

CHAPTER 2	AGRICULTURAL SITUATION OF SANGLI DISTRICT
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2.1 LOCATION

Sangli district is one of the parts of the famous Deccan Plateau. It lies between 16°-45' and 17°-33' North Latitudes and 73°-42' and 75°-40' East Longitudes. This district is bounded on the east by Bijapur district in Karnataka State, on the west by Ratnagiri district on the south by Kolhapur district of Maharashtra and Belgaum district of Karnataka State. The districts Satara and Solapur lie on the north boundaries of this district. The area of the district is 8,601.5 Sq.Kms. and has a population of 21,97,977 as per 1991 census.

2.2 TOPOGRAPHY AND RIVERS

This district falls partly in Krishna basin and

partly in Bhima basin. Consequently, it is divided into different drain systems. The whole district can also be divided into three different parts on the basis of topography, climatology and rainfall viz.,

- (1) Western hilly area of Shirala tahsil with heavy rainfall.
- (2) The basin area of Krishna, Warna and Yerala comprising Walwa tahsil, eastern part of Shirala tahsil and western parts of Miraj and Tasgaon tahsils.
- (3) Eastern drought-prone area which comprise eastern parts of Miraj and Tasgaon tahsils, North-eastern part of Khanapur and West of Atpadi, Kavathe Mahankal and Jat tahsils.

Krishna, with its Warna and Yerala tributaries flows through the Western part of the district. All the three rivers are the lifelines of the western half of the district and serve as resource for large irrigation schemes.

2.3 SOILS AND RAINFALL

The soils of varied texture and structure are observed in Sangli district. The soil in the western part of the district is formed from red ^{sp} latrite mixed with hard ⁷ munj due to hilly nature of the zone. The central portion of the district has deep black soils capable of yielding

bumper kharip crops as well as rabi crops. This portion is thus the rich agricultural tract of the district. The ~~rest~~ eastern part of the district has shallow poor grey soils and is a well known water-scarcity tract. 18

The western portion of Shirala tahsil gets heavy rainfall, ~~on~~ an average over 2000 mm. in a year. The central and eastern portions receive annual rainfall measuring about 750 mm. The north-eastern portion receives the lowest rainfall in the district averaging about 500 mm. in a year. Atpadi, Jat, Kavathe Mahankal, Miraj (East), Tasgaon (East) and Khanapur (East) regions fall in the broad drought zone.

2.4 LAND UTILISATION PATTERN

If decaded position of land utilisation pattern of Sangli district is perused certain changes are glaringly noticeable. Data since 1964-65 in this respect are presented in Table 2.1.

It is clear from Table 2.1 that over the time span of 24 years between 1964 and 1988, the percentage of total gross cropped area decreased from 80.08 per cent in 1964-65 to 74.66 per cent in 1987-88. The percentages of fallow land, other uncultivable land and area not available for cultivation increased over the period.

Table 2.1

Land utilisation in Sangli District

(Percentages)

Particulars	1964-65	1974-75	1984-85	1987-88
(1) Forest	5.49	5.48	5.45	5.50
(2) Area not available for cultivation	5.03	7.66	8.18	6.21
(3) Other uncultivable land excluding fallow land	3.46	4.83	7.38	7.75
(4) Fallow land	8.07	11.46	11.12	11.51
(5) Net area sown	77.92	70.54	67.85	69.01
(6) Gross cropped area	80.08	72.68	72.88	74.66
(7) Total geographical area	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Sangli District, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Maharashtra, Bombay, relevant issues

2.5 BIRD'S EYE-VIEW OF CROPPING PATTERN

Gross cropped area in Sangli district could be conveniently divided into two categories, viz. total food crops and total non-food crops. Respective area under these two categories during the triennium 1985-88 was 84 and 16 per cent of the GCA. Groundnut is one the major crop under the category of non-food crops as it covers little less than half the area under total non-food crops. Area under food

crops could be divided into two sub-categories, viz. food grains and other crops like sugarcane, fruit, spices, etc. Share of sugarcane is the largest under the sub-group of other crops. Area under the sub-category food grains is divided into pulses and cereals. Among cereals, jowar and bajra cover majority area having the share of 40 per cent and 17 per cent respectively of the GCA. Area covered by all the pulses is 13 per cent of the GCA. Details are given in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2

Broad details of cropping pattern in Sangli District for the triennium 1985-88

Particulars	Total area (hectares)	Percentage to GCA
1 Jowar	2,53,685	39.51
2 Bajra	1,11,101	17.30
3 Total cereals	4,07,739	63.52
4 Total pulses	81,584	12.70
5 Total foodgrains	4,89,323	76.22
6 Sugarcane	39,034	6.08
7 Total food crops	5,40,146	84.14
8 Groundnuts	45,456	7.08
9 Total non-food crops	1,01,806	15.86
10 GCA	6,41,952	100.00

Source: Ibid

The preceding paragraphs have just touched (to) the essential information relating to the agricultural situation in Sangli district. They are in the nature of introducing the district to the readers. With this general acquaintance, analysis of changes in the cropping pattern of the district is done in all the following chapters.