
CHAPTER-IV: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, KARAD

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1. Historical Background

In order to study Agricultural Market Committee, Karad, one must know about regulating act and hence attempt has been made to describe the same. The regulated market committee started functioning in the true sense of the term in the 20th century. In the year 1897, British Government passed an Act, the "Berar Cotton and Grain Market Laws" in order to regulate the cotton in India. Initially this Act was applicable to the cotton market only. Considering the recommendations of Indian Cotton Committee, 1917 the then Government of Bombay passed the "Bombay Cotton Act, 1927" for the benefit of agricultural producers as well as traders. This Act was the first piece of legislation in the country, attempting regulation of markets.

The Royal Commission of Agriculture, 1927 in its report submitted in 1928, recommended that the prosperity of the farmer and the success of any policy of general agricultural improvement depended to a very large extent on the amenities and benefits which the agricultural community had at its disposal for marketing their produce. It further recommended that the drawbacks of marketing could only be removed by framing proper rules and regulations for agricultural commodity. The same point of view was subsequently upheld by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee of 1931.

i) Bombay Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1939

The Central Agricultural Marketing Department prepared a model bill in 1938. This made the foundation and guidelines for other states which resulted in the drafting of bill in other states. "Bombay Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1939" was one of them. This was the first Act passed in the history of agricultural marketing which provided for regulation of marketing of a large number of agricultural commodities.¹ The term "Agricultural Produce" covered all produce of agriculture, fruits, vegetables, animal husbandry etc.

The general object of this Act was to ensure the best possible price to the producers for their commodities. The main object of this Act was "to see that the agriculturist who takes his produce to the market is dealt fairly". The 'Dalal' or the 'Broker' who stands between agriculturist and the purchaser himself should not gain the unfair advantages over agriculturist.

This Act functions especially regarding administration of marketing, marketing facilities to the agricultural produce marketing committee. This Act restricts the area of market committee to 10 Km from the principal market.

ii) Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing Act, 1963

The number of laws in different regions made great confusion

1 The Govt. of Bombay, Legal Department. The Bombay Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1939.

which led to amend the existing Agricultural Produce Market Act. To quote the Government of Maharashtra "At present there are different parts of the State relating to the regulation of buying and selling the agricultural produce. The Bombay Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1939 is in force in the Bombay area of the State of Maharashtra." The Central Provinces and Berar Cotton Market Act, 1935 applies to the Vidarbha area of the State of Maharashtra and the Hyderabad Agricultural Produce Market Act No. 2 of 1939 operates in the Hyderabad area of that State. Government had appointed in 1955 a committee to go into the details of the system of regulation of buying and selling of agricultural produce and to advise the Government.

The committee made several suggestions for the effective implementation of the Bombay Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1939. After taking into consideration the present bill on 12th December 1963 a comprehensive Act known as Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing Act, 1963 was passed in the State Assembly. Further, the provisions of this modified Act were brought in force from 15th June, 1963. The Act of 1963 was amended in the years 1968 and 1970. This Act abolished restrictions of area laid down by Bombay Agricultural Produce Act, 1939.

iii) Objectives of the Market Act

It has been proved that the new Act has guided very important places in the life of agriculture producers and sellers.

This Act provided different amenities to the producers and sellers.

The following are the main objectives of the Marketing Act:

- 1 To introduce system of competitive buying
- 2 To ensure use of standard weights and measures
- 3 To provide suitable machinery for settlement of disputes
- 4 To strengthen the bargaining power of the farmers
- 5 To create better conditions for selling the agricultural commodities
- 6 To operate open auction system of marketing.

After having discussed regulated market Act and its objectives, the attempt has been made to study the marketing activities of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Karad.

2. Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Karad

A) The Administrative Set-up of Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Karad

The Karad Taluka is vast and the largest taluka in Satara District. The main occupation of the people in Karad taluka is agriculture and hence agricultural produce market committee is required.

Karad Agricultural Produce Market Committee was formed before Independence. Market Committee was established on 20th



FIG 1 - MAIN BUILDING OF KARAD MARKET COMMITTEE.



