

C H A P T E R - I I I
A PROFILE OF SHIMOGA DISTRICT IN THE LIGHT OF
BETELNUT CULTIVATION

CHAPTER III

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Shimoga, one of the nineteen districts of the Karnataka state, is situated roughly in the mid-south-western part of the state. It has an eventual History and rich cultural traditions. The western part is related with fascinating natural beauty, being clothed with dense tropical forests stimulated by heavy rainfall.

ORIGIN OF NAME :

Various traditional derivations are current about the origin of the name of Shimoga. It is difficult to say which of them is correct or whether any of them is correct. Atleast, three of them pertain to God Shiva viz., 'Shiva - mukha' (the face of lord Shiva) 'Shivana-Moogu' (the nose of Shiva) and Shivana-Moogge (buds of flowers meant for Shiva). The place has several old shrines dedicated to Shiva. According to legend, the place had the ashram of the famous sage Durvass who was noted for his sharpness of this temper. He used to keep in the oven a pot boiling with sweet herbs. Once some cowherbs, who chanced upon it, tasted the beverage out of curiosity and called the place 'Sihi- moge ' (Sweet spot) which was later called has Shimoga. In some epigraphs, the Epigraphia Carnatica, (Vol. VII,1902) the name is written and pronounced in Kannada as shivamogge. Its anglicised form is 'SHIMOGA '.

LOCATION :

The district is situated between 13 27' and 14 39' north latitude and between 74 38' and 76 4' east longitude, in about the mid-south - western part of the state. It's greatest length from east to west is 152.9 Kilometer and from north to south 128.8 Kilometer.

AREA & POPULATION :

The geographical area of the district as per the provisional figures computed by the surveyor of India is 10,548 square Kms. While the reporting area of the district for land utilization purposes as worked out by the state department of survey, settlement and loan records and local bodies is 10,504.2 square Kms. The slight difference is due to the different methods employed by them in measuring the areas. In 1961, the population of the district was 10,17,368 (5,36,103 males 4,81,265 females) and by 1971, it had increased to 13,01,485 (6,73,976 males and 6,27,509 females) and by 1981 it had increased to 7,83,487 males and 7,24,521 females by the 1991 it had increased to 8,93,323 males and 7,98,914 females. In respect of area, the district occupies the ninth place, while in regard to population it gets the twelfth place in the state.

For administrative purposes the district is divided into two subdivision viz. Shimoga sub - division and Sagar sub - division, while former sub-division consists of SHIMOGA, BHADRAVATHI,

CHANNAGIRI, HONNALI and THIRTHAHALLI TALUKAS, the later comprises HOSANAGAR, SORAB, SHIKARIPURA TALUKAS . The following table indicates the area of each talukas and the number of its inhabited village and population of each taluka as per the 1991 census.

TABLE NO 3.1

AREA AND POPULATION

NAME OF TALUKA	AREA IN 80 KILOMETER	NO.OF INHABITED VILLAGE	POPULATION
BHADRAVATHI	689.90	143	203.438
CHANNAGIRI	1212.00	190	175.979
HONNALI	856.70	139	136.762
HOSANAGARA	1423.30	200	79.120
SAGAR	1938.40	228	130.467
SHIKARIPUR	896.40	141	130.467
SHIMOGA	1104.70	194	208.337
SORAB	1138.70	261	119.153
THIRTHAHALLI	1247.10	245	114.477
TOTAL	10504.20	1741	1301.485

Source : Directorate of Economics and Statistics, New Delhi.

The nine talukas of the districts have been further sub-divided into 52 hoblies (revenue circles), each of which, in turn, consists of about 30 to 50 villages. The sub-joined statement shows the number and names of hoblies, grouped under each talukas

in the district for purposes of revenue administration :

TABLE NO 3.2

NAME OF THE HOBLIES UNDER TALUKA

SR.NO.	TALUKS	NO OF HOBLIES (REVENUE CIRCLE)	NAME OF HOBLIES
1	2	3	4
1	Bhadravathi	6	Bhadravathi Koraba I & II circles, kudligere, Hole-Honnur I,II,III, circles.
2	Channagiri	6	Channagiri karaba, Basavapatna I & II circles, Santebennur I & II circles Ubrani.
3	Honnali	6	Honnali Kasaba, Govinovi I & II circles, Sasuvehalli I & II circle Belagutti.
4	Hosanagar	4	Hosanagara, Kasaba , Nagar , Humcha, Kerehalli .
5	Sagar	6	Sagar kasaba, Avinahalli, Talaguppa, Bharangi, Karur Anandapura.
6	Shikaripura	5	Shikaripura Kasaba, Anjanapur, Hosur, Udugari, Telagunda.
7	Shimoga	8	Shimoga Kasaba I & II circles, Kumsi, Holalur I & II circle, Haranahalli, Nidege I & II circles.
8	Sorab	6	Sorab Kasaba, Chandrajathi, Ulavi, Kappagadde, Jade, Anuvathi.
9	Tirthahalli	5	Tirthahalli Kasaba, Agrahar, Agumbe, Muthur, Mandagaded.
TOTAL		52	

Source : Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga year 1994.

WATER RESOURCE :

The important rivers that flow through the Shimoga district are the Tunga, Bhadra, Tungabhadra, Sharavathi, Kumudvati and Varada . The Tunga and the Bhadra unite to form the Tungabhadra at Kudali in Shimoga taluka, 14 kms from Shimoga. The Kumudvati and the Varada are tributaries of the Tungabhadra. Every river in the district had its own mythological association.

