

## **Green Revolution and its Impact on Agriculture in Kanniyakumari District**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The economic prosperity of the country largely depends on the development of agriculture. The term “Agriculture” is derived from the Latin words, Ager and ‘cultura’. Ager means soil or field ‘cultura’ means tilling. So, agriculture means tilling the soil. The act of cultivating crops, rearing animals, along with fisheries and forestry is known as agriculture. Green Revolution refers to the introduction of new methods in agriculture and the subsequent increase in agricultural production. It is a progress in agriculture giving better varieties of crops and high yielding varieties of seeds and application of fertilizers an account of the introduction of Scientific methods of cultivation. It was occurred in India Since 1967-1768. It has adopted in the status of Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and in some parts full of India. The present study seeks to shed light on Green Revolution and its impact on agriculture in Kanniyakumari District.*

**Key words:** *Land System – Cropping Pattern before Independence – Land Reform after Independence – Crop Pattern – Green Revolution and Kanniyakumari District – Impact – Conclusion*

**INTRODUCTION**

The decline of the traditional handicrafts industry started a chain of reaction leading to the speedy decline of other handicrafts. But they did not care to provide an alternative source of employment. Those who followed traditional handicrafts had to give them up and adopt agriculture.

**Land System**

Since the average agricultural holdings are too small no scientific cultivation was done with its proved implements and seed. It is possible small sized holdings lead to great waste of time for labour and cattle power, difficulty in proper utilization of irrigation facilities, quarrels and consequent irrigation among farmers, wastage of crops in the absence of fencing.

Under these difficult conditions, it is impossible to expect the tiller to increase agricultural productivity. Since they are tradition bound and also poor they have not adopted the modern methods which are so widely adopted in the countries of the west and in Japan. To revitalize fertility and to utilize follow lands the use of manures of all kinds is both farm yard manure and chemical fertilizers is extremely inadequate. The importance of good quality seeds to increase agricultural productivity needs no emphasis.

**Cropping Pattern before Independence:**

The land reform programmes were built around scope of land reform measures abolition of intermediary, limitation of size of holding and settlement and regulation of results of these programme were laid down. In fact it was these reforms aiming at agricultural development from an alien government wedded to the policy of commercialization of agriculture.

**Land Reform After Independence:**

The main elements of the land reforms measurers carried out during first decades of planning (1951-1961) period were:

- (i) To abolish intermediaries such as Zamindars and Jagirdars between the government and the tillers so as to ensure security of tenure and eventually to make them the owners of land
- (ii) To impose ceilings on the ownership of land holdings and distribute the surplus land among the landless labourers. The adoption of new technology, mainly the cultivation of High yielding variety (HYV) seeds requires intensive use of fertilizers and pesticides under adequate and often assured water supply.

The provision of irrigation facility or supply of seeds, fertilizers may be related to the adoption of a given crop pattern by the farmers. Food crop Acts, Land use Acts,

intensive scheme for paddy, for cotton for oilseeds, all these bring over all effect on the entire crop pattern.

## **GREEN REVOLUTION**

The introduction of new agricultural strategy was in the name of the green revolution to solved India's food problem. The tremendous growth of population from 350 to 550 million in two decades, increase the demand for food grains and agricultural raw materials due to economical growth.

Another way to increase agricultural production is to productivity of land. In India 1966-67 a new technique of production was introduced. It is known as green revolution. An important component of this revolution is high yielding varieties of seed Production of agriculture is determined by labour, capital and technology. The adoption of technology is decided by farmers capacity and willingness to take risk.

## **Cropping Pattern of Kanyakumari District**

Two thirds of Tamilnadu's population lives in rural areas where agriculture is the primary occupation of the rural masses of the State. Generally village papers reveal a wide disparity among the various districts. Among the various districts, Kanniyakumari is at the bottom of the rank accounting for 1.65 lakhs hectare in utilization. The Society and the economy of the district are similar to those of Kerala. Of which, it was a part till 1956. Though it is a small district it has a varied geography. The district is very rich from the point of agriculture including horticulture. In an economy dominated by subsistence cultivation, production of food grains is the important economic activity. Among the different food grains such as Rice, Cholan, Cambu, Ragi, Rice occupied the highest rank in the Tamil culinary hierarchy where in rice is considered an auspicious items. Because of the high status occupied by rice in the dietary hierarchy, people were motivated to cultivated in land with good soil and land where irrigation was available.

Apart from rain and soil the availability of irrigation is an important factor which influence the cropping pattern. Tanks and canals are the major sources of irrigation of Kanniyakumari district. The gross cropped area of this district is nearly 33 percent of net sown area excluding the forest is irrigated. Double cropping is the rule in the irrigated lowlands. Almost the whole of the irrigated area in both seasons is under rice cultivation. The uplands areas which cannot be irrigated by canals or Tanks can be used for growing drier crops like tapioca, condiments and spices. Both paddy and tapioca comes under competition in the lowlands including horticulture crops. The district has extensive mango, banana, cashew, coconut and rubber orchards and plantations.

Because of the closeness of holdings most of the activities of one owner affect several other neighbouring land holders. Further because of the small size of the plots such adverse effects cannot be overlooked. A chain effect sets in which can be stopped only after the extension meet a natural boundary like a road, residential hamlets or

grazing grounds. Most of the area has now been converted in to rubber or coconut plantations.

## **IMPACT**

Some improvement in the productivity of land will be definitely taking place because of the adoption of the new techniques of production. The aggregative physical parameters of agriculture show remarkable achievement. Between 1950 and 1996-97 agricultural production increased from 49 to 176 tones food grains from 52 to 161 and non food grains from 45 to 201. Per hectare yield all crops increased from 74 to 149. Between 1950-51 and 1994-95 gross cropped area increased from 132 million hectares to 188 million hectares. Gross irrigated area went up from 23 million hectares to 71 million hectares. Between 1950-1951 and 1996-97 distribution of improved seeds increased to 20 quintals fertilizers use increased from only 69 thousands tones to 14 million tones with per hectare fertilizer to 77 kg. Pesticides use increased from 2-4 thousand tones to 56 thousand tones consumption of electricity in agriculture went up from 15200 million K.W.H in 1981-82 to 85736 millions K.W.H in 1995-1996. In this district the area under paddy cultivation and area in high yielding varieties are raised. The agricultural report shows that the paddy cultivation area was 53054 hectares. The coconut cultivation in 1975 is 15507 hectares and it increased in 1981 as 15848 hectares. Among the area cultivated the high yielding varieties paddy rare cultivated in 33512 hectares.

## **CONCLUSION**

The green revolution has created on awareness and interest among the formers in the better techniques of cultivation. It improved the income of the farmers. It raised the status and the standard of living of the farmers. It increased the employment opportunity in the rural areas. The continuation of agricultural research on advanced technical lines has eradicated poverty and starvation of the rural population.

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