

CHAPTER-III

**ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT**

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CHAPTER – III

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

3.1 INTRODUCTION:

This chapter highlights the role of government agencies in agriculture development in Karnataka.

3.2 THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

The 73rd Amendment to the Constitution enacted in 1993 had made it mandatory for all States to conduct elections after every five years to Panchayat Raj bodies at the village, taluka and district levels. Karnataka was the first State to do this by passing the act.

An amendment was made in the 11th Schedule in the Constitution to decentralize the power and functions to Panchayat Raj bodies at all the three levels. According to a recent report of the Union Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Karnataka is the only State (apart from Sikkim), which has transferred all the 29 subjects listed in the 11th Schedule of the Constitution to the Panchayat Raj Institutions.

In the local government system the Village Panchayats perform the following functions for village.

- A. Mandatory functions
- B. General functions
- C. Sector-wise distribution of responsibilities.
 - i. Agriculture
 - ii. Animal Husbandry and Dairy
 - iii. Minor Irrigation
 - iv. Fisheries

- v. Social Forestry
- vi. Small Scale Industries
- vii. Housing
- viii. Water Supply
- ix. Electricity and Energy
- x. Education
- xi. Public Works
- xii. Public health and Sanitation

The functions related to the agriculture development of the village are as follows;

I) Agriculture:

- 1) To bring in to cultivation the wastelands and marginal lands.
- 2) To bring about an optimum utilization of land.
- 3) Soil conservation.
- 4) Production of organic Manure.
- 5) Establishment of nurseries.
- 6) Promotion of co-operative and group farming.
- 7) Organizing self-help groups among cultivators.
- 8) Promotion of horticulture and vegetable cultivation.
- 9) Fodder protection.
- 10) Plant protection.
- 11) Seed production.
- 12) Farm mechanization.
- 13) Management of Krishi Bhavan.

II) Animal Husbandry And Dairy:

- 1) Cattle improvement programmes.
- 2) Dairy farming.
- 3) Poultry farming, bee keeping, piggery development, goat rearing, rabbit rearing.
- 4) Running of ICDP sub-centers.
- 5) Preventive health programmes for animals.
- 6) Fertility improvement programmes.
- 7) Control of diseases of animal origin.

III) Minor Irrigation:

- 1) All minor irrigation schemes within the area of a Village Panchayat.
- 2) All micro irrigation schemes.
- 3) Water conservation.

IV) Social Forestry:

- 1) Raising of fodder, fuel and fruit trees.
- 2) Organizing campaigns for tree planting and environmental awareness.
- 3) Afforestation of waste lands.

V) Water Supply:

- 1) Running of water supply schemes covering one village panchayat.
- (1)

3.2 MAJOR PROJECTS

The web (<http://informatics.nic.in/stateinfofocus.htm>) to bridge the digital divide between the haves and have-nots, the keyword is 'Citizen-Centric' project. NIC KSU has been instrumental in the implementation of some major citizen centric projects. The farmers can take the benefit of such services.

Bhoomi For Revenue Department

BHOOMI is one of the first E-Government projects successfully implemented for common man, jointly by the Government of Karnataka and NIC KSU. It is a workflow based online system to carry out mutations on land records data. It has been providing service to more than 70 lakh farmers of Karnataka since the last 3 years and on an average around 20,000 users are being benefited every day. (2)

Raita Mitra For Agriculture Department:

Access to reliable, updated information and improved communication is a crucial requirement for sustainable development of Agriculture. On the website <http://raitamitra.kar.nic.in> provides tips, information and bulletins on a daily basis to farmers for better cultivation. Access to information is provided free of cost through the 745 Raita Mitra centers across the State.

KrishiMarataVahini:

For Department of Agriculture Marketing

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has inaugurated this online agricultural price information on the website <http://maratavahini.kar.nic.in> bilingual portal 2002 and since then, the hit counter has already crossed the 1-lakh mark. The arrivals, minimum, maximum and modal prices of over 100 agricultural commodities and 2000 varieties on sale at the 142 Agricultural Produce

General Information:

To help in micro and macro level planning, the basic amenities available in all hamlets are captured into 400 parameters that are categorized into 21 sectors. Data collected and keyed in at the District / Taluka, are transmitted electronically for consolidation at State level. Web site <http://www.kar.nic.in/rdpr> enables information at various levels. General Information is implemented in all the 27 districts and the Department is actively working towards keeping the data up-to-date. Touch screen Information Kiosks have been set up at strategic locations for citizens to access this information.