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

The Shimoga district is mainly agricultural district. It is considered as greenary of paddy in Karnataka . The three broad natural regions, namely , malnad, Semi - malnad and maidan enable the cultivation of different types of crops. The most important corps of the district are paddy and arecanut. This district is also rich in forest and irrigational resources. The total income of the district in 1990-91 was Rs. 21,623.21 lakhs, out of which, income from agriculture livestock, forest & fisheries was Rs. 10,961.32 lakhs, forming about 70 % of the total income ; about 55.24 percent of the district income is derived from agriculture alone.

AGRICULTURAL POPULATION :

The economy of the district is based primarily on agriculture which is the chief occupation of the people. In 1994, the district had a population of 13,01,485, the rural & urban population

being 9,94,172 (76.39 percent) and 3,07,313 (23.61 percent) respectively of the total population, only 4,16,663 were workers forming its 32.01 percent out of the 4,16,663 workers, 1,60,778 were cultivators forming about 38.59 percent, 1,32,519 were other workers forming 29.60 percent. Thus, the number of persons in agriculture was 2,93,307 constituting about 70 percent of the total number of workers.

Land owners are the actual tillers in a large majority of cases in the district and tenants form only small percentage of cultivators. Normally, there is no scarcity of agricultural labor in the district except in malnad parts.

TABLE NO 3.3
THE TALUKA WISE FIGURES OF CLUTIVATORS AND
AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS ACCORDING TO THE 1991 CENSUS

TALUKAS	TOTAL NO. OF WORKERS	NO.OF CULTIVATORS	NO.OF LABOURS	PERCENTAGE FOR	
				COLUMN 3 TO 2	COLMUN 4 TO 2
BHADRAVATHI	61847	14267	18733	32.07	30.29
CHANNAGIRI	54372	28646	18501	52.69	34.03
HONNALI	43970	19580	17049	44.53	38.77
HOSANAGAR	24939	10363	9573	41.55	38.39
SAGAR	42629	24016	9906	51.64	23.24
SHIKARIPURA	42004	19209	14121	45.73	33.62
SHIMOGA	69207	16148	20905	23.33	30.21
SORBA	38002	21021	9468	55.32	24.91
THIRTHAHALLI	39693	16306	14263	41.08	35.93
DISTRICT TOTAL	416663	167536	132519	38.59	31.80

Source : Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga 1994 .

It can be seen from the above table that the percentage of agricultural workers (including cultivators & agricultural labourers) to the total number of workers was highest in Channagiri talukas followed by Sagar, Honnali, Sorab, Hosanagar, Shikaripur & Thirthahalli talukas ; the percentage is lowest in the industrially better developed talukas of Bhadravathi & Shimoga.

SIZE OF HOLDINGS :

The size of cultivated holdings may be taken as an index of the size of farm business and consequently the economic position of cultivators. The two factors that determine the size of holdings are the pressure of population on land and the area of cultivable land available. By & large, size of the land holdings are small. On an average, the extent of land held by a land-holder was about 2.29 hectares. The table No. 3.4 gives the number of holdings according to the size group with the extent of land under each size group as in 1990-91.

TABLE NO 3.4

SIZE OF LAND HOLDING IN SHIMOGA DISTRICT

SR NO.	HECTARE-WISE SIZE-GROUP	NO.OF HOLDINGS		TOTAL AREA		AVERAGE
		NUMBER	% AGE	AREA	%AGE	AREA PER HOLDINGS
1.	BELOW 0.5	17778	12.07	5521	1.69	0.31
2.	0.5 - 1.0	31559	21.43	23.769	7.28	0.73
3.	1.0 - 2.0	44900	30.50	64.069	19.62	1.43
4.	2.0 - 3.0	22248	15.11	53243	16.30	2.39
5.	3.0 - 4.0	11093	7.53	37870	11.59	2.52
6.	4.0 - 5.0	6728	4.57	29653	9.08	4.41
7.	5.0 -10.0	10028	6.82	66806	20.45	6.66
8.	10.0 -20.0	2408	1.64	31359	9.60	13.03
9.	20.0 -30.0	336	0.23	7970	2.44	23.72
10.	30.0 -40.0	108	0.07	3671	1.13	33.99
11.	40.0 -50.0	27	0.02	1186	0.36	43.93
12.	50.0 & ABOVE	21	0.01	1497	0.46	71.29
TOTAL		147234	100.00	326614	100.00	2.29

Source : (World Agricultural Census 1990.)

SOILS :SAGAR TALUKA

The soils are latestic in origin which is reddish throughout except in garden and wet lands lying in low valleys. The soils in low valleys are soft and sandy, whereas in other parts they are hard and rocky and not fertile. About 94 percent of the soils

are acidic and only 6 percent are normal, nitrogen and potash contents being more with a very low content of phosphorus in all the types of lands.

SAGAR TALUKA :

In this taluka, which comprises malnad and Semi-malnad parts are composed of laterite and red loam. The soils of the talukas may be broadly classified as black loamy, red-sandy and red-latestic soils. About 61 percent of the soils are acidic, 36 percent neutral and three percent are water-logged and saline, salinity being about 1 percent in dry lands and 2 percent in wet lands. Dry land soils are deficient in nitrogen and the wet land soils are normal. In potash content both dry and wet lands are normal, phosphorus being highly deficient.