CHAPTER – II

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT AMONG FISHERMEN

The Fisheries Co-operative Societies play a dynamic role in the upliftment of fishermen and fisherwomen in the Kanyakumari District. In the district more than 111 Fisheries Co-operative Societies running successfully. They involved many welfare schemes among the members of the primary fishermen Co-operative societies. About 5.64 lakhs fishermen/fisherwomen have been enrolled as members of the fishermen co-operative societies. Fifty four fair price shops are run by the fishermen co-operative societies. The details of the societies and members are as given below:

In the Marine fishermen Co-operative Society there were 521 societies, and 321,106 members. In the Marine fisherwomen Co-operative Society there were 382 societies and 146,239 members and in the Inland fishermen Co-operative Societies there were 303 and 77,615 members. But in the Inland fisherwomen Co-operative Society there were 84 and 10784 members. Other types of Co-operative Societies there were 21 and 6628 members and in the District fishermen Co-operative Federation there were 11 and 727 members. But there is only one societie, Tamilnadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative

Federation and 502 members. In total 1323 Co-operative Societies and 563,601 members.

Tamil Nadu is one of the important coastal states in the East coast, having a coastline of 1,076 kms, with 13 Coastal Districts and 591 fishing villages. It ranks fourth in fish production in the country. It has a continental shelf of 41,412 sq. kms, and an Exclusive Economic Zone spreading over 0.19 million sq. kms, Marine sector dominates the entire fishery sector, and, Tamil Nadu coast line is divided into four zones. The fisheries co-operative societies of Tamil Nadu are under the administrative control of the Director of Fisheries and provide financial assistance and relief to member fishermen. There are co-operatives in nearly all of the 400 fishing villages along the Tamil Nadu coast of the total fisherfolk population, Hindus constitute 54%, Christians 40% and Muslims 6%. The Christian fisherfolk are concentrated in Kanyakumari district, where over 95% of the fishermen are Christians.

The surf-beaten Coromandal Coast extending to 357.2 kms., from Pulicat to Point Calimere. The Palk Bay extending to 293.9 kms., from Point Calimere to Dhanushkodi. The Gulf of Mannar, rich in biodiversity and hosting

a variety of marine species is a Marine National park, extending to 364.9 kms, from Dhanushkodi to Kanniyyakumari. The western sector with 60 kms, of coastline is on the Arabian Sea, from Kaniyyakumari to Neerodi.  

The first co-operative society for fishermen in the region that is now Travancore was registered earlier in 1917. At that time, fishermen’s co-operatives were registered on the basis of communities with separate societies for the Arayan and Valan (Hindu) and Christian fishermen. By 1933 there were 95 co-operatives with a membership of 8,194 from the three communities. The performance of these co-operatives was very disappointing; the Government of Travancore through its co-operative enquiry committee of 1934 studied the problem of fishermen’s co-operatives and suggested various means of encouraging co-operative enterprise among fishermen.  

As for performance statistics, we find that in 1974 the 1,036 co-operatives attained a business turnover fish and fish products of Rs. 51.23 lakhs which was only 9% of the corresponding all-India figure and only 1% of the total value of fish landings in Kerala during that year. Forty four of the 1036 societies worked on a profit that year totalling Rs. 76,000. The remaining

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992 societies lost Rs. 54.32 lakhs - a figure that exceeds the total business turnover\textsuperscript{211}.

There were five key factors identified for the success of features of the co-operative ventures in fisheries in allover the world. The fishermen’s spontaneous response to exploitation. Evolution from traditional community organisations. Voluntary efforts by non-official bodies interested in the welfare of fishermen. Action by other types of co-operative organisations, and Government policy aiming at the protection and development of fisheries and using the artisanal fisheries as a starting point.

Co-operative enterprise indicates that this list is arranged in the order of importance the most successful co-operative enterprises were an outcome of the fishermen’s spontaneous response to exploitation; continued success was assured by the subsequent incorporation of the other listed factors\textsuperscript{212}.

Development of fishery industry offers big opportunity for exploitation of fishery resources of the coastal as well as inland waters. Though fishermen have a very high potential, the fishermen continue to remain as the weakest section. They are exploited by the middlemen institutional safeguards would be very effective against such exploitation. Fishery Co-operatives are considered to be best means of ameliorating the socio-economic conditions of the

\begin{itemize}
  \item 8. Data from the National Co-operative Development Corporation, New Delhi and relates to the state of affairs on 30-6-1974.
\end{itemize}
fisherfolk\textsuperscript{213}. Fishery Co-operatives would enable fishermen to develop an institutional structure through which they can avail themselves of financial and technical assistance to increase the catch of fish and gain a bargaining power for securing better price and thus improving their economic conditions\textsuperscript{214}.

The aim of the fishery co-operatives is not only to increase fish production but also to improve the socio-economic conditions of the fishermen. It will generate employment opportunities to the people in fish processing, fish drying and fish curing etc. They also facilitate the movement of fish from the coastal areas to marketing centres and make fish available to the consumers at a fairly reasonable price\textsuperscript{215}.

Fishery Co-operatives in India were started in the beginning of this century mainly due to the efforts of Sir Frederic Nicholson who was the Director of Fisheries in the former Madras Provinces. In 1944, the ‘Fish sub-committee’ on agricultural policy committee recommended both direct and indirect assistance should be given to the industry. In 1946, the co-operative planning committee recommended that state aid for the development of fishing industry should be given largely through co-operative societies. These societies

\textsuperscript{10} Marine Small Scale Fisheries of Tamil Nadu : A General Description, Madras, India, December 1983, p. 17.

\textsuperscript{11} C.Selva Raj., Small fishermen in Tamil Nadu, Madras, 1975, p.8.

