

C H A P T E R - 4

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN THE SANGAMESHWAR TALUKA

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CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In Chapter-3 i.e. the agricultural practices and use of resources. We have taken an account of the actual situation in the agricultural Sector of the taluka. From the survey carried out following conclusions can be drawn. The second part of the present chapter deals with the -- suggestions there off to improve the agricultural situation in the taluka.

I CONCLUSIONS.

- 4.1.1 The literacy rate in the surveyed area is very high (55.82 percent) and therefore illiteracy was not the problem in adopting new methods in farming.
- 4.1.2 Just one third of the total earnings were from agriculture, the main livelihood of the region.
- 4.1.3 On an average the agricultural income per hectare was Rs. 1428 only, and this was the lowest in the district.
- 4.1.4 Most of the farmers were depending on wages due to the low productivity of land.
- 4.1.5 Even at the end 20th century when India has secured a respectable place in developing economies, the economy of this taluka is still a money-order economy.

- 4.1.6 The supplementary business in the taluka is dairy farming but this too is not properly developed. The average milk yield per cow in the Sangameshwar taluka is the lowest in India. (Rs. 550 only per annum.)
- 4.1.7 The cattle with the farmers are of a local breed and hence the yield is low, resulting in the dairy farming in to unprofitable business.
- 4.1.8 The decadal population growth was higher than the districts average population growth rate. As the population growth was higher than the district's population growth and as there was no developed industrial sector the pressure on agriculture increased constantly and the number of farmers continued to increase resulting in further fragmentation of land holdings.
- 4.1.9 The average size of the family holding is very small (0.33 hectares) and the more horrific side of it is that the average holdings are divided into four plots having an average area of 4400 Sq.feet. This caused the lowering of productivity and therefore total output.
- 4.1.10 The utilisation of high yielding variety seeds is low.
- 4.1.11 Neavy capital investments are needed for agricultural development of the taluka.

4.1.12 Expenditures on fertilizers are more than any other elements in total expenditure on farming. But, the district's an average expenditure on fertilizer is more than surveyed area's an average expenditure on fertilizers.

4.1.13 The agriculture of the taluka is mainly dependent upon the mansoons.

4.1.14 The irrigation facilities were not availed fully. Only about 22.82 percent of the irrigation capacity of dams was utilised for agriculture. Table No. 4.1 gives the details of dams water utilisation for agriculture.

TABLE 4.1

Water utilisation of the dams.

| Name of the Dam. | Irrigation capacity of the dam. | Actual irrigation from the dam. |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mavlange | 40.00 | 30.00 |
| Nive | 15.39 | 6.62 |
| Kadwai | 128.42 | 15.80 |
| Kalambaste | 95.00 | 12.61 |
| Kondiware | 81.53 | 17.20 |
| Total | 360.34 | 82.23 |

- 4.1.15 As the agriculture was on subsistence level.
There was no surplus production of food grains.
- 4.1.16 Even through the farmers were educated, because
of certain economic reasons they were not practicing modern
farming.
- 4.1.17 The farmers have not under-stood the importance
of soil test and the use and imperative of quality of --
fertilizers.
- 4.1.18 The farmers have been using primitive implements
and the use of electricity in the agriculture has been very
low.
- 4.1.19 Most of the farmers do not possess even these
primitive implements in sufficient quantity.
- 4.1.20 As the average income-expenditure ratio was very
high it can be increased further by practicing modern methods
of cultivation and this certainly would improve the financial
position of the sample farmers.
- 4.1.21 Horticulture has been completely neglected by the
sample farmers in the area.

