Chapter - 1

INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

The thesis entitled “Land Management and Development of Agriculture in Coastal Andhra” (From early times to 1323 A.D.) A study based on inscriptions aims at comprehensive and critical study of the agrarian and fiscal economy in Andhradesa from early times to 1323 A.D., i.e. from the beginning of the establishment of Satavahana rule to the down fall of Kakatiyas in the Coastal Andhra.

Land management is a significant factor for the development of agriculture in any region. Without proper land policy and management, viz, classification, land survey, protection, tax system, maintaining water resources and other natural resources to meet defined goals and objectives is not possible. The development of agriculture too which is backbone of food security in the state and creation of wealth is possible only with better and effective land management policy by the state. Hence this study is taken up.

Nature and Scope of the thesis

Of the many aspects of economic history of the Coastal Andhra the one dealing with land management and development of agriculture is an important factor of economic history of Andhradesa. Land defines the economics of utilization of natural resources and thus is much more than the mere terra-firma. It includes all the materials and forces, which nature gives freely for man’s use in land and water, in air and light and heat. Hence the land management is an essential element of the polity of the state. Land management is defined as the process of managing the use, preserve and development (in both urban and rural settings) of land resources. Land resources are used for a variety of purposes, which may include organic agriculture, reforestation and water resource management. Better and rational land utilization paves the way for the development of agriculture and allied industries which in turn pave the way for economic stabilisation of the area and people.

Importance of the study

Regional histor (political, social, economic and cultural) as sometimes mistakenly interpreted is not in contradiction with national history. It is indeed, a necessary compliment to country’s history. A comprehensive study of different
regions in their totality social, economic, cultural, ecological and also political aspects including popular movements would contribute to systematic reconstruction of history at the macro level. Regional history viewed from this angle could give us a comprehensive understanding in relation to national history.

The Satavahanas the subordinates of the Mauryas rose to power and ruled the Deccan and Andhra desa for four hundred years. The Satavahanas took very keen interest in developing agriculture. The cultivable land laying waste was brought under plough. The inscriptions of the Satavahanas found in the Coastal Andhra record gifts of villages to Buddhist samghas and Brahmnas. The successors of the Satavahanas i.e. the Ikshavakus, Brihatpalayanas, the Salankayanas, the early Pallavas, and the Vishnukundins, were among the local dynasties who rose to power continued the policy of Satavahanas regarding the land management and agriculture. The rise of the Eastern Chalukyas or Vengi Chalukyas to power in the 7th century A.D. saw a change in the agrarian economy of the region. The advent of the Kakatiyas heralded a new era in the annals of early medieval economic history of Andhra desa. During the energetic rule of several dynasties including Chalukya-Cholas and Eastern Gangas, agriculture was developed to a great extent. Several irrigational works like tanks, dams, dykes and canals were undertaken and completed. The agricultural surplus in turn promoted the trade and commerce considerably. During this period development of agriculture ensured not only food security but also generated employment and economic stability. During this period crafts and allied industries of agriculture were also developed. The Coastal Andhra which played an important part in the ancient and early medieval period of history is selected for a thorough study.

Source material

The inscriptions having historical value are the best authorities for the study. The inscriptions ranging from the 2nd century B.C., to the first quarter of the 14th century A.D., forms main data for the present study. Apart from such inscriptions many belonging to private individuals too are taken up for the study. Several of these inscriptions contain a mine of information regarding the extension of the kingdom, the territorial or administrative divisions, the villages granted with their boundaries, the land granted to individuals or temples and taxes to be collected or
exempted. Literary sources too will be consulted to corroborate the information given in the inscriptions.

**Epigraphical sources**

South Indian Inscriptions Volumes

Epigraphia Indica Vols

Epigraphia Andhrica Vols

Nellore District Inscriptions Vols, I, II, and III by Butterworth and Chetty

Annual Reports of Indian Epigraphy

Annual Reports of South Indian Epigraphy

Andhra Pradesh Government Archaeological and Epigraphical series

Inscriptions of Madras-Vizag Presidency

**Journals**

Indian Antiquary Volumes

Andhra Historical Research Society

Epigraphical Society of India

Bharathi Vols

Proceedings of the South Indian History Congress volumes

Proceedings of the Andhra History Congress volumes.

**Review of Literature**

The study of the socio-economic institutions of ancient, medieval and modern India received the attention of historians since the second quarter of the present century. Several scholarly works were written and published on the subject. In this connection special reference may be made to the works of historians like,
Appadorai’s “Economic Conditions of South India (1000-1500 A.D.)”, (Madras, 1936),
Narendranath Kher’s Agrarian and Fiscal Economy in the Maurya and Post Mauryan Age, Delhi, 1964,
D.N. Jha, Studies in the Early Indian Economic History, Temples and Monuments in South India (900 to 1200 A.D.), Delhi 1976,
R.S. Sharma’s “ Light on Early Indian Society and Economy”, “Bombay, 1966, his another work Perspectives in social and Economic history of Early India, New Delhi, 1983,
Burton Stein’s Peasant State and Society in Medieval South India, (Delhi 1980),
L. Gopa’s Aspects of History of Agriculture in Ancient India, (Varanasi 1980),
Noboru Karoshima’s South Indian History and Society study from Inscriptions, (Delhi, 1988).