3.4 ROLE OF RAYATA FARMERS CONTACT CENTRE (RAYATA SAMPARK):

Table No: 3.1

UTILISATION OF FAMINE RELIEF FUNDS: 2002-03

Sr. No.	Particulars	No of Farmers	Amount of in %
1)	Seeds		
	Soyabean	82	50
	Tuar	3	50
	Mug	2	50
2)	Soil testing	3	50
3)	Sprinkler	4	50
4)	Plant Production Chemical	90	50
5)	Bio-Fertilizer	4	50
6)	Agrigold	5	50
7)	Pumps Sprey	8	50
8)	Power Trailer	1	50

Source: Rayata Sampark Centre.

The above table shows the utilization of famine relief funds by the farmers in the village Kognoli. The farmers in the village have taken the

seed facilities, sprinkler subsidy and bio-fertilizer as well as grants for spray pumps. Majority of the farmers have taken the subsidy for soyabean and for plant production chemicals. The soyabean seeds were available at 50% concessional rate as compared with market price.

The government of Karnataka has the scheme to finance for the farmers those who have affected by the famine. The Kognoli village was also having the scarcity of rain for the year 2003-04. (3)

3.5 ROLE OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRE, NIPANI

Agricultural Research Station, Nipani was established by Bombay Government in 1938 and was subsequently taken over by the government of Karnataka and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and now by Dharwad. ICAR sanctioned all India Research Project on Tobacco to this station in 1970. The station has made systematic efforts over the years of multi disciplinary research to develop and recommend improved varieties of bidi tobacco with resistance to pests and diseases and suitable production technology.

Varieties released from the station

- 1) **S-20:** - This variety was released from this station in the year 1957 for general cultivation in Nipani area. It was known for better quality tobacco and was in cultivation up to 1980 in larger area of the Nipani tract. But the variety lost its popularity in due course because of susceptibility to black shank disease and lower yield compared to other newly developed varieties.
- 2) **NPN- 190:** - This variety was developed and released from the station in the year 1979 for general cultivation in Nipani area. It is a HYV

under irrigated condition. The traders and farmers did not accept it, as the leaves are very thin especially under rain fed conditions though it was high Yielding Varieties.

- 3) **PI-5 (SPOORTHY):** - This variety was developed and released from the station in the year 1984 for general cultivation in Nipani area. It is a selection from cross between S-20 X A-2 leaves which are long, broad and thick, It is suitable variety for rain fed as well as irrigated conditions. On an average the Variety Yields 1500 Kg/Hectare. About 10 percent of the area in Nipani tract is under this variety.
- 4) **BHAGYASHREE:** - This variety was developed and released from the station in the year 1994 for general cultivation in Nipani area. It is a selection from cross between NPN-190 X PL-5. It gives about 18% higher yield than the popular variety A-119. The leaves are sufficiently thick and quality of produce is comparable to A-119. It is suitable for both rain fed and irrigated conditions and yields about 1800 kg/ha. About 10 percent of the area in the Nipani tract is under this variety.
- 5) **NPN-22 (BHAGYASHREE):** - The variety was developed and released from the station in the year 1997 for general cultivation Nipani area. The variety gives 25 to 30 percent higher yield than the popular variety –A-119 and PL-5. Both traders and farmers have accepted the variety. Under rain fed conditions topping at 14 to 16 leave and under irrigated conditions 18 to 20 leaves are recommended. The leaves are sufficiently longer, wider and thicker than other varieties. It gives on an average yield of 2000 kg/ha, under rain fed condition and 2500 to 3000 kg/ha under irrigated condition. The variety is becoming more popular than other varieties in Nipani area and is likely to occupy more area in future.

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The other variety recommended from the station

- 1) **A-119:** - The variety was developed and released from Anand, Gujarat state in the year 1969 for general cultivation in the country. The variety has become popular in Nipani area and was recommended from the Nipani station in the year 1995 for cultivation. On an average the variety gives the yield of 1800 kg/ha. Under rain fed and 2000 to 2200 kg/ha, under irrigated condition. About 50 to 60 % of the area in Nipani is under the cultivation of this variety.

