CHAPTER II

Economic Condition

Economic Condition:

The economy of this region largely depends on agriculture. 65.2% of the population are engaged in Agriculture. They earn something from Agriculture for their livelihood. A feature peculiar to the agriculture of the Malabar coast particularly of Travancore is the fact of proprietors and the tenants of the land live on the land itself\(^1\). The soil of the area is rich. The Government of Tamilnadu has appointed an agricultural extension officer in every block\(^2\).

Cocount:

Cocount is an important cash crop in this area. The coconut trees provide raw materials for manufacturing various kinds of goods for export and local consumption. The copra of

\(^2\) Ibid P.3.
this region is known for its high quality. More than, 25% of the
total area of this region is used for coconut cultivation³.

**Tapioca:**

Tapioca is the common food of the people and is largely
cultivated in this District. It’s planting season is April and
May. In some places planting is also done in September and
October as second crop⁴. Tapioca is cultivated in the District
purely in rain fed condition. Most of the tapioca areas spread
over Kalkulam and Vilavancode Taluks⁵. Years back, tapioca
was the stable food of the low income groups. Now the
consumption of tapioca is less and the cultivation is getting
discouraged. Twenty years back majority of the people of the
area depended on tapioca cultivation for food and labour. But
now the product lost its glamour and its production is facing a
period of dull every where.

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⁵ Ibid, P.214.
**Banana:**

Banana is cultivated mainly from March to May and September to October. Ground nut is raised during March 15 to April and October to November. The other important agricultural products are pepper, cloves, areca nut, ginger, turmeric, arrowroot etc.

**Agriculture:**

Kannanoor is a popular for agriculture, especially for cash crops. As far as agriculture is concerned irrigation, stands as the life blood. Irrigation is very important in view of the overwhelming significance of agriculture and the unpredictability of the monsoon. This region has attractive irrigation sources in the form of ground and surface water. Sources such as rivers and channels, and tanks are commonly found in this region. Channel irrigation is the cheapest, easiest and most important. Thus agriculture is the major occupation of the people of Kannanoor. Nearly 47.2 percent population of this region

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depends on agricultural products for their livelihood\textsuperscript{8}. Agriculture is carried on with practical skill and past experience backed by primitive instruments. The South-West and North-East monsoons give fertility to the soil\textsuperscript{9}.

\textbf{Agricultural Loan:}

Short term agricultural loans are given for purchasing fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. People who posses lands are eligible for loan from this bank\textsuperscript{10}. Agricultural loan facility has been provided since 1948\textsuperscript{11}. An amount of Rs. 9270/- has been given for one acre rubber plantation. Fertilizer is supplied directly for Rs.770 per acre and the remaining Rs. 8800/- is given as cash in their hand with 9\% of interest. So far 860 person have availed this type of loan\textsuperscript{12}.

\textsuperscript{8} I bid. P.120.
\textsuperscript{10} Bye Law Primary Agriculture Co-operative Bank, Kannanoor, 1999, P. 48.
\textsuperscript{11} Annual Report of Primary Agriculture Co-operative Bank, 1949 P.1.
\textsuperscript{12} Primary Agriculture Co-operative Bank, Agriculture Report, March 2006, P.2.
**Cattle Loan:**

There are loan facilities to purchase cattles numbering from one to twenty. Those who availed such loan should supply milk to the respective milk society and they have to repay the loan by monthly instalments\(^{13}\).

**Gold Loan:**

This loan has given liabilities for gold jewels with mortgage debentures. The register should decide the prize value for the present day market concerning the debts\(^ {14}\).

Gold loan has been provided from November 3, 1980 onwards\(^ {15}\). Due date may be one year. Gold liabilities has been provided as Rs.3700/- per one sovereign of gold. Nine Percentage of interest has been fixed for agricultural purpose and 11% interest for gold liabilities\(^ {16}\).

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\(^{13}\) I bid, P.61.

\(^{14}\) I bid, P.68.


Suya Sevai Kuzhu:

Article 14 of the Constitution of India says about the equality of men and women. The government has introduced many reforms towards the improvement of women's position. One such reform is Suya Sevai Kuzhu. It was started in 1989 by the government of Tamilnadu with the assistance of the World Bank.

The motive of the introduction of this scheme is to improve the economic condition of women in the society. As an experimental measure it was started first in seventy five unions of eight Districts. Then it has been extended to many Districts¹⁷.

The main aims of this scheme are, the following,

(i) To promote saving awareness.

(ii) To settle the small debts.

(iii) To improve the income of the family.

(iv) To improve the individual income of women and uplift their economy.

(v) To restrict money lender for quick debts\textsuperscript{18}.

Self help group was started on June 26, 1999 at Kannanoor. In the beginnings there were 30 groups\textsuperscript{19}. And now it is increased upto seventy two groups\textsuperscript{20}.

\textbf{Savings:}

Savings system aims to enhance the standard of living of the people. The members who have joined the self help group, collected Rs.2/- to Rs.15/- from this self help group with 2\% of interest. They can repay the loan with in 10 months and then they are entitled to get a fresh loan\textsuperscript{21}.

\textsuperscript{18} Ib\textit{id.} P. 6.

\textsuperscript{19} Annual Report of Kannanoor Panchayat Suja Sevai Kuzhu, 2000, P.5.


\textsuperscript{21} Personal Interview with V. Mallika, Kannanoor Panchayat Co-ordinator, residing at Kannanoor, dated 22-04-2006.