All these scholarly works dealt with social and economic conditions in ancient and medieval India in general. However D.C. Sircar’s work examined and analyzed the information culled out from epigraphs related to land grants and its impact. He argues that the land grants not only contributed for the development of agriculture and increase in food production but also developed the element of feudal system gradually and took firm grounds in the country.

As far as the Andhradesa is concerned several pioneering works on the subject, either directly or indirectly, were written by scholars.

B.V. Krishnarao’s “History of the Early Dynasties of Andhradesa,” (Madras, 1942), gives a new dimension of political history of the period in detail.

K. Sundaram’s “Studies in the Economic and Social Conditions of Medieval Andhra”, (Machilipatnam, 1968), depicts the social and economic conditions of Andhra during the early and later medieval period.
K. Satyanarayana’s “A Study of the History and Culture of the Andhras”, Vol. I & II, (Delhi 1982), is a work on the history of Andhra which is interpreted through marxist historiography.

N. Venkataramanaiah’s “The Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi”, (Madras, 1950), is a primary work on political history of Chalukyas of Vengi.

P.V.P. Sastry’s “The Kakatiyas”, (Hyderabad, 1978) is an exhaustive work on Kakatiya dynasty but confined to political history only.


C.S. Vasudevan’s “Temples of Andhra Pradesh from 400-1300 A.D., (Delhi, 2000).

K. Pramila’s “Economic and Social Conditions of Andhradesa A.D., 1000-1323, (Delhi, 2002).


D.V. NarayanaReddy’s, Water Management in Medieval Andhra, (Delhi, 2010).

All the works cited above primarily deals with the social and economic conditions in general, though they are authoritative in nature they did not deal with the nature of the social structure, the nature, scope and importance of the land grants, socio-economic mobility of the peasants, agrarian economy, emergence of landed gentry, emergence of feudal element in the later medieval period and above all land
management in the region which paved the way for the development of agriculture in the region.

**Objectives of the study**

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:-

1. To highlight the nature, scope and importance of the Land grants during the period under consideration.
2. Classification of lands donated to donees by donors and safe guards provided for providing protection and security from different quarters.
3. Classification of agrarian taxes collected from the peasants as state share and incidence of taxation. Examination and analyzing the exemptions granted to the donees by the state. Nature of the exemptions and reliefs provided by the state are also to be examined.
4. To evaluate the role of land grants and exemptions granted in developing the techniques of land management in the region under survey.
5. To evaluate the land revenue assessment during the period under survey
6. To examine the development and extension of agriculture which paved the way for the development of agrarian economy.

**Methodology**

Restructuration of the history of Land grants under different dynasties in the region i.e. in coastal Andhra in terms that is valid for the understanding, contextualization and explanation of nature scope and importance. Codification of acquisition, expansion, retention and various bases of the land formations through a historic-political analysis of events. Interpretation of the data culled out from the primary sources during the period under study to understand the process of development of agrarian economy and land management in coastal Andhra
This study is carried out at three levels

1. Qualitative analysis of historical and statistical material pertaining to the utilization of land resources, land grants, and evolution of land management techniques developed over the time and space.

2. Information was elicited from epigraphs and literature produced during the period under survey.

3. Comparison of the epigraphical sources with that of the literature for precise analysis of the subject will be taken up.

The thesis is divided into six chapters.

Chapter - I

The first chapter is in the nature of Introduction, early works on the subject by different scholars, aims and scope of the study and classification of source material. The objectives of the study and methodology adopted in collection of material and drafting of thesis are also incorporated.

Chapter - II

The second chapter will be devoted to examine the Physical Geography which influenced the course of the history, religion, culture, social life and economic conditions of the region under study. The availability of land for agriculture and other purposes depends upon the geographical conditions. Hence an attempt is made in this chapter for a thorough investigation of the natural resources available in the region.

Chapter - III

In this chapter the Social, Economic and Political History of the region is discussed and analyzed. The polity that was adopted by the rulers towards the land management in particular and the growth of agricultural activity are examined and analyzed.
Chapter - IV

This chapter is devoted to examine and analyze the importance of the Land and Land Management techniques adapted by the different kings of the successive dynasties ruled the region during the period under consideration. The administrative machinery and its functions which are instrumental in land management are also examined and analysed in this chapter.

Chapter - V

The fifth chapter Land Management and Taxation discusses different types of taxes levied on land utilization for different purposes and agriculture produce are identified, classified and analyzed. The nature of taxes and its scope and the areas which were brought under tax net work during the period under survey are examined.

Chapter - VI

This chapter Summary and Conclusion is intended for synthesize, analyze and infer the above discussion is in the form of conclusions.