



**CHAPTER IV**

**AGRICULTURE IN SHOLAPUR DISTRICT**

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CHAPTER -IVAGRICULTURE IN SHOLAPUR DISTRICTINTRODUCTION:

Like other districts of Maharashtra State, Sholapur district is an 'Agricultural one'. As seen earlier, 80 % of working population in this district depends on agriculture. Amongst agricultural out turn, this district is noted for Jowar, Ground-nut, Pulses and to some extent, Sugarcane. Main crop however, is Jawar, which is mostly harvested in rabi season. Cultivation is widespread in Rabi season in this district. About 70 % of area under cultivation is allotted to Rabi season.

Early Kharif ( summer ), Kharif and Rabi are, the usual seasons for this district also. Summer crops are, however, scanty and limited to only selected crops like Sugarcane, Ground-nut and Rice. They are located in selected parts of the district in Kaarmala, Pandharpur, Sangola and Maisiras talukas where canal irrigation is available. In other areas, Kharif season is mostly for pulses and some food grains like Bajri, Kharif Jowar is sown only in few talukas like Barahi and Kaarmala, to a small extent. Rabi Jowar is the main crop of the district. Kharif and Rabi seasons are earmarked mostly by the calendar month (June to October) and the Calendar months (November to February) respectively.

Rainfall in Sholapur district is scanty and many times uneven incidences of rains lead to famine and scarcity in Sholapur district. These conditions in district can be found right since 15th Century. During 19th Century, famine frequented in this district for nine times during years 1802, 1818, 1824, 1832, 1845, 1862, 1876 and 1877. During early half of current century many talukas, of this district were affected by Famine. In <sup>the</sup> district, Karmala and Sangola Taluka ~~v~~ are most precarious areas. In other talukas <sup>the</sup> position is better than Pandharpur, Malsiras ( Southern part ) and Madha talukas.

Since Independence, measures to meet with scarcity conditions are strengthened. A continuous follow up of activities to meet such conditions has been maintained to reduce their effects. During the years 1961-64, however, there were no significant incidences of scarcity worth special discussion.

As seen earlier, soil is better in Mangalwedha and South Sholapur talukas of this district in the sense that it is deep black. In other area, medium deep soils are located in villages of Bhima, Sina, Nira and Man rivers.

The annual average rainfall in this district comes to about 25 inches. It is normally seen that the rains favours Akkalkot, Barshi and Mohol talukas. During the

years 1962 and 1963, however, they favoured Pandharpur taluka, next to Sholapur and Akkalkot as seen earlier.

Climatically the entire district falls in the rain shadow area. The monsoon period in Sholapur district covers the period from mid-June to end of September. There are two peaks in the rainfall pattern of the district. The first in June-July and the second in September. ~~minimum~~ ~~throughout the district~~. The rainfall through out the district is scanty and annual average is 577 mms. for the district. The meagre rainfall is received from South-west as well as north-east monsoon. The paucity of total amount of rainfall and large variations both in extent and the distribution in different years makes the agriculture almost a gamble on the rains. The analysis of rainfall data since 1953 indicates that not only there are variations in the total rainfall, but also the distribution of rainfall was unevenly spread over the monsoon seasons. During 1977, the rainfall was less than the annual rainfall at Sholapur, Madha, Mohol and Mangalvedna centres, and it was more than normal rainfall at Barshi, Karmala, Pandharpur, Sangola, Malshiras and Akkalkot centres. During 1978 rainfall was more than normal rainfall at the centres in the district.

#### FAMINE AND SCARCITY:

Agro-climatically, the entire district, except Akkalkot tehsil falls in the rainfall shadow zone. The

district with nesses recurrent scarcity condition. The Paradasani Committee (1960) after considering the data on rainfall, anneweri and declaration of scarcity for 30 years, ending 1957, recognised all the tehsils except Patones of Barshi and irrigated tract of Malshiras as drought prone area. The irrigation commission (1962) had also recognised all the tehsils of the district, except Malsiras as drought prone. The Sukhatankar Committee (1973) after studying the erratic behaviour of rainfall pattern and the frequency of a large number of deficient weeks, recognised the entire district except areas served by the protective irrigation system as drought prone.

