

**CHAPTER 5**

**PROFILE OF THE SELECT DISTRICT -**

**‘SRIKAKULAM’**



(Source: Hindu Business Line (downloaded on 2.8.2012))

## **5.1 PROFILE OF THE SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT**

Srikakulam District is located on the northeastern part of Andhra Pradesh. It is bound on the North by Orissa State, on the West and South by Vizianagaram District and

on the East by Bay of Bengal. The total area of the district is 5837 sq.kms. The District is divided into three revenue divisions' viz., Srikakulam, Palakonda and Tekkali with 38 constituent mandals comprising of 1954 villages. There are 11 urban units in the district, of which 4 are Municipalities, 7 are notified as major Panchayats, and 1053 are notified as minor gram panchayats.

As per 2001 census, the population of the district is 25.38 lakhs of which rural population is 22.59 lakhs and the urban population is 2.79 lakhs. It has a population density of 462 inhabitants per square kilometer (1,200/sq.mi). The population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 6.38%. It has a sex ratio of 1014 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 62.3%. The district's per capita income is the lowest when compared to other districts in the state.

#### **5.1.1. Household indicators**

According to a survey made by International Institute for Population Sciences (2007-08), 86.9% had access to electricity, 70.4% had drinking water, 18.5% toilet facilities, and 47.2% lived in a pucca (permanent) home and 90.1% of interviewees carried a BPL card out of 1025 households in 44 villages across the district.

#### **5.1.2. Land utilization and soils**

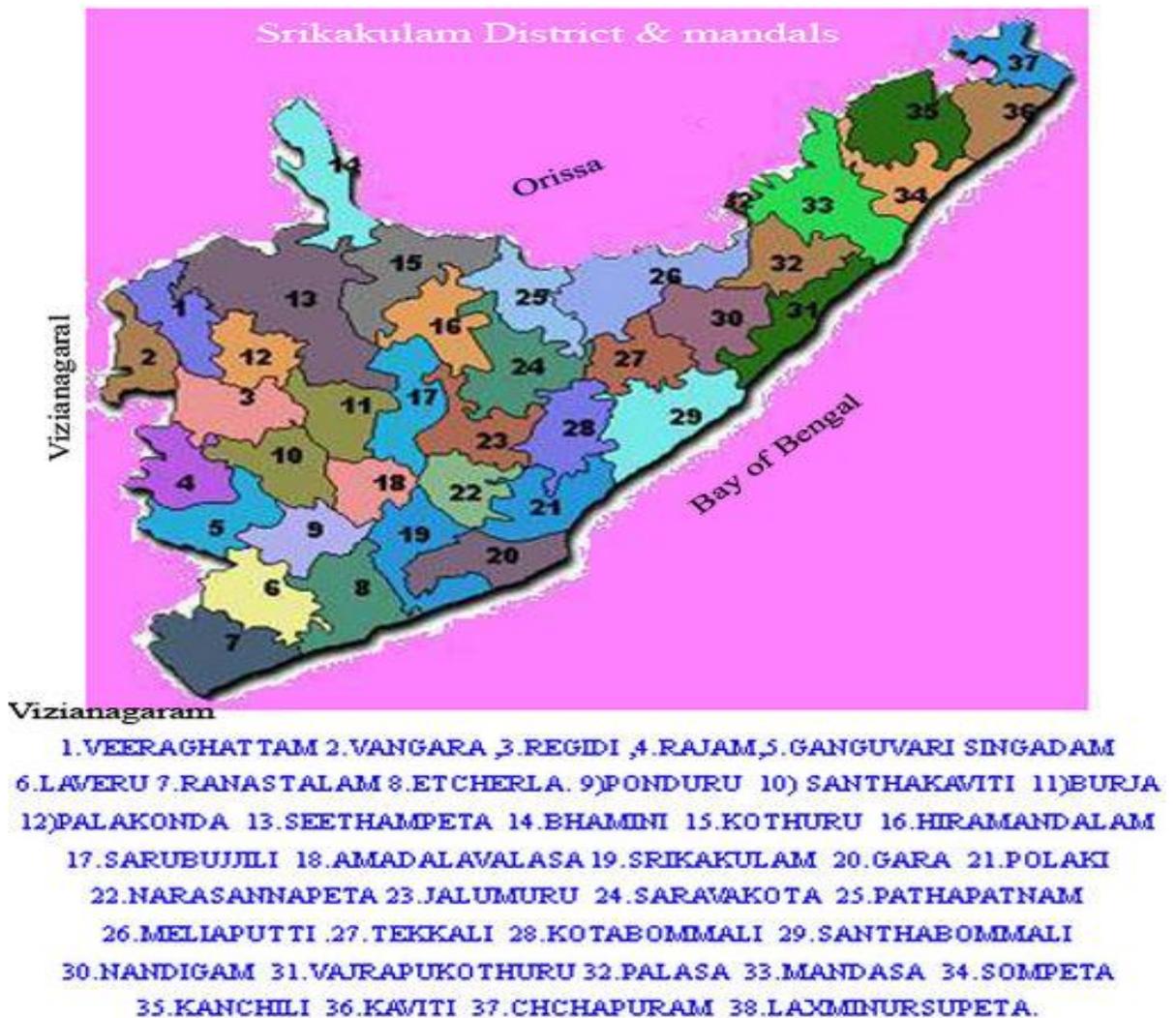
The soils in the district are sandy (42.7%), red soils (29.5%), clay (25.6%) and alluvial soils (2.2%). The total geographical area of the district is 5, 83,702 ha. The net area sown is 268316 hectares formed 45.97% of the total geographical area of the district. The total area under forestry is 70,841 ha.

