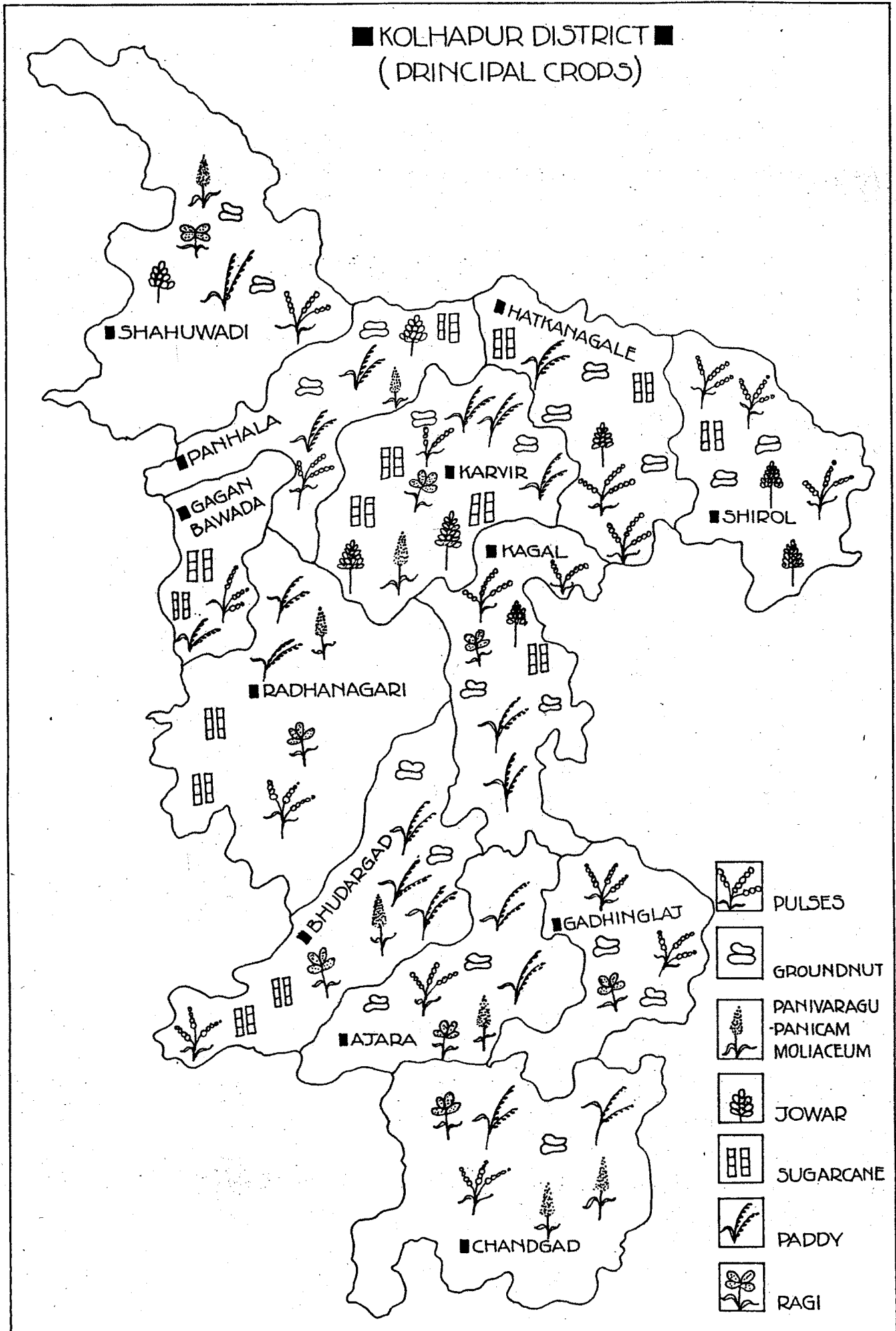


CHAPTER TWO

**AGRICULTURAL SITUATION OF
KOLHAPUR DISTRICT**

■ KOLHAPUR DISTRICT ■
(PRINCIPAL CROPS)



2.1 LOCATION AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

Kolhapur district is situated in southern part of Maharashtra State and is located between 15° to 17° North Latitude and 73° to 74° East Longitude. The main part of the district is traversed by the Sahyadri mountains in the West. It has thrown several spurs in the east of the district and in this range some of the points are as high as 900 metres above mean sea level. Major portion of the district is 390 to 600 metres above mean sea level.

The area of Kolhapur district is 7,620 sq.kilometres¹ and it is 2.68 percent of the total area of Maharashtra. Its population, according to 1981 census, was 25,57,095. The district comprises 12 talukas and 1,153 villages. The boundry of the district has undergone change since May 1981.² The district is bounded by Sangli district in the north, Belgaum district of Karnataka State in the south and east and Ratnagiri and Sindhudurga districts in the west.

