

# **CHAPTER - II**

## **PROFILE OF RAYALASEEMA REGION**

Geographically, the Rayalaseema region forms the southern and south-eastern portion of Deccan plateau. It is situated almost in the centre of the southern part of the Indian peninsula. It is bounded on the south by the States of Tamilnadu and Karnataka, on the west by Karnataka State, on the north by the Telangana region and on the east by the coastal region of Andhra Pradesh. The Raylaseema region has no coast line and is accessible only by land. The region lies mostly at an altitude of about 300 to 700 metres above the mean sea level.

#### **POPULATION**

Human power is one of the major factors on which the quantum and quality of production depends. Therefore,

it is an important factor in all the walks of human life. In other words, human resource has been recognised as a capital. The region has a population of 116.66 lakhs as per 1991 Census; and accounts for 17.59 per cent of the total population of the Andhra Pradesh. The district - wise composition of population in Rayalaseema is presented in Table 2.1

TABLE 2.1  
COMPOSITION OF DISTRICT-WISE POPULATION  
(1991 Census)

(in Lakhs)

District	Males	Females	Total	Population Per sq.km.	Sex	Literates(%)
Anantapur	16.35	15.48	31.83	166	947	35.69
Cuddapah	11.54	11.05	32.59	147	957	41.42
Chittoor	16.52	15.98	32.50	214	967	43.11
Kurnool	15.21	14.53	29.74	168	956	33.60
Rayalaseema	59.62	57.04	116.66	173	957	38.35

Source :Census of India, 1991. Series 2, Directorate of census, Andhra Pradesh, 1991,PP.4-6 and 25.

It is clear from Table 2.1 that within the Rayalaseema region, Chittoor district has a smaller area with a larger population resulting in higher density than

that of other districts. The region, as a whole, has a smaller average area, low population and less density than that of other regions of Andhra Pradesh.

#### LITERACY

The literacy is greater in the Chittoor district with 43.11 per cent followed by the Cuddapah. The Anantapur and the Kurnool districts at 41.42 per cent, 35.69 per cent and 33.60 per cent respectively (Table 2.1).

#### SEX RATIO

Sex ratio means the number of females for every one thousand male population. The sex ratio was 957 in the Rayalaseema region and small variation can be found in the sex ratio among the districts (Table 2.1).

#### SOILS

Red soils predominate the region although black soils found in the parts of Kurnool district. The black soils of these areas are highly retentive of moisture and are sticky during wet-season and hard during dry-season. Cracks are found on the surface of the soil during hot

weather. In the Anantapur district, the cultivable land is mostly under red-loams, red-sandy and black-loams. In the Chittoor district, the cultivable land is mostly red-loams and sandy. In the Cuddapah district, it is either red-loams, red-clay and red-sandy or black-loams and black-sandy. In the Kurnool District, it is predominantly black-clay followed by red-loams, red-sandy, black-loams and black-sandy. The soil erosion has been identified as one of the worst problems of the rayalaseema region.<sup>1</sup> If the soil erosion continues in the same way, there will be, as per an expert opinion, no soil left for cultivation in the next fifty years.<sup>2</sup>

#### LAND UTILISATION

Land perhaps is the scarce input in agriculture. The land utilisation in the Rayalaseema region is accounted for 39.53 per cent of 165.81 lakh acres of geographical area. Only 20.97 per cent of the total geographical area is under forests in the region. Fallow

- 
1. Government of Andhra Pradesh, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Comparative Statistics of Andhra Pradesh and Other States in India, Vol.V, Hyderabad; 1968, P.1.
  2. Government of Andhra Pradesh, Planning and Co-operative Department, Planning and Development of Backward Regions - A Case Study of Rayalaseema (1970), Vol.1, Hyderabad; P.116.

land means, the land available and also cultivable but not used due to lack of farm infrastructure facilities. Fallow land constitutes 15.52 per cent of geographical area which means the region is losing its farm production capacity. Similar is the case with reference to the districts also.

The intensity of land use is only 6.28 per cent for the region whereas for the districts of Kurnool, Anantapur, Cuddapah and Chittoor, it is 9.03 per cent, 2.09 per cent, 3.49 per cent and 11.19 per cent respectively. This fact discloses that there is a considerable amount of land that can be brought under the plough if the facilities such as irrigation, credit etc, are made available. Mulberry is grown in the Anantapur district in 76 thousand acres which forms 42.22 per cent of the State. On an average, eight persons get employment on per acre used for mulberry crop.<sup>3</sup>

#### SIZE OF HOLDINGS

An idea about the size of holdings in the Rayalaseema region can be read from Table 2.2.

---

3. Suresh Krishnamurthy, "Big Strides in Sericulture", The Hindu, Bangalore: July 3, 1992, P.19.

Table 2.2 shows that in the Rayalaseema region about 40.78 per cent of the total holdings are below 2.50 acres; and 48.02 per cent of the total holdings are between 2.50 and 12.50 acres. That is, too much, concentration of holdings (88.80) are below 12.50 acres.

TABLE 2.3  
SIZE OF HOLDINGS IN RAYALASEEMA REGION  
(1993-94)  
(in acres)

Size	Number	% to total
0- 2.50	5,48,737	40.78
2.50-12.50	6,46,165	48.02
12.50-25.00	1,01,607	7.55
25.00-50.00	37,819	2.82
Above 50.00	11,180	0.83
Total	13,45,518	100.00

Source : Statistical Abstracts of Andhra Pradesh.

