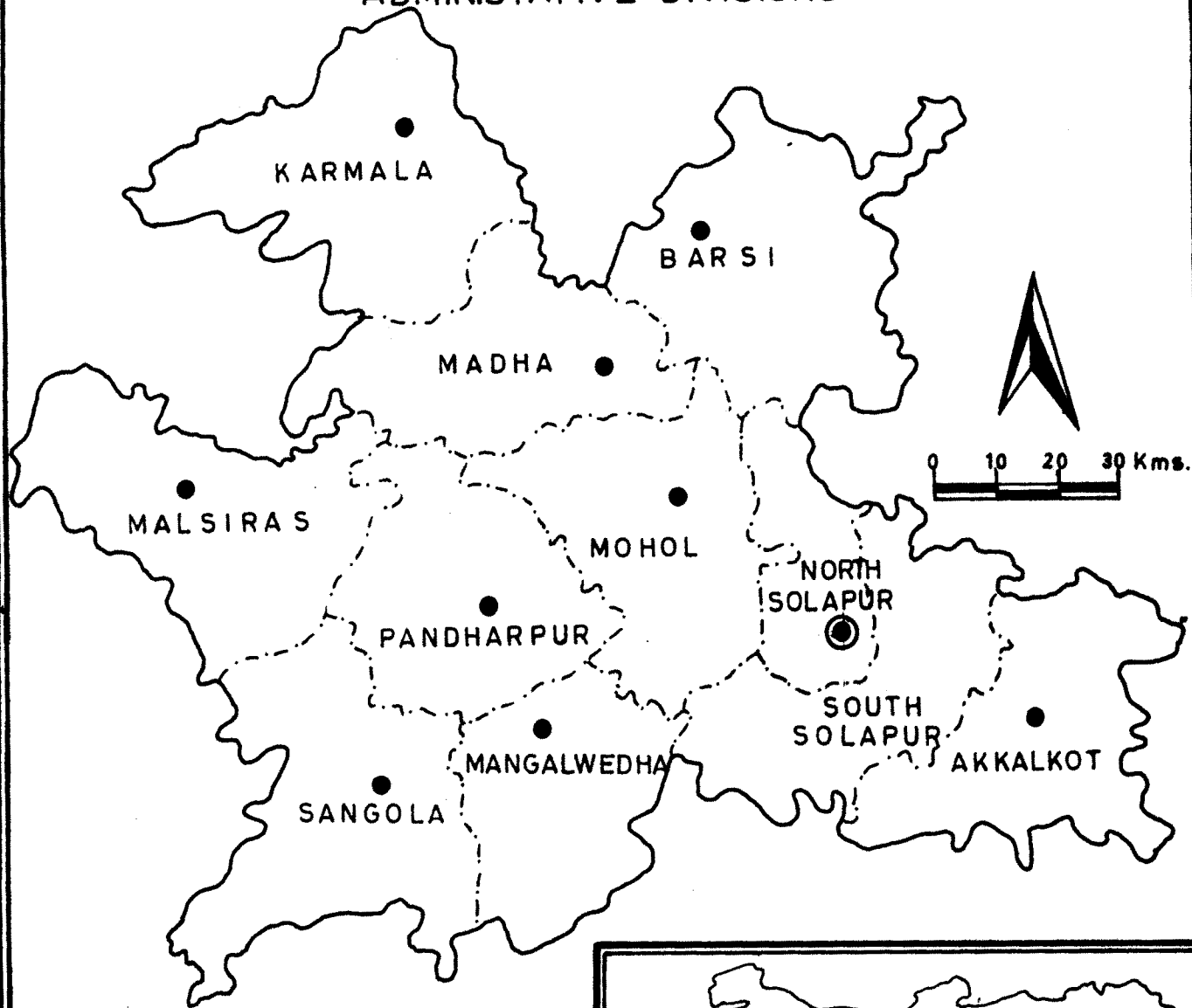


P R E F A C E

The severe drought situation prevailing for the last four consecutive years (1984-88) in Maharashtra state induced me to undertake the study of the problems and prospects of drought district of Solapur in particular. As many people know the frequent occurrence of drought hit hard the agricultural population in terms of heavy losses to their crops and consequent to their money incomes. So I tried to analyse the behaviour of the major crops in respect of their respective area , output and yield over considerably longer period of time ranging between 1950-85. For this a heavy reliance is placed on the publications of the different government agencies especially of the 'Directorate of Economics and Statistics ' and Irrigation department of the Govt. of Maharashtra as well as the District Statistical Office, Solapur. The entire per cent work consists of seven chapters. The first chapter broadly relates to the role of agriculture in the Indian economy , where in a review of the changing relation between the growth of national income and the agricultural production over the period is taken . In the second chapter Solapur district profile with the main

emphasis on its economic resources is given. In the third chapter a rather subtle point of distinction is drawn between earlier famines in India and the present droughts. After this a resume of the classifications ,definitions and criteria has been taken and an attempt is made to highlight the extent of drought affected area in the state of Maharashtra and identification of the district and talukas as drought prone. In the fourth and fifth chapters a critical analysis of the behaviour of the major crops and cash crops in respect of their area ,output and yield over the short period and long period as well has been made. A critical examination has been made of the short term and long term measures implemented so far by the Government of Maharashtra with the help of Central Govt. and also the World Bank .And the most important a survey of the ongoing major irrigation porjects and especially the Ujani Irrigation Project has been taken in the same chapter. The last chapter contains our summing up of the analysis and also the suggestions made.

SOLAPUR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS



- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- - - TALUKA BOUNDARY
- ⊙ DISTRICT H. Q.
- TALUKA H. Q.

