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CHAPTER VI

: CONCLUSION :

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C H A P T E R VI

: C O N C L U S I O N S :

The concept of agro-industry has come into vogue in the last decade and since then it has become popular. The establishment of agro-industry is essential for regional development and to relieve the strain of congested cities about overwhelming concentration of industries, the dispersal of agro-industries in the rural areas has always become inevitable. Besides rural resources can be utilized through agro industries. The development of agro-industry is based on local resources, it strengthens the agrarian structure. Thus transformation of agriculture could be achieved through the introduction of agro-industries.

Agro-industries in India ought to refer not to any particular group of industries or specific processes in any or all of them, but a whole group of activities deriving their relevance from and contributing its, the need of the people dependent on agriculture. Agro-industrial development would then signify a pattern of deliberate, planned development that accords with need of the rural areas. Agro-industrial development implies development of agriculture, on one hand, and on the other of the entire group of industries to cater to mass needs in as decentralized fashion as possible.

The main objective of these process of development is not mearely to raise the level of material living but also to promote those basic values of rural areas that once made for social cohesion, unity and inner strength.

Agricultural development involves a reduction in the pressure of population on land. Reduction of the presure on land can be initiated by planned programmes of public work starting with sanitation, and drainage, and moving gradually on to the instruction of roads and houses to siphon off the extra labour. It development of agro-industries is to subserve the border national objective of development with stability - the latter term can be interpreted to include social and cultural change in peaceful accord with needs and avoidance all together of the impulses to the growth of megalopolises, the nature of policies and aids that can faster this pattern of development becomes comparatively easier to examine.

The problem of evolving a pattern of economic development oriented specifically to the solution of the endemic under employment in rural areas of the country, led some of our experts to suggest agro-industries as a probable solution.

In the list of industries to be grouped as agro-industries, processing industries in the study region, naturally occupy

the pride of place. Among these are gur, Khandsari, Sugar, oil pressing, tobacco processing and cotton ginning and spinning and weaving.

Agro-industries cannot be made to mean industries located in rural areas. As the generic name implies, they should be related to industries which have agricultural as their raw material and which from our immediate point of view, can provide 'gainful' employment to rural population and which can cater to the rural markets.

Agro-industries hold a great promise and will open new vistas for the future industrial prosperity and balanced economic growth. Through high productivity per hectare it is possible for the farmer to lower his costs an enhance his profits without increasing the price of his production. Not only the Government but also the existing agro-industrialists should come forward to help the farmer. It is the experience of the sugar industry, that by supporting the farmer with credit, it is possible to increase his productivity for mutual benefits.

The economy of the Satara district is dominated by agriculture, which provides varied raw materials for the development of agro-industries. Despite the adverse effects of physico-socio-economic factors, the agricultural base of the region is rich enough for the development of agro-based industries.

The present, region has potentiality for the establishment of different agro-industries in the future. The central part of the district i.e. the Krishna and the Koyna river basins is agriculturally flourished having better development of irrigational facilities. The soils is also good fertile and favourable climatic condition are useful for cropping pattern in the region. The area is good for sugarcane cultivation. The area under sugarcane is increasing progressively. It is a good advantage for the increase in the number of sugar factories in future. It is better to establish at least two more sugar factories by the Government of Maharashtra for better economic development of the region.

The western part of the region is hilly, ferrign which receives more rainfall and is suitable for growing paddy. cultivation. Where there is potentiality of increasing the number of rice hulling mills. The eastern part of the district is drought prone area where the annual rainfall is very low. There is variation in rainfall on which entire agriculture depends throughout the year. The soils also vary in various parts of the region. In the western part there is lateritic soil, and in the central and eastern part there is black cotton soil. The soil is responsible for differentiation in agricultural production in the various parts of the study region. In the region more than 74 % of the working population engaged in agriculture.

The land utilization is characterised by the spatial as well as temporal changes. Since 1951, there have been drastic changes in the agricultural land use and cropping pattern of the region. Due to increase in the irrigational facilities in the central and north eastern part of the region, there is increasing land under sugarcane. Besides irrigation, with the advent of agro-based industries, the hectarage under cash crops has increased considerably which offers varied raw material to agro-industries.

The infrastructure for agro-industries is rich in the district. The Zilla Parishad and sugar industries have introduced various lift irrigation projects. Due to the constructions of Dhom, Krishna, Kanher and Nira canals, the intensity of the irrigated land has increased in Karad, Satara, Phaltan, Koregaon and Khandala tehsils. The more and more land area of the above tehsils have come under irrigation (supply source). There is very low development of irrigation in the eastern part of the region. In 1951, the total irrigated area by different source was 16934 hectares, increased to 38638 hectares in 1971-75. There is low irrigation development in the eastern part of the region which is a drought prone area of the district. The Zilla Parishad should have given special attention for the increasing land under irrigation. The rural electrification has been developed more, which has facilitated the setting of motor-pump sets on the wells and rivers.

