

C H A P T E R - 1

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

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CHAPTER - 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION :

Agriculture is an important sector in any economic development. This sector plays a vital role in the economic development of a country. Historical evidence of today's developed countries like Japan, England etc. shows that economic development was possible only with the development of agriculture. It may be safely asserted that the Agricultural revolution must provide or accompany the Industrial revolution in any economy. There is no doubt that this sector of the economic contributes outstantially to the economic development of the country.

Agricultural conditions and practices differ from state to state in the Indian economy. And in every state it differ from district to district. Soil conditions, climatic factors and system of cropping produce, differences in agricultural productivity though the technique of cultivation is almost the same in different areas . Indian agriculture has continuously experienced difficulties arising out of differences in agricultural conditions and practices. No attempt l of the governmental level was made to solve the difficulties by means of co-ordinated agricultural planning during the British rule. Since the inaugaration of the Five Years Plan, sincere efforts are being made by the Government for removing the obstacles in the way of agricultural development and for bringing about a radical transformation of Indian agriculture. Yet some parts of agricultural activities and the contry are deficient in some way or the other . The present study seeks to examine " Identification of Problems of Farmers in Sangameshwar Taluka "

1.2 IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE ECONOMY :

The importance of agriculture in the economic development of India at present can precisely be discussed under the following heads .

1.2.1 SHARE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE NATIONAL INCOME :

The share of agriculture in national income is an important indicator of the role of that agriculture plays in economic development of a country. Figures supplied by the National Income Committee, The Central Statistical Organisation show clearly that agriculture and allied occupations contributed 39 percent of the national income in 1984-85. The two important facts must be emphasised here, firstly, agriculture contributes a high share of the national income in India. Secondly, the relative contribution of agriculture in national income is decreasing steadily after 1950-51 with the economic prosperity of country. To the extent the share of agriculture in national income declines, it marks a better level of economic advancement . On the other hand agriculture is the single largest contributor to national income. Therefore, progressive agricultural sector means a higher level of national income and consequently a higher level of economic development .

1.2.2 SUPPLIER OF SUBSTANTIAL FOOD AND FODDER :

The significance of agricultural sector in India can be borne out from the fact that this sector supplies many of the necessities of life. Today, the Indian agriculture is feeding about 810 million people besides supplying other necessities of life. Agricultural sector is also providing all the fodder that is needed to sustain livestock running into about 50 crores.

Agriculture provides variety of fodder to feed this number of various types of animals .

1.2.3 AGRICULTURE AS A SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD :

The agriculture sector provides livelihood to about three fourths of the Indian population, i.e., seven out of every ten persons in India depend on agriculture and seventy percent of the total labour force is engaged in agriculture.

1.2.4. AGRICULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT :

The development of large scale industries has not helped significantly in absorbing unemployed labour force in India. It has been estimated that since 1971, the labour force has increased by about 35 million . Of these about 25 million have been absorbed in agriculture and only 9 million in non-agricultural activities. The census figures of last 40 years show that the percentage of workers engaged in agricultural has been steadily increasing with the increasing population.

1.2.5 AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT :

Agricultural significance in Indian economy arises from the fact that it has been the source of supply of raw materials to our leading industries, for example, Jute, Cotton, Sugarcane, etc. . Therefore, agricultural progress is normally a prerequisite for industrial development. Many of our small and cottage industries are also dependent on agriculture, for example, Oil extracting from vegetables, rice husking etc. . Agriculture permits the release a part of its labour force for industrial development while meeting the increasing food needs of the industrial sector. On the other hand it raises agricultural incomes, thereby creating the rural -

purchasing power needed to buy new industrial goods.

1.2.6 ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE :

Indian agriculture has been a net earner of valuable foreign exchange for the country. Agricultural goods like tea, sugar, Oil seeds, tobacco, spices etc. constitute the main item of exports from India. Agricultural exports constitute a major portion of Indian exports and accounted for about 50 percent of the exports at present. This has great significance for Indian economic development because increased exports help the country to pay for the increased imports of Oil, Machinery and Raw materials.

1.2.7 IT CAN BE IMPROVED QUICKLY WITH LESS CAPITAL :

In the underdeveloped countries capital and organisation are scarce. But the agricultural production can be improved quickly with considerably less capital and organisation.

1.2.8 MODERNISATION OF AGRICULTURE :

Overhead capital, skills and managerial capacities are conspicuously absent in a developing countries like India, which are essential for industrial development. But it is generally said that there is no need of fully mechanised agriculture for its development. Large scale and rapid agricultural progress is possible with only certain substitution majors measures like using chemicals fertilizers in place of natural fertilizers, using iron ploughs in place of wooden ploughs etc.

1.2.9 THERE IS A SAVING IN EXPENDITURE :

Agriculture also contributes to national savings and capital formation . Industrial development brings with it urban people and

they need many goods which rural people may not demand in larger quantities e.g. air conditioners, cars etc. . If agricultural development is emphasised these expenditures are avoided and these amounts can be ploughed back.

1.3. FRAMEWORK OF THE PRESENT STUDY :

1.3.1 SUBJECT AND REGION :

It is worthwhile to use the empirical observation of the presently developed countries regarding the role of agricultural sector in their economic development. Hence a micro level case study of " Identification of Problems of Farmers in Sangameshwar Taluka " is attempted in this dissertation. The Sangameshwar Taluka happens to be one of the administrative sub-units of Ratnagiri district which is located on the west coast of the Maharashtra.

