

## :: INTRODUCTION ::

The present research work entitled "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION" (A Case Study of Kopergaon Taluka of Ahmednagar District); is under taken with a view to testing our hypothesis that since the beginning of planned economic development, (1950-51) and with the increasing emphasis laid on the Agricultural development programmes during the successive Five Year Plans, whether the Agricultural Production pattern has changed or not in Kopergaon Taluka. Since the present author of the dissertation stays for a pretty long time in the said taluka is familiar with the Agricultural practices and developments in the taluka, we have selected purposively Kopergaon taluka for our case study. Besides the said taluka is a drought-prone, roughly three-fourth of the total cultivable land is under dry-farming system. Hence our interest lies in seeing; how the large proportion of the land holdings which are cultivated under the vagaries of both South-West and North-East Monsoon conditions responded to changes in economic situations, consequent upon the implementation of development programmes. The present study is neither at Macro level nor at Micro level. In what follows we give in brief the methodology, sources of data and the agencies contacted for the purpose.

### METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES OF DATA :

To be frank, we have not made an attempt to apply the highly sophisticated statistical tools in our analysis. Since the statistical data regarding the agricultural production-mix taluka

wise were not available prior to 1965-66, we have begun with 1965-66 as the base year, from which the reliable data are available. We mainly relied on the "Socio Economic Review and District Statistical Abstracts, Ahmednagar District" (1965-66 to 1980-81) and the performance budgets published by the Department of Agriculture and Co operation, Govt. of Maharashtra for the area under different land use categories, under land utilization pattern and area under different foodgrain crops and cash crops grown in the taluka. The data regarding the Yield of different important crops have been collected from the Department of Agriculture, Central building, Pune. The production figures relating to crops have been worked out by us independently with the help of hectareage and Yield figures. The data regarding area irrigated by different sources have been collected from the publications stated earlier.

After having collected the relevent data, we worked out the index numbers of area under, production and yield of different crops in order to ascertain the changes that have occurred in respect of them over the entire period under reference. (1965-66 to 1980-81) On the basis of behaviour of the indices of area, production and yield, we tried to high light their overall trends over the entire period. Similarly we have tried to point out the changes in the percentage shares of an individual crop in respect of its area in the net sown area and its output in the total output of broad category wise, e.g. output of foodgrains, output of pulses,

output of edible seeds and output of cash crop.

THE SCHEME OF THE DISSERTATION :

In the very first chapter, we have described the strategic role that is expected to play by the agricultural sector in the process of economic development. We propounded a " Concurrent growth thesis" as in Japan. In chapter II we have analysed the important changes that have taken place in the land utilization pattern in the taluka over the period. In chapter III we have analysed the behaviour of the area, production and productivity of different cereals and highlighted the important changes that have occurred. In chapter IV we have focussed our attention on the changes in respect of areas, productions and productivities of different pulse crops and their implications. In chapter V and VI we have mainly concentrated on the growth of net irrigated area by different sources and on the growth in the area under sugarcane induced by increasing irrigation facilities correspondingly. An attempt is also being made to analyse the impact of the growth of sugarcane area on the industrial sector in terms of the establishment of agro-based sugar co-operatives in the taluka and their problems of the supply of raw materials that have cropped up in the recent years. In chapter VII we have analysed the behaviour of area, production and productivity of non-irrigated commercial crop i.e. groundnut an important edible oil-seed crop grown in the taluka. Finally in chapter VIII we have summarised our results and their implications.