CHAPTER - VI

CONCLUSION

Chapter I

TOPIC NO.6

The Upper Krishna basin is a very progressive agricultural region of Maharashtra. The development of irrigation and application of new techniques brought overall property to this region. Several Agro-based industries have come-up in this part. The growth of Sugar industry has further elevated the per capita income of agricultural population in this area. It has brought a great change in the rural society of the region.

The agricultural infrastructure of Upper Krishna basin has stimulated the growth and development of agriculture. The pattern of agricultural landuse is mainly influenced by physical conditions of the area and its level of socio-economic development. The region shows strate constrast in physical conditions. Hilly Western part with heavy rainfall is dominated by Rice, Ragi and Sava crops while Central and Eastern parts are dominated by Sugarcane, Jowar, Pulses, and Groundnut crops. Drough affected area of North-Eastern parts has a dominence of Jowar, Bajra and Pulses. However, the Central and Eastern regions are more developed as compared to other parts of the study area. The general landuse pattern indicates very little change, only one change is significant in respect of area under forest. The higher percentage of forest land is found in Mahabaleshwar, Jaoli, Shahuwadi, Patan, Radhanagari, Bhudargad, Ajra and Chandgad talukas. Most of the Western hilly area has a dominence of forest land. High concentration of cultivable land is dominently found in Satara and Kolhapur district. More percentage of follow land is observed in Sangli district.

The changes in cropping pattern shows that the considerable change in the cropping pattern is observed in Karveer, Kagal, Hatkanangale, Miraj, Tasgaon, Walwa, Karad, Koregaon and Khanapur talukas. Most of the irrigated areas are dominated by Sugarcane cultivation. In few patches particularly in Miraj, Tasgaon, and Khanapur talukas, the development of grapes and other fruit crops is observed. The Upper Krishna basin as a whole, has more dominance of Jowar crop followed by rice, Bajra and Pulses. However, the cropping pattern indicates considerable change since 1960. The development of irrigation, use of improved seeds and techniques have a great bearing on changing cropping pattern of the region. The cropping pattern of the hilly talukas shows little change for the last 30 years. More change is observed in the fertile, irrigated areas of Karad, Walwa, Hatkanangale, Shirol, Karveer, Khanapur, Tasgaon and Miraj talukas.

The agricultural efficiency in any area is influenced by the combination of various factors. Development of irrigation is an important factor in increasing agricultural efficiency of the area. The Central and Eastern parts of study area have developed in respect of irrigation during the last 30 years. Still there is a wide scope to further intensify the irrigation in several parts of the region. Potentially rich soils of Semi-arid and Sub-humid tracts of the area have given better response to development of irrigation.

A comparative analysis of crop combination regions of the area clearly show the superiority of Doi's method. This method

identifies seven zones. Maximum combination includes eight crops and in hilly areas rice is the dominent crop, while in dry north-eastern zone Jowar dominates. The Central part shows high dominence of Pulses and Sugarcane.

The analysis of intensity of cropping pattern indicates very deceptive picture because of the types of crops taken in the area. The areas where Sugarcane cultivation dominates the intensity is low, while in dry and infertile areas the intensity of cropping is high.

The general observation of sequential change in the productivity of land in the study area from 1960 to 1980 clearly indicate that nearly 38.24 percent region has high productivity of land. 46.15 percent of the region is dominated by medium productivity and nearly 15.31 percent region is observed by low productivity in 1980. However, during 1960 only 23.07 percent region was dominated by high productivity and nearly 53.84 percent region was dominated by medium productivity. The low productivity was also dominantly only 23.07 percent area. This change in the productivity of land is the combined effect of several soci-economic factor and technical advances during last twenty years development of irrigation; growth of agro-based industries use of improved seeds and fertilizers and the impact of co-operative movement have changed considerably the out look of the people at the same time the awareness of the people has increased the productivity of land. The low and medium productivity is presently found in the hilly parts and in the drought affected area of the study region.

One may conclude that the prosperous region of Upper Krishna basin will further bring various changes in the cropping pattern, since the area is developing fast in respect of irrigation, transport and industries.

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