\textsuperscript{12} Personal Interview with J.L.Ajith Stalin, Inspector of Fisheries, residing at Cholachal, aged 48, dated 12-05-2010.
give financial assistance to their members and stock and sell fishing craft and tackle at a fair price. They should also undertake marketing functions\textsuperscript{216}.

The growth of fishery co-operatives was very slow. By 1944, there were hardly 200 fishery co-operatives in the whole of India. These societies were mostly credit societies and their main aim was to provide credit to the members. Co-operative fishing, processing and marketing were not envisaged by these societies at that time. It was after the commencement of the five year plans that the importance of fishery co-operatives was recognised\textsuperscript{217}.

As on 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2004, 1175 Fisheries Co-operative Societies are functioning in Tamilnadu with a total membership of 4,88,844. Out of which 512 societies with 3,22,006 members are functioning among marine fishermen and 296 societies with 93551 members are functioning among marine fisherwomen, 280 societies with 61979 members are functioning among inland fishermen and 66 societies with 6132 members among inland fisherwomen. 21 special types of fisheries societies with 5176 members are also functioning for the upliftment of fisherfolk in Tamil Nadu\textsuperscript{218}.

At present co-operative fishery programme is being developed on project basis. The salient features of this project are intensification of fish

\textsuperscript{14} Handbook of Indian Fisheries prepared for the third meeting of the Indo-Pacific fisheries council, Madras, 1951, p. 16.
production through introduction of mechanised boats, supply of mechanised boats on credit to group of members of co-operative, supply of kerosene, nets and other requisites to the fishermen, provision of common facilities and services like boat building yards, ice plants, cold storage canning plants, transport vehicles, marketing of fish and fish products and recovery of loans form sale price of fish products\textsuperscript{219}.

In order to accelerate the pace of development of fishing co-operatives, the NCDC has formulated a pattern of assistance for fishery co-operatives which includes assistance for strengthening the share capital of societies, establishment of service and repair centres for boats, setting up of canning units, fish oil and meal plants, net making units, construction of godowns, drying yards etc and also purchase of boats and other equipments\textsuperscript{220}.

NCDC started promoting and developing fisheries co-operatives after its Act was amended in 1974 to cover fisheries within its purview. In order to discharge these functions effectively, NCDC has formulated specific scheme and pattern of assistance for enabling the fisheries co-operatives to take-up activities relating to production, processing, storage, marketing etc. Such assistance is provided to fishermen co-operatives on liberal terms treating the

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item Fishery Co-operatives, Booklet No. 107, Agricultural co-operation: ACS-15, p.7.
\item Strategies and Options for Increasing and Sustaining Fisheries and Aquaculture Production to Benefit Poor Households, New Delhi, 2004, p. 31.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
activity as a weaker section’s programme NCDC provides assistance to fisheries co-operatives\textsuperscript{221} for the following purpose.

Purchase of operational inputs such as fishing boat nets and engines. Creation of infrastructure facilities for marketing like transport vehicles, cold storages, retail outlets etc. Establishment of processing units including ice plants, cold storages etc. Development of inland fisheries, seed farms, hatcheries etc. Preparation of feasibility reports, Appointment of experts under technical and promotional cell scheme, and integrated fisheries projects (Marine, Inland and Brackish water).

With the National Federation of Fishermen’s Co-operatives (FISHCOPFED), at the top of the co-operative structure, there are 17 Federations at the state level, 108 central societies at the district and regional levels and 9142 primary fishermen co-operative society’s membership of the primary societies is around 11.39 lakhs covering about 21 percent of active fishermen in the country\textsuperscript{222}.

During the year 1994-1995 NCDC sanctioned Rs.17.97 crores and released Rs.24.02 crores for fisheries development though co-operatives. Cumulatively, NCDC has sanctioned an assistance of Rs.204.71 crores and released Rs.124.37 crores for the development of fisheries through

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co-operatives up 31st March 1995\textsuperscript{223}, the state wise details of which are noted below. Cumulative Assistance Provided to Fisheries Co-operatives upto 31st March 1995 in Kanyakumari District was 1,913.10 lakhs and assistance released in 792.90 lakhs\textsuperscript{224}. An all India conference convened by NCDC on co-operative fisheries at Kerala, in February 1996, passed the following resolutions which cover the entire field related to fisheries development in the country.

Since the needs of marine and inland fisheries vary widely, no uniform pattern of co-operative organisation would be suitable throughout the country. A flexible approach to suit the varying needs would therefore be necessary. The aim should be to have viable multipurpose primary level societies which should provide credit, production, marketing and other services to the members. Existing societies organised separately for credit and other functions may be reorganised accordingly\textsuperscript{225}.

The existing state level federations may continue and be made effective. The organisation of national level federation is quite essential. Every primary society should aim at providing a package of services to the fishermen all under one roof. An intensive drive should be launched for bringing all active fishermen into the co-operative fold, Launching of Membership Education

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{20} Ibid
\item \textsuperscript{21} Annual Report of National Co-operative Development Corporation, 1994-1995.p.16
\item \textsuperscript{22} Resolution of National Co-operative Development Corporation, Kerala, 1996, p.4
\end{itemize}
Programme among the fishermen\textsuperscript{226}. The government contribution to the share capital of societies should be on a liberal basis. The sale of all the member’s catches exclusively through the societies should be ensured through suitable agreements.

In order to free the fishermen from the clutches of money lenders cum traders, it is necessary that the co-operatives should provide credit for the consumption needs. Suitable arrangements should be made for adequate working capital to fishery co-operatives through the central co-operative banks or other banks\textsuperscript{227}.

The fish wholesale markets should be regulated. Where large outlays are involved, a consortium approach should be adopted between NABARD and NCDC in financing fisheries projects taken up by the co-operatives. As in the case of agricultural marketing societies and dairy co-operative, fishery co-operatives should be exempted from the payment of income tax\textsuperscript{228}.

