weather is fine, Rainfall is rare and wind is light with occurrence of heavy dew. District normal rainfall of the year is 670 mm. During 2008-09 the rainfall received is 582 mm.

The principal rivers flowing in the district are the Tungabhadra (and its tributary is Hundri) the Krishna and the Kunderu. The Tungabhadra rises in the Western Ghats and after forming part of northern boundary for some distance separates Kurnool from the Telangana area flown in an Eastern direction receives Hundri and falls into the Krishna River at Kudali Sangam after winding northwards.

The Hundri, a tributary of Tungabhadra rises in the fields of Maddikera in Maddikera mandal receives a stream from Erramalas at Laddagiri in Kodumur Mandal and joins Tungabhadra at Kurnool. It drains much of Maddikera, Pathikonda, Devanakonda, Gonegandla, Kodumur and Kallur mandals. This is turbid streams with sudden rise and fall. The Kunderu also called Kumudvathi rises on the western side of Erramalas winds its way into Kunderu valley and flows in a Southern direction collecting drainage all along its course from either side. It flows through Orvakal, Midthur, Gadivemula, Nandyal, Gospadu, Koilakuntla, Dornipadu and Chagalamarrimandals and there enters KadapaDistrict. The floristic composition of the district
stands in direct relation to that climate and edaphic conditions and the biotic influence in various locations.

Broadly speaking the Eastern portion of the District bears better vegetation while the western of especially the north western portion comprising of Adoni, Peddakadubur, Alur, Aspari, Chippagiri, Halaharvi, Holagunda, Koilakuntla, Sanjamala, Owk, Pathikonda, Devanakonda, Krishnagiri, Veldurthy, Kodumur and Kallurmandals presents a desolate appearance and the vegetation that exists is confined mostly to small pockets of reserve forests. The total area under forests is 340669 hectares. Accounting for about 19.29 per cent of total geographical area of the district. The major parts of the forest area are confined mainly to the Nallamalas including its extensions, the Erramalas and a part of the Velikondas. The forests covering the Erramalas and Velikondas are of interior type Bamboo with timber species occurs fairly over extensive areas in the district. Tamarind and Beedi leaves are the important minor forest produce of the District.

Wild animals are found in plenty in Nallamalas and Erramalas hills which afford an ideal abide for wild life tiger, panthers, bears, jackals, hyaenas wild bears, foxes, spotted dears, sambrs, black bucks, neilgais, wild sheep etc., are found in these forests. In order to preserve the wild animals, forest of the northern part of Nallamalas covering an area of about 46.815 hectares has been brought under
the Nagarjuna Sagar – Srisailam wild life Sanctuary. Partridges, peacocks, red jungle foul, green pigeon, quails are the chief game birds found in the forests. The great Indian Bustard (BattaMeka) an endangered bird species is found near Rollapadu village of Midthur mandal and an area of about 1,600 hectares around Rollapadu village has been declared as protected area for propagation of this species. In the year 1983 Tiger project has been started near Srisallam covering 3,568 Sq. Km. of Nallamalas forest with 64 Tigers and 78 Panthers population as per 2003 Census.

The total Geographical area of the district is 17.658 lakh Hect. During the year 2008-09 the area covered by forest is 3.406 lakh Hects, which forms 19.3% to the total geographical area. The net area sown is 8.89 lakh Hects, forming 50.35% to the total geographical area. The total cropped area in the district is 10.35 lakhs Hects. The area sowed more than once during the year is 1.04 lakh Hects. The gross cropped area of the district is 10.35 lakh Hects. of which 2.53 lakh Hects. are irrigated through canals, tanks, wells and other sources during 2008-09.