Geographically the district can be broadly classified into two parts : Western hilly tract covered by Sahyadri ranges and eastern plains. The former region covers 7 talukas of the district, viz. Shahuwadi, Panhala, Gagan Bawada, Radhanagari, Bhudargad, Ajara and Chandgad and the latter covers remaining five talukas, viz. Karvir, Hatkanagale, Kagal, Gadhinglaj and Shirol.

The Principal rivers of Kolhapur district are the Krishna, the Warana, the Panchaganga, the Doodhganga, the Vedganga and the Hiranyakeshi.

2.2 AGRO-CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

2.2.1 Soil : Kolhapur district has three broad zones. The western part is covered with laterituous soil, the central part has fertile brownish well-drained soil while the eastern zone is covered with alluvial medium deep black soil.

2.2.2 Rainfall : The rainfall is not evenly distributed in the district it varies from place to place. The main rainy season is from June to October. Ajara, Chandagad, Gagan Bawada,

Radhanagari and Shahuwadi talukas come in the heavy rainfall tract. Bhudargad, Gadhinglaj and Karvir talukas have sufficient rainfall while Kagal taluka falls in inadequate rainfall tract. The remaining two talukas viz. Hatkanagale and Shirol is classified under poor rainfall tract. The average rainfall is 2,060 mm.

2.2.3 Climate : The climatic conditions in Kolhapur district are uneven. The western part of Kolhapur district, being hilly and covered by forest, is always humid during the rainy season and cool in summer. The climatic condition of the eastern part is relatively hot compared with that of the western part. The climatic year may be divided in three short seasons : (i) A moderately warm wet season from June to October, (ii) Cool dry season from November to February and (iii) hot dry season from March to June.

2.2.4 Irrigation : Main sources of irrigation in Kolhapur district are surface irrigation through lift system and wells. In 1986-87 net irrigated area was 58,002 hectares, out of which 28.16 percent was irrigated by wells and the remaining 71.84 percent by surface irrigation.

Presently Kolhapur district is served by two major irrigation projects, namely Radhanagari and Tulashi. In addition to these, Kolhapur district is to get the benefit of dam constructed on the Warana river at Chandoli in the Sangli district. Furthermore in near future, the district will enhance its irrigation facilities from the on-going Doodhganga project at Kalamawadi and Vedganga project at Patgaon.

2.2.5 Cultivating Seasons : Kharif and rabi are the two main cultivating seasons. The main kharif crops are paddy, kharif jowar, ragi, groundnut, cotton and tobacco, wheat, rabi jowar and gram are the principal rabi crops. Besides these crops sugarcane is grown over a considerably larger area as a perennial crop.

2.3 LAND UTILISATION PATTERN

If decadal position of land utilisation pattern of Kolhapur district is perused, certain changes are glaringly noticeable. Data since 1960-61 in this respect is presented in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1

LAND UTILISATION PATTERN IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

(Per cent)

Items	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1986-87
1) Forests	18.60	19.00	17.92	18.74
2) Area not available for cultivation	8.55	8.00	8.93	8.93
3) Culturable Waste	10.04	11.00	8.14	4.49
4) Permanent Pastures	6.04	5.00	4.96	5.08
5) Miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in net area sown	6.82	3.00	0.65	1.26
6) Fallow land	5.37	7.00	7.11	6.00
7) Net area sown	50.58	47.00	52.29	55.50
8) Total Geographical Area	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source :

Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Kolhapur District, Directorate of Economics and Statistics Government of Maharashtra Bombay :

(1) Part I, 1981-82, pp.29-32

(2) Part I, 1988-89, p.6

It is clear from Table 2.1 that over the time span of 27 years falling between 1960-61 and 1986-87 the percentage of culturable waste land, declined by 5.55 percentage points from

10.04 per cent in 1960-61 to 4.49 per cent in 1986-87. It appears that most of this land has gone for agricultural use as the percentage of net area sown has hiked by 4.92 percentage points from 50.58 percent in 1960-61 to 55.50 per cent in 1986-87.

2.4 CROPPING PATTERN

Cropping pattern means the proportion of area under different crops at a particular period of time. A change in cropping pattern means a change in the proportion of cultivated land under different crops. The cropping pattern is governed by many factors : (1) The general agricultural conditions, particularly the soils, climate, water supply and sub-soil water table etc.; (2) aim of agricultural production, scale of production, size of holdings, technique of agriculture and change in market prices⁴.

Table 2.2 brings out the change in the cropping pattern in Kolhapur district between 1960-61 and 1986-87.