FIG 2 - ENTRANCE OF KARAD MARKET COMMITTEE.

February, 1944. The functioning area under this market committee was naturally Karad taluka of Satara district.

Accordingly Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Karad covers the area of Karad Taluka only for the regulation of agricultural commodities as notified by the Director of Agricultural Marketing and Rural Finance, Maharashtra State, Pune.

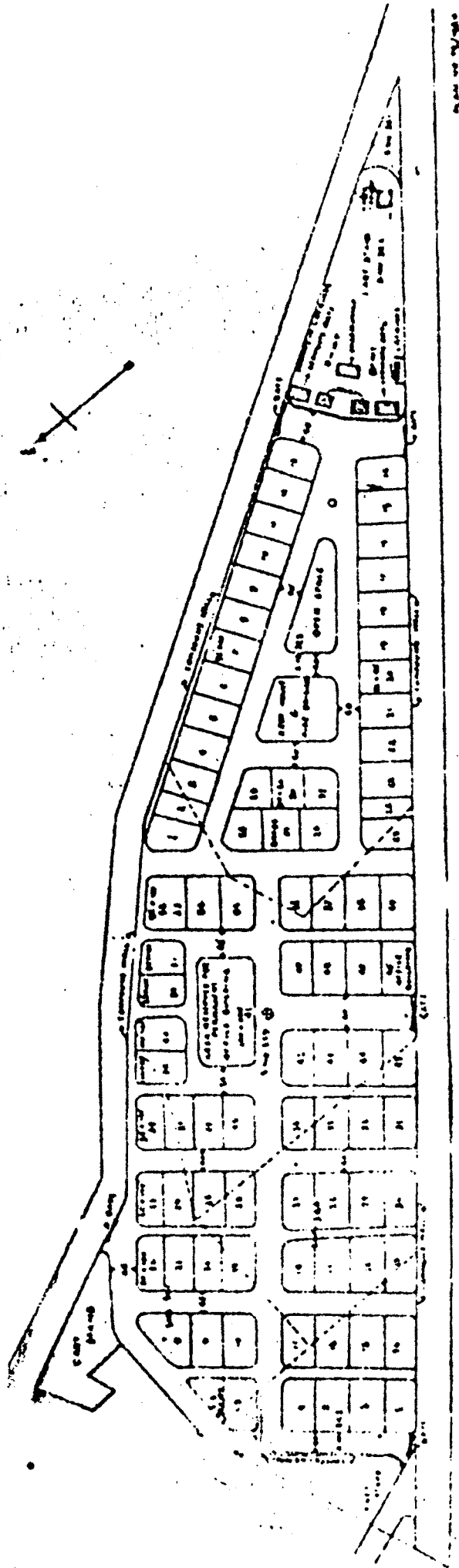
In this market in all 18 commodities are regulated by Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Karad.

i) Principal Market Yard:

As per Notification, Government of Bombay notified 'Karad Town' as the principal market yard. The market area of this market committee extended to the whole of the Karad taluka.

Market yard forms an important and irrevocable part of market committee. For the better regulation of sale proceeds of the agricultural commodities this committee has established its principal market yard at Karad. The area of this principal market yard measuring 20 acres and 10 gunthas is acquired under the Land Acquisition Act.

According to the approved layout plan of this market yard this committee has converted 78 plots measuring 60' x 90' each which were allotted to the cooperative societies, traders, Adtyas, hotels etc.



LAYOUT OF MARKET YARD KARAD

Karad Agricultural Produce Market Committee has established two sub-markets at Umbraj and Masur.

ii) Sub-Market Umbraj

The first sub-market is situated at Umbraj which lies to the north of Poona-Bangalore National Highway No. 4. This submarket is 17 Km to the north of the principal market of Karad. This market has acquired 5 acres and 5 gunthas of land which has been developed into 22 plots. These plots were given to the traders, commission agents etc.

iii) Sub-Market Masur

The second sub-market is situated at Masur which lies to the east of Poona-Bangalore National Highway No. 4. This market has acquired 3 acres and 30 gunthas of land which has been developed into 11 plots.

