CONCLUSION

In the foregoing chapters an effort has been made to trace the genesis and growth of the agrarian reform system in the erstwhile princely State of Travancore during the period from 1800-1956. Travancore, a tiny State in the South West Coast of India, acquired the status of State when Marthanda Varma (1728-1754 A.D) expanded the boundaries of Thiruvithancode towards both north and south through annexations.

When Balarama Varma (1798-1810 A.D.) became the ruler of Travancore, a new survey was introduced in 1802 A.D throughout the country. *Patas* and *Pathivs* were issued to all property holders. A new *Ayacat* was enforced to ensure regularity. *Kandezhuthu* was adopted and payments were made both in kinds and cash. By the settlement of 1802, the State was able to raise an annual income of Rs. 8.89 lakhs which included revenue from all *Sirkar* lands and the tax paying portion of Development and *Brabmaswam* properties.

The introduction of the colonial ideas, institution and practices marked the reign of Gauri Lekshmi Bai, (1810-1815 A.D) which was actually dominated by Col. Munro, the Resident. A tax register called *Pattayperu* was prepared and *Pattayams* was issued to each land holder. Offices of *Valiya Sarvadhikariakkar* and *Sarvadhikariakkar*
were abolished. Next, he acquired the properties of 348 temples and converted more than 1 lakh acres of private lands worth Rs. 4 lakhs into revenues. By 1812 A.D, about two-thirds of the cultivated area came under the direct ownership of the State. The royal proclamation of 1812 A.D. granted extensive concessions to the ryots, including tax remissions, commuted rate for paddy and fixed tax payable in cash. The main revenue sources were designed as Nanja, Punja and Swarnadayam. In short, Colonel Munro's regime brought about substantive reforms in the tax system.

The practice of levying Rajabhogam on alienated jenmam land was extended to all southern taluks during the reign of Gauri Parvathi Bai (1815-1829 A.D). Similarly, ryots of Nanjilnad were fully relieved from certain oppressive levies. Reclamation of land was suitably rewarded through tax exemption and concessions. In the garden settlement effected in 1818 A.D. throughout Travancore, coconut trees were classified in to four categories with varying rates of taxes. Similarly, the seasonal remission at 2/10 was extended to Sri Pandaravagai lands also. Thus it was to be concluded that persistent efforts had been made by the Government to consolidate its revenue source to strengthen the growing requirements of the State during the last nearly one hundred year.
Strenuous efforts had also been made by Swathi Thirunal (1829-1847 A.D) to sustain the revenue system bequeathed to him by his predecessors. During his period the courts were directed to uphold the established customs and conventions in the revenue administration. The *Kudiyan* continued to possess and enjoy the land as before. This put an end to the cruel practice of evicting tenants from people *Jenmam* properties. In 1836 A.D. a new revenue survey was conducted under *Dewan* Subha Rao which formed the basis of the 1837 revenue settlement. It was confined to garden and dry lands. A system of field measurement was introduced. Coconut, aracanut, Punnai, Elupai, Palmyra and jack were taxed throughout the country on differing rates. *Payattu Pattom* and *Thara Pattom* were levied on them in the north and south central Travancore respectively.

The *Tenga Pattom* and *Pakku Pattom* were also fixed. Altogether 648, 611 gardens were assessed at of 2,933060 *panams*. In the subsequent year, detailed instructions were issued regarding the presentation and speedy disposal of petitions on revenue matters. It also prohibited alienations of land held under *Adima Anabhogam*, *Kudumba Viruthi* and *Karanma*.

Under Utheram Thirunal (1847-1860 A.D) through initially there were setback due to crop failures, revenue administration was streamlined in 1865 A.D. by dividing the State into two division-
northern and southern, each under Dewan peishkar. Infact between 1858 and 1865 A.D. there were 85 circulars proclamations or notification on the subject. Tahsildars were directed to devote a portion of each day to address problems of the ryots and revenue related issues.

