
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MALSHIRAS TAHSIL

- 3.0 Introduction
- 3.1 ^{Primary} Activities of Economic Development 9
 - 3.1.1 Agriculture
 - 3.1.2 Livestock
 - 3.1.3 Dairy Farming
 - 3.1.4 Poultry Farming
- 3.2 Secondary Activities
 - 3.2.1 Sugar Industry
 - 3.2.2 Other Industries
- 3.3 Tertiary Activities
- 3.4 Summary

3.0 Introduction :

The economic development and general prosperity of an agricultural country, like India depends upon agricultural productivity. The economic development also refers to the problems of under-developed countries. It is a discontinuous and spontaneous change in the stationary state which forever alters and displaces the equilibrium state previously existing. It is also regarded as a process whereby real per capita income increases, accompanied by reduction in inequalities of income and satisfaction of the preferences of the masses as a whole.

India is an agricultural country. Agriculture is the main economic activity. It is a powerful engine of economic development. It has two special features in the developmental process. First it is an important industry in nearly all the underdeveloped and developing countries with 40 to 60 percent of gross national product (GNP) derived from agriculture and 50 to 80 percent of labour force employed in agriculture; secondly while contributing to economic development agriculture sector undergoes secular decline relative to other sectors (Scultz, 1964).

Malshiras tahsil is an agricultural tahsil. The geographical area of the tahsil is 1,522.2 sq.km. Out of which 56.42 percent constitutes net sown area (1960-65) which remains

almost same in the year 1975-80. According to 1961, 84.82 percent working population was engaged in primary sector, which decreased to 78.79 percent in 1981. ✓

3.1.0 Activities of economic development :

The economic activities are grouped into primary, secondary and tertiary activities. Primary activity includes agriculture, livestock, dairy farming, poultry farming, etc. Secondary activity includes manufacturing, processing, construction etc. and tertiary activity include trade and commerce, transport, storage and communication, and other services. ✓

3.1.1 Agriculture is the main source of livelihood of the people in the Malshiras tahsil. About 78.79 percent of the working population engaged in the agriculture. The agriculture of this region supposed as an industry, as it provides raw material for industries like cottage and sugar. Therefore, agriculture of the Malshiras tahsil has got considerable importance in the economic development. ✓

The development of agriculture in this region is assessed on the basis of following indicators :-

- 1) Percentage of gross cropped area to net sown area;
- 2) Percentage of net area irrigated to net area sown, and
- 3) Productivity and production of important crops.

Percentage of gross cropped area to net sown area is an important indicator. The Table No.3.1 gives percentage of gross cropped area to net sown area in the Malshiras tahsil from 1960-61 to 1980-81.

Table No.3.1 : Percentage of Gross Cropped Area to Net Sown Area.

Sr.No.	Year	Percentage
1.	1960-61	104.00
2.	1965-66	104.46
3.	1970-71	107.70
4.	1975-76	116.40
5.	1980-81	118.00

Source : Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstracts Solapur District (1960 to 81).

Table No.3.1 gives percentage of gross cropped area to net sown area from 1960-61 to 1980-81. It reveals from the table that the percentage of gross cropped area to net sown area in 1960-61 was 104.00 percent which remains almost same in 1965-66, but rose to 107.70 percent in the year 1970-71 and it also increased to 118 percent in 1980-81. ✓

This increase in gross cropped area to net sown area was

due to availability of canal water in the region. Because of this it became possible to take both Kharif and Rabi crops, which results increase in the gross cropped area. Similarly, improved seeds of Jawar, Wheat, Bajra, Maize etc. took short period to grow, so that land become free earlier to take other crops within a year.

Percentage of net irrigated area to net sown area has much importance in the region. Table No.3.2 gives the percentage of net irrigated area to net sown area in the Malshiras tahsil (1960-61 to 1980-81).

Table No.3.2 : Percentage of net irrigated area to net sown area.

Sr.No.	Year	Percentage
1.	1960-61	28.22
2.	1965-66	29.47
3.	1970-71	39.37
4.	1975-76	39.03
5.	1980-81	43.12

Source : Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstracts - Solapur District (1960-81).

Table No.3.2 reveals that there was a increase in area under irrigation since 1960-61. In the year 1960-61, the

percentage of net irrigated area to net sown area was 28.22 percent, which is not much altered in 1965-66 (29.47%) but considerably increased in the year 1970-71 (39.37%). This remains almost same in the year 1975-76 but increased to 43.12 percent in the year 1980-81.

