CHAPTER III

AGRO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA AND SAMPLE VILLAGES
This Chapter is divided into two sections; Section 'A' presents a brief profile of Anantapur District—the study area Section 'B' presents the profile of the Chennikothapalli Mandal and the two sample villages under study, viz, (i) IRDP village (Nyamaddala), and (2) Non-IRDP village (Venkatampalli).

SECTION - 'A':

AGRO-ECONOMIC PROFILE ANANTAPUR DISTRICT:

The state of Andhra Pradesh was found in 1956. Anantapur is one of the four districts of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. It has an area of 19,130 Sq.Kms and accounts for 6.9 per cent of the geographical area of the state.

LOCATION:

The District of Anantapur is located in the southern most area of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. It is bounded by Kurnool District on the North; Cuddapah District on the East; Chittoor District on the South-East and by Karnataka state on the South and West of the District. The District comprises three revenue divisions, viz, i) Anantapur, ii) Dharmavaram and iii) Penukonda. These divisions are divided into 63 Mandalas.

CLIMATE:

The geographical position of the District in the middle
of the Peninsula renders it the driest part of the State.
March to May are very warm months when the daily maximum temperature ranges between 36.8°C to 38.4°C. November to January are cooler months when the temperature falls to about 15.7°C.

RAINFALL :

The Districts average annual rainfall varies between 444 mm to 654 mm. Anantapur was the lowest normal rainfall in the state, the average rainfall of 896 mm in the state.

The rainfall in the District is not only scanty, unpredictable and inadequate but its distribution is more uneven. The crops suffer heavily due to moisture absence during drought periods.

SOILS :

The District has six different soils viz, black clay, black loam, black sand, red clay, red loam and red sand. The and black soils account for 82 per cent and 18 per cent respectively.

MINERAL RESOURCES :

The District has rich deposits of mineral resources such as gold resources at Ramagiri; diamond deposits at Vajrakarur; and barytes, high grade limestone.
ANANTAPUR AS DROUGHT-PRONE AREA :

Anantapur, one of the four Districts of Rayalaseema region, is historically known as 'stalking ground of famines'. It is estimated that drought occurs once in three years in Rayalaseema region. The Anantapur District is the driest of all in the state.

POPULATION :

According to 1991 census, the District, had a population of 31.83 lakhs, accounting for about 7 percent of the total population of Andhra Pradesh. The population of the District, according to 1991 Census, comprises 31.83 lakhs, of which 25.49 lakhs constitute rural and 6.35 lakhs urban population. Rural population forms 80 per cent in Anantapur District. The urban population constitutes 20 per cent. Among the four Districts of Rayalaseema region, Anantapur District has the second largest percentage of urban population. The Scheduled Castes population of the District forms 13.69 per cent while scheduled tribes constitute 3.23 per cent to the total population of the total population, 42.25 per cent are workers while 57.75 per cent are non-workers. Out of the working population, 40.82 per cent constitute cultivators, 24 per cent comprises agricultural labourers and 24 per cent other workers. The number of females per 1000 males is 947.

AGRICULTURE :

Agriculture has been the mainstay of Anantapur economy.
Around eighty per cent of the working population is engaged in the agricultural sector. More than 56 per cent of the cultivated land is under food crops.

**LAND UTILISATION** :

The percentage of net sown area is higher in Anantapur District (48.2 per cent) than the state's percentage of 39.8 percentage. The higher percentage of net sown area in Anantapur District is due to conversion of forest area into cultivable land. Only 3.7 per cent of total cropped area is under double or multiple cropping. This is far below the 12.7 per cent of area under multiple cropping for the state as a whole.

**SIZE OF HOLDINGS** :

Marginal and small farmers in the size of holdings ranging from 0.20 to 7.40 acres constitute 72.36 per cent. The percentage in the distribution of number of size of holdings in the range of 7.41 to 12.35 and 12.36 to 24.70 acres respectively was almost equal.

**CROPPING PATTERN** :

Important food crops grown in the District include paddy, jowar, bajra, ragi, korra. Among non-food crops, groundnut is the predominant crop in Anantapur District. Groundnut accounts for nearly one-third of the total cropped
area in Anantapur District. The shift of land from food crops to non-food crops indicates the growing preference of the farmers for non-food crops, under the conditions of uncertainty of assured irrigation.

The cropping pattern in Anantapur District during 1990-'91 indicated that 9.48 per cent of area was under the cultivation of jowar followed by 6.39 per cent under paddy. Next in order came bajra (4.57 per cent). And among the non-food crops, nearly 7 per cent (out of 6.92 per cent under non-food crops) of area was under groundnut.

SERICULTURE :

The Anantapur District is perhaps the first District in Andhra Pradesh to successfully conceive the practice of sericulture. Nearly 43,000 acres of land is under mulberry cultivation. Plans are afoot to increase the cultivation at the rate of 10,000 additional acres per year.

