INTRODUCTION

"Everything else can wait but not agriculture, the first Prime Minister of Independent India Jawaharlal Nehru stated in early 1948", pointed out by the Agricultural Scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. He also pointed out that "Where there is work there is money. Where there is money there is food. This is why Gandhiji urged that the foremost duty of Independent India was to enable every citizen to earn his daily bread. The commitment to agriculture took the form of greater investments in irrigation, fertiliser production and research and extension services".

Agriculture occupies a key position in the Indian economy by its contribution to overall economic growth through supplies of food, raw materials and exports. It is a source of livelihood for a majority of the population and provides a large market for non-agricultural goods and services. Agriculture efficiency and production largely depend upon the inputs in agriculture and the methods of production. By input, it means all the required factors for agricultural production. By methods, it means the technology of production. Further, there are strong links between agricultural and overall economic growth. Expanding agricultural production increases the demand for the output of other sectors notably fertilisers, pesticides,
machinery, transportation and communications varying with the level of technology used in agriculture.

Climate and soil conditions are two factors which generally govern the growth of a plant. The available soil conditions for crop production are associated with depth and tilth, the presence of adequate supplies of plant food materials, satisfactory, drainage and the absence of injurious substances or pests. The optimum yield of a crop is influenced by the presence of all these conditions in harmonious proportions. Traditionally the Indian farmers used organic manures to increase the supply of essential plant nutrients to meet the crop demand.

Organic manure plays a vital role in maintenance of physical and biological conditions of soil and supply macro and micro nutrients to crops besides maintenance of humic substance in soil. There are different types of organic manures and the most viable and commonly used are Farm Yard Manure (FYM), compost, sewage sludge, green manures, oil cakes and crop residues. Green manuring with different species of 'Sesbania and Crotalaria Juncea' are practiced in the Northern and green leaf manuring in the Southern parts of India.
The use of Chemical Fertiliser in India was introduced in 1896 when Nitrate was imported from Chile. A beginning was made only in the manufacture of Ammonium Sulphate and Superphosphate. Imports met all our needs before independence. The important chemical fertilisers used are complex fertilisers (NPK), Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), Sulphate and Urea, etc.

The first fertiliser industry was established with a capacity of 6400 tonnes phosphate per annum, in Ranipet, Tamil Nadu in 1906. The serious food imbalance in the wake of the Japanese occupation of Burma (from where rice was imported) and the Partition, led the Government to recognise the need for growing more food on a systematic and planned basis. Simultaneously, the importance in the endeavour came to be realised from this time onwards. Due to these factors much importance were given to the growth of fertiliser industries in the First Five Year Plan.

Tamilnadu met all the fertiliser needs from imports and fertiliser industries in neighbouring States i.e., Tata Steel Plant (1938) at Belagula in Mysore, FACT (1947) at Alwaye in Kerala, etc. In 1960's many fertiliser industries were established in Tamil Nadu, such as, Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC), Premier Fertiliser Ltd., Kothari
Industrial Corporation Ltd., Coimbatore Pioneer Ltd., Madras Fertilisers Ltd. (MFL) and Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd. (SPIC). After the introduction of New Agricultural Technology in mid 1960's the requirements of fertilisers increased as well as many fertiliser industries had to be started. So, the fertiliser industries rapidly developed in Tamil Nadu. In this present work, an analysis is made to trace the development of fertiliser industry.

**Nature and Scope of the Study**

Agriculture is the largest sector of the economic activity and has a crucial role to play in the country's economic development by providing food and raw materials, employment to a very large proportion of population, capital for its own development and surpluses for national economic development. After introducing the New Agricultural Strategy such as, Intensive Agricultural District Programme (IADP), Intensive Agricultural Area Programme (IAAP), High Yielding Varieties (HYV) and Green Revolution in mid 1960's there was sharp rise in agricultural production. The constituents of the package of practices are in the main improved seeds, fertilisers, manures, improved agricultural practices etc., But, very particularly introduction of chemical fertilisers contributed an sharp increase in agricultural production and productivity. These factors are responsible for taking up this study.
The fertiliser industry has been playing a pivotal role in the development of agriculture in the country. The industry realises the overall national objectives and priorities of increasing the foodgrain production. It has not limited its role to the manufacture and distribution of fertilisers but are equally concerned in the development programmes that are aimed to increase foodgrains production. The Indian fertiliser industry involved itself in agriculture extension work for creating awareness amongst farmers about the usefulness of fertilisers in boosting agricultural production. The industry has a close contact with agrivarsities, research institutes, Government departments and other agencies having common objective of enhancing agricultural production.6

Objectives of the Study

(i). To study the evolution of fertiliser industry in India and Tamil Nadu.

(ii). To assess the growth and performance of fertiliser industry in Tamil Nadu.

(iii). To analyse the structure and implications of fertiliser policy.

(iv). To analyse the subsidy on fertilisers and imports of fertilisers in India.
(v). To assess the characteristics of fertiliser consumption and foodgrain production in Tamil Nadu and the Country as a whole.