The above mentioned two sub-markets were established on 1st of November, 1944 which are providing different facilities to the farmers, traders etc.

iv) Development of Market Yards

The Market Committee is taking precautions about developing market yard. Karad Market Committee provides different facilities to the members of the committee. There are various types of amenities available like Shetakari Niwas, canteen, warehouses, Gate Naka, water pipeline, electrification in building, banking

facilities etc.

More or less the same facilities are being provided in the sub-market yards at Masur and Umbraj.

As per the policy of the Government of India the subsidy has been received by the agricultural^a produce market committee, Karad for developing the market.

Table No. 9 on the next page indicates the development of market yard that took place upto 1986.

Table No. 9 indicates that Shetakari Niwas, latrines and urinals, godowns are available for Karad and Umbraj market only and not for Masur market.

The compound wall is constructed around Masur sub-market only. Cess octroi, certificate house, Bank and Post office facilities are available only at Karad Market.

Building, godowns, lights, roads are available at all these markets.

B) Organisation of Agricultural Produce Market Committee

Karad

The organisation of Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Karad is formed according to the Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing Act, 1963.

Table No. 9

Sr. No.	Particulars	Karad Rs.	Umbraj Rs.	Masur Rs.
1	Office building			
	New	1,28,943	1,24,502	1,40,750
	Old	7,335	9,782	13,451
2	Shetkari Niwas	12,474	10,521	-
3	Cess octroi	1,383	-	-
4	Watchman room	1,790	-	-
5	Latrines and urinal	12,238	5,916	-
6	Godown	1,88,768	20,463	-
7	Compound wall	-	-	9,882
8	Certificate House (Shiravade)	5,841	-	-
9	Six godowns	1,33,812	-	-
10	Bank-Post-office	2,98,555	-	-
11	Cattle shed	-	12,912	12,741
12	Office-cum-Godown	-	3,02,209	2,03,881
13	Certificate House	52,587	-	-
14	Well compound	6,12,160	-	-
15	Light	1,32,292	4,580	657
16	Roads	2,36,964	1,54,778	27,090

In an organisation of Agricultural Produce Market Committee at the top or supreme authority is known as Chairman and Board of Directors. Under this authority the next authority is Secretary. Under the Secretary there is an Assistant Secretary and then under Assistant Secretary there are two Departments, namely, Administrative staff and field staff.

Administrative staff includes Accountant, Head Clerk, Statistician and Junior Clerk.

Field staff includes Grader, Inspector and Supervisor.

The structure of the organisation is such that a delegation of authority is carried out in a linear way which ultimately results into cooperation and sense of duty and responsibility among the members of staff.

This has benefited the farmers, traders etc. by way of proper justice and security.

The Chart No. 4 shows the organisational set up of the Karad Agricultural Produce Market Committee.

C) Composition of Agricultural Produce Market Committee
Karad

As per the Bombay Act, 1939 there is a provision regarding appointment of government bodies and government nominee. Generally