IRRIGATION :

Anantapur District offers meagre irrigational facilities to its farmers. It is mainly due to the geographical location and scanty and uneven rainfall in the District. Area irrigated by wells in Anantapur District is more to that in Rayalaseema region as a whole. Next to wells, tanks irrigate 24.42 per cent of total irrigated area. There was one
well for every 42.25 hectares of sown area in 1970-'71 while in 1979-'80 it came down to 35.51 hectares.

Rice is the dominant crop under irrigation for all sources except under tube wells. Ragi is mostly grown under wells both in Anantapur District and Rayalaseema while in Anantapur tanks and other sources are also contributing to a fair percentage. Groundnut is mostly irrigated by wells and other sources.

From the foregoing analysis, it can be concluded that,

1. Irrigation potential (existing and created) is not dependable and farmers are closely shifting to irrigable dry crops like Ragi and Korra, besides citrus orchards. Food crops are raised only to meet the domestic needs inspite of the low yields in most of the crops.

2. There is no discernible cropping pattern in the District as climate is undependable and soils are poor.

3. The farmers do not seem to resort to extensive cultivation, by cultivating marginal and sub-marginal lands as is normally assumed.

LIVE-STOCK:

Animal husbandry and Poultry farming constitute the subsidiary occupations of small farmers. Anantapur District
ranked third in the state with a total livestock of in 1991. Sheep-rearing seems to be a promising subsidiary occupation in the drought-prone District of Anantapur, as sheep accounted for 40.5 per cent of total livestock population. Despite the fact the cattle population is large, the milk productivity of milch-cattle is low as they are underfed.

**INDUSTRY:**

Anantapur District is grossly underdeveloped in the matter of industrialisation. The exist only seven large and medium scale industries in the district. However, it is gratifying to note that there are 1,640 small-scale industrial units employing 9,709 people. Anantapur, Hindupur, Guntakal and Tadpatri, are the important centres of industrial concentration in the District.

**SECTION - 'B':**

**PROFILE OF CHENNEKOTHAPALLI MANDAL IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT:**

Chennekothapalli is the head-quarter of the Mandal. It has a geographical area of 326.43 sq.km., It is bound by Venkatampalli and Nyamaddala villages in the East and West and Guttur and Damajipalli in the South and North.
Chennekothapalli has, under its jurisdiction, eleven revenue villages and thirty three hamlets.

According to 1991 Census the total population is 41,693; of which, there are 21,528 males and 20,165 females. It is a multi-caste village. In the 'forward caste' category there are 26,273 and out of them 16,345 are males and 9,928 are females. Backward Caste population is 8,165; of which 4,155 are males and 4,010 are females. Scheduled Caste population is 5,873; of which are 2,993 are males and 2,880 females. People also living in the Mandal. The total population Scheduled Tribes is 1,382, of which, 700 are males and 682 females.

There are five Zilla Parishad High Schools and one private Junior College. According to 1991 Census the total literates are 13,571 and among them 9,792 are males and 3,779 females. The rest of them i.e. 28,122 are illiterates. The percentage of literacy is 32.55.

The people of Chennekothapalli Mandal mainly depend on agriculture as their major source of livelihood. Tanks have been constructed by Public Works Department to be used by cultivators. There are 1561.55 acres of dry land and 559.90 acres of wet land which receive water from tanks. 30.41 acres of fields receive the water from 1897 agriculture bore wells. 975 electrical motors and 98 oil engines are made
use of for the purpose of pumping the water to irrigate the fields.

**LIVE-STOCK**

The total live-stock is 39,391; of which 10,757 cows, 3,142 she-buffalos 9,746 goats and 15,746 sheep.

There are three regional rural banks viz., 1) Canara Bank - Chennekothapalli, 2) Canara Bank - Medapuram, 3) Ananta Grammeena Bank - Kanumukkala. They provide crop loans and terms loans for the weaker sections. Besides, there are three co-operative societies viz. 1) Damajipalli Co-operative Society; 2) Medapuram Co-operative Society; and 3) Kanumukkala Co-operative Society. There are four Welfare Hostels in the mandal - one hostel for SCs and STs another one for boys then third for women and fourth is for Backward Caste students. The fourth Welfare Hostel situated at Nymaddala for SC students. The old people, widows and agriculture labourers of the Mandal have been getting pensions from the Government. There are three primary Health Centres and three Veterinary Hospitals in the Mandal.

There is one Police Station at Chennekothapalli and ten Post Offices are located at various places in the Mandal and there is one branch library. Yerrampalli and Nagasamudram gate are two Railway Stations and there are two Cinema Halls. To totally, there are 34 Fair Price Shops.
Nyamaddala village is one of the Chennekothapalli Mandal in Anantapur District, in the State of Andhra Pradesh. It has an area of 12,620 acres; of which dry land is 9022.57 acres, wet land 2450.01 acres and forestry region 1392 acres. The village is bound by Chennekothapalli village on the East, Mustikovila village on the West and Hariyanacheruvu and Konagutla villages on the North and South directions respectively.