National Fishermen Co-operative Federation is simply called FISHCOPFED. FISHCOPFED was set up in 1980 to bridge the structural gap at the national level. The membership of the federation is open to state level federation and regional/district federations. In addition to this, government of

\begin{quote}
23. Ibid, p.5
24. Ibid, p.6
25. Ibid, p.7
\end{quote}
India and NCDC are also members. It aims at the overall development of the fishery Co-operatives in India.

Fish Farmers Development Agency was another feature of the co-operative societies, which is now familiar in the name of FFDA. The technical committee on inland fisheries with a view to spreading composite fish culture in the country, recommended the formation of FFDA according to the recommendation, government of India established 50 such agencies in 1975. In order to save the fish farmers from exploitation, fish marketing societies should be organised with the aid of F.F.D.A.

The herald of the co-operative movement in the princely states of India echoed in the same line in Kanyakumari also giving special reference to the problems of the farmers. Consequently laws and rules were enacted to redeem agriculturists from the clutches of the debt and poverty.

The co-operative movement was started in the Travancore State after the enactment of the co-operative societies Act of 1912 was placed in Travancore legislative assembly on 12th October, 1912 on the direction of then Diwan Sir.P.Rajagopalachari, C. Govinda pillai was appointed as the first registrar.

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under Travancore Co-operative societies act\textsuperscript{232} and the first co-operative society registered under the Act was Travancore Central Co-operative bank (1915)\textsuperscript{233}. Subsequently in the Raiffeisen model several primary societies were formed with unlimited liability. Later provision for limited liability for the registration of the society was incorporated in the Act. In 1936, Travancore Co-operative society act was passed and this was in force up to 1951\textsuperscript{234}. Cochin Co-operative society act was passed in 1911. The first co-operative society registered under this act was at Edavankad\textsuperscript{235}.

Since Malabar areas was part of the Madras state, the co-operative society act of 1904 and 1912 were in force in this area up to 1932. In Malabar state, the first society was formed in 1909 with the name Koduvayur agricultural credit society. In 1919 co-operation became a provincial subject and the Madras Province passed their own Co-operative Societies Act in 1932 and that Act was in force in this area till 1969.

After the independence, the Princely States Travancore and Cochin State were merged to form a single state in 1949. Consequently a uniform Co-operative law was enacted in 1951 known as Travancore-Cochin Co-operative Societies Act 1951. In 1956, when Kerala state was formed,

\textsuperscript{29} Report of Sri.C.N. Balakrishnan, Minister for Co-operation, Kerala Co-operative Movement, 2011, p.3
\textsuperscript{30} The Travancore Co-operative Societies Act, 1912, Act No.2.of 19121 (1\textsuperscript{st} March 1912) WH.
\textsuperscript{31} The Travancore Co-operative Societies Act, 1951, AIR 210, 1961 SCR (1) 466.
\textsuperscript{32} The Cochin Co-operative Societies Act 1911, Act.21 of 1911.
Travancore-Cochin Co-operative Societies Act 1951 and Madras Co-operative Societies act 1932 were prevailing in the Travancore Cochin areas and Malabar area respectively with a review to provide for the orderly development of the Co-operative movement in the state in accordance with the relevant directive principle of state policy enunciated in the constitution of India it was decided to consolidate, amend and unify the law relating to the Co-operative societies in the state and the Kerala Co-operative societies act 1969 thus came into force in 1969. The act came into force on 15th May 1969 by Notification No: 24314/C3/69 AD dated 12th May 1969.

The statement of objects and reasons of the act is as below: The law relating co-operative societies in the south Travancore and the state is contained in the Madras Co-operative Societies Act 1932. In the Travancore-Cochin area of the state, the corresponding law in force is the Travancore-Cochin Co-operatives Societies Act, 1951. It is the considered necessary to enact a uniform law on the subject applicable throughout the state. The field of co-operative activity is expanding and certain changes in the law to suit the needs of the present day are also felt necessary. The bill is intended for the above purpose”.

Apart from the provisions relating to the constitution and regulation of co-operative societies, the principle of state partnership in co-operative societies and state participation in their management is also recognised in this

bill and provision has been made for the same. Provision has also been made for the constitution of tribunals—in order to exercise certain functions of appeal revision and reviews.237.

The co-operative movement in the state has a dual control, the one of the officials and the other of the non-officials. On the official side, the Registrar of co-operative societies and the hierarchy of his subordinates exercise control. On the non-official side, the co-operative unions and other federations and the board of directors exercise control in various ways.238.

As per the co-operative societies act, the government has the power to confer on any person all or any of the powers of the registrar of co-operative societies and accordingly powers of the registrar are delegated to the various heads of the departments such as Director of Fisheries, Director of Dairy Development, Director of Industries, Director of Coir Development etc. The audit of the books of account is vested with department of co-operation.239.

Recognising the role; and potentials of small-scale fisheries carried out by artisanal fishermen, considerable interest has been evinced in recent years, both at the national and international levels, for the development of these fisheries. While the problems confronting the small scale fisheries in the

34. Ibid
36. Personal Interview with M.Azhakappan, Sub-Inspector of Fisheries, residing at Marthandam, 12-05-2010.
developed countries relate to technological and economic criteria, in the
developing countries like India, they are mainly related to the improvement of
the fisheries and the socio-economic conditions of the communities that depend
on this sector for survival\textsuperscript{240}. In India, a great majority of the coastal fishermen
are engaged in the traditional small-scale fisheries employing indigenous crafts
and gears. They contribute to about 65% of the total marine fish production of
the country and supply to the main source of fish consumed internally and that
exported from the country.