Table 6.1: The District-wise Number of Pump Sets and Oil Engines:

Sr. No.	District/ Tehsil.	Total Cropped Ares	Total Wells	Oil Engines	Electric Pump Sets.
1.	Satara	52524	3173	339	476
2.	Karad	73575	5276	1308	931
3.	Khatav	94382	9886	3500	1090
4.	Patan	55903	1623	647	705
5.	Wai	27507	4887	339	482
6.	Khandala	32106	1477	175	256
7.	Mahabaleshwar	1662	234	19	171
8.	Man	70145	5124	74	132
9.	Koregaon	55546	6195	1176	414
10.	Phaltan	91992	5445	2610	2245
11.	Jaoli	29928	505	143	55
District total		575260	55822	10330	6957

In the district the network of the road length is more in the central and eastern part of the region. There is less development of network of surface roads in the western part, it is because of the mountain ranges of the Sahyadri or Western Ghats and its spurs.

The region under study has inadquate use of improved implements for agricultural operations. The animal power and man power is largely used for agriculture. The use of mechanical power has increased in sugar industry only .

Fertilizers have acquired significant place in the agriculture sector. In the region there is one fertilizer industry named " Danedar Misra Khat Industry " is located at Karad.

The sugar industry is one of the leading agro-based industry of the region. The industry has influenced the agrarian economy during the last few decade. There are about six sugar industries in working and one more factory will start its production from coming year i.e. 1984-85 crushing season. Out of total 7 industries, two in each are in Karad and Phaltan tehsil and one each is located in Patan, Wai and Satara. In the other district there is no sugar industries. The State Government should start two more factories in Koregaon and Khatav tehsils of the district. Though due to farming system of taking same crop continuous in the same land, the productivity of soils is decreasing but there is increasing land under irrigation that is why there is no problem of shortage of sugarcane for the sugar industries in the region. Due to Dhom canal the more and more area of the same district is coming under irrigation where sugarcane cultivation is largely possible.

The textile industry has not so much developed in the region. There are only 7 cotton ginning and spinning mills located in Man, Khatav and Phaltan tehsils. Besides there are some handloom and powerlooms in Karad and Satara

tehsils. So by taking into consideration the present situation of land under cotton and the production of the cotton of the region and the present condition of cotton processing industries of the region, the Government of Maharashtra should establish at least two large scale cotton textile industries in Man and Khatav tehsils. These two tehsils are the important cotton producing tehsils of the district. The raw cotton of the same tehsils is sent to cotton textile mills out of district.

The area under groundnut in the region is large. But the groundnut oil mills have lost their importance in the region. It is essential for the Government to pay attention towards these agro-industries and start two large groundnut oil mills in Koregaon and Khatav tehsils, which are major groundnut producing part of the region. The groundnut oil industry declined during last few years.

The groundnut cultivation is invariably confined to rainfed areas of the region. The per hectare production of groundnut has declined in certain part particularly in Karad and Satara which does after substantial supply of groundnut to oil mill located at Karad. But there is sufficient production of groundnut in the rainfed area of the district which gives raise to new groundnut oil mills. || 2

In sum, district is well developed in agro based industries. The structure and development of agro industries is confined to urban centres like Karad, Satara, Koregaon and Phaltan. Majority of the agro-based industries of the district are mainly located in the same urban centres which are the taluka places. The dispersal of agro-industries in rural areas will result in to the unemployed persons and help the regional economy by use of local resources.

The western hilly terrain and eastern drought prone area of the region are agro-industrially as well as agriculturally backward. There is an absence of agro-based industries in these parts. Due to less developement of agro based industries in those part the economy of the same part is poor e.g. in Mahabaleshwar, Jaoli, Man tehsils the per head income is low as compared to other tehsils of the district where agro-industries are largely developed. Owing to the varied resources the district has larger potentiality in agricultural products.

There is wider scope for development of cotton textile mills in the region. And the cotton textile industries should be started in the eastern rainfed area of the district particularly in Man and Khatav tehsils. There is some what concentration in the rice hulling, tobacco processing and groundnut oil mills in the region. But there is some

potential of the same agro-industries in the other parts of the region. The scope of potential is wide in groundnut and rice hulling in the region. In short by establishing one in two sugar and cotton textile mill, the region economic development can be achieved. It can solve the unemployment problem of the region and help overall human development in the region.

As said earlier in pages 4 and 5, the western part of the district is hilly and in receipt of heavy rainfall. These factors are not conducive for sugarcane or cotton or tobacco which are the main cash crops supporting the agro-industries in the district. Hence this western region is free from major "cro-competition". This western part of the district, comprising of Wai, Mahabaleshwar, Medha Jaoli talukas, carries a good promise for development of fruit based industries like Jam making, Juice making, Beverage making etc. This potentiality is already evident in this type of cottage scale industries in the Panchagani Mahbaleshwar region. Establishment of such industries would encourage people in this sub-region to go for fruit cultivation. Even "fruit collection" from the forest would be induced in the people among whom there are many tribals.