The district receives its power supply from Tungabhadra and Hampi Hydro Electric Power Stations. Srisallam Hydro-Electric Power Project is constructed across the river Krishna at a distance of 3 Kms. from famous Srisallam Temple. The total cost of Project was Rs.433 Crores. There are seven Hydro generators of 110 M.W. Capacity each
and electricity produced during 2008-09 was 1811.398 Million KWH. Kurnool District possesses enormous deposits of lime-stone suitable for cement manufacture, apart from this, the important minerals of economic value in the district are barites, yellow shale, white shale, steatite etc.. Lime-Stone occurs in Kallur, Orvakal, Dhone, Peapully, Panyam, Banaganapalli, Owk, Gadivemula and Kolimigundla mandals with an annual exploitation of 74.77 lakh M.Tons. The annual output of the other minerals in the district is 285.62 lakh M.Tons during 2008-09. Agricultural development in Kurnool district is very low in the state. The principal crops in the Kurnool district are presented in Table-3.1.

Table-3.1
Area under Principal Crops in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh
(Area in hectares)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Paddy</th>
<th>Jowar</th>
<th>Bajra</th>
<th>Sunflower</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>94069</td>
<td>118354</td>
<td>15820</td>
<td>54439</td>
<td>938520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>107097</td>
<td>94306</td>
<td>19222</td>
<td>44103</td>
<td>991824</td>
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<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>81779</td>
<td>93013</td>
<td>14116</td>
<td>76264</td>
<td>914166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>58923</td>
<td>102830</td>
<td>10714</td>
<td>110675</td>
<td>922958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>39584</td>
<td>117800</td>
<td>15029</td>
<td>119261</td>
<td>949350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>73523</td>
<td>103085</td>
<td>11136</td>
<td>120469</td>
<td>956487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>108634</td>
<td>94204</td>
<td>12190</td>
<td>101241</td>
<td>991490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>93167</td>
<td>73236</td>
<td>9465</td>
<td>97113</td>
<td>959549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>108646</td>
<td>68649</td>
<td>10005</td>
<td>85245</td>
<td>1034808</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Chief Planning Officer, Kurnool, 2010.
From the Table-3.1 shows that the principal crops are paddy, jowar, bajra, and cereals crops and especially the commercial crops are groundnut, sunflower rises in the district. The area, production and productivity of paddy and sunflower are presented in Table-3.2.

**Table-3.2**

Area, Yield and Production of Paddy and Sunflower Crops in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Paddy</th>
<th>Sunflower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Yield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>94069</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
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<td>3226</td>
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<td>2001-2002</td>
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<td>2694</td>
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<td>2841</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>73523</td>
<td>3377</td>
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<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>108634</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>93167</td>
<td>3295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>108646</td>
<td>3528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>114542</td>
<td>3641</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Chief Planning Officer, Kurnool, 2010.

From the Table-3.2 shows that area, production and yield increases from 1999-2000 to 2008-2009 in particularly crops are
paddy and sunflower, in the effect of green revolution. The crop paddy area increases from 94069 to 114542 hectares, the yield is 2821 to 3641 kgs per hectare and 265387 to 391232 tonnes from 1999-2009 in the Kurnool district. The crop sunflower area increases from 54439 to 86123 hectares, the yield is 645 to 1108 kgs per hectare and 35113 to 91348 tonnes from 1999-2009 in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

PLACE OF TOURIST IMPORTANCE

Konda Reddy Buruju

Konda Reddy Buruju is located in the heart of Kurnool & believed to be built by the Raja's of Vijayanagaram. It was a part of Kurnool fort & was used as a prison. One revolutionary Konda Reddy attained martyrdom in this prison. Since then the place is known as KondaReddy Buruju.

Srisailam

It is located at 180Kms from Kurnool and 210 Kms from Hyderabad an attitude of over 1500 ft. above the Sea level in the picturesque natural environment in the Northern most part of the Nallamalas hill range. The temple at Srisailam is the ancient and sacred place of South India. The presiding deity of the place is Brahmaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy in natural stone formations in the shape of Lingam and is listed as one of the twelve Jyotirlingams.
existing in the country. The Temple built in 14th Century and the walls are carved with depictions of elephants hunting scenes and Lord Shiva in different manifestations. Apart from the main temple there are other places like Sikhareswaram, the gates of Heaven, Hatakeswaram and Pala Dhara – Pancha Dhara, Sakshi Ganapathi, Sivaji spurthikendra, Pathala Ganga etc. are well worth for visit.