Nevertheless, a review of the changes that have taken place over the
years in respect of production means and socio-economic status of this sector
would reveal that there has been only marginal improvement\textsuperscript{241}. The past and
the present status of the fishing communities and the structural barriers which
force them to remain an economically and socially backward segment in the
society. Highlighting some of the cultural and social dimensions which are
referred to as "super structural dimensions", the paper stresses the economic
dimensions denoted as "infrastructural dimensions", which form the base of the
life and economy of traditional fishermen. An attempt is made to study the
interrelations between the factors that determine and encourage various
traditional techniques and the social relations that emerge between the users

\begin{thebibliography}{99}
\bibitem{37} The Role of Small-Scale Fisheries and Coastal Aquaculture in Integrated Rural
Development, December 1978, Madras. P.5
\bibitem{38} John Kurien., \textit{Socio-Economic Conditions of the Coastal Rural Population with
\end{thebibliography}
and the owners of these techniques. Besides, the nature of the linkages between the fishermen and the market through the associated interests that stand as big barrier to the socio-economic development of traditional fishermen is discussed. Planning for fisheries development with special reference to the traditional sector is examined to highlight some of the reasons for the growing divergence between what is fisheries development and fishermen's development. This dichotomy is, to a very great extent, responsible for the continued miserable plight of traditional fishermen. In conclusion, the paper identifies some of the areas where steps must be taken to improve the small-scale fisheries and the artisanal fishermen.

The seas around India and the extensive estuaries, backwaters, brackishwater lakes and swamps, fresh water rivers, reservoirs, tanks and ponds abound in fishery resource. Yet the development of the fisheries of the country during its long history before and after Independence has not been appreciable. This is mainly due to the immobility of labour in fishing industry from one to the other, lack of communication and proper exchange of knowledge and experience in respect of different kinds of trades and occupations; neglect of fishery sector in the national development programmes, inadequate facilities for fisheries education and training and absence of any risk-bearing social schemes such as Employees State Insurance Scheme,

39. Ibid.,
40. Ibid.,
Provident Fund Scheme and Workmen's Compensation Scheme available for industrial workers or Crop Insurance Scheme in the agricultural sector.245

Certain suggestions are made to develop the fisheries sector and to improve the socio-economic conditions of fishermen. Both marine and inland fisheries are to be developed simultaneously and the fishing industry is given high priority in par with agriculture. The existing indigenous crafts may be mechanised with suitable inboard and outboard engines and adequate landing and berthing facilities may be provided at all minor ports. An extension unit should be organised to inform the fishermen about the modern techniques and their benefits. The existing training facilities at the Fishermen Training Centres may be strengthened and additional courses beneficial to fishermen are introduced. Infrastructural facilities such as processing units, cold storage, fish curing yards and roads may be provided at every fishing village. Social and community amenities such as house, medical facilities, sanitation, and potable water should also be provided at every fishing village. Steps should be taken to provide adequate facilities for distribution, transport and marketing of fish. Adequate opportunities may be ensured to fishermen to obtain higher education. Alternate jobs to fishermen during the lean fishing season may be created. Distress relief for fishermen and their families may be provided by all

42. Ambrose Fernando., *Community Development and Infrastructure Facilities for Improving the Socio-Economic Conditions of Fishermen*, Fish Exporter’s Chamber, Tuticorin, Madras, 1978, P.6.
the states. Fishermen Co-operative Societies may be given fishing rights in tanks, ponds and reservoirs.\textsuperscript{246}

The programmes and results of the Indo-Belgian Fisheries Project (1968-1973) at Muttom in Kanyakumari District for the development of the traditional fisheries. Under the Project, a pioneering effort was made towards mechanisation of the catamaran and tests were conducted on beach-landing crafts. Nylon net webbing centres were also started. On the conclusion of the above Project, the development activities were taken up by the Kottar Social Service Society in 1974. Marketing Associations ('Sangams') have been started. A Boat Building Training Centre functions for the benefit of the local youth. Pilot experiments are conducted for improving the operational aspects of the traditional fisheries. The progress of the Society's Fisheries Development projects is presented in the paper. The problems of the small-scale fishermen are discussed. The question of treating mechanisation of the indigenous crafts as a local problem or as a problem of national and global significance is considered.\textsuperscript{247}

An Operational Research Project on 'Blending Sea farming with traditional capture fisheries' has been in operation at Kovalam, a fishing village south of Madras from April 1978. This is the first of its kind for the marine

\textsuperscript{43} The Role of Small-Scale Fisheries and Coastal Aquaculture in Integrated Rural Development, December 1978, Madras, P.13.
fisheries sector. The paper deals with the socio-economic conditions of the fisherfolk of Kovalam, based on data collected prior to the introduction of the scheme. The present status of capture fisheries and the proposed scheme for culturing mussels have been presented. The objectives of the scheme, planned on the guidelines for operational projects, v/z., people's participation, feasible development strategies in conjunction with specific need of the locality, increasing the per capita income of the rural folk and improving the social standards of the people to obtain social and equity goals, and the line of approach adopted towards this end have been explained. The scheme has been drawn up to benefit one hundred families initially. One youth from each family will participate in the scheme and give free labour during his leisure time that is time outside of his regular fishing hours. This spare time job is expected to increase the income of each family by 23.3% in the first year, 46.6% in the second year and 93.2% from the third year onwards. The experience gained during the first six months and future plans have also been discussed.

The constraints for the development of aquaculture by the rural fisherfolk like ownership of backwater farm areas large financial inputs necessary for such scheme and management problems. There has been three-fold increase in marine fisheries production as a result of developmental plans since Independence. But this has been more on the export sector and has not

benefited the small fishermen who still continue to live below the poverty line. The possible reason for this and plans for integrating aquaculture with capture fisheries, involving the rural fisherfolk as the only method of increasing their socio-economic conditions is discussed\textsuperscript{249}.

