CHAPTER-III

DHARMAPURI DISTRICT AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

BACKGROUND

The Dharmapuri District, prior to its formation, was an integral part of the adjoining district of Salem till 2nd October 1965. The Salem district was a geographically vast area, consisting of 18,262.6 sq. kms. Therefore, developmental works could not be successfully carried out in the northern parts of Salem district by the Government. It was due to this reason that Dharmapuri district was formed consisting of the northern portion of the former Salem district; it came into existence on 2nd October, 1965.¹

The Dharmapuri district is bounded on the east by the North Arcot and South Arcot Districts, on the west by Bangalore and Mysore districts of Karnataka state, on the north by Karnataka state, and the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, and on the south by Krishnagiri, Harur and Dharmapuri. The total area of the district of Dharmapuri is 9607.65 sq. kms. The district headquarters is located at Dharmapuri.²

EARLY HISTORY OF DHARMAPURI

Dharmapuri had a chequered history coming under different rulers over a period of thousand years. Among the dynasties which left their footprints in and

1. The Hindu, dated 2.10.1965; Indian Express, dated, 2.10.1965
around Dharmapuri, mention may be made of the Sangam chieftains, the Pallavas, the imperial Cholas, the Vijayanagar kings, the Bijapur Sultans, and of course, the English. The influence of these successive rulers over this region can be seen even today in the languages spoken, social customs, religious practices, cultural pursuits, even administrative regulations. It is interesting to note that the present Dharmapuri district is heir to such diverse antecedents of history. No doubt such vicissitudes of fortune had its merits as well as demerits.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE DISTRICT

Dharmapuri district could be divided into two distinct geographical regions, viz., the Balaghat region, comprising Hosur, Denkanikotta and portions of Krishnagiri taluk a hilly region where the average elevation is 914 m. above mean sea level, and the Baramahal region otherwise known as the Dharmapuri plains comprising of the other taluks with an average elevation of 396 m. above mean sea level. The land terrain of most of the district is highly undulating plains with extensive massive rock shoots seen everywhere. One third of the district is covered by forests spread over an exclusive area of 3200 square kilometres. River Cauvery flows in all her majesty forming the boundary for a portion on the south-west. Decaying forts here and there tell their own tales of rise and fall of kingdoms of a bygone era. The Dharmapuri district, lying on the north-west border of Tamil Nadu, is situated between the latitudes 11°-46' and 12°-51' north, and longitudes 77°-28' and 78°-14' east. 3

Salem District was the biggest district in Tamil Nadu and its administration was found to be difficult. The Administrative Improvement Committee appointed by the Government of Madras in November 1961 felt that for the maintenance of administrative efficiency at district level, the heavier districts should be bifurcated into manageable proportions. Hence it recommended a territorial bifurcation of Salem district since it was one of the largest districts in the country, and the largest in the state both in area and population. Consequently on the recommendations of the Committee, the Government appointed in June 1962, an I.A.S. officer, S.Krishnaswami, to draw-up a detailed scheme of bifurcation of the Salem district. After some administrative delay, the district was bifurcated into Salem district and Dharmapuri district on 2nd October 1965, the Gandhi Jayanthi Day.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND DEVELOPMENT STRUCTURE**

The administrative structure consisted of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Divisions</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tahuks</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firkas</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Villages</td>
<td>1106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panchayat Unions</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Panchayats</td>
<td>588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Panchayats</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipalities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Dharmapuri district consists of the following taluks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name of Taluks</th>
<th>Area in Sq.Km</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Harur</td>
<td>1483.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Hosur</td>
<td>1018.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Palacode</td>
<td>773.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Pennagaram</td>
<td>679.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Dharmapuri</td>
<td>1188.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Krishnagiri</td>
<td>1022.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Denkanikottai</td>
<td>2049.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Uthangarai</td>
<td>682.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Pappireddypatti</td>
<td>231.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Pochampalli</td>
<td>479.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total area of the District: 9607.65

**METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION**

The Hosur plateau and Chetteris with great elevation occupy almost the entire forest areas of Palacode and Harur ranges respectively and the cool and pleasant climate for nine months of the year. The climate is also determined by the monsoon from the middle of March to the middle of June, and when the Southwest monsoon sets in, the weather becomes markedly warmer. But even on the hottest day the temperature seldom reaches beyond 37.10°C. In the cold season, i.e. during December – January, the minimum temperature is often below 18°C whereas the maximum rarely exceeds 31°C. The southwest portion of the district, compris-

ing mostly of Dharmapuri range falls in the Cauvery valley. Here the altitude drops
down to below 300 meters, and the climate becomes oppressively hot in summer
when temperature shoots up to $37.10^\circ$C. The monthly distribution of rainfall shows
a pronounced maximum in October with a secondary maximum in September. Rain
comes first usually in the form of thundershowers in the later half of April and is
followed by heavy rain falls in May.

DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

The growth of population over the past three decades, and the essential
characteristics of the population for the past few decades in terms of birth rate,
death rate, infant mortality rate, and literacy level are given below:

Population

The population of Dharmapuri district has grown from 16,77,775 in 1971
to 24,28,596 in 1991. The growth rate indicates that there has been a significant
increase during the 1981-91 decade with the average growth rate being 2.16 per
cent per annum during this decade. According to the 1991 census, Krishnagiri
taluk is the most thickly populated and Pennagaram taluk is the least populated in
the district. A few more, details of population, are given below:

- Rural population : 21,97,921
- Semi urban : 2,30,675
- S.C & S.T : 3.95 lakhs
- Density of population: 494/Sq.km.  

8. Ibid., pp.5-6.

9. Seminar on Rural Technology and Technology Mela, Dharmapuri District Development Corporation Ltd., Dharmapuri, p.1
TREND IN BIRTH/DEATH RATE AND INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Birth rate, death rate, and Infant mortality rate reduced significantly from 38.75 in 1951 to 23.50 in 1991, 22.80 in 1951 to 9.00 in 1991, and 111.00 in 1951 to 50.74 in 1991 respectively. \(^\text{10}\)

LITERATES

The literacy level of Dharmapuri district, according to figures available for the year 1996, is 45.57 per cent with male literacy level being more than the female literacy level. It is also observed that while the male literacy level has grown steadily from 32.97 per cent in 1981 to 52.80 per cent in 1996, there has been a significant and phenomenal increase of female literacy level from 18.60 per cent in 1981 to 37.85 per cent in 1996.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

There is a Government Engineering College, and 2 private Engineering Colleges, 3 Government Arts and Science Colleges, 5 Private Arts and Science Colleges, 2 Government Polytechnics, 7 I.T.Is, one Teacher Training Institute, about 80 Higher Secondary Schools, and 123 High Schools, besides 168 Middle Schools and 1769 Primary Schools. \(^\text{11}\)

FOREST AREA AND RESOURCES

In Tamil Nadu, Dharmapuri is the only district which satisfies the optimality for the forest area, with 23.62 per cent of its geographical area under forest. The

district accounts for 14.3 per cent of the total forest area of the state, and thus offers large scope for planning and implementing schemes like social forestry programmes for a fuller development of the forest potential. The entire forest area in the district has been divided into two forest divisions, one at Dharmapuri and the other at Hosur. The area of Dharmapuri division is 1694.01 sq. kms, and that of Hosur division is 1345.88 sq. kms as on 1981-82. The area under forest in the district is 3.17 lakh hectares. The forest produce is mainly sent out of the district with minimum processing, because necessary industries which may procure forest produce do not exist in any part of the district. Shoolagiri, Thally, and Veppanapalli Blocks account for 35 per cent, 34 per cent, and 33 per cent of their respective total areas under forest.  

8. LAND RESOURCES

Agriculture and Horticulture:

The Cauvery, and the South Pennar are the two major rivers flowing in the district. The Cauvery flows on the northwestern portion of the district for a short distance of 67 kms, without directly irrigating any land in the district. The seasonal rivers in the district which remain dry for most of the period are (1) Chinnar, (2) Vanniarr, (3) Thoppiar, (4) Palar, (5) Kallar, (6) Varathiyar and (7) Pambar. Only 16 per cent of the net sown area are irrigated in the district as against the average of 43.2 percent of the state. The backwardness of the district in agriculture is primarily due to the relative inadequacy of facilities and potential. Even with the execution of further irrigation schemes, only about 25 percent more of the cultivated area can be expected to be brought under irrigation.

LAND UTILIZATION

The total geographical area of the district is 9607.65 sq.km. in 1995-96. Cropped area accounts for about 55.24 per cent of the total area. Forestlands cover about 23.62 per cent of the total land. A significant portion (17.42 per cent) of the land falls under the category of 'non available' for cultivation' and 'fallow lands' About 3.72 per cent fall under the category of uncultivated land.  

NATURE OF AGRICULTURE

Dharmapuri district is predominantly an agricultural area, and the district is dry in character. The only major irrigation project in the district is the Krishnagiri Reservoir Project and the Bedethalai Tank System near Krishnagiri. But there are good number of minor irrigation tanks.

