

CHAPTER - FIVE

SUMMING UP AND CONCLUSIONS

In the present concluding chapter of the dissertation, we intend to sum up and highlight the major conclusions which are as follows :

5.1 From the first chapter itself we observed that despite 38 years of planned economic development which laid emphasis on industrialisation of the country, the agricultural sector is still the dominant sector of the Indian economy, considered from both the view points of employment and production. From the factual analysis of the various indicators of development in the same chapter the above statements hold true at the state level of Maharashtra and even at the taluka level. The agricultural sector is the major sector of Chandgad taluka from both the employment and production points of view. Since there are no other major industrial activities excepting cooperative sugar factory, agriculture is the only sector that absorbs a large proportion of the total population in the taluka.

5.2 In the second chapter, which deals with the land utilisation pattern in Chandgad taluka we have derived the following major conclusions. Since there had been no changes in the borders of talukas did occur the geographical area of the Chandgad taluka did

not change at all through out the period. Very recently only two villages from Chandgad taluka have been merged with the Sindhudurg district with the result of a slight reduction in the geographical area. The area under forest in the taluka declined by (-) 0.31 percent compound per annum. This decline was mainly due to the deforestation process which was set in motion from the early 1960s. There is a need for programmes of afforestation and others being implemented vigorously with a view to restoring the ecological balance in the taluka and around the taluka also. Despite the various categories of land use the most important category that is 'area not available for cultivation' increased at the rate of 7.55 percent compound per annum affecting adversely the net sown area of the taluka. Besides, this the another category - 'other uncultivated land excluding fallow land' also increased at the rate of 1.55 percent compound per annum. This positive growth rate of other uncultivated land also seems to have affected the net sown area. As far as the agricultural production is concerned 'the net sown area' is the most important land use category registered an increase of 1.06 percent compound per annum over the period. This was owing to the reduction in long fallow lands in the taluka. The another category closely related to this is the area sown more than once. Because of the

expansion of the sugarcane cultivation in the taluka 'area sown more than once' declined at a rather significant rate that is (-) 6.92 percent compound per annum. The last one is the 'gross cropped area' on which the agricultural output depends increased by 0.86 percent compound per annum. The expansion of the agricultural output in the taluka, to some extent, could be attributed to the expansion of the gross cropped area.

5.3 The third chapter which deals rather extensively with the growth rates of area, output and yield of individual cereals, individual pulses and minor millets points out that rice and nachani have made significant progress in respect of their yields and their outputs over the short period and long period also. The increase in their productivity could be attributable to the three kinds of improvements : (1) improvements in seeds; (2) increased application of fertilizers and (3) land improvement including better irrigation and drainage facilities. The former two factors were together the key to the growth in rice yield. In respect of kharif jowar there has been an yield improvement but the area under kharif jowar contracted at a substantially higher rate causing the output growth to be negative, the minor millets have been losing their areas and they are almost in the process of being dropped out from the cropping pattern of the taluka. However, the



output growth of the food-grains worked out to be close to that of all India growth rate that is 2.81 percent resulting mainly from yield growth rate. The area contribution to the output growth was almost negligible.

5.4 The another important category of food crops is the pulses. Data regarding area, yield and output in respect of tur suggests that both area and output declined by (-) 6.50 and (-) 6.04 percent compound per annum only the yield improvement occurred only by 0.44 percent. In respect of other pulses data are not available but with regard to all pulses area, yield and output are available. These all pulses taken together did not show any improvement. On the contrary both area and output decelerated at the rates of (-) 5.78 and (-) 5.49 percent compound per annum. The yield improved slightly by 0.26 percent compound per annum. All these foodcrops area remained more or less constant, the rate of increase being just 0.39 percent compound per annum.

5.5 The fourth chapter is mainly concerned with the growth rates of cash crops viz., perennial irrigated sugarcane crop, rain fed groundnut crop and the area under fresh fruits and vegetables, condiments and spices. The conclusions of this chapter are that sugarcane cultivation expanded rapidly during the second period. The output also grew at a faster rate during the same

period 1967 to 1984. The rates of increase being 3.12 and 3.69 percent compound per annum correspondingly.

The long term growth rate of yield seems to be rather unsatisfactory, the rate of increase being just 0.53 percent compound per annum; which is contrary to the popular belief in respect of sugarcane yield. The output growth seems to have been governed largely by the area growth rather than yield growth. In future the emphasis should be laid on yield growth rather than area expansion under the crop. As regards the groundnut the same holds true, the area contribution to the output growth seems to have been larger than that of yield contribution - during the whole period area and output growth rates worked out to be 9.54 and 10.15 percent compound per annum respectively and the rate of yield increase worked out to be just 0.55 percent compound per annum. If we look at these two crops area and output growth, it can be concluded that the process of commercialisation of farming in the taluka seems to have been accelerated since the late 1960s. The technological break through appears to be successful in respect of major cereals - rice and nachani; but unsuccessful in terms of yield improvement, in respect of commercial crops-sugarcane an irrigated crop and groundnut mainly the rainfed crop. With the increasing monetisation of the rural economy the other commercial

crops like potatoes and sweet potatoes have emerged and they are found to be increasingly being substituted for other cereals like minor millets.

5.6 The agro climatic conditions of the taluka are favourable to horticulture. There is scope for extending the area under ~~z~~ cashew nuts plantation and mango gardens which have brighter prospects from the view points of monetary returns. Over the period, however, the area under fruits and vegetables decreased at the rate of (-) 0.54 percent per annum compound. The another important category that is area under condiments and spices such as chillies and korta seems to have increased at the rate of 3.09 percent compound per annum. In this growth the area under chillies and korta are the important spice crops and the area under them has recently increased rather fastly. Similarly, leaving aside the area under groundnut, the area under total oilseeds (edible and non-edible) showed an increase of 5.40 percent compound per annum.

5.7 On the whole a shift from foodgrain crops to other commercial crops did occur during the period under reference. In respect of commercial crops this shift occurred only in terms of area shift and consequent output shift. The increase in the output

of foodgrains was mainly due to yield improvement rather than due to area expansion, the former being greater than the later. The technological break through seems to have been successful only in respect of main cereals - rice and nachani - where as unsuccessful in respect of commercial crops mainly sugarcane and groundnut. The agro-climatic conditions and the topography of the taluka suggest that horticulturisation should be the main thrust of the policy in respect of agricultural production.

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