**Mahanandi**

Mahanandiswara temple in Mahanandi mandal is a reputed pilgrim center and that dates back to the 7th century A.D. It is located at a distance of 14 Kms from Nandyal and 80 Kms from Kurnool. It is a scenic spot having its location to the east of the Nallamalas hill range in a natural set up of ravishing beauty surrounded by thick forest. The remarkable feature here is the crystal clear water which flows throughout the year from perennial springs. The festival of Mahanandiswara is celebrated during February- March. Pilgrims and Tourists from all parts of India particularly South Indians visit this place throughout the year. Apart from the above there are other places like Pushkarani, a pond with water so clear and pure that even a pin at the bottom can be seen, Kodanda Ramalayam and Kameswaridevi temple are the visiting places.
Ahobilam

It is a great religious center of antiquity and is situated at a distance of 68 Kms. from Nandyal, 28 Kms. from Allagadda and 160 Kms from Kurnool. At upper Ahobilam worship is offered to Navanarasimha (Nine Forms of Lord Narasimha) whereas at lower Ahobilam down the hill the temple of Prahladavarada is located. The Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the month of Feburary – March attracting large number of devotees. Other sites worth seeing are Amruthavallitavar temple, Sannidhi Pushkarini, Bhashyakara Sannindi.

Manthralayam

Manthralayam is situated on the banks of river Tungabhadra and Lying 90 kms from Kurnool. It derived its importance form the Jeevasamadhi of Madhva Saint Sri Raghavendra Swamy. The Choultries and Sanskrit School are the real attracting of these places and draws thousands of devotees from South India particularly Madhvas. On there the places to see including Ragavendra Swamy Brindavan, the tomb that Swamy entered alive, Panchamuki Ajaneya Swamy Temple and Venkateswara Swamy Temple are the important visiting spots.
Yaganti

Yaganti lies at a distance of 11 Kms. from Banganapally and 90 Kms from Kurnool situated admits natural scenery with caves and waterfalls around. The presiding deity is Uma Maheswara Swamy popularly known as Yaganti Swamy. This deity is in the form of Statue and its tower posses beautiful sculptures. The most striking scenic at this temple is huge Nandi of size of 15' X 10' X 8'. Mahasivaratri Festival celebrated here and attracts large gathering of Hindus.

Belum Caves

Belum Caves are located near Belum village, Kolimigundla mandal in Kurnool district. The Caves lies at a distance of 110 Kames from Kurnool via Banaganapalli. Belum Caves made known in 1982 and which are the second largest natural caves in Indian Sub Continent after Meghalaya Caves. These underground caves are located on a flat agricultural field, have 3 well like cavities with the central one being the main entrance to the caves. After a distance of 20 meters at the entrance, the cave is horizontal and has a length of 3229 meters. Longer than Borra Caves in Vizag district, Belum caves have long passages, spacious chambers fresh water galleries and siphons. There are some land marks inside named as “Simhadwaram”, “Kotilingalu”, “Manadapam” and “Pathalaganga”. All this makes Belum Caves a geographical and archeological attraction Worldwide.
Rolla Padu Sanctuary

The Rolla Padu Sanctuary is located in Midthur mandal and about a distance of 60 Kms from Kurnool. Apart from a wide variety of birds and animals, this sanctuary is renowned as one of the last refuges of the endangered Great Indian Bustard (Batta Meka Pitta), which is a heavy Ground Bird like a young ostrich or pea hectares.

PROFILE OF THE MANDALS

PANYAM

Panyam is one of the backward mandals in the district with a total population of 41,096 (as per 2001 census). The mandal is bounded by Nandyal on the east, Bethamcherla and Orvakal on the west, Banaganapalli on the south and Gadinemula and Orvakal on the north. The mandal is scattered over an area of 28,329 hectares, covering 36 villages. The majority of the workers aggregating 7664 engaged in agriculture activities. People engaged in cottage, household and other industries constitute a meager 5 per cent of the workforce. 15,412 hectares of the total area is cultivated. The total area under 3852 hectares of forest while 2492 hectare of the area is not fit for cultivation. The climate in the mandal is normally moderate. The Metrological Centre, Hyderabad has recorded the climate conditions of the Mandal at maximum 31.1 centigrade and minimum of 16.6 centigrade during 2009-10. The normal rainfall of the mandal during southwest Monsoon is 213.8 mm in the month of June and it
came down to 115.5 mm in December. The annual rainfall recorded in the mandal is 538.9 mm and it rose to 540.2 mm during 2009-10.