This increase in the percentage of net irrigated area to net sown area was due to Nira Right Bank Canal. This canal irrigation enhanced the land under irrigation and because of the 'Sugar Movement' in Maharashtra, the area under sugarcane increased in the region. Similarly this canal irrigation caused to double cropping in the region. By the table it shows that increase in this percentage by 14.90 percent during the span of two decades cause to economic development of the region.

Productivity and production of important crops also reflect the agricultural development of the region. Table No. 3.3 gives the information about yield per hectare and production of important crops in the region for the years 1960-61 and 1980-81.

Table No.3.3 indicates that the yield per hectare of above all crops increased over a period of two decades (1960-80) due to modernization of agriculture. Farmers use the modern inputs like high yielding varieties, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, modern impliments etc. The yield per hectare of

Table No.3.3 : Yield per hectare and Production of important crops. (Yield per hectare in kg. & production in metric tonnes)

Sr. No.	Crops	1960-61		1980-81	
		Yield per hectare	Production	Yield per hectare	Production
1.	Jawar	369	23,317	447	15,787
2.	Wheat	577	449	773	8,005
3.	Bajra	44	587	163	307
4.	Maize	996	587	1,626	980
5.	Gram	314	519	292	513
6.	Tur	538	450	290	493
7.	Sugarcane *	73,180	28,931	106,100	107,596
8.	Cotton *	148	197	332	994
9.	Groundnut	593	1,443	697	1,318
10.	Chillies	589	121	788	139

* Production of sugarcane in terms of gur, and production of cotton in term of bales.

Source : Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstracts - Solapur District (1960-81).

Jawar and Bajra was 369 kg. and 44 kg. in 1960-61, which was increased to 447 kg. and 163 kg. in 1980-81 respectively. But the production of Jawar and Bajra was 23,317 metric tonnes and 587 metric tonnes in the year 1960-61 which decreased to 19,787 metric tonnes and 307 metric tonnes in 1980-81 respectively. This decrease in the production of Jawar and Bajara was due to changing cropping pattern from subsistence to commercial farming and little ignorance of the farmers towards these crops because of sugarcane cultivation, as there are four sugar factories in the region. The yield per hectare of Wheat was 577 kg. in 1960-61 which was increased to 773 kg. in 1980.81. The production of wheat was 449 metric tonnes in 1960-61 which was increased to 8,005 metric tonnes in 1980-81. This increase in the Wheat production is due to increase in the yield per hectare and increase in the area under wheat cultivation. The increase in the yield per hectare is because of improved seeds and proper fertilizers as the capacity of the farmers increased to provide it, because of village credit societies, and banks in the region. The yield per hectare of sugarcane and cotton was 73,180 kg. and 148 kg. in 1960-61 which was increased to 106,100 kg. and 332 kg. in 1980-81 respectively. The production of sugarcane and cotton were 28,931 metric tonnes and 197 bales in 1960-61 which was increased to 107,546 metric tonnes and 944 bales in 1980-81 respectively. This increase in the production of sugarcane was due to proper inputs, incentives of the

sugar factories to the farmers and careful attention of the farmers towards crops.

3.1.2 Livestock :

Livestock occupies an important place in the agricultural economy of the tahsil. It also contributes one of the farmer's most coveted possessions. The power required for agricultural operations such as ploughing, harrowing, drawing water for irrigation, transport etc. is mainly derived from bullocks. Cows and she-buffaloes are reared for purposes of breeding and milk production. Livestock also provide much of organic manure used in the farm. The tahsil is famous for indigeneous breed of cattle known as "Khilar".

Table No.3.4 gives the livestock population in percentage in Malshiras tahsil.

Table No.3.4 : Livestock Population.

Sr. No.	Particulars	1961	1983	Volume of Change
1.	Cattle	35.98	24.85	-11.13
2.	Buffaloes	5.84	7.95	+ 2.11
3.	Sheeps	39.38	40.07	+ 0.69
4.	Goats	18.09	16.77	- 1.32
5.	Other livestock	0.72	7.07	+ 6.36
6.	Improved and Cross-breed cows	-	3.29	+ 3.29
7.	Total Livestock	100.00	100.00	+12.45
				-12.45

Source : Compiled by author. Based on ?

