CHAPTER – III

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

In this chapter, an attempt has been made to describe the profile of the study area Ramanathapuram district and sample blocks (Kadaladi Block, Muthukulatliur Block and Thiruvadavai Block) in terms of location, administrative set up, demographic features, irrigation, climate and rainfall, land use and cropping pattern, forests, soil and minerals, rivers occupational distribution, levels of literacy, trade and commerce, industries and transport and communications as a base for the study.

3.1 RAMAMATMAFIJMAM DISTRICT

Ramanathapuram District, situated in the southeast corner of Tamil Nadu State, is highly drought prone and most backward in development. It is surrounded by Pudukottai District on the North, Sivaganga and Virudhunagar district on the North West and on the West Trirunelveli, Totucorin district and Gulf of manner on the South and the Palkstrait on the East. The district in as present form came into existence from 15th March 1985 by trifurcating the composite Ramanathapuram District.
The district has an area of 4233.44 sq. Km and bring between the North latitudes of 09.05 and 09.56 and east longitudes of 78.13 and 70.26. The unique features of the district is its longest line measuring about 265 kilometers accounting for nearly 1/4th of the total length of the coastal line of the state.

3.1.1 Elistosieal Baekgromsad

Ramanathapuram district has been under the able benevolent administration in Maharaja of Sethupathy under the Zamindari system. Sethupathy was responsible to sent Swamy Vivekanda as the Hindu Religious Mission to attend the first World Religions Conference at Chicago of the USA. Our celebrated Tamil Poets Thayumanavar Swamigal, Pamban Swamigal and Seikkuthambi belong to this district. Ramanathapuram district is notable for its greatest temple of Shri Ramanathaswamy at Rameswaram. Ramesawaram is having the holy theerthams which attract the pilgrims all over the India for holy both from the North Himalayas to the South KaniyakumarL This Ramanathaswami temple can be taken as
one of the wonders of the world since the corridors of this temple is having 1,220 meters, which is the most lengthiest one in the world.

3.1.2. Adsmimastirffitwe Setup;

With its Head Quarters located at Ramanathapuram, the district has been divided into 7 taluks, and 11 community development blocks for the purpose of Revenue and Development Administration. There are 424 Revenue Village and 8 Towns including 2 Municipal Towns.

According to 1991 census, the district has a total population of 11.36 lakhs representing 2.4 percent of the state population. The district has a low population density of 265 persons per square kilometer.

3.1.4- CHsmates:

The district has a tropical climate temperature from 22.3°C (Min) to 37.8°C (Max) and the relative humidity is high at 79 percent on an average and it ranges between 80 percent to 90 percent in coastal areas. The district receives rainfall both
during the South West and North West Monsoons. Normal rainfall is 819 mm. Major part of rainfall is from North East monsoon (65 percent). The district faces frequent failure of monsoon. The district had received a rainfall of 811 mm during the year 1995-96.

3.1.5 Kweffs aadl Taaks

There is no perennial river in the district. The district is essentially drained by two rivers viz. VAIGAI and GUNDAR. There are about 1840 tanks in the district with an irrigation potential of around 60,000 MA (seldom the banks were filled to capacity, due to inadequate rain fall).

8.1.6 Soils a&ct Miaerals

The soil types of the district can be classified with:

a) Block clay soils distributed through the district.

b) Sandy soil mainly found in Rameswararn island.

c) Sandy loamsoild - in Kamuthi, Muthukulathur, Pararnakuddi, and Ramanathapuram Taluks.

d) Alluvival soil - a small proportion is found in Kamuthi, Muthukulathur, Paramakkudi and Thiruvadanai blocks.
3.1.7o Agriculture:

The economy of the district is predominately dependent upon agriculture. Paddy is the most predominant crop cultivated in this district. Cambu, Cholam, Ragi, Varagu, Kutlirivalli are the important mills grown the districts. Paddy, Chillies and Cotton are cultivated under rainfall condition. Cotton and Chillies are the most important commercial crop grown in this tract under semidry of cultivation. In coastal areas like Tiruppullani, Mandapam, Coconut is the most important plantation crop. The entire district economy depends on agriculture.

3.1.8. Fislaeriess

Ramanathapuram district has the longest coastal line of 265 km which is nearly 1/4 of the total length of the coastal line of the state. The fisher-men of this district enjoy an unique advantage that, they can be practically for all the 360 days in a year because of the geographical location of fishing grounds, Rameswaram, Mandapam, Kilakarai, Athankarai, Mookaiyur, Devi Pattinam, Pamban, Thondi, Erwadi
Uchipuli, Pasipattiman, Periapattinam, Sayalkudi, Thangachimadam, Valinokkam, Vedalai, Mariyur are some of the important high centres in the district.