ORGANISATION OF MARKET COMMITTEE KARAD

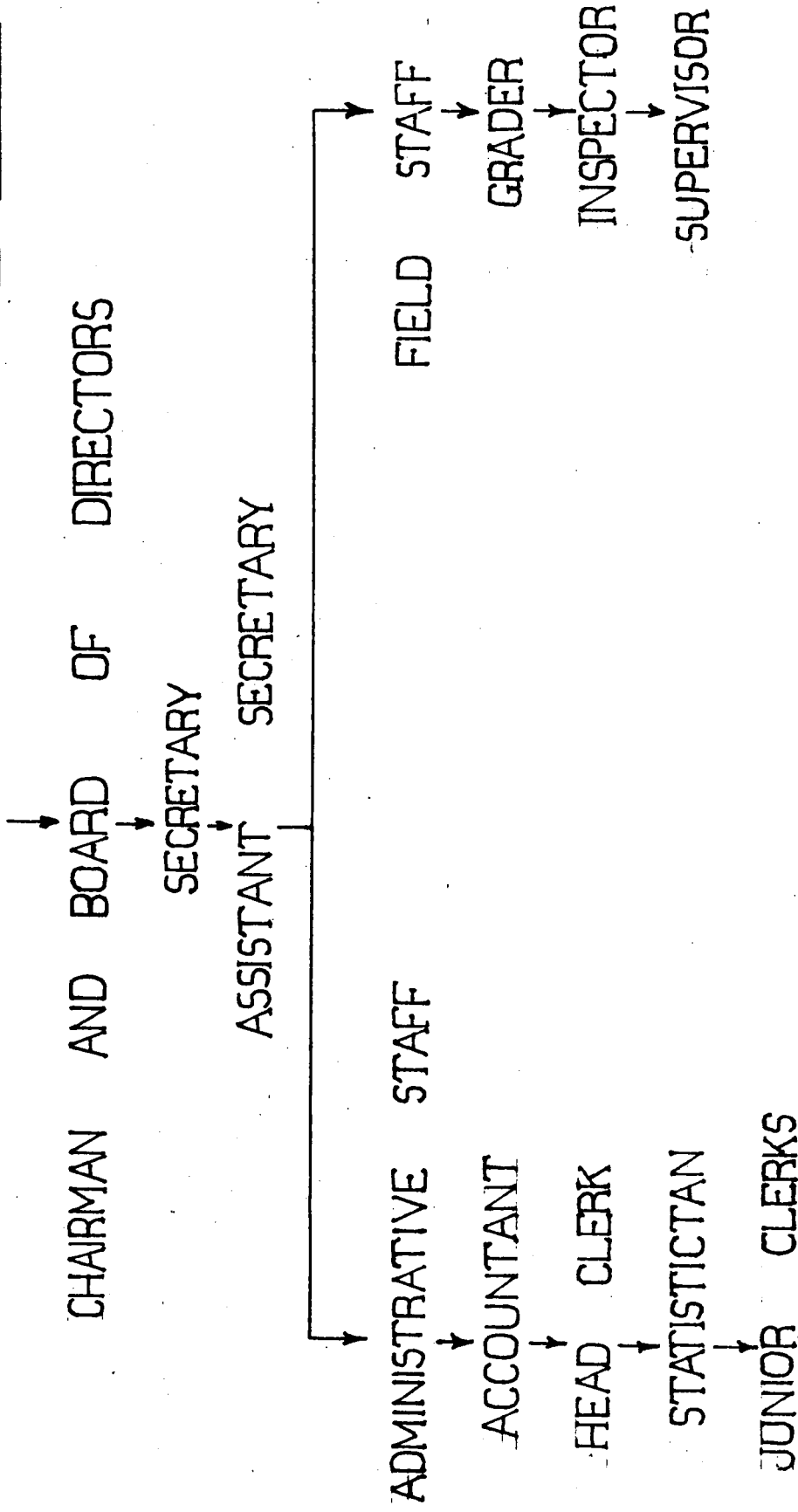


CHART - 4

Mamledar used to be the Government nominee. However, it has been observed that this Revenue Officer played a very limited role in the Market Committee. Therefore, Maharashtra Act, 1963 eliminated this provision of Government nominee.

Table No. 10 shows composition of Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Karad.

Table No. 10

Sr.No.	Particulars	No. of members
1	Agriculturists	7
2	Traders	3
3	Local authority	1
4	Government nominee	1
5	Reserve seat	1
6	Chairman and Vice-Chairman from Panchayat Samitee	1
7	Cooperative societies	1
8	Gram Panchayat	3
Total:		18

The above table indicates that there were total 18 members from agriculturists, traders, local authority etc. This is called body of Market Committee.



D) Chairman of Agricultural Produce MarketCommittee Karad

As shown in Table No. 10 there were 18 members from different categories from amongst whom a chairman of Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Karad is elected.

Right from the establishment of the committee i.e., since 1944 to 1986, there were 26 Chairmen elected which constitute representation from farmers and traders.

Table No. 11 shows the tenure of office of the Chairman.