- 4.1.22 There has been timely and regular supply of fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. Therefore, supply of fertilizer, seeds, pesticides is no more the problem in adopting new methods in farming.
- 4.1.23 The farmers are not aware of various government schemes.
- 4.1.24 Co-operative societies in the agricultural -- processing are not in existence and the co-operative movement amongst the farmers is completely absent in the surveyed villages except for the milk producer's societies.
- 4.1.25 As the harvesting and ploughing seasons are very short the farmers have to spend on wages. It shows that the man power availability during the busy season was not sufficient.
- 4.1.26 Generally the farmers are lazy and their -- tendency is to work less and to earn more.
- 4.1.27 In some places of Sangameshwar Taluka the successful horticulture is being done by the farmers. But other farmers do not follow them, because they are satisfied with what they get.
- 4.1.28 Still some educated youngmen are not interested in farming, so the primitive nature of farming is not changing.

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4.2 SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE AGRICULTURE IN THE TALUKA.

4.2.1 Even though the people are literate it is seen that they do not adopt modern techniques and methods of cultivation. Therefore the need is to motivate them through various schemes of land development with efficient help and guidance which are needed.

4.2.2 It is founds that the average decadal population growth rate is higher than the district's average population growth rate. This has increased the population pressure on agriculture. To reduce this pressure there is a need to implement the population policy more effectively, especially in the lower Strata. Along with this, there is a need to develop industrial sector in the area. The industrial sector can prosper only if various concessions are given and M.I.D.C. area is developed in the Taluka. The following are some of the industries which can be developed in the area.

- 1) Small Scale paper-mill.
- 2) Match-Box industries.
- 3) Aluminium utensil production unit.
- 4) Cycle Assembly Unit.

These are the industries in addition to the present agro based industries existing in the district.

4.2.3 The main aim of dairy farming is to improve the living conditions of the farmers who are below the poverty line, but it is found that the cattle population, mainly cows and buffalos, are of lower quality. The need is to replace the local cattle with high milch variety of cattle. More facilities should be provided for cross-breeding.

4.2.4 The agricultural workers are paid at a very low rate. This is mainly because the fertility of the land is very low, and secondly during dry season they are unemployed. The work available under Employment Guarantee Scheme is mainly of a road construction - nature. The need is to provide them with the work as to make them selfsufficient and this can be done only through the projects which will multiply the employment opportunities. The best source is of the jungle product.

4.2.5 The economy of this taluka is a 'money order economy'. This indicates that the young blood is migrating to near by districts like Bombay, Kolhapur, Sangali etc. The development of a region is not -- possible unit and unless the young is enthusiastic and interested in the economic development of the region. Therefore the need is to stop this brain drain, and this is possible only if agricultural productivity is improved and industrial sector is developed.

4.2.6 From the foregoing findings it is clear that unless the average size of the holding is increased the productivity will not increase. There-fore the need is for land consolidation. Further division of land must be prohibited. This will improve the productivity of land.

4.2.7 The cropping pattern of the region is mainly of cultivation of cereals and this must be changed to the commercial crops. Unit and unless commercial crops are grown the financial position and the profitability of agriculture will not improve.

4.2.8 Large number of farmers were unwilling to take loan from different financial institutes mainly because of the difficulty in submitting the various papers and quite complicated procedures for them. The scheme of land record book (Khat-Pustika) was not properly implemented. The aim at the scheme was to provide the farmers with all papers required for - availins of various facilities, schemes and loans. There is a need to implement this scheme more effectively and the financial institutions as well as government officers should accept the records given or noted on the land records books.

4.2.9 It was found that irrigation capacity of the taluka was not fully utilised. The need is to

utilise the full capacity of irrigation. And for the purpose, various concessions for pumpsets, pipeline, etc. should be increased. It seems that as the - fertility of land is very low, there is a need to increase subsidy for various schemes of irrigation.

4.2.10 The construction of dams on rivers may increase the storage of rain-water. A number of such dams should be increased so that the full utilisation of the rain water will be possible.

4.2.11 At present there are about twenty irrigation projects which are not in use mainly because of two reasons. Firstly, timely maintainance is not carried out. Secondly, the works are incomplete. They incur heavy capital losses, and in a capital deficit region like this such capital loss can not be afforded.