#### **5.1.3. Climate and Rivers**

The climate is characterized by humidity throughout the year. The Southwest monsoon which follows the summer lasts up to the second week of October. The Northwest monsoon starts from mid-October to the end of November. Nagavali, Vamsadhara, Suvarnamukhi, Vegavathi, Mahendratana, Gomukhi, Champavathi, Bahuda and Kumbikotagedda are the important rivers which contribute for the economic development of the district. Besides rivers, canals, tanks, dug wells and bore wells are the other sources of Irrigation.

#### **5.1.4. Flora and Fauna**

Important species of the trees grown are Cashew, Eucalyptus, Causurina and Teak. Forests in the district exhibit a variety of local changes in quality, composition and density, showing much diversity and combination of different species. The faunae in the district include leopard, hyena, wolf, deer, wild goats, bears etc. Among the birds, peafowl, Jungle fowl, Peacock, Pigeon, Parrot, Myna, Partridges, goose, doves etc, are common.



(source:Wikipedia)

**Fig.5.1**

### 5.1.5. Land holding and cropping patterns

There are 422370 land holdings in the district covering an operational area of 355646 hectares as per 2001 agricultural census. The average size of the land holding is less than one hectare (0.73 ha). Number and area of operational holdings of Small and Marginal Farmers (i.e. less than 2.0 ha) formed 93% and 67% (237215 ha) of total number and holdings of the district respectively. Paddy is the main crop grown in the district (191000 ha) followed by Groundnut (35000 ha). The other crops raised in the

district include Mesta, Ragi, Sugarcane, Bajra, Sesamum, Pulses etc. Plantation crops include Cashew, Tapioca, Mango, Banana etc. There is a gradual change from cultivating traditional varieties to high yielding varieties in the district which has resulted in increased production and productivity. The district is endowed with 146 seed depots, 378 fertilizer depots and 59 pesticide depots. The district has 100 rural godowns with a total capacity of 90,000 MT and 10 Nos. of Cold storages for supporting the agriculture activity.

Agriculture is the predominant activity in the district with 75% of the main working population engaged in the agriculture activities. The growth and development of the district is therefore, closely linked with development of agriculture, which needs to be increased substantially. Production credit is an essential input for development of agriculture. The population of cultivators and agricultural labourers stood at 3.34 lakh and 4.23 lakh formed 13.21% and 16.73% of the total population of 25.28 lakh, as per 2001 census. Paddy is the main food crop followed by Bajra, Ragi, Groundnut, Jowar, Sesamum, gram, chille, Mesta and sugarcane.

The Gross Cropped Area (GCA) in the district during 1991-92 to 1999-2000 (472812 ha) over 1986-87 to 1990-91 (366412 ha) has registered an increase of 29.03%.<sup>130</sup> An analysis of census of land holdings for the year 1997-98 indicated that the ratio of land occupied by the small and marginal farmers and other farmers worked out to 1.09:1<sup>131</sup>. Distribution of Gross Cropped Area forms the basis for estimation of production credit requirements.

Left canal of Vamsadhara facilitated irrigation of 62,280 acres of land. Six lift irrigation schemes were initiated along the left main canal. Despite the floods in two

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<sup>130</sup> 2001 CENSUS

<sup>131</sup> 2005-06 Annual credit plan of Srikakulam District

consecutive years i.e. 2007 and 2008, farmers in the district produced 20 lakh tones <sup>132</sup> of paddy. The farmers were happy that the crop loans were offered at 3% interest rate under Pavala Vaddi Scheme.

#### **5.1.6. Industrial Scenario**

Micro and small enterprises are 2437 registered in the district with an investment of Rs.120.31 crore providing employment to 28,168. 25 large and medium scale industries have been established with an investment of Rs.479.51 crore providing employment to 5432 people covering major activities of jute, chemical, paper, beverages, sugar, pistons and piston rings, power generation and ethanol. There are about 8464 tiny industries and business enterprises with an investment of Rs.18, 308 lakh and providing employment to around 51,809 persons<sup>133</sup>. The district offers tremendous potential for establishment of large, medium and small scale industries in view of the incentives offered by Government of India and Government of Andhra Pradesh. The cost of the land and labour are also cheap and other natural resources are also available in the district. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Tribal Training and Development Centre (TTDC), Andhra Bank Institute of Rural Development (ABIRD), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Village Organizations, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other Institutions are working for promotion of industrial activities in the district.

#### **5.1.7. Banking development in the district**

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<sup>132</sup> Front line , volume 26 issue 5, Feb28-March13, 2009

<sup>133</sup> Potential Linked Plan 2009-10, NABARD.

As on 31.03.2011, 114 public sector bank branches, 11 private sector bank branches, 63 Regional Rural Bank branches and 13 District Co-operative Bank branches are operating in Srikakulam District.

Apart from the banks, two farmers' co-operative societies are also operating in the district.

No. of villages allotted to bank branches operating in rural areas	1429
No. of villages allotted to bank branches operating in Semi-urban areas	525
Total villages in the district	1954