The total number of livestock population according to 1961 was 146,386, which was increased to 257,050 in 1983. The table No.3.4 reveals that percentage of cattle population to the total livestock population was 35.98 percent in 1961 which decreased to 24.85 percent in 1983. This decrease in the cattle population was due to mechanization of agriculture and less yield of milk from indigenous cows. The people of the region turned towards rearing of improved cows, because they yield more milk than indigenous cows. The percentage of buffaloes to total livestock population was 5.84 in 1961 which increased to 7.95 in 1983. The percentage of sheep to the total livestock population was 39.38 in 1961 which increase to 40.07 in 1983. The sheep population takes significant place in the livestock population in the region. Sheep reared mainly in the southern part of the tahsil which is hilly area, where grass lands are available. Since 1975 improved and cross-breed cows are increasing in number, with the development of dairy farming in the region. The percentage of improved and cross-breed cows was 3.29 in 1983. It is observed from the table that total volume of change is 12.45 percent over a period of 22 years (1961-83) in livestock population. The positive change is observed in respect of buffaloes (+2.11%), Sheep (+0.69%), other livestock (+6.36%) and improved and cross-breed cow (+3.29%) whereas negative change is observed in respect to cattle (-11.13%) and Goat (-1.32%).

3.1.3 Dairy farming :

In a predominantly agricultural economy, dairy farming has an important role to play. The purpose of dairy farming is to provide hygienically processed milk to people at reasonable rate and also to provide a subsidiary occupation to the farmers. By keeping this view "Shivamrut Dudh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh Ltd., Shankarnagar (Akluj)" established in January, 1976.

Table No.3.5 gives the information of Shivamrut Dudh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh, Ltd., Shankarnagar (Akluj).

Table No.3.5 : Progress of Shivamrut Dudh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh Ltd., Shankarnagar (Akluj).
(Malshiras Tahsil)

Sr.No.	Particulars	1976-77	1982-83
1.	Number of milk producer's co-operative societies	35	80
2.	No. of villages in the area of operation	35	100
3.	Working Capital	53,700	—
4.	Average Daily Collection (litres)	4,300	28,500

Source : Annual Report of Shivamrut Dudh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh, Ltd., Shankarnagar (Akluj) - 1982-83.

The Shivamrut Dudh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh is the only one milk union in the tahsil. The number of milk producers co-operative societies was 35 in 1976-77 which increased upto 80 in 1982-83. The number of villages in the area of operation of Shivamrut Dudh Sangh was 35 in 1976-77 which increased utp 100 in 1982-83. The daily collection of Shivamrut Sangh was 4,800 litres in the year 1976-77 which increased to 28,500 litres in 1982-83. Thus, there is a significant development of dairy farming in the Malshiras tahsil, and still there is scope for the development of dairy farming in the tahsil.

Taking into consideration number of milking cows and buffaloes in flush and lean season. Potential milk production in the region is estimated. About 2/3 to the milking cows and buffaloes of the flush season are considered as milking in lean season. Milk of the cow is considered 2 litres per day in flush season and 1.5 litres per day in lean season, for buffaloes 2.5 litres per day in flush season and 2.0 litres in lean season and for improved and Cross-breed cows 10 litres per day during flush and lean season.

Table No.3.6 gives the milk potential of the Malshiras tahsil during 1982-83.



Table No.3.6 : Milk Potential (Malshiras Tahsil).

Sr. No.	Milking Animals	Season	Number of milking animals	Rate per animal	Estimated total milk
1.	Cows	Flush	9,280	2.0	18,560
		Lean	6,180	1.5	9,279
2.	Buffaloes	Flush	4,898	2.5	12,245
		Lean	6,265	2.0	6,530
3.	Improved & Cross-breed cows	-	5,768	10.0	57,680
4.	Average	-	-	-	80,987

Source : Compiled by author.

Table No.3.6 reveals that estimated daily milk potential during flush season is 88,585 litres and during lean season is 73,489 litres. Therefore average estimated daily milk potential is 80,987 litres. But the average daily collection of the Shivamrut Sangh through milk producers co-operative societies is 28,500 litres for the year 1982-83. This shows that there is ample scope for the development of dairy farming in the region.

For the development of dairy farming in the Malshiras tahsil 'Shivamrut Dudh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh, Ltd., Shankarnagar and other agencies have started the following schemes.