Sholapur district passed through a period of drought for three years 1970, 1971, 1971-72 and 1972-73 in succession. In the year 1973-74, although the agricultural situation was normal in the State, Scarcity of a lesser magnitude existed in few villages in the district. Due to frequent visitation of scarcity, the agricultural population in the district always suffers heavily. However, during the years 1975-76 and 1976-77 none of the villages in the district were affected by scarcity conditions. This shows as to how important the need for irrigation development is in Sholapur district.

**AGRICULTURE IN SHOLAPUR DISTRICT:****Rainfall:**

Agriculture in the district is mainly dependents upon rainfall. In this district 91.5 percent of the total cultivated area is under the dry farming. There are no major irrigation schemes ( except the Bhima Irrigation Project ). The rainfall, therefore, determines the pattern of crops, rotation of crops and the productivity of the land in the district. Broadly speaking the district can be divided into three natural zones. The eastern zone comprising Barshi, North Sholapur, South Sholapur and Akkalkot talukas have assured rainfall. The central or the traditional zone comprising Mohol, Mangalwedha, Eastern part of Pandharpur and Madha talukas have uncertain rainfall and the scarcity areas of Karmala, Sangola and Malshiras talukas and the Western part of Madha and Pandharpur talukas have also uncertain rainfall.

Rainfall all over the district is uncertain and scanty with an annual average of 625 mm. Only in Barshi taluka which is nearer to Balghat range, it averages 725 mm. The district gets rain from South-West as well as from North-East monsoon. The rains start in June and continue upto October, throughout the district. The South-West monsoon brings rain between June and October, and it

constitutes about 85 percent of the total rainfall. Thus the main precipitation during June to August is rather precarious. The showers in September and October are heavy and more assured. Winter rains brought by the North-East monsoon are of small magnitude. The normal rainfall for the monsoon period i.e. June-September is 425 mm. which is 73.6 percent of the total annual rainfall.

#### AGRICULTURAL SEASONS:

##### 1) Kharif Seasons:

There are two main agricultural seasons in the district, viz., Kharif and Rabi. The Kharif season commences from the first week of June, i.e. (from the first day of the Mrug Nakshatra and continues upto November-December.) . The regular South-West rains set in by the fourth week of June and the sowing operations starts with these rains. Special importance is given to sowing of the cotton crop during the Mrug Nakshatra as it results in good yield. For the Kharif crops, land are ploughed, and during April and May and preparatory tillage consisting of narrowing is done before the on set of the monsoon. With the onset of the monsoon, the farmers start sowing operations. Kharif crops are harvested in the months of November-December. Due to the uncertainty of rains, irrigation is also required to be given to Kharif crops wherever irrigation facilities are available. The main crops grown in the kharif season are cotton, ground-nut, bajri, tur, maize, sug, paddy, etc. in the district.

**TABLE - A**

The Area under them in 1971-72 was  
as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of the Crop.	Area in hectares	Taluka where crop is grown on larger scale.
1)	Paddy.	4,103	Akkalkot and Barshi.
2)	Ground-nut.	39,263	Barshi, Akkalkot & South Sholapur.
3)	Bajri.	88,172	Malshiras, Mangalwedha, Karmala. Pandhappur, and Sangola.
4)	Cotton.	15,233	Malshiras, Pandharpur and Akkalkot.
5)	Tur.	33,372	Barshi, Akkalkot & South Sholapur.
		2,577	Barshi, Karmala, Akkalkot & Madha.