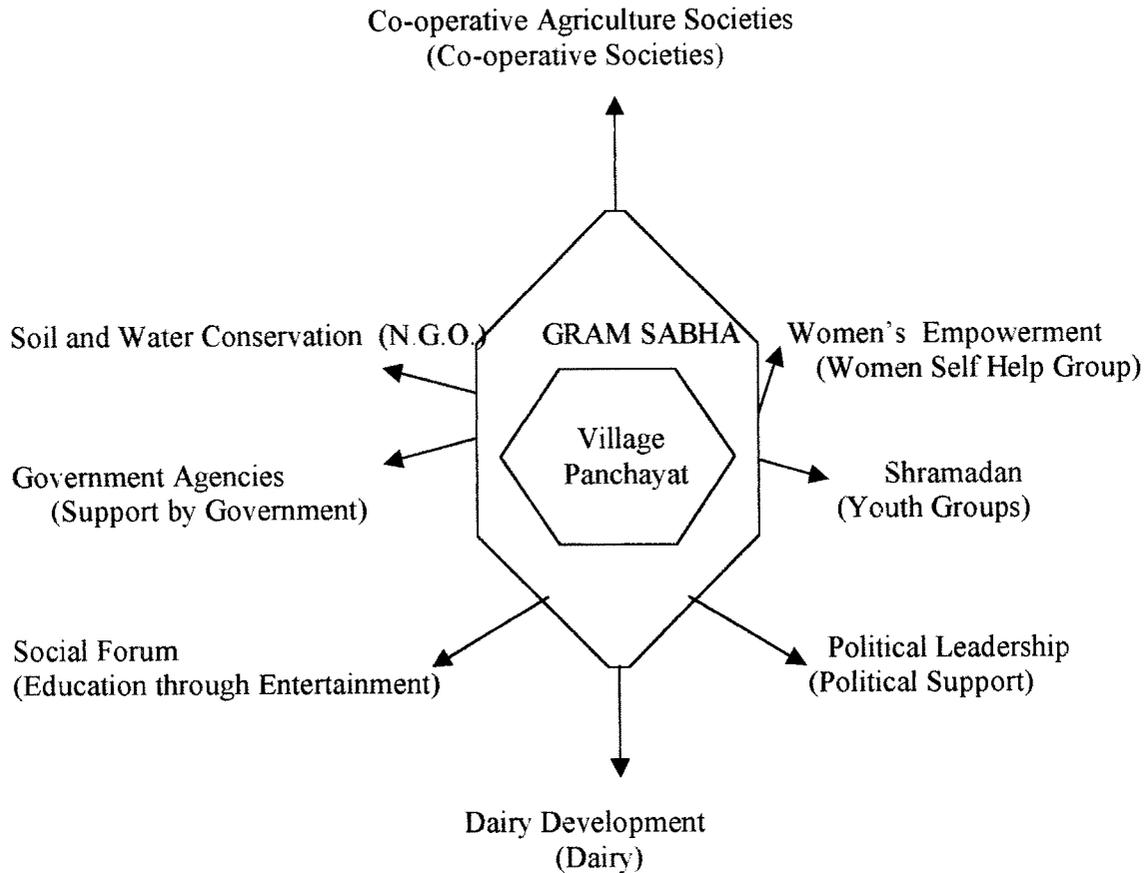
Almost all the above varieties has been cultivated by the farmers in Kognoli village and hence the, Government Research has helped the farmers in their agriculture production. (4)

3.6 ROLE OF PRIVATE RESEARCH AND VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Role of private Research

Agricultural research should help the farmers in making more efficient use of their resources through scientific management and enable them to not only reduce costs but diversify in to more remunerative crops. The research in private sector will also brings more innovations; but the benefits would be only to rich sections of peasants, because they will pay high prices for seeds and inputs. (5)

Aspects of Village Development



For the conservation of soil and environment the above ideal chart may apply by the various institutions in the village.

3.7 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

The Department of Agricultural Marketing is playing an important role in helping the producer-sellers (farmers) to secure higher share in the price paid by the consumer through regulation of market practices, assisting in grading the agricultural produce and providing warehousing facilities in the market yards. The Department is enforcing the following acts:

Table No. 3.2

The following table shows the expenditure spent on marketing of agricultural produce. (2001-2002)

Sr. No.	Scheme	Outlay (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Development of Primary Markets	50.00
2.	Development of Secondary Markets	50.00
3.	Development of Rural Shandies	50.00
4.	Providing Electronic Weighing Scales to weaker markets	25.00
5.	Construction of onion go-downs	20.00
6.	Construction of Cold Storages	40.00
7.	Providing equipment to Grading Labs	15.00
8.	Minimum Floor Price Scheme	3611.00
	Total	3861.00

GRADING

There are 44 Primary Grading Units functioning at important regulated markets in the State where grading is undertaken free of cost for the benefit of the farmers. 11 Government Grading Laboratories in the State are engaged in grading of ghee, butter, ground-spices, edible oils etc. Under 'AGMARK'. Rs.10.00 lakhs worth grading equipment and furniture have been provided in the year 2000-01 under State Sector Scheme.