Cross-breeding programme :

Introduction of improved milk animals are necessary to increase the milk production. It is not practicable to have an exotic breeds like H.F. and Jercy as they do not suit in this region. Hence the cross-breeding programme has been taken in the region by various agencies. ✓

Zilha Parishad Solapur installed three artificial insemination cetres at Malshiras, Akluj and Natepute; Government of Maharashtra, Department of Animal Husbandary installed two centres of artificial insemination at Piliv and Tandulwadi; and Shivamrut Dudh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh installed two centres at Shankarnagar (Akluj) and Sadashivnagar (Purandawade).

Milk chilling plant :

The milk chilling plant installed at Shankarnagar by Shivamrut Dudh Utpadak Sangh in 1976. The capacity of the plant is 20,000 litres per day which is less than the daily collection of milk by Shivamrut Sangh. It indicates the additional requirement of the capacity of chilling plant.

Ice factory :

Milk is a perishable commodity. It is necessary to keep it at lower temperature during its transport from collection centres to the chilling plants. For this Shivamrut Sangh

installed the ice factory of its own in July 1982. The capacity of the ice factory is 10 metric tonnes per day.

Milk collection :

The Shivamrut Dudh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh, Ltd., Shankarnagar (Akluj) has its transportation system to collect the milk from milk producers societies of different villages in the tahsil. Sangh has nine trucks and collects the milk on 9 routes in the morning and five routes in the evening.

3.1.4 Poultry farming :

Poultry farming, particularly in the rural areas provide source of income to the cultivators and agricultural labourers. The poultry schemes propagated by the extension officers and Gram Sevak are now wellcomed by the people in the region. The persons attend the courses of short duration organised by Animal Husbandary Department to impart training in Poultry Keeping. A provision also made to give financial assistance through Panchayat Samiti Malshiras, and Animal Husbandary Department in the form of loans, subsidies to purchase eggs, improved cocks, breeding improvement and to the improvement of poultry houses.

There is a Rajhuns Sahakari Kukut Palan Sangh Ltd., Shankarnagar (Akluj) established in May 1965. The aim of the Sangh is to enhance the economic status of the shareholders who are economically backward. The cultivators, agricultural

labourers and employers also take advantage of the Sangh. In the development of Rajhuns Sahakari Kukut Palan Sangh, role of Yeshwant Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Shankarnagar is important. Table No.3.7 gives information regarding the Rajhuns Sahakari Kukut Palan Sangh Ltd., Shankarnagar (Akluj).

Table No.3.7 : Progress of Rajhuns Sahakari Kukut Palan Sangh Ltd., Shankarnagar. (Figures in '000') Rs

Sr. No.	Particulars	1978-79	1980-81	1982-83
1.	Government share capital	550	450	350
2.	Shareholder capital	472	786	948
3.	Yeshawant Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana share capital	100	25	25
4.	No. of shareholders	1,376	1,654	1,692
5.	Eggs production	7,297	9,034	11,497
6.	Eggs sale in Rs.	2,233	3,003	4,539
7.	Net profit	32	8	17

Source : Annual Report of Rajhuns Sahakari Kukut Palan Sangh Ltd., Shankarnagar (Akluj) 1982-83.

Table No.3.7 shows that shareholders capital was Rs.472 thousand in 1978-79 which was increased to Rs.948 thousand in the year 1982-83. The number of share-holders also increased from

1,376 in 1978-79 to 1,692 in 1982-83. The total eggs production was 7,297 thousand in 1978-79 which was increased to 11,497 thousand in 1982-83. The Kukut Palan Sangh is in profit since beginning. Rajhuns Sahakari Kukut Palan Sangh sales the eggs according to Bombay market price to the traders of Bombay and Poona, to give the appropriate price of eggs of shareholders. The Rajhuns Sahakari Kukut Palan Sangh also provides the poultry houses, poultry food, laying boxes on rental basis to the shareholders and provide sailing facility to the producer shareholders.

3.2.0 Secondary activities :

Secondary activities of economy include activities like manufacturing, processing, construction etc. Table No.3.8 gives information regarding the percentage of workers engaged in secondary sector of economy since 1961 in the Malshiras tahsil.

Table No.3.8 : Percentage of workers in the secondary sector since 1961.

Sr.No.	Year	Percentage of workers
1.	1961	7.86
2.	1971	8.76
3.	1981	10.02

Source : District Census Handbook of Solapur District.

