

## PREFACE

The severe drought situation prevailing continuously for the last four consecutive years in Karnatak State induced me to undertake the study of the problems and prospects of Drought Prone Areas in general and the drought prone district of Bijapur in particular. As many people know the 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 a 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 Government of Karnataka. The entire present work consists of seven chapters. The first chapter broadly relates to the role of agriculture in the Indian economy, wherein a review of the relation between the growth of national income and the agricultural production over the period is made. In the second chapter a rather subtle point of distinction between earlier famines in India and the present droughts has been drawn. After this a resume of the classification, definition, criteria has been taken followed by the extent of drought affected area in the State of Karnataka and identification of the district as drought prone. In the third chapter Bijapur district profile with its economic resources is given.

In the fourth and fifth chapters a critical analysis of the behaviour of the major crops broadly classified into food crops and cash crops, in respect of their area output and yield over the short periods and long period as well, has been made. A critical examination has been made in the sixth chapter of the short term and long term measures implemented so far by the Government of Karnataka with the help of Central Government and also the World Bank. And the important, a survey of the on-going major irrigation projects and especially the UKP has been taken in the same chapter. And the last chapter contains our summing up on the analysis and also the suggestions made.