LINK ROADS

The Department has taken up development of 50 Kms. of rural link roads in each Legislative Constituency (except urban areas) during 1995-96 and 1996-97. Such roads will be beneficial to take the agricultural produce to mandi.

a. The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1966 and Rules, 1968,

b. Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 (Central Act) (in so far as it relates to the grading of notified agricultural produce and edible oils),

c. Karnataka Warehouse Act, 1961 and Rules, 1969 (Licensing aspects). The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1966 aims at better regulation of marketing of agricultural produce and establishment and administration of markets for agricultural produce and matters connected therewith.

Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 is for the grading of agricultural produce under 'AGMARK' with a view to catering quality produce and the Department has also engaged in inspection and issue of licences for Warehouses for the benefit of producers and consumers.

There are 141 main markets and 342 sub-markets and 714 rural markets falling under 141 A.P.M.C.s. in the State. It is found that the farmer of Kognoli village has never been benefited by the Agricultural Department in obtaining fair and higher prices, as majority of the farmers sell their produce to private traders at Nipani.

Development Of Markets Under State Schemes

About 65 Primary Markets, 50 Secondary Markets and 37 Rural Mandies have been developed at a total cost of Rs. 260.00 lakhs during 9th Five Year Plan (1992-93 to 2000-01).

DEVELOPMENT OF COTTON MARKET YARDS UNDER TECHNOLOGY MISSION ON COTTON

Government of India has established the Technology Mission on Cotton under C.C.I. for improvement of the quality of cotton grown in the country and to provide better marketing facilities for the cotton.

Table No. 3.3

Under Mini-Mission III, following 4 market yards have been identified for development during 2000-01.

(Rs. in Crores)

A.P.M.C.	Tmc Assistance	Committee's Share	Total	Progress
Santhesargur	90.00	74.86	164.86	Final Stage
Ranebennur	90.00	126.39	216.39	Completed
Hubli	90.00	60.00	150.00	"
Mahalingapur (Lokapur)	25.00	24.87	49.87	"
Total	295.00	296.76	591.76	

Table No. 3.4**LIST OF MAIN MARKET AND SUB-MARKET IN
KARNATAKA AS ON 31-03-2002**

Sl.No.	Name of the District	No. Of Main Market	No. Of Sub-Market
BANGALORE DIVISION			
1	Bangalore (Urban)	2	6
2	Bangalore (Rural)	3	11
3	Chitradurga	4	10
4	Davanagere	6	8
5	Kolar	8	15
6	Shimoga	4	15
7	Tumkur	9	24
Division Total		36	89
MYSORE DIVISION			
1	Mysore	7	7
2	Chamarajnagar	3	4
3	South Canara	5	3
4	Udupi	3	4
5	Koorg	3	2
6	Chickamagalore	6	9
7	Hassan	6	17
8	Mandya	4	9
Division Total		37	55
BELGAUM DIVISION			
1	Belgaum	10	33
2	Bijapur	3	13
3	Bagalkot	5	15
4	Dharwad	5	12
5	Gadag	5	17
6	Haveri	6	12
7	North Canara	8	27
Division Total		42	129
GULBARGA DIVISION			
1	Gulbarga	7	22
2	Bellary	6	16
3	Bidar	5	9
4	Raichur	4	11
5	Koppal	4	13
Division Total		26	71
STATE TOTAL MARKETS		141	344

The above facilities have been availed by the farmers of sample village also. But the exact figure of farmers can not be calculated. But, the Nipani Agricultural Produce Market, which is 12 Kms away from Kognoli, has benefited the sample farmers Similarly, the village roads have also been newly constructed in the village, which has helped the farmers to take their produce to the market.

3.8 Conclusion:

This chapter shows that as per the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India, it has become easy for the Village Panchayat to develop their own policy for village agriculture. The various government bodies are helping the farmers by providing subsidized seeds, pesticides, etc. But the financial provisions in this respect seems very limited.

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