Table No.3.8 shows that the percentage of workers engaged in secondary sector of economy was 7.76 in 1961 which was increased to 10.02 in 1981. The increase in the percentage of working population in the secondary sector is not large, because the economic development of the region largely depends on the primary sector.

In Malshiras tahsil the secondary sector is dominated by sugar industry. As there are four sugar factories in the region the economic development of the region depends mostly on the sugar industry.

3.2.1 Sugar industry :

Sugar industry plays very important role in the economic development of the Malshiras tahsil. It has made a strong foundation in industrial landscape of Malshiras tahsil. It provides one of the resources and forms agro complexes in the region. The region has considerable potential for sugarcane cultivation. There are four sugar factories in the Malshiras tahsil. The first sugar factory 'The Saswad Mali Sugar Factory Ltd., Malinagar (Akluj) registered in 1932 and started crushing with crushing capacity of 1000 metric tonnes per day. The second sugar factory 'The Brahan-Maharashtra Sugar Syndicate, Ltd., Shripur (Borgaon)' registered in 1934 and started crushing with crushing capacity of 1000 metric tonnes per day. The table No.3.9 gives the position of sugar factories in the region for the year 1960-61.

Table No.3.9 : Performance of Sugar Factories 1960-61.

Sr. No.	Sugar Factory	Crushing Capacity	Cane crushed in the year	Sugar produced in quintal	Average recovery
1.	The Saswad Mali Sugar Factory Ltd. Malinagar	1,000	180,400	170,820	9.12
2.	The Brahan Maharashtra Sugar Syndicate Ltd., Shiripur (Borgaon).	1,000	192,492	190,830	9.50
Total		2,000	372,892	361,650	-

Source : 1) Annual Report of 'The Saswad Mali Sugar Factory Ltd., Malinagar, 1960-61.

2) Annual Report of 'The Brahan Maharashtra Sugar Syndicate Shripur, 1960-61.

Table No.3.9 shows that the crushing capacity of the two sugar factories in the region was 2000 metric tonnes per day in 1960-61 and cane crushed by these two factories was 372,892 metric tonnes. The sugar produced by these two factories in 1960-61 was 361,650 quintals.

After 1960 growing sugarcane area leads to growing demand for new sugar factories and increase of crushing capacity of the present factories. The result was that additional two factories were established. The Yeshawant Sahakari Sakhar

Karkhana Ltd., Shankarnagar (Akluj) established in June 1960 in co-operative sector and started crushing in February 1963 with the crushing capacity of 1,250 metric tonnes per day. The another co-operative unit 'Shankar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana' Ltd., Sadashivnagar (Purandawade) established in December 1968 and started crushing in 1970-71 with the crushing capacity of 1,250 metric tonnes per day. The crushing capacity of Yeshawant Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Shankarnagar increased to 3,000 metric tonnes per day since 1978 and crushing capacity of 'The Brahan-Maharashtra Sugar Syndicate Ltd., Shripur' increased to 1,300 metric tonnes per day since 1963. The distrillary unit was sanctioned by the Government to Yeshawant Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Shankarnagar. The work of the distillery unit is in progress and production capacity of the unit is 30,000 litres per day.

The four sugar factories at Malinagar, Shankarnagar (Akluj), Shripur (Borgaon) and Sadashivnagar (Purandawade) are located in the northern part of the Malshiras tahsil (Fig.3.1). The concentration of sugar factories in the northern part of the tahsil is mainly because of fertile soil and availability of canal irrigation; which enhance the sugar cultivation. The Table No.3.10 gives the position of sugar factories in the region for the year 1982-83.