Dewan Madhava Rao (1858-1872 A.D) tried to reoriented the tax system on morden lines. Arrears were written off Equity between regions was maintained "Annual viruth level evaluation, specification of proverticar's duties, encouragement for reclamation periodic revenue enquires, exemptions, redemption in the payment of Ubhayampalisa etc, marked some of his main initiatives.

The era of agriarian reforms really began with Ayilyam Thirunal (1860-1880 A.D) His efforts were based on systematic study of research. The division of the State into four administrative units were Padmanabhapuram, Trivandrum, Quilon and Cherthalai which were sub-divided into 31 taluks and 244 villages rearranged the entire system of administration. Tax on wetland was assessed in kind. Minor taxes which were oppressive in nature were abolished. A department of survey was established under J.A.S. Iyengar.

The issuance of the Pattom Proclamation in 1865 A.D. was by far two most revolutionary land reform legislation in Travancore. It considerably removed the uncertainties existed in the Pattom tenure.
Above two lakhs of *Sirkar Pattom* land that were granted to the holders with full ownership fully heritable, saleable and transferable. About 110 minor taxes were abolished. This was followed by *Jenmi- Kudiyan* proclamation which secured the tenants against arbitrary eviction or demands from the *Jenmi*. Fixing of tenure and protection to the tenants were the main objects. This proclamation became the State which governed the relation between *Jenmi* and *Kana Pattom* tenants. Both the proclamations greatly improved the agrarian relations in Travancore.

The period 1873-1885 A.D. marked another set of fundamental reforms in the procedure associated with the revenue management. The major initiatives could be summarised thus (i) cadjans were converted into peper records, (ii) appointment of temporary agency for land settlement, (iii) establishment of the *Pokkuvaravu* Department, (iv) decentralisation of powers to division peishkars, (v) entrusting collection Sub- Registrars, (vi) revenue conferences, (vii) new survey and settlement insisted co-operation in revenue management legislation of titles boundaries, (viii) settlement under *Dewan* Sankarasubba Iyer in 21 divisions and, (x) abolition of fees on alienated *Sirkar Pattom* lands etc.

In April 1885 A.D. *Dewan* Remiengar drew up the 'Memorandam of Revenue Settlement'. It provided for a new
settlement based on a systematic survey. Next year, rice lands were classified with reference to soil and other factors. Amount of tax was equally divided between Kanni and Kumbham. It was estimated 25 per cent of the total tax paying lands. Grant of Revenue receipts were made compulsory in 1887 A.D. The divisional peishkars were empowered to register puthuvals, procedure for writing off lands relinquished by ryots were formulated proverticars were directed to collect the stipulated tax only pepper cultivation was encouraged by granting special concessions to its cultivators. Thandaper accounts were brought up-to date. Concessions to tea industry were also announced in the form of tax exemption. Some taxes- Pathavaram Kodikeezh were dispensed with.

On the recommendations of the Kana Pattom Tenures Committee, the Travancore Jenmi-Kundiyan Regulation passed which ensured fixity of tenure, and tenants right made heritable and transferable. Jenmam lands were subjected to payment of customary dues by occupants and made renewable on payment of renewal fee. Occupancy made was payment, non payment of rent for twelve years refusal for renewal of will-full refusal were reasons for eviction. This was followed by other reforms also. In 1904 A.D, V.P. Madhava Rao, the Dewan attempted a settlement based on revised rules. A cardamon ryots conference, abolition of paddy tax in wet lands in favour of money
payment, option of paddy tax in wet lands in favour of money payment option for three equal instalments etc were other reforms. The new rates varied from one to sevan panams kandezhuthu system was also abolished. Fresh concession for coconut cultivation was announced. A uniform fee of four chuckrams were levied of all demand notices issued under the revenue recovery regulation, the procedure known as Karathilkizhivu was abolished in 1910 A.D. assessment calculated on a paddy basis was converted into money. The revenue settlement which began in 1883 A.D. ended in 1911 A.D, making it the lengthiest operation in Travancore’s economic History. It must be noted that the settlements were regular and comprehensive and scientific and therefore, acceptable to the ryots as well as Jenmis. Simplification of tenures decentralisation or delegation of power, and rational assessment, were particularly progressive in character.