Since the total fish production in India is expected to be trebled or quadrupled by the year 2000, the manpower requirements for fisheries can also be expected to be 2-3 times the present, assuming a reasonable increase in the efficiency of fish production by then. While attempts to set up a proper research base in the country was made in the late forties, central facilities for fisheries education and training were set up much later\textsuperscript{250}. Apart from the early fishery schools of certain provincial departments and the training schemes started in inland and marine fisheries in the Central Research Institutes, the first comprehensive fisheries educational programme in fisheries was started with the inception of the Central Institute of Fisheries Education at Bombay and the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives at Cochin\textsuperscript{251}. The programmes of these institutions have spread now and, besides the lower level of training programmes given by the State Governments, two Agricultural Universities have full-fledged degree programmes in fisheries with facilities for post-

\textsuperscript{46} The Role of Small-Scale Fisheries and Coastal Aquaculture in Integrated Rural Development, December 1978, Madras, p.28.
\textsuperscript{47} M.N.Kutty., Technical and Managerial Manpower Requirements for Integrated Coastal Aquaculture and their Training Needs, Fisheries College, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Tuticorin, 1978, p.32.
\textsuperscript{48} The Role of Small-Scale Fisheries and Coastal Aquaculture in Integrated Rural Development, December 1978, Madras. P.29
graduate programmes as well. In general, the fisheries personnel required can be of three categories, namely, those for the primary sector consisting of operatives in marine and inland fishing and fish culture operatives who have to be qualified with the necessary certificates and diplomas; those for managerial operations in fisheries departments and industries, with undergraduate and post-graduate diploma or degree; and those for research and education, with post-graduate degrees and other accomplishments. While the small-scale fisheries of the coast is nearing full exploitation by capture methods, integration of capture and culture fisheries of the coastal region, can increase the economy of the rural sector of the coast. With the awareness of the potentialities of the brackishwater prawn and fish culture and the new methods of exploiting resources of the coast by culture methods, the long coastline of 6100 km and 2 million hectares of brackishwater area of the country would ultimately be fully utilized. The manpower and training requirements for these developments in the next decade are discussed, with the perspective of integrated rural development of the coastal region.

Kanyakumari Districts has the Fishing population of 2,53,029. The competition offered by the mechanised boats in fishing within the three mile

49. Ibid
51. State Fisheries Department Papers, Tamil Nadu, Chennai, p.2.
limit which by government order they are prohibited from doing and using has resulted in the reduced catch and income of the small fishermen\textsuperscript{255}.

The serious problem confronting the small fishermen is the rapid growth of mechanisation in fishing which is on par with the plight of the small farmer who is confronted with a well-established capitalist farming system which is the resultant of mechanisation in the context of High Yielding Varieties. In ownership pattern, family set up and sociological environment, with the characteristics of low productivity, under-employment, and thin employment, the dominant role of traditional values and social institutions, the small fisherman and the small and marginal farmer present common features. Family Classification For the purpose of the present study which is based on micro data, it is necessary to disaggregate factors in order that the characteristics which are implicit can be made explicit. To achieve this aim, families in the fishing sector in the first instance are categorised in the following manner, arising out of and supported by the sample survey. The methodology for this categorization was outlined and adopted in Dr. Warrier's Report on the socioeconomic problems of fishermen\textsuperscript{256}.

The growth and development of the fisheries Co-operatives in the country is yet to reach the desired level. It if felt that the vertical and horizontal

\textsuperscript{52} "The hirer (of motor boats) shall not conduct fishing operations within three miles from the shore". Order of Department of Agriculture, Ref. No. 25828-E1-65 dated 18\textsuperscript{th} September 1966.

\textsuperscript{53} Dr. Warrier., \textit{Socio-Economic Survey of Fishermen in Tamil Nadu}, Madras, 1948, p.29.
The expansion of the Co-operative base is very necessary. Emphasis also needs to be laid on fisher-women Co-operatives and self-help groups. Incentive schemes should be introduced to promote fisheries in the Co-operative sector, so that the weaker sections are not deprived of their due earnings\textsuperscript{257}.

In Kanyakumari district have nearly 45 small villages, people indulged in fishing job with 2341 members. Kanyakumari District Fishermen Sanghams Federation, Details of Members and Landings for the year 2001 – 2002\textsuperscript{258}.

Fishermen Co-operative Societies part played very well in different part of the Kanyakumari District. All the Fishermen Co-operative Societies under the control of Central Co-operative Bank Nagercoil, but presently all the fishermen Co-operative societies are under the control Tamilnadu Fishery Department. In Kanyakumari District 38 Fishermen C-operative Society running successfully\textsuperscript{259}, they are: Chinnavilai, KezheKadiyapattanam, Mulloorthurai, Putthenthurai, Thuthoor, Vaaniyakudi, Kulachal, Kanyakumari, Mealmidalam, Puthoor, Kottilpaadu, Melemanakudi, Inayam, Kodimunai, Rajakamankalamthurai\textsuperscript{260}. Poothurai, KezheMuttom, Kovalam, Ezhuthesam Chinnathurai, Melekurumpanai, Vallavilai, Chenpakaramanputhenthurai, Melekadiyapattinam, Naduthurai, Azhikaal Fishermen, Muttom,

\textsuperscript{54} Report of The working Group on Fisheries for 10\textsuperscript{th} Five Year Plan, Government of India, Planning Commission, 2001, p.12.
\textsuperscript{56} Annual Report of Fishery Department, Nagercoil, 2010, p.28.
\textsuperscript{57} Annual Report of Fishery Department, Nagercoil, 2010, p.32.
Kesavanputhenthurai, Neroodi, Raamanthurai, Inayaputthenthurai, Puthukiramaam, Irayumannthurai, Marthandam, Raviputtenthurai, Periyakadu, Inayam Chinnathurai, Kurumpanai and Pallam Fishermen Co-operative Society\textsuperscript{261}.