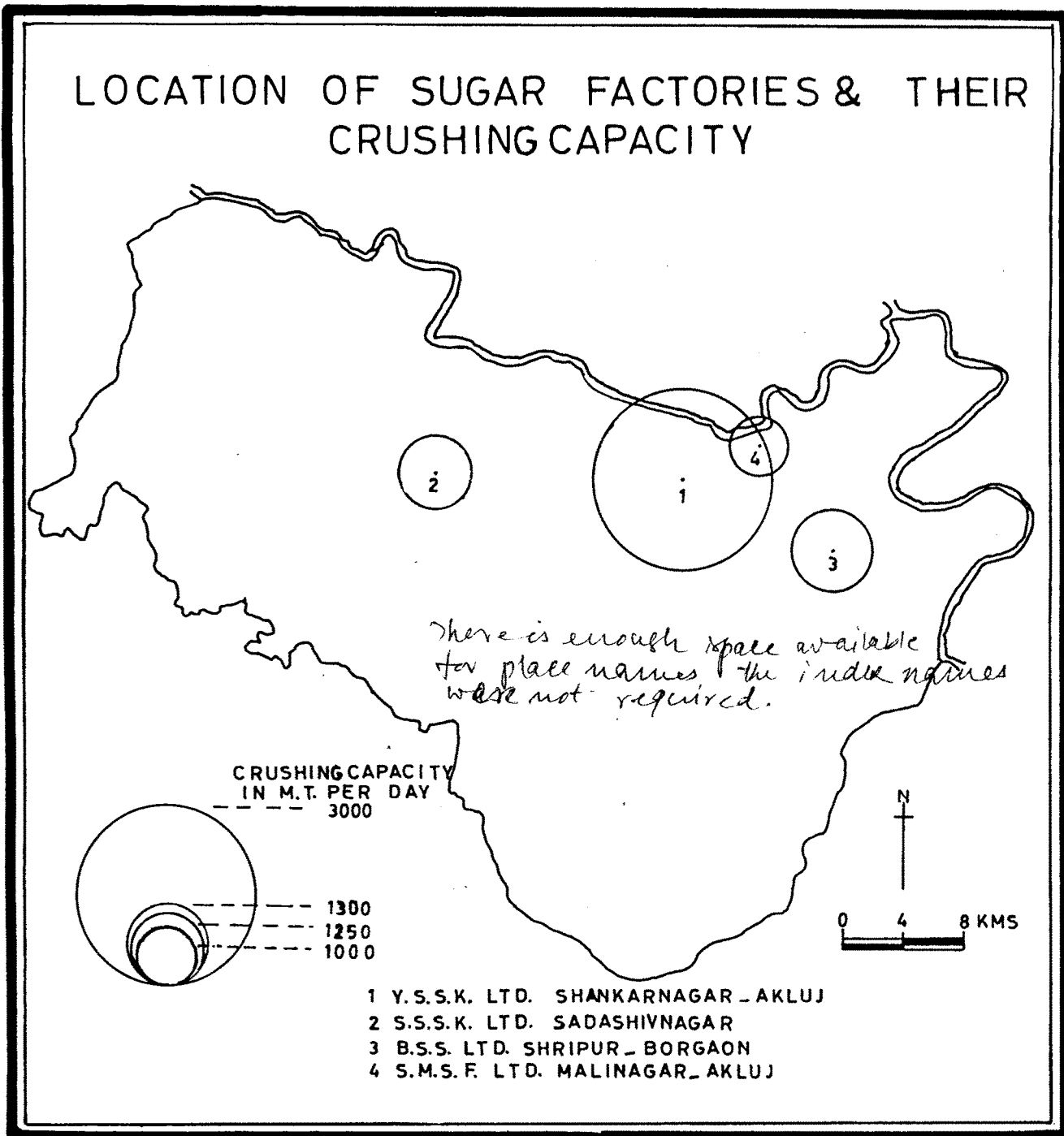


FIG. 3.1

Table No.3.10 : Performance of Sugar Factories 1982-83.

Sr. No.	Sugar Factory	Crushing Capacity (metric tonnes)	Cane crushed in the year <i>in mt</i>	Sugar produced in quintal <i>in mt</i>	Average recovery <i>in %</i>
1.	The Saswad Mali Sugar Factory Ltd.Malinagar	1,000	198,464	200,872	10.12
2.	The Brahan Maharashtra Sugar Syndicate Ltd.Shripur	1,300	201,412	210,820	10.05
3.	The Yeshwant Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd.Shankarnagar	3,000	614,371	641,517	10.56
4.	Shankar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd.Sadashivnagar	1,250	329,938	371,140	11.19
Total		6,550	<u>1,344,185</u>	<u>1,424,349</u>	-

Source : Annual Reports of Sugar Factories, 1982-83.