There are two cropping seasons viz., kharif, April to September, and Rabi, from October to March. As the irrigation potential is lagging behind, dry crops are recommended in most places of the district. Ragi, Cumbu and Cholam are cultivated in large extent of lands. Hosur taluk has the distinction of being considered as the granary of Tamil Nadu State in ragi cultivation. In the irrigated areas, paddy and sugarcane are cultivated. The district is also a large producer of tamarind, and is well known for its remarkable varieties of mango.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

From the pre-independence period to 1960 there was no industrial development and the people followed the traditional methods of agriculture in Dharmapuri district. Moreover the rainfall of the district ranges from 700 to 900 mm. The Nationalized Banks came forward to give financial assistance to the agriculturalist with low interest.¹⁶ Many land lords came forward to utilize the Bank assistance and to improve the method of agriculture. They used all sorts of new manure and agriculture implements which would remove the hardship of the labourer and give more produce than the early period.

WATER RESOURCES

The water resources of the district are comprised of both surface and ground water. The two river systems in the district are,

(i) Cauvery system with its main tributaries, Dodda hall, Chinnar, Toppiar and Nagavathi, and
(ii) Pennaiar system with its main tributaries, Markandnadi, Pambar and Vaniar.¹⁷

The Cauvery enters the district at the south western corner of Denkanikotta taluk, takes a southern course, falls a small height at Hogennekkal, the famous tourist centre known for its water falls, and flows down to the Mettur Dam. The Cauvery runs into a deep gauge along the south-west boundary of the district but does not serve any irrigation in the district.¹⁸ The South Pennar has its origin near Nandidurg in the Karnataka State. It flows through Hosur, Krishnagiri, Harur, and

Uttangarai taluks. Its chief tributaries are the Vaniar and the Markandanadhi. A reservoir has been constructed near Krishnagiri, across the South Pennar river, and it is popularly known as the K.R.P. Dam. It irrigates about 9,000 acres of land. Though the district is blessed with a few rivers, it is unfortunate that all the rivers are only seasonal.

CLASSIFICATION OF SOILS IN THE DISTRICT

The reconnaissance of soil survey carried out by the State Agriculture Department has revealed the presence of various types of soil in the district. The series of classification is a natural one, based on the properties of the soil.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Soil Classification to Geographical Area</th>
<th>Area in sq.km.</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Red non-calcareous soil</td>
<td>5,185</td>
<td>53.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Black calcareous soil</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Brown calcareous soil</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Brown non-calcareous soil</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Alluvial calcareous soil</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Forest</td>
<td>3,350</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The predominant type of soil in the district is red non-calcareous soil which occupies an area of about 5,185 sq.km, and which is about 53.8 per cent of the geographical area of the district. The soil, dark red to reddish brown is well drained moderately deep in plant nutrients, and its Ph value is around 6.5. The soil erosion is slight to moderate, and the permeability is moderate for this soil. Groundnut, the drought resistant crop, is well suited for cultivation in this soil. Cholam and

variation among the post test means for forearm girth due to resistance training programme (Table VIII a).

The sum of squares, mean squares, the adjusted sum of squares and mean square values for between and within sets along with the F ratio for forearm girth for the four groups are presented in Table VIII (b).

Table VIII (b)

Analysis of Covariance and F Ratio for the Differences Among the Final Adjusted Sum of Squares for Forearm Girth Among Four Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Variance</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>SSx</th>
<th>SSy</th>
<th>Ssxy</th>
<th>SSy.x</th>
<th>MSy.x</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Within Sets</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>157.76</td>
<td>85.041</td>
<td>159.54</td>
<td>-76.303</td>
<td>-1.387</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table F (0.05) (3,55) = 2.78
* Significant at 0.05 level

The obtained F value of 7.12 for the final adjusted mean was higher than the required value of 2.78 at 3 and 55 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis was rejected.
October to December. Certain places such as Hosur and Thalli in the district have a good climate condition and hence they are called "Little England".  

**RAINFALL**

The major part of annual rainfall is due to the south-west monsoon. South-west winds are descending winds blowing on the lowered side of the Western Ghats, and bring more rain over the hilly regions. When they gain more force and are able to ascend up the intervening groups of hills, they bring rain to the plains covering the northern parts of Tamil Nadu. The average rainfall in the district is 850 mm; and this is about 10 per cent below the State's average rainfall. Denkanikotta, which is in the north-west part of the district, has the maximum number of rainy days. The normal rainfall during the north-east monsoon is 301.55 mm; and during the south-west monsoon 356.08 mm. The rainfall in the other seasons is 181.55 mm. The rainfall of south-west monsoon is 43.2 per cent, and of the north-east monsoon, 35.5 per cent, and in the other seasons 21.3 per cent.

**ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

The Animal Husbandry Department is promoting piggery, goat/sheep rearing, dairy & poultry. The region has 53 veterinary hospitals and dispensaries, and 93 veterinary live stock inspectors take care of cattle and livestock.

The district has a poor livestock population, and the livestock and poultry population accounts for a 5.9 meagre per cent of the state's total livestock popula-

---


25. Ibid.
and 0.55 respectively. The required $W_2$ value for the adjusted post test mean differences is 0.92 for significance at 0.05 level. Hence, the mean differences between the above compared groups were significant at 0.05 level. However, the mean difference of 0.40 and 0.55 between 60% of 1 RM with 40% of 1 RM and 40% of 1 RM with control groups were not significant at 0.05 level.

*Ordered adjusted post test mean difference for $W_3$*

The ordered adjusted post test mean differences among the groups, i.e. 80% with 40% of 1 RM of 1.49 was higher than the required $W_3$ value was significant at 0.05 level. The value between 60% of 1 RM with the control, was 0.95 which is less than the required value of 1.12 and was not significant. Hence, the mean differences between the fore mentioned groups were significant.

*Ordered adjusted post test mean difference for $W_4$*

The ordered adjusted post test mean difference between 80% of 1 RM group and the control group was 2.04, which was higher than the required $W_4$ value of 1.24 and was significant at 0.05 level.

The effect of isotonic resistance training induced changes in forearm girth is graphically depicted in Figure XV (a) and Figure XV (b).
development on a significant scale, Government have to provide the necessary infrastructural facilities. A well-established poultry farm has taken initiative in the large-scale sector to set-up a hatchery unit (for layers and broilers) at Kelamangalam. With the availability of high quality chicken from this farm, poultry activities can be significantly increased in the district, provided enough encouragement is given to entrepreneurs willing to take to this activity.

FISHERIES

Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA) is operating in the district to augment fish production. There are 12 fishermen co-operative societies (inland) operating in the district. Nine department controlled reservoirs, 53 tanks with perennial source of water, and 993 tanks with seasonal source of water are available for fish-culture. The Fisheries Department is having an ambitious plan to improve fish-culture in the district.

SERICULTURE

The district has a very conducive climate for mulberry cultivation. About 1/3 of the state's total silk production is obtained from Dharmapuri district. Under State Plan and DPAP, mulberry cultivation is undertaken and in both it is rainfed, and irrigated lands are popularized. The cultivation of mulberry is picking up fast in view of its high return. The district is covered under the IDA assisted National Sericulture Project which will give a fillip to sericulture development in the district. 28

HORTICULTURE

Dharmapuri District is rich in horticulture wealth. The total area for fruits and vegetables production in Dharmapuri District (40,535 ha) constitutes 8 percent of the total area. The fruit crops grown in Dharmapuri constitutes 15 percent of the total fruit crops grown in Tamilnadu; mention has already been made of Salem mangoes which in fact are mostly from Dharmapuri region.

INDUSTRIES

The Dharmapuri district is having about 300 village and cottage industries, providing employment for 21,000 people. Industries relating to silk production, mosaic and tiles manufacturing, power press, rice mills, saw mills, paper production, etc. are functioning in the district. The Tamil Nadu Minerals Corporation has undertaken the work of mining black granite in the district, and is exporting them to Japan earning considerable amount of foreign exchange. Some of the electronic industries at Hosur are exporting printed circuit boards and electronic components. Quality mats, manufactured in the rural areas, are also exported from Dharmapuri district. There are eighteen blocks in this district of which 11 blocks have been classified as industrially backward, and 2 blocks as industrially most backward. These blocks attract special incentives. 271 Industrial sheds have been established in this district in SIDCO industrial estates in Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, and Hosur. In all 8,951 units are functioning in this district, and there are 112 large and medium industries including SIPCOT Complexes.

29. Seminar on Rural Technology and Technology Mela, op.cit., p. 3.
THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

The Dharmapuri district is considered as the most backward district next only to Ramanathapuram district; there are so many reasons for the backwardness of the district. The main reason is scarcity of rain, underdevelopment in the field of industry, poor communication, poor education, and poor hygienic and health facilities. All these are the factors for the low employment potential, and to the poor growth of capital product. There prevails famine in the district after 1965-66 due to scarcity of rain. The Government of Tamilnadu has taken many measures to remove the sufferings and distresses of the people.