Inland Fishermen Co-operative Societies are formed by the inland fishermen workers. At presently 15 Inland Fishermen Co-operative Societies are running successfully in Kanyakumari district. They are: Thovalai, Vilavancode Circle, Nagercoil, Putthenkadai, Mulakumoodu, Manalikarai, Vadasery, Theroor South Kayakumari, Ilankadai, Arumanai, Ampalakadai, Thickkanamcode, Thiruvithaancode, Palliyadi-Pazhayakadai and Iraniyal Inland Fishermen Co-operative Society\textsuperscript{262}.

In Kanyakumari district, 43 Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies serve the people in good condition. They are: Mulloorthurai, Inayam, Neroodi, Melemidalaam, Midaalam, Puthoor, Kottipadu, Marthandanthurai, Kezhemanakudi, Irayummanthurai, Melemanakudi, Melekurumpanai, Inayaputthenthurai, Vaaniyakudi, KezheKurumpanai, Poothurai, Ramanthurai Fisherwomen Co-operative Society\textsuperscript{263}. Kodimunai, Kanyakumari, Melemuttom, Ezhuthesam Chinnathurai, Kezhemuttom, Kezhemuttom, Chinnavilai, Rajakkamankalamthurai, Periyavilai, Periyavilai, Raviputthenthurai, Melekdimumunai, Thuthoor, Pallam, Kovalam,

\textsuperscript{58} Annual Report of Fishery Department, Nagercoil, 2010, p.33.  
\textsuperscript{59} Annual Report of Fishery Department, Nagercoil, 2010, p.35.  
\textsuperscript{60} Annual Report of Fishery Department, Nagercoil, 2010, p.38.
In Kanyakumari district 12 Inland Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies are running successfully. They are: Marthandam, Kottaar, Vadasery, Aaralvaimozhi, Arumanai, Thiruvithaancode, Putthenkadai, Kaliakkavilai, Thickenamcode, Pathmanapapuram, Manalikkarai and Kadiyapattinam Inland Fisherwomen Co-operative Society.265

The following 3 Co-operative societies serve people in district level. Kalkulam and Vilavancode Taluk Inland Fishermen Co-operative Sales Society, (Special)-1 Kanyakumari District Fish catchers and Boat Workers Fishermen Co-operative Society, Muttom and Kanyakumari Fish Production and Sale Co-operative Society, Arokkiyapuram.266

Kanyakumari District Fishermen Sangams Federation is popularly known as KDFSF. This is the largest federation in terms of fishermen membership. It is also the only district where we can claim that the majority of the artisanal fishermen belong to our societies. In addition to doing the usual job of monitoring societies, this federation has a sizeable revolving fund for its own credit programme. It also runs an OBM workshop at Enayam with SIFFS 61. Annual Report of Fishery Department, Nagercoil, 2010, p.39. 62. Annual Report of Fishery Department, Nagercoil, 2010, p.41. 63. Annual Report of Fishery Department, Nagercoil, 2010, p.46.
assistance and has a shop to sell fishing nets. Currently the fishnet shop is not functioning regularly as the federation finds that mere trading in nets is becoming highly competitive without having net manufacturing capacity\textsuperscript{267}.

KDFSF recovered from the previous year’s setback due to the quitting of its previous coordinator who also started a smear campaign and legal cases against it. It streamlined some its administrative procedures and governance aspects. It has developed a greater awareness on the need to attain self sufficiency and generate revenue to the cover overhead expenses. This has lead to changes in the operation of the revolving fund. Having a large membership base, it takes time to build a consensus among members for any major change. Therefore the changes are still slow. The SIFFS helped the federation with training supported and some critical financial support, especially for maintaining their office building. We have also been helping them in their computerisation efforts. After lagging behind other federations in the matter of computer usage, KDFDF is now fast catching up\textsuperscript{268}. Membership and Fish Sales in the Kanyakumari District Fishermen Sangams Federation of Fisherman in 2001 – 2002 is 12,75,20,504, with 2341 members in 45 co-operative societies\textsuperscript{269}.

\begin{footnotes}
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Marine Fisherman Population with Crafts-District wise Census in Kanyakumari District is 71,912, with 1,250 boats, 10,025 catamarans, 2,500 boat seines, 5000 nets, 600 shore seines and 10,500 other gill nets270. Comparative Statement of Marine Production for 1962-1963 to 1969-1970 is 290669.54271.

Despite the increase in membership which is reported to have constituted nearly one third of the working fishermen in the country, the volume of fish handled by them was estimated to be only 5% of the total catch272. This can be attributed to the following causes.

Fishery co-operatives are organisationally weak and lack in adequate finance and technical support in activities like productions, storage, marketing and processing. All these reflect poor turn over of the societies and the control of vested interests. The initiative for these organizations generally comes from the middle men and the prominent members of the village, rather than from the fishermen. Hence, the interest and loyalty of the fishermen members slackens. Most of the societies are not functioning properly and many of them exist on paper only.

These co-operatives are scattered and often situated in remote villages with lack of communication facilities, so that in the absence of suitable cold

67. Tamil Nadu Fisheries Departments paper, Tamil Nadu, Chennai.
68. Fisheries Department Papers, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
storage and transportations fresh fish cannot be speedily brought to the consuming markets. Not only these co-operatives suffer from financial debility, but since credit is not linked with marketing even recoveries of loans has been a laborious process\textsuperscript{273}.

It has been reported that a sizeable proportion of membership comprises of non-working fishermen and the general public. The most outstanding factor responsible for inadequate exploitation of fishery resources in India has been the primitive methods of conducting fishing operations. Along the coast line barring a few places, by and large harbour facilities do not exist\textsuperscript{274}.

All these factors have contributed all along to deterioration in seafood activity. It is time a comprehensive and well integrated institutional structure is set up which can take care of various facts of the seafood activity in India.

Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation Ltd was registered and started functioning from 6\textsuperscript{th} November 1991 with head quarters at Chennai. Later on 589 Primary Fishermen Co-operative Societies and 9 District Fishermen Co-operative Federations have become members in TAFCOFED and have paid Rs.89.06 lakh as share capital\textsuperscript{275}. To uplift the socio-economic status of traditional fishermen, TAFCOFED has been

\begin{itemize}
\item 71. Fishery Co-operatives, Booklet No.107, Agricultural Co-operation: ACS-15, p. 15.
\item 72. Personal Interview with R. Rubert Jothi., Assistant Director of Fisheries (Aqua culture), Nagercoil, dated 17-11-2009.
\end{itemize}
implementing Integrated Marine Fisheries Development Project with financial assistance from NCDC. Under this project, TAFCOFED distributed fishing inputs consisting of fishing crafts, engines and gears to the members of the Fishermen Co-operative Societies. A sum of Rs.19.79 crores was disbursed to 147 Fishermen Co-operatives benefiting 5669 beneficiaries who had acquired 2736 fishing inputs. TAFCOFED have recently started diversifying its activities to achieve sustainable and independent existence by establishing diesel bunks, sale of out board motors and service centres to facilitate marine fishermen\textsuperscript{276}.

TAFCOFED has started three service centres at a cost of Rs.3.20 lakh, one at Mallipattinam in Thanjavur District, one each at Tharuvaikulam and Kombuthurai in Thoothukudi District and whole Kanyakumari District for selling engine spares, fishing requisites and engine oil\textsuperscript{277}.

For supply of diesel to fishermen, diesel bunks are functioning in Sethubavachatram in Thanjavur, Pulicat in Thiruvallur, Vembar in Thoothukudi, Annankoil in Cuddalore, Neelangarai in Kancheepuram, Tharuvaikulam in Thoothukudi, Chinnamuttam in Kaniyakumari and Nagoor in Nagapattinam Districts. So far, 8414 KL HSD has been sold to the fishermen. TAFCOFED has initiated action for installing Diesel Bunks at Marakanam in Villupuram, Jegathapattinam in Pudukottai and Kilakarai in

\textsuperscript{73} Information Handbook under Right to information Act-2005, Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamilnadu, Chennai, 2005, p.28.

\textsuperscript{74} Personal Interview with Antony Xavier., Assistant Director of Fisheries (Extension & Training), Colachel, dated 17-11-2009.
Ramanathapuram Districts. TAFCOFED is selling Outboard Motors to the eligible fishermen under subsidy scheme. 1040 Outboard Motors have been sold during the year 2007-2008.

TAFCOFED is marketing fresh fish at Neyveli through retail outlet. For the welfare of the labourers involved in fishing and allied activities, Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board was formed as announced by His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu on 20th January 2007, during the last Budget Session. The Act and Rules have also been framed. A sum of Rs.5.00 crore was sanctioned towards the grants-in-aid in G.O. (Ms) No. 91, The Tamilnadu fisheries development corporation limited was established in 1974 as a state owned undertaking with the authorized share capital of Rs 5.00 crore and the paid up share capital is Rs 4.45 crores. Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department dated 12th June 2007. The President and the Members, both officials and non-officials for the Board are nominated by the Government. Two Board meetings were held on 30th May 2007 and 27th February 2008 to resolve various demands of the Board. A total number of 6 lakh application forms and 3 lakh Identity Cards have been printed. 53,629 fishermen have been enrolled as members and 19,774 Identity Cards have been issued. So far, 92 claims have been received requesting for relief under

77. G.O. (Ms) No. 91, Tamilnadu fisheries Development Corporation Limited (TNFDC), 1974.
Fishermen Welfare Board and they are being processed and relief will be given early\textsuperscript{281}.

National Agriculture Development Programme is another venture of the co-operative among the fishermen. This is a new additional central assistance scheme launched by Ministry of Agriculture. Fisheries interalia constitute one of the focus area under the scheme, and Rs.25,000 crore has been provided for the entire XI five year plan. This scheme provides flexibility and autonomy to the State Government to prepare projects as part of the District Agriculture plan so as to increase public investment in agriculture allied sectors and enhance production and productivity. In G.O. (Ms) No.129, Agriculture (API) Department, dated 19\textsuperscript{th} March 2008 Government have accorded administrative sanction for Rs.703.50 lakh and the following schemes are to be implemented by the Fisheries Department\textsuperscript{282}.

Fish cultivate in Check Dams in Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, Dindigul and Namakkal Districts under Forest Department involving Village Forest Council – Rs.2.50 lakh, River Ranching as a measure of conservation of endangered / endemic species as well as to enhance fish production. The production of seeds of endemic species will be carried out in Mettur Dam and ranched in the Cauvery at various locations in and around Mettur– Rs.35.00 lakh.

\textsuperscript{78} Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, Fisheries Policy Note for the Year 2008-2009, Deamand No.7, p.13.
Repair and Renovation of existing fish seed farms in Bhavanisagar, Manimuthar, Krishnagiri and Mettur Dam – Rs.323.50 lakh, Creation of additional space for fish seed production and rearing in Neithalur in Thanjavur District – Rs.192.00 lakh, Study tour of farmers – Rs.18.00 lakh, Upgradation of Extension Centres in Tamil Nadu at Chennai, Parangipettai, Nagapattinam, Madurai and Colachel. – Rs.50.00 lakh, Cage culture of fishes in inland water bodies in Aliyar, Kelavarapalli, Gunderipallam, Odathurai and Palani Tanks. Rs.52.50 lakh and Setting up of Modern Fish Stalls in major cities in Tamil Nadu in 2 places at Chennai and in 2 places at Madurai and one at Coimbatore – Rs.30.00 lakh²⁸³.

Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited was established in 1974 with authorized Share Capital of Rs.500.00 lakh and the paid up Share Capital as on date is, Rs.445.52 lakh²⁸⁴. Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited has earned profit for the past 3 years from 2005-2006 to 2007-2008 as follows: In the year 2005-2006 profit is 98.32 (Audited), in 2006-2007 is 108.29 (Audited) in the year of 2007-2008 is 229.50 (Audited).