Table No. 11: Tenure of office of Chairman

Year	Duration		No. of chairmen
	Years	Months	
1944 to 1968	24	0	16
29-2-1968 to 22-9-1971	3	7	1
23-9-1971 to 20-2-1973	1	5	1
16-9-1973 to 18-3-1974	1	2	1
15-4-1974 to 3-12-1974	0	8	1
4-12-1974 to 15-5-1976	1	5	1
20-5-1976 to 19-7-1977	1	2	1
2-8-1977 to 4-11-1978	1	3	1
25-11-1978 to 22-6-1983	4	7	1
17-7-1983 to 20-8-1984	1	1	1
15-10-1984 to onwards			1
			26

Table No. 11 indicates period of the Chairman. From the said table it is observed that 26 Chairmen played their roles during 1944 to 1986. It means that within a period of 42 years 26 Chairmen were changed.

E) Administrative Personnel - Secretaries

The Secretary assumes a very important role in the functioning of the organisation who is supposed to be eyes, ears and everything of the committee. He is a captain of the ship. The success or failure of an organisation depends upon the efficiency of a Secretary.

Table No. 12 shows number of Secretaries appointed and their tenure of office.

Table No. 12

Secretary	Tenure of office	Duration	
		Year	Month
First Hon. Secretary	25.6.1944 to 30.11.1944	0	4
Second i/c	.. 1.1.1944 to 31.8.1964	15	0
Third	.. 26.9.1964 to 1.10.1976	12	0
Fourth	.. 1.1.1976 to 30.11.1980	4	0
Fifth	.. 30.11.1980 to 1.8.1981	1	0
Sixth	.. 1.8.1981 to 30.9.1984	3	0
Seventh	.. 30.9.1984 onwards		

There are seven Secretaries from the beginning of Karad

Agricultural Produce Market Committee.

F) Administrative Staff

In the case of Karad Agricultural Produce Market Committee, the required staff is appointed as per the need of Committee, which is classified in the divisions viz., officers, which forms a group of Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Accountant. Secondly senior grade staff which includes market supervisor, market inspector, statistical assistant etc. In the third part is included Junior grade staff which consists of watchmen, peon etc.

Table No. 13

Sr. No.	Designation	Number	Total
1 Officers			
i)	Secretary	1	
ii)	Assistant Secretary	1	
iii)	Accountant	<u>1</u>	3
2 Senior Grade Staff			
i)	Market Supervisor	3	
ii)	Market Inspector	1	
iii)	Statistical Assistant	1	
iv)	Junior Clerks	7	
v)	Grader	1	
vi)	Cashier	<u>1</u>	14
3 Junior Grade Staff			
i)	Watchman	3	
ii)	Peon	5	
iii)	Mali	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>
		<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>

Table No. 13 indicates that Karad Agricultural Produce Market Committee appointed total 26 administrative staff members. But actually most of the powers are vested in the Secretary. Because of this it is found that Secretary played a dominant role in all activities.

G) Meetings

As far as meetings are concerned it is found that meetings are being held regularly as per the rules and regulations laid down by the Government. Data indicated the record of 503 meetings in the period from 1944 to 1986. Similarly, there are provisions about the conduct of the meetings of sub-committees.

H) Sub-committees

Karad Agricultural Produce Market Committee appointed the following 6 sub-committees for solving the problems of market committee.

- 1 Staff Selection Sub-committee
- 2 Market Yard Sub-committee
- 3 Licence Fees Sub-committee
- 4 Charges of Market Sub-committee
- 5 Exhibition Sub-committee
- 6 Dispute Sub-committee

However, it is interesting to note that the functioning of

the last named committee, i.e., Dispute Sub-committee was very active and it solved the issues raised by traders, sellers etc.. Since this committee plays a very important role, the representatives have been taken from all categories like one from Adtya, one from traders and 3 from Directors. From the year 1975-76 to 1985-86 this sub-committee solved 41 disputes from farmers, traders etc.

REFERENCE

- 1 The Government of Bombay, Legal Department.
The Bombay Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1939.