Backwardness is either economic, or social, or both; economic backwardness is manifested in low labour efficiency, factor immobility and limited specialization in occupation and trade. This low efficiency results from general poverty, malnutrition illiteracy, immobility and minimises the importance of economic incentives, materials rewards, independence and rational calculation. The cultural value systems is also not favourable to economic achievement, and the people remain economically backward. In an underdeveloped state like Tamil Nadu, the regional disparities are large because of low pace of progress. Whatever industrialization has been taken place at a low level, it is unevenly distributed geographically. Further, industrialization of some places has drained the adjoining places.

There is an increasing responsibility for the State Government to adopt a multipronged effort with respect to the development of backward area.\textsuperscript{35}

A very high per cent of the population of Dharmapuri district is depending on agriculture. Over population in agriculture, evidence of disguised unemployment, availability of little capital per head for agriculture and industry, inadequate training facilities and improper training techniques, crude transportation and communication facilities, and crude technology, are the main contributing factors for the backwardness of a region.\textsuperscript{36} The other causes are the lack of rudimentary education, a high percentage of illiteracy among the people, extensive prevalence of child labour, absence of middle class, inferiority of women’s status and position, and the behaviour of the bulk of the population determined by tradition.\textsuperscript{37} Most of these causes apply to Dharmapuri district as well.

\textbf{QUALITY OF LIFE}

The growth indicators like infant mortality rate, literacy rate, persons living below the poverty line, and per capita agricultural land holding show that the standard of living of the people is very poor when compared with the standard of living of the people in other districts of Tamilnadu.

### Quality of life Indicators (1991)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dharmapuri District</th>
<th>Tamilnadu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Infant Mortality rate</td>
<td>85/1000</td>
<td>57/1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Total literacy rate</td>
<td>39.6 per cent</td>
<td>55.0 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Percentage of families below the poverty line</td>
<td>42.0 per cent</td>
<td>39.5 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Cultivators</td>
<td>49.2 per cent</td>
<td>23.3 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Agricultural Landless people</td>
<td>34.6 per cent</td>
<td>32.0 per cent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is evident from the above statistics that Dharmapuri lags behind in most of the growth indicators.

**TECHNO – INFRASTRUCTURE**

**RAILWAYS**

The broad-gauge line connecting Coimbatore, Chennai, and Bangalore run through the district. Many places, even towns, are not traversed by railway lines. People seem to depend almost exclusively on bus transport.

**ROADS**

The district has a total network of about 6500 kms of surfaced and 3790 kms unsurfaced roads. About 2120 villages are connected by all weather roads throughout the district. The NH-133, of 107 kms which passes through the district connects Salem with Bangalore.

38. Seminar on Rural Technology and Technology Mela, op. cit., p. 4.
The following table shows the details:

a. National Highways : 133 kms
b. State Highways : 16 kms
c. Major District Roads : 835 kms
d. Other District Roads : 1908 kms
e. Panchayat Union Roads : 2679 kms
f. Panchayat Roads : 4719 kms

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Dharmapuri district has an adequate bank-network for providing financial services; there are 130 branches of Commercial Banks. The following banks are responsible for extending the credit facilities in this district:

Regional Rural Banks : 25 Branches
Primary Agriculture Co-operative Banks : 246 Branches
State level Development Banks : 5 Branches
Town Co-operative Urban Banks : 3 Branches
Co-operative Banks : 30 Branches
Tamilnadu Industrial Investment Corporation : 2 Branches

MARKETING FACILITIES

The main marketing centres in the Dharmapuri district are located in the towns of Hosur, Krishnagiri, and Dharmapuri. There are 16 regulated markets covering all the villages in the district; their main object is to help the small farmers to get a fair price for their products. Sugarcane has to be taken to Palacode and Harur Sugar Mills for crushing.

40. Ibid., p.5.
41. Ibid.
HOSPITALS

There are 7 Government hospitals, 11 Government dispensaries, and 71 Primary Health Centres with 475 Sub-centres in the District. There is scope for many more.

OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES

The district is having adequate infrastructural facilities such as roads and transport facilities for the development of farm and non-farm sectors. The Salem-Bangalore meter gauge line and the Madras-Bangalore broadgauge line pass through Dharmapuri district and the National Highway connecting Salem and Bangalore also passes through the district. They are sure to develop with life-links connecting Dharmapuri district with the rest of Tamilnadu and neighbouring states.

42. Potential Linked Credit Plan for Dharmapuri District, Tamil nadu, op. cit., p.23.