The Corporation is operating 27 diesel outlets in the Fishing Harbours and Jetties starting from Ennor in Coramandal Coast to Chinnathurai Westcoast for the benefit of mechanized fishing boat operators and fishermen. During the

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80. G.O. (Ms) No.129, Agriculture (API) Department, dated 19.03.2008
year 2007-2008, Out of total quantity of 80768 K.L of quota received, 63107.71 K.L. of HSD has been sold towards subsidised diesel and 8536.27 K.L of HSD has been sold with a total turn over of Rs.19492.50 lakh\textsuperscript{285}. In Kanyakumari District there are 3 diesel outs, one in Chinnamuttom, the second one is in Colachel and the last one is in Chinnathurai. Above this the first 2 pumps are retail outlet and the last one is consumer pump\textsuperscript{286}.

The corporation is marketing fresh and fried fish in the cities like Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Pollachi, Thiruvannamalai and Kanyakumari through retail outlets in order to benefit fishermen from harness harvest and to get better price so as to sell the fishes to public at an affordable price. During the year 2007-2008, 828.01 tonnes of fish were sold for Rs.581.27 lakh\textsuperscript{287}.

The corporation is supplying subsidized sales tax exempted kerosene to the traditional crafts in Kaniyakumari District. 4,970 KL of Kerosene was supplied and Rs.24.41 crore was realized during 2011-12 and target is fixed as 6,000 KL of kerosene and expected revenue of Rs.31.70 crore for 2012-13. Kerosene outlets: Kanyakumari District Chinnamuttam, Melamanakudi, Muttam, Kadiapattinam, Colachel, Kurumpanai, Enayamputhanthurai,

\textsuperscript{82} Annual Report of Tamilnadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited (TNFDC), 2008-2009, p.5.  
\textsuperscript{84} Report of Tamilnadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited (TNFDC), 2008, p.29.
Ezhudesamchinnathurai, Vallavillai and Enayam\textsuperscript{288}. TNFDC is supplying Outboard Motor/Inboard Engines on subsidy to the fishermen for motorisation of their traditional fishing crafts. During the year 2007-08, 346 Engines were supplied to fishermen\textsuperscript{289}.

Establishment of modern fresh fish stalls in the major cities of the State. Strengthening of infrastructure of marketing under Post Harvest Technology funded by Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture in 4 places @ Rs.4.00 lakh each - Rs16.00 lakh Provision of insulated trucks @ Rs.5.00 lakh each for 3 nos. under funding from the above scheme-Rs.15.00 lakh Modernisation of Teynampet stall into fish stall, aquarium and Value Added Product sales counter under funding from Post Harvest Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India (Rs.10.00 lakh grant-in-aid)-Rs.27.40 lakh\textsuperscript{290}.

Various fishermen welfare Schemes are being implemented through Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation. Apart from this, the Corporation has undertaken various commercial activities such as fresh fish marketing, sea food courts, diesel/kerosene distribution and reservoir Management etc. During the year 2011-2012 the TNFDC earned profit of


\textsuperscript{86}Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, Fisheries Policy Note for the Year 2008-2009, Deamand No.7, p.22.

\textsuperscript{87}Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, Fisheries Policy Note for the Year 2008-2009, Deamand No.7, p.24.
Rs.5 crore and is projected to earn profit of Rs.6.25 crore during the year 2012-2013.

Fishing is one of the oldest and most risky professions in the world. This Government has always accorded top priority to uphold the fishing rights of the fishermen as well as the welfare of fisherfolk. The Government have already taken pro-active steps for the retrieval of ‘Katchatheevu Island back to Tamil Nadu. Hon’ble Chief Minister is taking consistent efforts to stop the incidents of harassment of Tamil Nadu fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy/Miscreants by bringing such incidents to the notice of the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India and to the highest diplomatic forum then and there. It is a known fact that fisherfolk are always close to the heart of our beloved Honourable Chief Minister. The Honourable Chief Minister takes enormous care and interest for the welfare of the fisherfolk and this has, time and again, been proven by way of successfully implementing the Special Schemes such as providing special allowance of Rs.4,000/- per fisherman family in addition to the Saving-cum-Relief amount being given to fishermen/fisherwomen during 2011-2012, which is the first of its kind in this entire Nation. Further to alleviate the sufferings of fishermen the Honourable Chief Minister has enhanced the financial assistance during the fishing ban period from Rs.1,000/- to Rs.2,000/- in 2011-2012 and

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the Scheme would be continued in the ensuing years also. The Government is committed to bridge the gap in seed production in the Inland fisheries sector by reviving the unutilised fish seed farms through renovation and to create new fish seed production centres at Mettur and Thirukampuliyur of Karur district apart from encouraging the private entrepreneurs to establish Fish seed production centres. Financial assistance from NFDB and NADP is being obtained for the development of inland fisheries to bring all cultivable inland waters into fish culture. This would contribute to the increase in fish production and cater to the needs of the people for protein requirement.

Further, the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation, known for its innovative hygienic fish marketing, would take this protein rich fish food to the doorsteps of the consumers of Tamil Nadu through its mobile fish vending units. The progress in construction of various fishing harbours, fish landing centres, and various other infrastructure facilities on par with international standards would lead to better berthing facilities, improved fish landings, improved fish production, hygienic fish products and a better market value within the country, besides better export value. The construction of Fish Processing parks, the introduction of Mother vessel concept and diversified fishing methods of Tuna long lining would lead the fishermen to explore the underutilized offshore resources of the Ocean and lead to a higher Fish

Production in Tamil Nadu. Thus special attention was taken by the co-operative sector among Fishermen. The various types of Fisheries co-operatives and Fisheries Department doing tremendous work for the welfare of fishermen in Kanyakumari District. Above all these works, the co-operative movement part played very well among the consumer and marketing sector.