Table 2.2

Percentage distribution of gross cropped area under important crops to total gross cropped area in Kolhapur district in 1960-61 and 1986-87.

(Area in hectares)

Sr. Crops No.	1960-61	1986-87
1. Paddy	97,093 (22.87)	1,11,041 (25.54)
2. Jowar	54,076 (12.72)	44,049 (10.13)
3. Raqi	34,382 (8.09)	30,673 (7.05)
4. Total cereals	2,14,357 (50.45)	1,94,475 (44.75)
5. Tur	7,181 (1.68)	995 (0.22)
6. Gram	3,513 (0.82)	691 (0.01)
7. Total pulses	20,567 (4.83)	17,327 (3.98)
8. Total foodgrains	2,34,917 (55.28)	2,11,802 (48.73)
9. Sugar cane	31,875 (7.48)	50,697 (11.66)
10. Total food crops	2,76,803 (65.14)	2,72,829 (62.78)
11. Chillies	NA	NA
12. Groundnut	51,595 (12.14)	54,039 (12.43)
13. Tobacco	12,627 (2.97)	4,591 (1.05)
14. Total non-food crops	1,48,154 (34.86)	1,62,781 (37.22)
15. Total gross cropped area	4,24,957 (100.00)	4,34,610 (100.00)

Note : Figures in parentheses are percentages to the total GCA.

Source : Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Kolhapur District, Part I, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Maharashtra, Bombay :

(1) 1981-82, pp 22-23

(2) 1988-89, pp 7-8

It can be seen from Table 2.2 that in between 1960-61 and 1986-87 the cropping pattern of Kolhapur district has changed in such a way that, compared with 1960-61, in the year 1986-87, percentage of area under the production of total cereals, total pulses and thereby total foodgrains has fallen remarkably. This is because percentage of area under all the crops in both these sub-groups, except that under paddy, has decreased phenomenally. Only paddy cultivation has picked up well. Fall in the percentage of area under traditional cash crops like tobacco and chillies also is significant. Percentage of area under the production of groundnut has remained more or less the same. Cultivation of sugarcane has made an impressive headway. Notwithstanding this, aggregate percentage of area under all food crops has slumped from 65.14 per cent in 1960-61 to 62-78 per cent in 1986-87. Shortfall in this crop group has been made good by increase in the percentage of area of non-food crops as a group from 34.86 per cent to 37.22 per cent. This improvement can be attributed to the positive change in the percentage area of some other non-food crops other than chillies, groundnut and tobacco.

Now, a few details about the actual position of crops grown in Kolhapur district in 1986-87, the latest year for which official data was available at the time of present investigation. Kharif crops predominate in the district. Principal crops are paddy, groundnut, ragi and Jawar. Important rabi crops are jowar and tobacco. Sugarcane is the perennial crop. On the basis of percentage of crop area paddy, groundnut and sugarcane assume the sequence in decreasing order. In fodder crops, grass is prominent as it covered 22.93 percent of the gross cropped area in 1986-87.

In western part of Kolhapur district in heavy rainfall tract paddy is grown widely. Karvir, Panhala, Kagal, Gadhinglaj, Chandgad, Ajara, Bhudargad, Radhanagari and Shahuwadi talukas together have 8 to 14 percent of gross cropped area in the district under paddy. Among the cereals, paddy ranks first and jowar second. Hatkanagale taluka tops in the district in the percentage (28 per cent) of area under jowar. Gagan Bawada taluka has the lowest percentage of area under jowar. Ragi is produced on the slopes of Sahyadri ranges in Chandgad, Ajara,

Bhudargad and Shahuwadi talukas covering 8,14,15,11 and 14 per cent of the gross cropped areas of the respective talukas.

Sugarcane is grown largely in fertile and irrigated soils of Karvir, Shirol and Hatkanagale talukas covering 25.20 per cent, 18.91 per cent and 13.62 per cent of the gross cropped area of the respective talukas. Talukas of western hilly areas have sparse cultivation of sugarcane. In oilseeds, groundnut is the important crop and is grown in Hatkanagale, Kagal, Shirol, Gadhinglaj and Karvir talukas. Growing of tobacco is specific to Kagal, Shirol, Hatkanagale and Gadhinglaj talukas.

REFERENCES :

1. Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Kolhapur District, Part I, 1988-89, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Maharashtra, Bombay, P.1.
2. Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Kolhapur District, Part I, 1981-82, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Maharashtra, Bombay, P.1.
3. Mamoria, C.B. and Tripathi, B.B., Agricultural Problems of India, K.M. Agencies Pvt.Ltd., New Delhi, 1989, P.82.
4. Ibid, PP.82-83.