## 2) Rabi Season:

This season commences from the middle of October. The land is ploughed in the months of October-November for Rabi season. Sowing of Rabi crops being from the first week of October. They are sown in non-irrigated fields. The crops in irrigated fields could be sown later. The Jowar crop is harvested in the month of January, while wheat and Gram crops are harvested in the month of March. The Rabi crops like Jowar, wheat and Gram are generally grown as rain-fed crops on a larger scale and are irrigated wherever the irrigation facilities are available. The area under

different rabi crops in 1971-72 was as follows:

TABLE A-1

Sr.No.	Name of the Crop	Area in Hectares.	Taluka where the crop is grown on large scale
1)	Jawar.	6,90,514	Throughout the district.
2)	Wheat.	39,078	Throughout the district.
3)	Gram.	32,177	Throughout the district.
4)	Sunflower.	67,095	Throughout the district.

HOT WEATHER CROPS:

Besides the Kharif and Rabi crops, hot weather crops are also grown in the district. The crops like Maize, Ground-nut etc., are sown in the months of March-April. The irrigated cotton crop is also planted in the month of April, where adequate irrigation facilities are available. Other hot weather crops such as ground-nut and Maize are also grown where adequate irrigation facilities are available. The other agricultural practices are the same as those for the Kharif crops.

The district has considerably more area under the Rabi crops than under Kharif crops. The proportion of Kharif and Rabi area is more or less equal in Barshi taluka whereas all other talukas have a very high proportion of area under the cultivation of Rabi crops.

SOILS:

The soils of district can be divided into three classes, viz. light soils locally known as Malran lands, medium black soils and black cotton soils. The soils of Sholapur district is also of three kinds - 'Kali' or black, 'Barad' or coarse gray and 'Tambdi' or reddish. The Malran lands are shallow, coarse and contain partially decomposed parent material. They occur on hill-slopes. The depth of such soils is upto 23 cms. Area under medium black soils is comparatively more in the district. The depth of such soils varies from 23 to 45 cms. The depth of black soils exceeds 45 cms.

The chief soil survey officer stated his work of collecting the information on soils all over the State from 1966. The major area in Sholapur district comes under scarcity zone, which is characterised by low average annual rainfall. The major soil group observed in this district includes mostly brown to black. The soils generally met within this zone are similar to scarcity zone. Two types of soils are observed, viz., deep brown black clays with yellowish brown mottled coloured sub-soil layer, and deep brown black clays with dirty white lime sub soil.

**CO-OPERATIVE FARMING:**

Co-operative farming implies pooling together of small plots of land and their joint management. When the cultivator becomes a member of the Co-operative society, he can meet his credit requirements from financial assistance. Besides, he is enabled to purchase and use modern machinery to effect efficient division of labour, to provide irrigation to undertake measures for the permanent development of land and finally to sell his produce advantageously, all of which would be beyond the capacity of an individual farmer to achieve. There are the following types of Co-operative farming societies in the District.

**CO-OPERATIVE COLLECTIVE FARMING SOCIETY:**

These can be formed when it is possible to acquire large area of land on lease either from the landlords or from the Government. If the society owns land on free hold or leasehold, if the land is cultivated jointly by all the members, produce are distributed among the members in proportion to their wages, the society is said to be collective Co-operative farming society. It is important to note that the members of a collective co-operative farming society necessarily belong to the class of landless labourers who do not enjoy any ownership rights in land. Thus the membership of this type of society ensures its members of employment and means of subsistence.

**CO-OPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY:**

This type of society envisages pooling together of land belonging to small owners individual holding do not allow economic and efficient cultivation of land. Members work on the pooled land in accordance with the directions of an elected committee and the manager appointed by it. They work jointly on the farm and receive wages for their labour. The ownership of each member in his holding is recognised by payment of a dividend or rent in proportion to the value of land. The produce is stock as well as disposed of collectively. The proceeds are applied for (a) meeting all expenses of cultivation including payment for the use of land, wages and cost of management, (b) defraying other charges such as interest on borrowings, depreciation of assets, previous losses, etc, and (c) making provision for reserves and other funds, if any.