4.2.12 The Dapoli Krishi Vidyapeeth has invented various new implements suitable for the region. But the farmers in the area are not useing these implements because of lack of knowledge. The government authorities should take steps so as to popularise these implements. Of course for this purpose there must be a change in the pattern of cultivation in the area.

- 4.2.13 Due to heavy rainy season and chopping down of trees, soil erosion is very heavy. Various soil - conservation schemes must be implemented and made compulsory for the farmers without considering their size of land holdings.
- 4.2.14 To make the farmers aware of a various schemes. There is a need for the government officials to reach up to every individual and explain to him the benefits of these schemes.
- 4.2.15 The productivity of land is very low, mainly because of the small farm size. As the land is divided into small plots and the farmers in this region have great affection towards the land it is impossible to increase the average farm size. Therefore the need is to try co-operative farming in the region. It has been proved at Gopuri in Kankavali taluka (in Ratnagiri district) that the productivity is directly related with the size of the farm. Therefore Co-operation ~~may~~ might be the only way out to improve utilisation of resources.
- 4.2.16 The formation of a water co-operatives may increase the land under irrigation. For the irrigation facilities, the individual farmers have to spend very large amounts of money and it becomes impossible for them to do so. This the farmer has to remain dependent on rain. If the farmers can gain big farming a co-operative -- irrigation society.

- 4.2.17 The area under forest is as low as 2 percent of the total geographical area. The forest is the source of employment. The forest products add to the national income. Certain industries can prosper if forests are increased. Taking all facts into consideration, it can be suggested that there is a need to increase the area under forest in this region. The scope for social forestry can be examined.
- 4.2.18 To improve the financial conditions of the farmers the need is to establish co-operative agro-based industries. There is a vast scope for such industries, for example, mango canning industries, cocum syrup - industry and such other industries can be established in co-operative sector.
- 4.2.19 To develop horticulture in this area it is necessary to establish nurseries of important rural centres like Sangameshwar, Makhajan, Sakharpa etc. At present there is only one nursery at Nive-Bk.
- 4.2.20 A horticulture office should be established at taluka place i.e. at Devrukh. It can be suggested that free distribution of various fruit plants will certainly aid the development of horticulture.

4.2.20 The various schemes of government should be made compulsory. The minimum size of land for the - implementation of such schemes must be reduced to 0.10 R. For in Sangameshwar taluka, the maximum members of farmers are holding smallest size of land. If government provides some schemes beneficial to the farmers, they would be happy to improve the land productivity.

4.2.21 The various government schemes are implemented through various departments of agriculture like soil conservation department, Land consolidation Dept., Training and Visit Dept., Horticultural Dept., etc. If the government forms only one department and one office at taluka level to implement all these schemes for farmers with adequate staff, it would be great assistance to the farmers. This will make it easy to flash out all the schemes as it will give benefit to the farmer from one or other schemes.

4.2.22 If the government provides loans and other facilities on concessional rates to the young graduate farmers. The maximum part of the graduate unemployment will move towards farming and it will reduce educated unemployment.

4.2.23 It has been observed that there is not a single experimental farm in Sangameshwar Taluka. The importance of such experimental farm, particularly with respect to

initiating poor farmers to more modern methods of farming, can hardly be over emphasised. A large number better products and better methods of production are developed in the country. If such methods and products/crops are not brought to the notice of the farmers then the results of the agricultural research must perforce remain 'imprisoned' in these institutes.

4.2.2§

One of the most important inputs in the agricultural sector which can have a profound impact on the total output and therefore the productivity of land, without necessarily increasing other allied inputs is irrigation waters. Unfortunately Sangameshwar taluka has a very good potential both in the agriculture and horticulture areas, which has not been realised so far. A large number of Irrigation Schemes for the Sangameshwar taluka have remained at the drawing board. Stage so far. These drawing board schemes are expected to have a potential of a irrigations at least 3000 additional hectares. It is suggested that steps be taken. To implement the schemes as expeditiously as possible.