Table No.3.10 reveals that the crushing capacity of the four sugar factories in the region was 6,550 metric tonnes per day in 1982-83 which was 2,000 metric tonnes per day of two sugar factories in 1960-61. This increase in the crushing capacity during two decades was by 4,550 metric tonnes per day, which shows the increase in area under sugarcane cultivation in the region. The cane crushed in the year 1982-83 by four sugar

factories was 1,344,185 metric tonnes and cane crushed in 1960-61 by two sugar factories was 372,892 metric tonnes. This increase of the cane crushed during the period of two decades was 971,293 metric tonnes. It is observed from the Table No.3.10 that the average recovery of the Sadashivnagar Sugar Factory (11.19) is higher than the other sugar factories in the region. The sugar produced by these four factories was 1,424,349 quintals for the year 1982-83 and during the year 1960-61 sugar produced by two sugar factories was 361,650 metric tonnes.

The sugar factories in the region are playing very important role in the economic development of the region. They provide various facilities to share-holders and farmers of their command area. They had given financial assistance to the irrigation schemes. The Yeshawant Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Ltd., Shankarnagar (Akluj) has sponsored 7 irrigation schemes upto 1983. Out of which two irrigation schemes are in the region at Beradwadi and Neware. Besides this 346 wells were ^{8p} dugged in its command area. From these sources about 1,012 hectares of land was brought under irrigation in the region.

They have established the soil testing laboratories. They bring soil samples from the field of shareholders, analyse it and recommend doses of fertilizers. They also supply manures and fertilizers to shareholders. Pressmud is supplied at cheaper

rate. Financial assistance for purchasing chemical fertilizers, cultivation of sugarcane, agriculture implements etc. is available through village co-operative banks and State banks of India on security of sugar factories. So that timely supply of fertilizers, pesticides and use of other modern inputs become possible.

3.2.2 Other industries :

Other industries, like tanning, leather working, wool weaving, rope making, oil ghanis and mills, carpentry, blacksmithy, pottery etc. occupy an important place in the economy of the region. They provide a source of livelihood to numerous artisans and craftsman, who were well known for their skill and workmanship. Village craftsman catered the needs of the community by providing various agricultural implements, domestic articles, furniture, clothing, footwares and variety of articles of daily use and luxury goods. Most of these cottage industries are traditional, carried out by families belonging to certain caste only.

The tanning industry is found in the villages like Akluj, Malshiras, Natepute and Piliv in which hides are generally tanned by Dhor, Mahar and Mang communities. Leather working is also traditional occupation of chambhar community, who purchase finished leather and prepare footwares like chappal and shoes. The main centres of leather working in the

region are Akluj, Malshiras and Natepute. Wool weaving is carried on small scale in the villages located in the southern part of the tahsil, where sheep rearing is the main activity of Dhangar community. Spinning is done by women and weaving is undertaken by men of Dhangar and Sangar community, in the 30 villages of the Malshiras tahsil. Natepute and Piliv are the two main wool weaving centres in the region. By considering the sheep population (85,008) in the region there is a wide scope for establishing the new wool weaving industry in the region. The region has 8.46 percent of the grass lands. Out of this southern part of the tahsil has 7.16 percent of the grass lands. These grass-lands show the potential for the sheep rearing in the region which ultimately base for wool weaving industry in the region. The appropriate location for the wool weaving industry is Piliv, because the Piliv is located approximately at the centre of the southern Malshiras tahsil having good transportation facilities. This centre has also weekly market centre in which wool can be collected and also blankets can be prepared. The Piliv may become an important centre for the production of woollen blankets. ✓

Rope making is the traditional occupation of the Mang community, which is carried on a small scale nearly in all villages. Ropes of different type for the agricultural operation prepared from the Kekat fibre. The raw material required for

the industry is Kekat fibre, which is grown largely along the banks of irrigation canals and along the banks of private fields in the Malshiras tahsil. Carpenters are found in all villages. They prepare and repair agricultural impliments. In addition to this number of carpenters are engaged in manufacture of furnitures and building works. As like the carpenter, Blacksmiths are scattered in all the villages of Malshiras tahsil, where they carry on work of repairing of agricultural impliments and also produce iron buckets, iron pots, frying pans etc. Pottery industry is also scattered in all villages but potters are mainly concentrated in the area near Nira river bank, mainly because of availability of clay and water.

Oil ghanis are concentrated mainly at Akluj (6), however, they are found in big villages like Malshiras (3), Natepute (4) and Piliv (2). Besides oil ghanis oil extraction is done on a large scale in oil mills. Oil mills are located at Akluj (4). Oil is extracted from edible oil seeds, like groundnuts, sunflower etc.