3.1.9. Industries:

Ramanathapuram district has remained industrially most backward due to lack of adequate/good quality water supply, frequent power failures, inadequate availability of raw materials, poor transport network. However, there are our spinning mills and one unit for production of Talc has been recently started in Paramakudi. There are many SSI units at Paramakudi, engaged in production of materials required by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. Predominant cottage industries. Handloom weavers co-operative societies found in and around Rameswaram and Paramakudi. This district offers tremendous scope for generation of employment potential/opportunities in the "Tiny and Cottage industries sector".

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3.1.10 Transport and Communications

The district has a total road length of 1988 km of metalled and unsurfaced roads (1068.3). The district Headquarters is well connected by rail and road. Even though the district headquarters is well connected with Madurai and other places. The transport network within the district still remains poor and underdeveloped.

3.1.11c Tourist Attractions.

Ramanathaswamy temple at Rameswaram - the most sacred place of worship by the Hindus next to Benares. Navabashnam is another important pilgrimage centre at Devipattinam. Dharbasayanam or Adi Jeganatha Temple at Tirupulani and Sethukarai are the important pilgrimage centre. Famous emerald Nataraja idol at Thiru Uthirakosamangai. Famous Erwadi - Darga near Makarai at Erwadi. The Pamban bridge, which connect the island of Rameswaram to the main land. The length of this bridge is 2.4 kilometers.
Ramanathapuram district is well served by a network of 19 branches of banks giving an average of 10.420 persons per branch, 9 public sector banks, 3 private sector banks and 1 Regional Rural Banks, 1 district co-operative banks, SLD Bank and TIIC operate in the district.

3.1.13, Goverajnaejmt Departments

Many of the district level offices of the Government department like Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry, Fisheries, District Industries centre are located in the district Head quarters. Department of Agricultural Engineering is functioning at Paramakudi. The nodal agency for rural development is the Ramanathapuram District Rural Development Agency headed by a Project Director with District Collector as Chairman. The DRDA care of various development activities in the district such as IRDP/Bio/Social Forestry etc.
A. GEWERAL

1. Population If 1991 in Lakhs
   A) Male 5.62
   B) Female 5.14
   Total 11.36

2. Administrative Bodies.
   Revenue Division 2
   Revenue Firkas 32
   Block Development Offices 11
   Municipalities 2
   Revenue villages 424
   No. of village Panchayats 444

S. Utilisation in Ha
a) Forest 4488
b) Barren and Uncultivable land 4961
c) Land put to non-agricultural use 81509
d) Cultivable waste 5768
e) Permanent pastures and other grazing land 856
f) Land under misc tree crop and groves not included in net areas sown 4287
g) Current fallows 64685
h) Other tallow lands 36275
i) Met area sown 220515
j) Total geographical area 423344
k) Total cropped area 222940
l) Area sown more than once 2425
4. Irrigated Area:
   a) Total cropped area 75436
   b) Gross area Irrigated 60822
   c) Net area Irrigated 75436

5. Area under various crops
   a) Paddy TnHa MT
   b) Jowar 151265 182728
   c) Cumbu 5533 6795
   d) Ragi 3858 1866
   e) Red gram 7358 8717
   f) Black gram 260 156
   h) Chillies 3097 1319
   i) Sugar Cane 9437 485.1
   j) Groundnut 120 12
   k) Cotton (Hales) 11223 12334
   l) Gingely 5682 7687
   m) Green gram 2729 437
   n) Sun flower 405 16
      480 245

6. Fisheries
   a) Coastal length of the District 265km
   b) Gulf of manner coast 141km
   c) Marine fisher man population 68468
   d) Marine fish production 52525MT
7. **Source of Irrigation**:  
   a) Major Canals  
   b) Tanks 1840  
   c) Tube Wells 128  
   d) Dug Wells 12762  

6. **Category of Works**  
   a) Cultivators 222660  
   b) Agriculture Labourers 99222  

7. **Climate**  
   a) Temperature  
      Maximum 37.9  
      Minimum 22.3  
      Rainfall in MM  
      Normal 818.74  

C. **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**  
1. **Live Stock**  
   a) Cattle 230086  
   b) Buffaloes 30507  
   c) Sheep 271521  
   d) Goats 154853  
   e) Poultry 378247  
   f) Pig 7757
2. Veterinary Institution in Nos
   a) Veterinary dispensaries 18
   b) Veterinary Sub-centres/key village 45
   c) Veterinary Hospitals Nil
   d) Mobile Veterinary units Nil