#### RAYALASEEMA - A DROUGHT PRONE AREA

The Rayalaseema region is historically known as the stalking ground of famine. This region forms major chunk of the chronically famine affected areas of Andhra Pradesh

State. Sen, S.R.<sup>4</sup>, has pointed that on an average, drought occurs once in three years in the Rayalaseema region. Under Ministry of Food and Agriculture estimated that three-fourths of the area affected by scarcity conditions in the southern region are concentrated in Andhra Pradesh. The affected areas constitute 57.00 per cent of the total area and 41.00 per cent of the population of the State. The Rayalaseema region forms the major part of the chronic famine area, on account of rocky and unyielding soils and scarcity rainfall. Based on Meteorological Department definition, the Irrigation Commission (1972) has identified 37 of the total 42 taluks as drought prone in the Rayalaseema region<sup>5</sup>. The district-wise taluks declared as drought prone have been presented in the Table 2.3. Table also gives the hard-core of the chronically drought affected taluks.

It can be observed clearly from Table 2.3 that 88.09 per cent of the total taluks in the Rayalaseema region have been identified as drought affected. In fact, as many

---

4. Sen, S.R., Growth and Instability in Indian Agriculture, Firma R.L Mukhopadya, Calcutta; 1971, P.21.

5. Subbaramaiah, S., and Nageswara Rao.K., "The Economic Profile of Rayalaseema", Indian Economic Development and Policy, (eds) Bramhananda, P.R. et.al., Vikas Publications, Delhi; 1989, PP.306-324.



as 57.14 per cent of the total are hard-core of the chronically drought affected.

TABLE 2.3  
DROUGHT AFFECTED TALUKS

District/ Region	Total No. of Taluks	Taluks indentified as drought affected		Hard-core of the chronically drought affected	
		No. of Taluks	% to total taluks	No. of taluks	% to total taluks
Anantapur	11	11	100.00	11	100.00
Chittoor	11	7	63.64	4	36.36
Cuddapah	9	8	88.89	3	33.33
Kurnool	11	11	100.00	6	54.54
Rayalaseema	42	37	88.09	24	57.14

Source : 1. Report of the Irrigation Commission, 1972, Volume 1, Appendix 8-1, P.420

2. Planning and Panchayat Raj Department, Fourth Five year plan - A Draft Outline, Government of Andhra Pradesh; 1968.

In the case of the taluks identified as drought affected in the region, only the Chittoor district has some semblance of normality. The Anantapur and Kurnool districts present a distressing scene, as all the taluks were identified as drought affected.

From the point of view of the hard-core of the chronically drought affected, the condition of Anantapur district is pathetic with cent per cent of the taluks in the category. The other three districts are slightly better in this respect.

#### **RAINFALL**

The region receives rainfall from the south-west (July to September) and north-east (October to December) monsoons. However, by the time these monsoons reach, the area, they exhaust a major portion of their potency and the region does not get the full benefit of either of the monsoons. During winter (January to February) and hot-weather (March to May) periods, this region receives negligible rainfall.

The frequent occurrence of famines in this region from 19th century might be attributed to subsequent gradual

decline in the normal rainfall. The Anantapur district is the second lowest rainfall receiving districts in the country next to Jaisalmar in Rajasthan.<sup>6</sup>

### CROPPING PATTERN

Table 2.4 depicts the cropping pattern in four districts of Rayalaseema region.

One fundamental change that occurred in the cropping pattern is that, there was substantial decline of area under food-crops in the entire region as well as in all the four districts. However, the rate of decline was varying. The decline was more in the Anantapur district (from 67.37 to 24.97 per cent) as compared to other districts. In the case of non-food crops, the increase too was high. In the region as a whole, and also in the Anantapur, Chittoor and Cuddapah districts, the area under food-crops has more than double.

---

6. Government of Andhra Pradesh, Planning and Development of Backward Regions, 1993, Vol.14, P.151.

TABLE 2.4

## AREA UNDER CROPS

(in %)

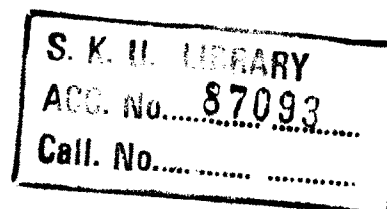
District/ Region	Food-crops		Non-food crops	
	1956-59	1993-94	1956-59	1993-94
Anantapur	67.37	24.97	32.63	75.03
Chittoor	74.41	43.48	25.29	56.52
Cuddapah	75.94	41.91	24.06	58.09
Kurnool	70.81	50.08	29.29	49.92
Rayalaseema	70.92	38.89	29.08	61.11

Source : 1. Statistical Abstracts, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

2. Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

## OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN

'Occupation' means a mental or physical activity to earn livelihood. The study of occupational pattern throws light on the number of people in the activity of production. Agricultural is a labour-intensive enterprise. Human power has a pivotal role in the agriculture sector; and still more in this sector, if intensive cultivation with mechanisation



is adopted. Quantitative growth in labour-force has been an important factor in agricultural growth in India.

The term 'worker' means an individual who has taken up work. Whereas non-worker means a dependent. The Rayalaseema region like other parts of the State as well as the country, being predominantly agricultural has a large number of workers engaged either as cultivators or agricultural labourers. The district-wise composition of workers in different sectors can be had from Table 2.5.

TABLE 2.5  
OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN - 1993-94

District	Popu- lation	Workers	Culti- vators	Agricul- tural labour	Others	Non- workers	% of 4+5 to 3
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Anantpur	1000	427	172	153	102	573	76.11
Cuddapah	1000	411	132	157	122	589	70.32
Chittoor	1000	421	184	134	103	579	75.53
Kurnool	1000	412	116	207	119	558	73.08
Rayala- seema	1000	426	154	162	110	574	74.18

Source : Andhra Pradesh Year Book, 1994.