The total population of Nyamaddala village is 4,544; of which males are 2,425 and females 2,119. However, population statistics show that in the 'open caste' category there are 688 males and 920 females, backward caste, there are males 865 and 290 females scheduled caste, there are 300 males and 234 females and scheduled tribe are males 125 and 122 females respectively. The majority of the population comprises OC and BC castes. The village people mostly depend upon tank and borewells for water. There is one tank and 22 borewells, of which only 17 are found functioning.

Agriculture is the major source of livelihood for the villagers. A few others are landless labourers, rural artisans, petty traders etc., The main source of revenue for the village is from paddy, groundnut, Ragi and sericulture. There are 806 marginal farmers, 798 small farmers, 593 landless labourers, 6 petty traders.
The rate of literacy is found to be at 30 per cent in the village. Of the total literates, there are 1,217 males and 498 females. The total number of illiterates are 2,829 and among them 1,208 are males and 1,621 are females.

The village has good socio-economic infrastructure. There are one Primary School and one Zilla Parishad High School. The Medical and Family Planning Centre is located at Chennekothapalli. There is sufficient source of drinking water supply. It has pump and well water. There is a Post Office located at a distance of 6 kms. There is village market. The village is not connected by pucca roads.

PROFILE OF VENKATAMPALLI (SAMPLE NON-IRDP VILLAGE) VILLAGE:

Venkatampalli village is one of the 33 villages in Chennekotapalli Mandal in Anantapur District in Andhra Pradesh. It has an area of 9561.42 acres. It has 7958 acres of dry land and 1324.61 acres of wet land. 278.81 acres is covered by forest. The village is bound by Ontikonda village in the East, Chennekothapalli village in the West and Mirjapuram and Chinnamughalaipalli villages in the South and North directions respectively.

The total population of Venkatampalli village is 1566 and of which 801 are males and 765 are females. In the 'open category' caste, there are males and females number in 625 and 300, 158 and 46 in 'backward caste' and 270 and 167 'scheduled caste' are respectively.
The people of the village mostly depend upon bore-well water. There are eight bore wells and of which six are functioning well.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the villagers. There are landless labourers, rural artisans etc. The major source of revenue is from such crops as paddy, groundnut, mulberry and Ragi.

The percentage of literates are 28.42. The total number of literates in the village are 314 and among them 258 are males and 56 females. The total number of illiterates are 1252 and among them 543 are males and 709 females.

There is one Upper Primary School. The Medical and Family Planning Centre is situated at a distance of 8 kms. There is sufficient supply of drinking water provided both by hand pumps and wells. One Sub-Post Office is located at a distance of 8 kms. Protected water supply scheme has been introduced in this village. There is village market. There are no all-weather pucca roads.

**BASIC AMENITIES**

The basic amenities available in both the sample villages are indicated in table 3.
### Table 3.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Village</th>
<th>Nearest Town (Kms)</th>
<th>Nearest Markets (Kms)</th>
<th>Nearest Power Supply (Electricity for domestic use) (Kms)</th>
<th>Nearest Posts and Telegraph Office (Kms)</th>
<th>Nearest Drinking Water (Hand Pump and Well) (Kms)</th>
<th>Nearest Medical Facilities (Family Planning Centre) (Kms)</th>
<th>Nearest Education (Primary School) (Kms)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nyamaddala (IRDP Village)</td>
<td>0 Kms</td>
<td>6 Kms</td>
<td>6 Kms</td>
<td>6 Kms</td>
<td>0 Kms</td>
<td>0 Kms</td>
<td>0 Kms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venkatempalli (Non-IRDP Village)</td>
<td>8 Kms</td>
<td>3 Kms</td>
<td>6 Kms</td>
<td>8 Kms</td>
<td>8 Kms</td>
<td>8 Kms</td>
<td>8 Kms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Data

Table 3.1: BASIC AMENITIES AVAILABLE WITHIN THE VILLAGES OR AVAILABLE AT DISTANCE OF 5-10 KM AND ABOVE KMS.
CONCLUSION :

Anantapur District is historically known as 'stalking ground of famines'. It is chronically drought-prone District in the State. Rural population forms per cent in Anantapur District. Around eighty per cent of the working population seek employment in the agricultural sector. More than 56 per cent of the cultivated land is under food crops. The percentage of net sown area is higher in Anantapur District. Small and marginal farmers constitute per cent in the total size of holdings. Anantapur is the first district in the state to develop sericulture as a profitable proportion in a drought-prone economy. The District offers meagre irrigational facilities. Area irrigated by Wells in Anantapur District is more compared to that in Rayalaseema region as a whole. Dairying, Sheep-rearing and weaving are some of the subsidiary occupations pursued in the District.

Anantapur District is grossly underdeveloped in the matter of industrialisation. The handloom industry is an important cottage industry in the District. District Industries Centre (D.I.C.) has been playing a vital role in accelerating the pace of rural industrialisation.

Socio-economic infrastructure of the District has yet to become broad-based. Institutional Credit, under the District Credit Plan, is getting deployed for the development of different sectors of the district economy. Crop and agricultural term loans have been stepped up. Promising signs of growth are sighted.