D. HEALTH
   a) General Hospitals 3
   b) Primary Health Centre 43
   c) Health Sub—Centres 250

E. EDUCATION in Nos
   1. Educational Institutions
      a) University Nil
      b) Arts and Science Colleges 5
      c) Professional College 1
      d) Industrial Training Institute 4
      e) Secondary Grade Training Schools 3
      f) Primary Schools 946
      g) Middle Schools 170
      h) High Schools 55
      i) Higher Secondary Schools 3

F. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS In KMS
   a. Railway Line (Metre guage) 133.20
   b. National Highways 384.20
   c. Major District Roads 933.90
   d. Other District Roads
### G. COMMUNICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>In Nos.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Post Office</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Telephone Offices</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Telephone Exchanges</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Telephone Sets</td>
<td>2603</td>
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### H. MARKETING

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Regulated Markets</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Trading Centres</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### I. INDUSTRIES

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>In Nos.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Registered Industries</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Large Scale Industries</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. SSI Units</td>
<td>1233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Spinning Mills</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. KVIC Units</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Tiny Workshed/Industrial Estate</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Handlootn Units</td>
<td>7500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Other Artisan Units</td>
<td>5558</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### J. CO-OPERATIVES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>In Nos.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. DCCS Branches</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. SLDB. Branches</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. PLDCB Banks</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Primary Agri-Co-op Banks</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Weavers Societies</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
f. Urban Co-operatives 4

g. Agri Marketing Societies 3

h. Housing Societies 5

i. Labour societies 5

j. Palmgur Societies 90

k. Milk Product Societies 355

l. Milk Chilling Centres 2

**K. ELECTRICITY**

In KMS

a) Power Consumption 1149591

b) Revenue village Electrifies 393

**L. BANKS**

In Kms

a. Commercial Banks 80

b. District Central Cooperative Banks 24

c. PLD Banks 4

d. TIIC 1

3,2 SAMPLE BLOCK PROFILE

3.2.1 KADALADX BLOCK

The Kadaladi block is located on South Western part of the district. Its western boundary is Kamuthi and Northern boundary is Muthukulathur and in the east Thirupullani and South from its south boundary is one town panchayats and there are 55 village panchayat and 53 revenue villages. The total population of this block as per 1991 census is 1,57,899 and cent percent of population in rural. The scheduled caste and tribe form 22.2 percent of the total population i.e their number is 22,081. The density of population of the block is 279.

The distribution of occupation among the working class of the block is as follows. About 35.2 percent of workers are agriculture i.e 31,460 persons and the total number of agricultural labourers is 15,322 which is 15.6 percent of total workers. People engaged in activities like livestock rearing, forestry, fishing, and allied activities are 1536 in number. Those who are engaged in cottage and household industries, the number is 1246 which is 10.19 percent of the total working force of the block.
The block has a better infrastructure for future development. The whole block is electrified. The length of the metallic road is 125.6 Ions. Almost all the villages are connected with the main stream either by a pucca road or by some mud roads. The net cultivated area is 37,887 hectares which is 52 percent of the total area of the block. Fallow lands are 3,296 hectares and the area under forest land is 136.1 hectares which is 0.5 per cent of the total area of the block.

The net irrigated area is 9,829 hectares and the percentage of irrigated area to net area sown is 13 percent. About 4,725.52 hectares are irrigated by tanks. Dug or open well irrigation covers 3,104.14 hectares 1,814.12 hectares are under double or multiple cropping. Gross cropped area is 34,386 hectares. Paddy is the main crop cultivated in 5,638.05 hectares. Pulses are cultivated in 860.15 hectares, and cotton in 1256.32 hectares.

The total number of agricultural holdings are 9,130, of this 40 holdings are large holdings with 10 hectares and above 265 holdings are between 4 hectares and 10 hectares,
1,235 are medium size holdings between 2 hectares and 4 hectares and small holdings of less than 2 hectares and above 1 hectares are 1,700 and the marginal holdings of less than 1 hectares are 5,890 in number.

There is no large scale industries in this block but 20 small scale industries are operating. Other rural and cottage industries, coir, khadi spinning, mat-weaving, basket-making, plamgur, broom making etc are some of the vocations providing and living for the people of this block. In this block, 13 public sector banks. 4 branches of Regional Rural Bank (Pandiagram bank) and 6 commercial bank and 3 co-operative bank are catering to the credit needs of the farmers.

In the field of education also, this block is backward. There is neither an art college nor a professional college. There are 4 higher secondary schools. 11 high schools 32 middle schools and 45 elementary schools catering to the educational destines of the block.
3.2.2 MUTHUKULATHUR BLOCK

Muthukulathur block located on middle west part of the district. Its western boundary is Kamuthi and Northern boundary is Paramakuddi, and Bogalur and in the east Thiruppalani. Bogalur and south from its south boundary is kadaladi. This block cover on area of 24,497 hectares. There is 48 village panchayats 38 revenue villages. The total population of this block, as per 1991 census, was 1,08,291 and most of the population live in rural. The scheduled caste and tribe 22,276 form 21.5 percent of the total population. Regarding the literacy level, 50 percent of male and 42 percent of female are literate.