**CO-OPERATIVE TENANT FARMING SOCIETY:**

The Co-operative tenant farming society provides its members with facilities such as finance, implements, seeds etc., The society owns land or gets it on lease, but it does not undertake farming. Land is divided into blocks and each block is given on rent to a cultivator who cultivates according to the plan laid down by the society.

There were in all 64 Co-operative farming societies registered and working in the district as on 30th June, 1969. Their category wise distribution is as under:

**TABLE- B**

Sr.No.	Type of Society	Total Number of Societies.
1)	Co-operative Collective Farming Societies.	48
2)	Co-operative Joint Farming Societies.	14
3)	Co-operative Tenant Farming Societies.	1
4)	Federation of Co-operative Farming Societies.	1
Total....		64

During the year 1968-69, efforts were made for the organisation of Co-operative farming societies and registration proposals were entertained and submitted for registration to the Registration authorities. These societies are as under:

There were in all fourteen Co-operative farming societies registered as on 30th June, 1969. All these societies were organised by the members from backward class communities. The lands possessed by these societies were leased out to them by Revenue Department on " Eksali " basis. A directive has, however, been issued to these societies to convert themselves into collective type of

societies. The following statement gives details of the working of the Co-operative joint farming Societies for 1967-68 and 1968-69:

TABLE B-1

Sr. No.	Item	1967-68	1968-69
1)	Number of Co-operative Joint Farming Societies.	12	14
2)	Members.	177	259
3)	Paid-up Share Capital (Rs.)	10,915	12,415
4)	Govt. share Capital contribution (Rs.)	17,600	19,300
5)	Reserve & Other funds (Rs.)	690	920
6)	Lands Granted (Acres)	1,637	1,797
7)	Lands Operational charges (Rs.)	21,641	18,952
8)	Total Yields (Rs.)	34,072	36,714
9)	Government Loan (Rs.)	1,96,425	2,13,135
10)	District Central Co-operative Bank Loan (Rs.)	9,629	9,597
11)	Total Sales (Rs.)	25,756	30,825
12)	Working Capital (Rs.)	2,44,855	2,71,597
13)	Profit. (Rs.)	1,413 (2 Societies)	6,303 (3 Societies)
14)	Loss (Rs.)	8,531	7,308

The following statement shows the working of the  
Co-operative collective farming societies in Sholapur  
District for the years 1967-68 and 1968-69:

**TABLE B-2**

Sr. No.	Items	1967-68	1968-69
1)	Number of Co-op. Collective Farming Societies.	46	48
2)	Members.	1,007	1,038
3)	Paid-up Share Capital (Rs.)	59,019	59,810
4)	Government Share Capital.	57,498	56,435
5)	Contribution (Rs.).		
5)	Reserve & Other Funds (Rs.)	14,327	15,035
6)	Lands granted (Acres)	5,475	5,709
7)	Operation Charges (Rs.)	71,410	73,803
8)	Total Yield (Rs.)	95,819	1,38,602
9)	Total Sales. (Rs.)	78,470	1,13,074
10)	Government Loans (Rs.)	3,00,735	3,53,506
11)	Working Capital (Rs.)	5,20,848	6,40,260
12)	Profit (Rs.)	6,954	16,560
13)		( 12 Societies)	(14 Societies)
13)	Loss (Rs.)	29,713	24,053
		(27 societies)	(26 Societies)

The details of other schemes and the financial assistance extended towards their execution are given below:

During the year 1968-69 a sum of Rs. 48,000 was granted to seven Co-operative collective farming societies in the form of the loans and subsidies calculated at the rate of Rs. 4,000 for each well. A total of twelve wells was constructed as detailed below:

**TABLE B-3**

Sr.No.	Name of the Society	No.of Wells
1)	Anand Co-operative Collective Farming Society, Angar.	2
2)	Babhulgaon Co-operative Collective Farming Society.	2
3)	Wangi Co-operative Farming Society.	2
4)	Laman Khadki Co-op. Collective Farming Society.	2
5)	Mangalwedha Co-op. Collective Farming Society.	1
6)	Yeshwant Co-op. Collective Farming Society, Mulegaon.	1
7)	Vinchur Co-op. Collective Farming Society, Vinchur	2

Similarly land development loans to the tune of Rs. 34,550 were granted to five Co-operative farming societies.