This mandal which comes under the influence of north-east monsoons gets an annual rainfall of 754 mm. Inadequate irrigational facilities have considerably affected agricultural development. Net area irrigated is 7502 hectare. Major sources of irrigation in the mandal are canals (3464 hectares) and tanks (765 hectares). Gross cropped area in the mandal is 16210 hectare. Area under paddy 2881 hectares, sunflower is 539 hectares, Bengal gram 5300, 1997 hectare jowar and sun flower 2571 hectares. The main crops grown in the mandal paddy and sunflower. Consumption of chemical fertilizers in the mandal is 778 tonnes of nitrogen, 676 tonnes of potassium and 347 tones of phosphorus. In view of the limited scope for further development of agriculture, people of this mandal of late have taken to activities allied to agriculture, such as sheep rearing, poultry farming etc. The total absence of mineral wealth and lack of proper infrastructural facilities have retarded industrial growth in the mandal.

PROFILE OF SAMPLE VILLAGES

ALAMUR

There are 575 house-holds in Alamur. The gross cropped area is 788.94 acres. Of which 334.43 acres have irrigation facilities. The main source of irrigation is bore well and wells in the village.
Agriculture is the mainstay of the villagers. Regarding distribution of landholdings, small farmers account for 74.5 per cent of holdings and the 36 per cent of area. Medium farmers on the other hand hold 16.5 per cent of holdings and 30 per cent of area. Large farmers, who constitute 9 per cent of holdings, own 34 per cent of land in the village.

BHUPANAPADU

There are 439 house-holds in the village. About 35 per cent of cropped area is irrigated. The main sources of irrigation are bore wells and canal. Regarding the distribution of landholdings, small farmers account for 75 per cent of holdings, and possess 45 per cent of total area, while medium farmers constitute about 20 per cent of holdings and about 34 per cent of total area. Land is highly concentrated in the hands of few large farmers, with 6 per cent of holdings and 21 per cent of area.

VELGODU MANDAL

Velgode is one of the fertile and developed mandal in the district and consists of 28 villages. Velgode mandal is bounded by Prakasam district on the east, Bandi Atmakur on the South, Gadivemula and Pamulapadu on the west and Pamulapadu and Atmakur on the north. The total population of the mandal is 41909 (as per 2001 census). The total workforce of 17730(45.21 per cent).
The total area of the Mandal is 33490 hectares. Net cultivated area is 22830 hectares. Forests cover 19011 hectares of total area. The mandal fairly well developed irrigational facilities, as more than 90 per cent of cultivated lands are irrigated. Net irrigated area is 13202 hectares. canals (10241.5 hectares), Tanks(985 hectares), Tube wells(170 hectares) and other wells (1805 hectares) are the major sources of irrigation, while canals and are the other sources of irrigation in the mandal. Paddy, Chilies and jowar crops raised in the mandal while Sunflower, sunflower is the important commercial crops grown. Area under paddy is 8192 hectares, Jowar 500 hectares, sunflower 525 hectares and sunflower 3423 hectares.

PROFILE OF THE SAMPLE VILLAGES

VELPANUR

There are 1358 house-holds in Velpanur. The total population of the velpanur village is 2759. The main occupation of the villagers is agriculture. The main crops grown are paddy, sunflower, sunflower and sugarcane. The distribution of landholdings, small farmers account for 65 per cent of holdings, and possess 35 per cent of total area, while medium farmers constitute about 55 per cent of holdings and about 34 per cent of total area. Land is highly concentrated in the hands of few large farmers, with 6 per cent of holdings and 21 per cent of area.
GUNTHAKANDALA

There are 1358 house-holds in Gunthakandala. The total area of 1938.03 acres, and the total population of 1883, agriculture is the main occupation of the villagers of Gunthakandala. Of the total population, 765 are literates. The main crops grown in the village are paddy, Jowar, sunflower and chillies.