The distribution of occupation among the working class of the block is as follows; About 36.7 percent of persons are working in agriculture and 28,029 persons are the total workers. People engaged in activities like livestock rearing, forestry, fishing and allied activities are 798 in number. Those who are engaged in cottage and household industries, the number is 983 which is 8.10 percent of the total working force of the block.
The block has a better infrastructure for future development. The whole block is electrified. The length of the metallic road is 138.7 km. Almost all the villages are connected with the main stream either by a pucca road or by some mud roads.

The net cultivated area is 49,497 hectares which is 56 percent of the total area of the block. Forest area covered was 1,738 hectares which is 0.8 percent of the total area of the block.

The net irrigated area is 6253 hectares. The percentage of irrigated area to net area sown is 12 percent. About 3,498.15 hectares are irrigated by tanks. Dug or open well irrigation covers 2,854.85 hectares. The 976.18 hectares are under double or multiple cropping. Gross cropped area is 25,112 hectares. Paddy and Chillies is the main crop cultivated in 24,806.07 hectares. Groundnut and other oil crops are cultivated in 309.04 hectares and other crop in 320.18 hectares.
The total number of agriculture holdings is 7,340. Of this 45 are large holdings with 10 hectares and above; 360 holdings are between 4 hectares; 975 are medium size holdings between of less than 2 hectares and above 1 hectares are 1,279 and the marginal holdings of less than 1 hectares are 4681 in number.

There is no large scale industries in this block but 17 small scale industries are operating. The rural and cottage industries brick industries, mat-weaving, basket making, and fibre products, broom making, palmgur - tapping and palmgur etc. are some of the vocations providing and living to the people of this block.

In this block 6 public sector banks, 3 branches of Regional Rural Bank (Pandian Gram bank), 2 Commercial banks and 1 Co-operative bank are catering to the financial needs of the farmers.
3.2.3, **THIRUVABAMAI BLOCK**

Thiruvadanai block located on Northern part of the district. It's western boundary is Sivagangai district and Northern boundary is Pudukkottai district and in the fast boundary is Palk Bay and South from its south boundary is Paramakudi and Tuticorin district. This block cover on area of 23,046 hectares. There is one town panchayats, 48 village panchayats and 57 revenue village. The total population of this block as per 1991 censes is 86164 and most population live in rural. The scheduled caste and scheduled tribe 17,170, 23.17 percent of the total population. Regarding literacy level, 65 percent of male 35 percent of female are literate. The distribution of occupation among the working class of the block is as follows: About 41.15 percentage of workers is agriculturist i.e 66,087 persons and the total number of agriculture labourers is 7,443, which is 16.6 percent of the total. The rearing, forestry, fishing and allied activities are 858 in number. Those who are engaged in cottage and household industries, the number is 647 which is 7.15 percent of the total working force of the block.
Regarding infrastructure, the whole block is electrified. The length of the metallic road is 95.3 km. Almost all the villages are connected with main stream either by a pucca road or by some mud roads.

The net cultivated area is 23,046 hectares, which is 60 percent total area of the block. This block has forest area of 179 hectares which is 0.7 percent of the total area of the block.

The net irrigated area is 8,612 hectares, the percentage of irrigated area to net area sown is 12 percent. About 3415.20 hectares are irrigated by tanks. Dug or open well irrigation covers 2185.40 hectares. Groundnut and other oil crops cultivated in 310 hectares and chillies cultivation is in 681 hectares, other crops are cultivated in 76 hectares. The total number of agricultural holdings is 10,712. Of this 45 are large holdings with 10 hectares and above; 475 holdings are between 4 hectares and 10 hectares; 1530 are medium size holdings between 2 hectares and 4 hectares. Smallholdings of less then 2 hectares and above 1 hectares are 2815 and the marginal holdings of less than 1 hectares are 5892 in number.
There is no large scale industries and 18 small scale industries are operating in this block. Other rural and cottage industries like Coir, Khadi spinning, mat-weaving, fishing, basket making, palm leaves and leather making, broom making etc are some to the vocations providing and living for the people of this block. In this block 7 public sector banks, 2 branches of Regional Rural Bank (Pandian Gram Bank) and 4 commercial bank and 1 co-operative bank are catering to the agricultural credit need of the farmers.

Based on the brief profile to the study area, the present study analysed the performance of I SB of IRDP in this same study areas.
REFERENCES