Other cottage industries like goldsmithy, bamboo working are there in the region. Goldsmiths are concentrated in big villages like Akluj, Malshiras and Natepute.

3.3.0 Tertiary activities :

The contribution of tertiary sector in the economy of the Malshiras tahsil as compared to primary sector is very less. The primary sector contributes 78.79 percent of the total working population whereas the tertiary sector contributes only 11.01 percent of the working population. But it is evident that tertiary activities are also increased considerably during the period of two decades, which enhance the economic development of Malshiras tahsil.

Table No.3.11 gives the percentage of working population in the tertiary sector since 1961 in the Malshiras tahsil.

Table No.3.11 : Percentage of Working Population in Tertiary Sector.

Sr.No.	Year	Percentage of working population
1.	1961	7.32
2.	1971	8.24
3.	1981	11.01

Source : District Census Handbook of Solapur District 1961-71-81.

Table No.3.11 reveals that the percentage of working population in the tertiary sector has been increased since

1961. The percentage of working population in the tertiary sector was 7.32 in 1961 which was increased to 11.01 percent in 1981. This increase in the percentage of working population shows the increase in the tertiary activities.

Tertiary sector includes the activities like, trade and commerce, transport, storage and communication and other services. The trade and commerce occupies considerable place in the economy of the region.

Akluj, Natepute and Piliv are the important trade centres in the Malshiras tahsil. Akluj has an Agricultural Produce Market Committee which was established in 1950. It is one of the biggest market in the district. The annual turnover of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Akluj was Rs.75,000/- in the year 1950. It rose to 8 lakhs in 1982-83. The main agricultural commodities of the market are gur, cotton, groundnut, sunflower, jawar, wheat bajra etc. All these commodities are sold by auction method. The payment of the sale produce are made by the agents. The first instalment of the payment is given at the time of keeping goods in the agent's shops and remaining amount is paid after the sale of goods. The cattle trade of Agricultural Produce Market Committee consists of bullocks, cows, sheeps, goats, buffaloes & horses.

Besides the principal market yard at Akluj, Market Committee has sub-market yards at Natepute and Piliv. Sub-market Yard of Natepute established in 1954 and of Piliv in 1981. Annual turnover of Agricultural Produce Committees at Natepute and Piliv was Rs.450,000/- and Rs.150,000/- for the year 1982-83.

In the Malshiras tahsil Akluj, Natepute, Piliv and Malshiras are the important trade centres having transport, storage and communication facilities. Besides these Shindewadi, Kurbavi, Dharmapuri, Dhahigaon, Mandvi, Islampur, Purandwade, Wagholi, Velapur and Borgaon villages of the Malshiras tahsil are the weekly market centres and act as trade and commercial centres.

3.4.0 Summary :

Malshiras tahsil is an agricultural tahsil. It accounts about 56.04 percent net sown area in 1975-80. About 78.79 percent of the working population engaged in primary sector. Agriculture is the main activity of the region. The agricultural development of the region is assessed by the three indicators viz. i) Percentage of gross cropped area to net sown area
ii) Percentage of net area irrigated to net sown area and
iii) Productivity and production of important crops. Livestock farming plays an important role in which dairy farming,

poultry farming and sheep rearing are prominent. The place of sugar industry in the secondary activities is dominant, as four sugar factories are located in the region. These four sugar factories became an important cause of the economic development of the region. Along with these sugar factories other industries are also significant in which woolen blanket industry should get importance. In tertiary sector about 11.01 percent of the working population was engaged, but has little significance as compared to secondary activities. Akluj has a Agricultural Produce Market Committee which plays significant role in trade and commerce in the region.

R E F E R E N C E S

1. Bruce, J. Mellor, F. and Hon, W. (1961) : "The Role of Agriculture In Economic Development." The American Economic Review, Vol. II, No. 9, p. 571.
2. David, M. (1965) : The Economics of Agriculture. Penguin Book Ltd., Worth Middlex, England, p. 74.
3. ^hScultz and Theodore, W. (1964) : "Transforming Traditional Agriculture." New Heaven and Yale University Press, London, p. 80.
4. Deshmukh, S. B. (1983) : "Gur And Sugar Industry In Kolhapur District" - A Geographical Analysis. Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, pp. 238-254.