Sources

The sources are both primary and secondary. The primary data has been derived from the Annual Reports of companies and various Records and Government Orders available in the Tamil Nadu Archives. This study has been focussed on origin and growth of the fertiliser industry in Tamil Nadu and agricultural developments of the State.

The information and details which cannot be collected through primary data, are collected by the use of secondary data. The secondary data is helpful in the analysis of the change that has taken place and also to assess the reason for change.

Data sources include published and unpublished materials, published books, journals, Government Orders, Government Reports, Fertiliser Companies’ Annual Reports, Periodicals, various project reports, publications of the Government of India, leading news papers reports, Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) Reports, books and magazines pertaining to this work. ‘The Hindu’ Survey Reports,
Bombay Stock Exchange Reports, Madras Stock Exchange Reports, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy’s (CMIE) Reports and Journals also have been consulted for this study.

Government of India’s Report\(^7\) assess the background of the manures and fertilisers, and growth of fertilisers use in India. The FAI\(^8\) narrates the varieties of the fertilisers, and the value of the fertilisers. These works give importance on all India perspective only.

Badithya Srinivasa Rao\(^9\) made a Survey on Industries in India. He stressed only the importance of fertilisers and narrated about the Sindri Fertilisers Plant (1951). G.G. Mirchandani\(^10\) analysis on the agricultural inputs and brief history of fertiliser industries in India. K.S. Yewalkar and others\(^11\) narrate the complete history of manures and fertilisers, their importance, usages, types of fertilisers and manufacturing methods etc. Their works are on an all India perspective and information about Tamil Nadu is not much.

M.L. Sharma\(^12\) describes the origin and the history of fertiliser industry, production, imports and the use of chemical fertilisers in Indian agriculture. HLS. Tandon\(^13\) analysis the effect of fertilisers on yield, efficient of fertiliser use, fertiliser production and consumption, etc. The work of G. Subramaniyan and V. Nirmala\(^14\)
is on the main factors influencing the adoption of fertilisers, fertiliser demands and production, etc. Further they pointed out that productivity may be raised through an increased application of inputs, fertiliser being one such important input. These works are giving information on the usages and growth of fertiliser in India only, not about in Tamil Nadu.

There are few unpublished thesis which are useful for our study. But their uses are limited. R. Srinivasan\textsuperscript{15} studied industrial growth in Tamil Nadu for a decade from 1975 to 1985. In his study, the chemical industries in general ranked second only to the cotton textiles in terms of value added. This study was not given much impetus for the fertiliser industry. K.B. Rathi\textsuperscript{16} traced the history and the growth of the chemical industries in Tamil Nadu. It focussed particularly on the industrial developments in South Arcot District only.

T.C. Mohanam's\textsuperscript{17} thesis deals only with the consumption of fertiliser in Tamil Nadu for four decades after independance. It fails to deal elaborately on evolution and growth of fertiliser industries, governmental policies and subsidies introduced for the development of fertiliser industries in Tamil Nadu.
S. Sivakumar’s\textsuperscript{18} study made on Neyveli Lignite Corporation was about the utilisation and development of human resources and the activities of the organisation of the company. M. Govindan\textsuperscript{19} analysis the role and importance of the trade unions in the welfare of the industrial workers. R. Mathaiyan\textsuperscript{20} analysis the company’s organisation and the management activities in the progress of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. Manimozhi\textsuperscript{21} analysis the origin and development of NLC and the achievements of the company. These thesis are focussing on origin and growth of NLC, human resources utilisation, organisational setup and trade union activities. But these works are not highlighting the production of fertiliser which is part of NLC.

A few M.Phil. research works on industrial study such as, Madras Fertilisers Ltd., Kothari Industries Ltd., Pamani Fertilisers Ltd., and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd., etc. also deal with general aspects on fertilisers and their production. They are not comprehensive works on this subject.

\textbf{Research Methodology}

The Research Methodology adopted in this study is historical, descriptive and analytical. In most of the places it is descriptive since
for the first time an attempt is made to narrate the development of fertiliser industry in Tamil Nadu.

Chapterisation

The present thesis is divided into six chapters.

**The Introductory chapter** discusses the nature, scope and objectives of the study and sources.

**The Second chapter** narrates the Industrial Policy of India and the evolution of fertiliser industry.

**The Third chapter** discusses the evolution and historical background of the fertiliser industries of Tamil Nadu and also the production and performance of those industries.

**The Fourth chapter** narrates the policy of the government on fertiliser industry and subsidy given by the government and imports of fertilisers.

**The Fifth chapter** deals with consumption of fertilisers, land utilisation, irrigation and production of foodgrains in Tamil Nadu.

**The Final chapter** gives the summary and conclusion with findings.
REFERENCES


2. Ibid.,


6. IFFCO, Soil Fertility and Fertiliser Use, Vol.IV, New Delhi, 1990, P-347