There were in all 62 Co-operative farming Societies working in the district during the year 1972-73. The area cultivated by them during the same year was 2,98,300 hectares.

THE DEVELOPMENT:

The development in the field of Agriculture can be assessed from the three main indicators. They are:

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

The following table gives Tehsil-wise percentage of gross cropped area to net area sown during 1960-61, 1970-71, 1975-76, 1976-77, and 1977-78:

**TABLE -C**

Sr. No.	Tehsil	Percentage of Gross cropped area to net Area sown during the years				
		1960-61	1970-71	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
1)	Sholapur North.	102.0	101.7	108.8	106.4	102.0
2)	Barshi.	104.0	102.0	109.7	107.9	101.6
3)	Akkalkot.	103.4	102.7	104.2	106.3	101.4
4)	Sholapur South.	104.0	101.3	105.2	105.7	101.0
5)	Mohol.	102.1	102.6	104.6	104.6	101.0
6)	Mangalwedha.	101.7	100.0	107.4	107.6	101.5
7)	Pandharpur.	101.8	103.2	106.2	105.4	102.8
8)	Sangola.	103.4	103.8	106.7	106.2	102.2
9)	Malsiras.	104.0	107.7	116.4	117.7	105.1
10)	Karmala.	104.1	101.9	106.4	108.0	107.0
11)	Madha.	102.8	103.4	105.2	105.5	103.1
Total		103.1	102.9	107.2	107.9	102.7

The figures of area cropped more than once during years 1960-61, 1970-71, 1975-76 and 1976-77 were respectively as 37, 33, 82 and 81 thousand hectares.

There is a considerable increase in the double cropped area during 1975-76. The figures for 1976-77 are provisional and hence no comments are offered percentage of net irrigated area to net area sown.

TABLE C-1

Sr. No.	Tehsil	Percentage of Net Irrigated Area to Net Area Sown during the years			
		1960-61	1970-71	1973-74	1974-75
1)	Sholapur North.	8.29	9.29	7.48	9.68
2)	Barshi.	5.69	3.75	4.68	4.60
3)	Akkalkot.	8.82	7.19	6.44	8.41
4)	Sholapur South.	3.76	7.13	6.08	6.33
5)	Mohol.	6.78	7.44	13.31	8.00
6)	Mangalvedha.	5.58	7.68	3.66	6.82
7)	Pandharpur.	10.56	11.60	10.88	11.41
8)	Sangola.	13.64	13.38	13.14	13.16
9)	Malsiras.	28.22	39.57	28.12	40.56
10)	Karmala.	5.88	4.93	4.29	3.49
11)	Madha.	7.57	9.52	11.19	12.94
District Total		9.22	9.93	9.80	10.82

Percentage of net irrigated area to net area sown shows negligible increase in respect of Tehsils Sholapur North, Akkalkot, Pandharpur, Malsiras and Madha. However, there is no significant increase in percentage of net irrigated area to net area sown in respect of other Tehsils, during the different references years. The area under different irrigated crops is compared with the gross irrigated area in the following table.

**TABLE C-2**

**Percentage of area under different irrigated crops  
to gross irrigated area:**

Sr. No.	Name of the Crop.	Percentage of Area under Different Irrigated Crops to gross Irrigated Area			
		1960-61	1970-71	1973-74	1974-75
1)	Rice.	2.15	1.38	1.56	1.44
2)	Wheat.	10.85	14.04	12.80	15.19
3)	Jowar (R+K)	44.13	32.27	38.16	39.81
4)	Bajra.	3.89	4.85	3.27	3.14
5)	Maize.	NA	4.22	7.83	6.23
6)	Gram.	1.34	2.42	3.49	2.37
7)	Groundnut.	NA	4.85	2.85	1.94
8)	Sugarcane.	8.60	9.27	9.28	9.78
9)	Chillies.	5.66	5.38	5.93	3.18
10)	Cotton.	NA	6.00	3.15	3.77

There is an increasing trend in the area irrigated under sugarcane crop during the last 18 years. However, no significant change is seen in percentage of area under different irrigated crops to gross irrigated area in respect of other crops for the different reference years. Maximum irrigated area is covered by the crop Rabi Jowar, which is the main crop of the district.