It is quite interesting to study the agricultural practices of this region as it exists and as one contemplates, it to be developed in the years to come. The following aspects of the taluka have much bearing in this context :

1. The taluka gets heavy rainfall during monsoons and it comprises of extensive hilly region.
2. The farm size in the region is below the size of economic holding .
3. It is one of the backward talukas in the backward district of Ratnagiri.
4. It is a hilly area which accounts for 80 percent of the geographical area in the Sangameshwar Taluka.

1.3.2 FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY :

The introductory aspect of the study discusses briefly the importance of agriculture with reference to economic development . This exposition is followed by objective of the study, Hypothesis, Methodology and the plan of the study in the first chapter.

7 This is followed by a broad geographical scenero of the Taluka. The first section covers physical features of Sangameshwar taluka like water resources, Soil, Relief features etc. while the second section deals with economic base of the Sangameshwar taluka with reference to the state of land utilisation, Horticulture, Forestry, Industry, Physical and economic characteristic of the taluka have considerable bearing on the agricultural practices also the analysis of the survey carried out follows . It deals with the holding pattern in the area, family size etc. This is followed by the conclusions and suggestions aspect of the study.

1.4. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY :

The study aims at the following objectives

- a) To evaluate the development of agriculture in the Sangameshwar taluka.
- b) To identify the problems of farmers in Sangameshwar taluka like the size of the farm, mechanisation, water supply, finance, possibility of cultivation of other than rice (paddy), marketing and transport problems etc.

1.5 HYPOTHESIS :

Agricultural and economic development are inter linked , infact both sustain each other. Empirical evidence in the developed economies reveals that agriculture development preceded their economic development, but it is also observed that the developmental avtivity in other spheres necessitates significant investments in agricultural sector. In the case of Sangameshwar taluka, the agricultural system as it exists is not only less developed but also less productive. The taluka itself is economically backward . However, efforts are made to improve the conditions. Major modern industries are encouraged to establish themselves in the taluka . Through delebarate measures, a well developed agricultural sector in the taluka might to be encouraged, which would go long way in boosting the efforts towards bringing about a structural transformation of the economy of the taluka.

1.6. METHODOLOGY :

1.6.1 AREA OF THE STUDY :

The Sangameshwar taluka constitutes the universe for the present study.

1.6.2 PRIMARY DATA :

There are 192 villages in Sangameshwar taluka of which 118 (61.45 % percent) of are non-irrigated and the remaining 74 villages (38.55 percent) are irrigated . To give equal weightage to irrigated and non-irrigated villaged 16 villages were surveyed. First the villages were grouped under non-irrigated

and irrigated categories and listed alphabetically, Ten villages from the non-irrigated group and six villages from irrigated group were selected randomly for survey.

The villages so selected for the survey varied from each other in farming area and number of farmers. Therefore it was decided to select 10 percent of the farming population from each village with the help of random tables available at the Tahasildar's Office. Thus for the selection fo the farmers (House Numbers) a list for every village was prepared and by using random sample method farmers were selected . Table 1.1 gives the details of the survey.

TABLE - 1.1

The Details Of The Survey

Villages/Farmers Type of land	Actual No. of villages	Total No. of farmers	Surveyed No. of villages	Surveyed No. of farmers
Non-Irrigated	118 (61.45)	30,068 (50.54)	10 (62.5)	146 (55.72)
Irrigated	74 (38.55)	29,423 (49.46)	06 (37.5)	219 (44.28)
Total -	192 (100)	59,491 (100)	16 (100)	365 (100)

Note : Figures in paranthesis indicates percentage to the totals.

For the purpose of the survey questionnaire method and interview method were used. A questionnaire was prepared and survey was carried out. The details sought through questionnaire related to family size, education, income and expenditure, agricultural details, loans etc. . Each farmer was visited and the information was collected personally.

1.6.3 SECONDARY DATA :

Secondary data is also used in this dissertation and has been collected from :

1. District Statistical Office, Ratnagiri.
2. Panchayat Samittee, Deorukh.
3. Tahasildar Office, Deorukh.
4. Statistical Abstracts of Ratnagiri District .
5. Others.

1.6.4 INTERVIEWS :

Interviews of the knowledgeable persons from the field and Government offices were also conducted with a view to gathering their opinion regarding the agricultural problems of the Sangameshwar taluka.

1.6.5 PLAN OF STUDY :

The plan of the study has been divided into the following chapters and sub-chapters.

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CHAPTER - 2 PHYSICAL FEATURES AND ECONOMIC BASE OF
SANGAMESHWAR TALUKA.

- 2.1 Physical Features of Sangameshwar Taluka.
- 2.1.1 Location.
- 2.1.2 Area.
- 2.1.3 Boundaries.
- 2.1.4 Rivers.
- 2.1.5 Soil.
- 2.1.6 Climate.
- 2.2 Economic Base of the Sangameshwar Taluka.
- 2.2.1 Population.
- 2.2.2 Occupational Pattern.

- 2.2.3 Land Utilisation.
- 2.2.4 Cropping Pattern.
- 2.2.5 Horticulture.
- 2.2.6 Forest Resources.
- 2.2.7 Industry.
- 2.2.8 Transport Facilities.
- 2.2.9 Review of Various Government Schemes for Agricultural Development.

CHAPTER - 3

AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND USE OF RESOURCES

- 3.1 Introduction.
- 3.2 Family Size and Literacy Rate.
- 3.3 Size of the Holding.
- 3.4 Earnings.
- 3.5 Expenditure Analysis.
- 3.6 Productivity.
- 3.7 Loans and Advances.
- 3.8 Agricultural Marketing.
- 3.9 Use of Modern Techniques.
- 3.10 Supply of Fertilizers, Seeds etc.
- 3.11 Cattle Population.
- 3.12 Co-Operative Movements.

CHAPTER - 4

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