The final phase of the agrarian reforms became particularly significant as it was under taken, unlike in the previous periods, under the pressure of social and political forces. There were growth in revenue collection which was attributed to factors like completion of revenue settlement rigid and efficient administration, recovery of full prices for the Kandukrishi paddy, and expansion of land under cultivation. P. Raman Thampi who made in enquiry into the working of the Jenmi-Kudiyan Regulation of 1896 A.D, submitted his
report in 1916 A.D. based on which a land conservancy Regulation was passed. It provided for punishment to unauthorised occupancy of land. The Revenue settlement conducted in 1920 A.D. decided to transfer *poromboke* lands and its communal use, sanctioned *Kuthagai Pattom* without time limit. Attempts were also made to maintain uniformity to procedure in the preparation of statement and receipts and interest on arrears. The *Devaswam* committee (1920 A.D.) recommended the separation of *Devaswam* from the revenue department. This was a landmark in the history of land revenue administration and it was done under the social pressure of Backward class and Christians. The 1922 A.D. conference made a detailed, security of the village taluk register, allowed commutation of the value of the paddy into money in 1928 A.D. Similarly *pandaravagai* land was also maintained in 1930. The impact of the great depression on the revenue system in Travancore became invisible. No remarkable policy changes were effected in Travancore. Occasional concessions, exemptions and remissions were allowed.

However in 1933 A.D, some changes were in the *Jenmi-Kudiyan* relations. It made the *Kudiyan* to pay only the *Jenmikaram* in money any only the *Jenmies* were entitled to receive the payment. Thus *Kudiyan* became the real owner. This was in the spirit
and continuation of the 1865 A.D. proclamation. It was followed by a serious of local level reforms in tax procedures.

The final effort was in 1945 A.D. when the Sri Chitra Council passed a new revenue policy. Based on this, the Travancore Land Tax Reclamation was promulgated in 1946 A.D. It introduced basic tax system characterised by a uniform low rate. This was supplemented by a policy of equalising the burden of land tax system. This Act 1950 A.D. safeguarded the agrarian writ and property.

Thus, at the time of Independence, the princely State of Travancore State had a history of continuous engagement with the economic process of land taxation which was unparallel in most other princely States. Infact the reforms initiated by Marthanda Varma and vigorously pursued by his successors could be seen as an effort by a State especially after the introduction of the subsidiary alliance which incorporated new systems and procedures of Economic Management in a agrarian economy under colonial paramount, to find out its own space to safeguard political sovereignty by surplously pushing an agenda of agrarian reforms, disregarding claims of Moderation or Humaneness in the administration of the land tax, thus shaping and reorienting the policy of the princely State in a manner quiet unfamiliar in contemporary economic histories.
The objective of land reforms should be to remove the impediments to agricultural development as they arise from the existing agrarian structure and to eliminate exploitation and promote social justice within the agrarian system seen to ensure equality of tenurial status and opportunity to all. The purpose of agrarian reform is two-fold. On the one hand, it aims at making rational use of scarce land resource by effecting condition of holding, imposing ceiling on floors of land holdings so that cultivation can be done in a most economic manner, i.e. without any waste of labour and capital. On the other land, it means redistributing agricultural land in favour of less privileged classes and improving the terms and conditions under which the land is held for cultivation by the actual listers. In a developing economy, where agricultural land is inequitably distributed among its cultivators, measures towards its redistribution may be justified because it provides a sense of social justice.

The concept of agrarian reform had assumed a vital components of a wider socio-economic programme of national reconstruction. The two-fold objectives of agrarian reforms are to increase productive efficiency and to impart social justice. Various provisions of tenancy acts have been so conceived as to enable efficient
cultivation of land and carry out the necessary improvement. Agrarian reforms are of vital importance for any society to do away with the feudal felters on its productive force and save it form an agrarian crisis. They are necessary to do away with the heritage of the pre-capitalist society, provide to the rural poor the required means of production, to bring a redistribution of land and ensure democratic rights for the peasantry and the lended labour. However, the importance of agrarian reforms should not be exaggerated to the extent of neglecting other measures of National development.