The net area irrigated by different sources in 1960-61, 1970-71, 1973-74 and 1974-75 is given in the following table.

**TABLE -D**

Source-wise net irrigated area in Sholapur district.

Sr. No.	Source of Irrigation.	Net Area Irrigated ( in Hectares ) during			
		1960-61	1970-71	1973-74	1974-75
1)	Canals (G+P)*	23,782	27,006	21,365	23,513
2)	Tanks.	1,785	2,067	-	-
3)	Wells.	85,659	85,445	98,091	1,00,044
4)	Other Sources.	-	50	451	-
Total		1,11,226	1,14,576	1,19,907	1,23,557

\* G = Government                      P = Private.

It is evident from the above figures that the irrigation in the Sholapur district mostly rely on wells as 83 percent area irrigated land is covered by well irrigation. The source of Government Canal irrigation is mainly available in Malsiras Tehsil.

**AGRICULTURAL CREDIT:**

In order to increase agriculture production substantially investment on large scale is quite essential. But due to poor conditions of farmers investment from their own

resources is not possible. In turn, the inputs in agriculture suffers and ultimately returns from agriculture gets affected so as to increase the investment in agriculture, agricultural credit societies were formed. All the villages in this district are covered under Co-operation. The following table will give the position of agricultural credit societies in the district for 1960-61, 1970-71, 1977-78 and 1978-79.

**TABLE -E****Agricultural Credit Facilities given during****1960-61, 1970-71, 1977-78 & 1978-79.**

Sr. No.	Items	Agricultural Facilities Given During			
		1960-61	1970-71	1977-78	1978-79
1)	No. of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies.	857	888	871	870
2)	No. of Membership.	93,777	1,39,913	1,95,686	3,12,191
3)	Share Capital.	6,088	25,195	36,682	41,136
4)	Working Capital.	20,657	84,669	1,71,216	20,32,766
5)	Finance to Cultivators by Agricultural Credit Societies.	15,070	47,141	77,537	87,417
6)	Loans Recovered.	NA	39,294	57,100	59,153
7)	Loans Outstanding.	NA	73,123	1,38,446	1,65,866
8)	Loans Overdues.	NA	28,818	78,059	87,186

Although number of agriculture credit societies, has more or less remained the same during the last 18 years, there has been substantial increase by 226 percent in the members since 1960-61.

It is, however, discouraging to note that the amount of overdues also increased from Rs.288.18 lakhs in 1970-71 to Rs.871.86 lakhs in 1978-79.

**AGRICULTURAL WAGE RATES:**

The data on agricultural wage rates in rural areas are collected in three rural centres in Sholapur district since July, 1983. These centres are Mandrup from South Sholapur Tehsil, vairag from Barshi Tehsil and Modnimb from Madha Tehsil.

The average wage rates (unskilled/labour) at the three centres in Sholapur district during the year 1963, 1970 and 1978 are under:

**TABLE - F**

Sr.No.	Centre	1963		1970		1978	
		Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women
1)	Mandrup	1.50	0.81	2.42	1.07	3.50	3.00
2)	Vairag	1.54	0.82	2.12	1.08	3.17	1.67
3)	Modnimb.	1.66	0.82	2.42	1.19	4.50	3.50



From the above table, it is revealed that the wage rates have shown an increasing trend during the last 15 years. Further it can be seen from the table that levels of wage rates are generally high at Modnimb centre and low at Vairag centre. The reason for the high wage rates at Modnimb may be attributed to the fact that it is a commercial centre and hence greater demand for labourers.

#### OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN:

According to 1971 census, out of the total population of 22.54 lakhs in the district 7.59 lakhs were workers. The distribution pattern of workers in different categories reveals that 35 percentage of the workers were cultivators, 33 percent were as agricultural labours and remaining 32 percent were other workers. The percentage of cultivators and agricultural labour workers to the total rural workers population were 45 and 41 percentage respectively, as against the corresponding percentage (47.5) and 38.1 in the State. Thus, about 86 percent of the working population of the rural areas of the district sustain their livelihood from agriculture.

In the primary sector of the economy, comprising of agriculture, agricultural labour, livestock, forestry plantation etc. (70.6) percent workers were engaged, while secondary sector comprising of manufacturing processing and construction activities, according for (14.5) percent workers.

and intertertiary sector comprising of trade and commerce and other services, (14.9) percent workers were engaged. Thus it is evident that employment opportunities in the secondary tertiary sectors have not yet developed. There is, therefore, much pressure on the primary sector. If higher employment in secondary and tertiary activities is taken as an indicator of economic advancement of a region, the Tehsils of Mohol, South Sholapur, Sangola and Mangalvedha can be indentified as more backward areas of the district having less than 15 percent of the workers engaged in sectors other than the primary.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS:

Miscellaneous occupations are those occupations which are not under the preview of the Factories Act, but are covered under the jurisdiction of the Shops and Establishment Act. These occupations have occupied a prominent position in the present economic system and provide a means of livelihood for a larger number persons.

The growth of population in the pattern of living of the people, ever-increasing needs of the people, changes in fashions, rising income, etc., are some of the factors, which are responsible for the growth of these occupations. For example, changes in fashions in wearing apparel gave

rise to the establishment of the tailoring shops and of readymade clothes shops and changes in food habits have been responsible for the establishment of hoteles and restaurants.

There is an appreciable percentage of the population which earns its livelihood from occupations like tailoring, hotels, restaurants and tea-shops, laundring, hair-cutting, saloons, bakeries, cycle-repairing, lodging and boarding, Pan-bidi shops, flour mills, etc. According to the census of 1961 as many as 54,358 persons were engaged in the miscellaneous occupation and services of whom 42,573 persons were males and the rest were females. Most of the occupations are engaged in production of goods of daily consumption or in rendering some useful service to the community.

In services such as medical practice, education, journalism, law and public services, the number of persons engaged is less as compared to the number of persons engaged in the occupations mentioned in the above paragraph. Rapid growth of such occupations is both a factor in the pace of urbanisation and an index of the degree of prosperity. A sample survey of the selected occupations was conducted in 1970 at the following places: Karmala, Mangalwedha, Malshiras, Kurduwadi and Akluj. The occupations were surveyed with a view to representing a broad picture of the economic

conditions prevailing in these pursuits. The survey was confined to certain aspects of the occupations such as number of units existing, nature of tools and appliances used, their cost, average monthly expenses incurred, nature of labour, power used, capital requirements and income gained. The occupations covered by the survey were:

- 1) Tailoring Shops.
- 2) Hotels.
- 3) Hair-cutting Saloons.
- 4) Lodging and Boarding.
- 5) Cold Drink.
- 6) Pan-Bidi Shops.
- 7) Flour Mills.
- 8) Laundries.
- 9) Bicycle Shops.
- 10) Frame Makers.
- 11) Sweet Meats Marts, and
- 12) General Stores.

This chapter again is based on various reports and census. From this it can be understood that Sholapur district has been continuously affected by droughts, and the major occupation of the people is agriculture. About 85 % of the

people rely on agriculture yielding little results as this depends largely on the rainfall, area under irrigation have prospered compared to other areas. Due to lack of irrigation development, the majority of agriculturists have taken up <sup>to</sup> well irrigation. Hence it is important to understand the development of irrigation in the next chapter.