

## *Introduction*

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## INTRODUCTION

The Indian agriculture system originated as early as 9000BC. During this period techniques were improved for the settled mode of production in Agriculture. Indus valley civilization relied on considerable technology, achievement, of the pre-harappan culture including the plough. The important basis for the Indus valley economy was based on mixed farming. Irrigation was also developed in the Indus Valley Civilization by around 4500BC. According to Arthashastra the role of citizens in the agriculture sector is were placed in high esteem. During the Medieval period Agricultural zones were broadly divided into the production rice, wheat or millets. Indian Agricultural method developed further under the Mughals<sup>1</sup>. The British rule can be marked for epochs, first rule of the East India company ranging from 1757 to 1858, and second rule of the British Government in India was from 1858 to 1947. The British conquest which started with the Battle of Plassey in 1757 was completed only by 1858. The expansionist activities of the British culminated in the year 1858. During this period the British was passing through the period of changes in terms techniques of production which revolutionized the manufacturing sector and partly by the presseration of commercialization of Agriculture. The British were not really interested in developing, agriculture in all the ways and means.

In India, the agricultural sector contributes a large share to the national income. In 1950's more than half of the national output was from agriculture. During the 1960's and the early 1970's, the contribution of Agriculture arrived to more than 40 per cent. Even now, the increase on the size of national output is largely governed by the production of the Agricultural sector.

During the British period, there were two main revenue systems of land – tenure that was Zamindari and the Ryotwari. Improbable tenancies developed on a big scale. Money lending also played a big part in the disposed of small peasants and led for the disposal of their lands. The rural rich became richer and the distress of the small landholder and the landless increased rapidly. Expulsion and insecurity of tenancy were very common. India, though a leading agricultural country, is not well placed in the

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1. Rayachaudheri S.P and Roy "Agriculture in Ancient India, Delhi, 1993" p.1.

matter of Agricultural production. There is an increase in the area and output of all crops, but there had been violent fluctuation due to the weather conditions. During this period the important food crops in India were rice, Wheat, millets, maize, sugarcane and pulses<sup>2</sup>.

Commercialization of agriculture indicated a commercial revolution. But this was devoid of any support from any technological revolution. The healthy benefits which agriculture and associated fields enjoyed had rather lagged behind. In spite of having many negative effects, commercialization in one sense was a progressive event. Commercialization eventually encouraged social exchange and it made possible transformation of Indian economy into capitalistic form.

Agriculture in India had been since sailing, as it was always confronted with one of the other problems. The life of the peasants was mostly dependent upon agriculture had never been easy as its livelihood was determined by several social and environmental factors. Exploitation of the peasants by the merchants, middleman, money lenders etc., were predominantly seen along with monsoon and inadequate irrigation, crop disease, costly Agricultural inputs, fluctuating and no gain or profit of agricultural inputs, smallholdings, low yield from land were some of the important problems of agriculture<sup>3</sup>.

“India’s population problem was the most serious one accompanied by high mortality which was only slowly declining”. Every year there was a steady increase in Indian population. The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 mounted up the problem. That the labor inherited from the past, famine had been a recurrent feature of life in the Indian sub-continental countries of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, most during British rule. Famines in India resulted in more than 60 million deaths over the course of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Famines in British India were severe enough to have a substantial impact on the long-term population growth of the country in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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2. T.C. Sharma, “Economic Geography of India”, Jaipur, Rowart Publications, 2013.

3. Agarwal, AN, “Indian Economy – The Problem of Development and Planning”, p. 239.

The food administration in the Madras Presidency to put on record some of to constrain facing the administration in the years during the war and the aftermath of Second World War, in feeding its 50 million people and of the Government's measures to meet these constraints. The constitutional position changed soon after the end of the war when, after the Provincial elections in the spring of 1946, the administration of the provinces was taken over by the popularly elected ministries. T.Prakasam and G.P.Ramaswamy Rediar formed the Congress ministries in the Madras Presidency during 1945-47. During the war, a system of Government controled over various commodities, particularly food grains, were imposed in India and in the Madras Presidency and were continued after hostilities had ended<sup>4</sup>.

The new technology of the 'miracle seeds' and associated practice was indeed successful in generating high yields, wherever sufficient resources were found to effectively implement. For some especially endowed areas, the increase in yield could even be justifiably characterized as revolutionary. The Green Revolution technology as a breakthrough in the 'science of agriculture' we want to evaluate the Green Revolution as an event in the growth of Indian Agriculture. These two ways of looking at this new technology can give quite different, results. For an evolution of the Green Revolution as an event in the history of growth of Indian agriculture, it is not sufficient to assess the success of a few crops in certain localized areas. What we need to look at is the aggregate response of Indian Agriculture to the event of Green Revolution<sup>5</sup>.

**Title of the Study: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY (1937 – 1967 A.D) WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GREEN REVOLUTION**

**Period of the study**

The research begins in 1937 and ends in 1967. In the Madras Presidency when the congress ministry was formed. In July 1937 C.Rajagopalachari became the Chief Minister of Madras Presidency and thus headed the first ministry setup under the scheme of provincial Autonomy. So the development of real administration started from this period. Famine, agrarian crisis overpopulation, unemployment and impact of two World Wars led to adopt the Green Revolution.

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4. S.Muthiah, "Madras Rediscovered" westland books, 1981, p. 543.

5. Dr. Babitakumari & Dr. P.R. Trivedi, "A Green Revoluation for the World", Janada Prakasam (P&T), p.89

## **Aims of the Study**

The main aim of the study is to bring out the hidden history of administration of agriculture in Madras State, as well as the causes for the Green Revolution in India. The causes and consequences are taken into account before and after Independence. India faced several problems due to British exploitation.

## **Scope and purpose of the study**

The British conquest led to agriculture lands in to fragmentation. The Agrarian crisis went hand in hand with advent of British rule in India. In fact, the process of the agricultural deterioration started with the introduction of new land system by the imperialistic rule. So scope of this study is how India overcomes above problems and many problems connected with efforts to raise agricultural production.

The city of Madras State has become one of the fourth biggest city in the country. The other cities being calculate, 'Bombay, and Delhi, about 300 years ago when the site at Madras was chosen as settlement by the British Traders. The improvement of city in the first stage was due to the commercial activities of the English. The only interest of the British was to take away wealth from India. Their political supremacy was very useful for the expansion of trade.

With the outbreak of the second world war in 1939, large stock of food grains were required for the fighting forces and the Indian food situation began to deteriorate. So the purpose of this study is to list out the causes of poverty and contributions of Indian leaders such as, Jawahallal Nehru, Lal Bahagur Sasteri, S.M.Sinha, Dr.M.S.Swaminathan, C.Subramaniam, and B.Sivaraman in the process of Green Revolution.

## **Limitations of the study**

Agricultural policies implemented by the government of Madras and in the area 1937 to 1967. This study focused on circumstances in the Madras presidency to arise the food scarcity problem, as well as analyze the impact of efforts of British government and after independence. The challenges faced to solve the scarcity of food were also brought out.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the study are as follow.

- ❖ To study agricultural administration of Madras State from 1937 to 1967.
- ❖ To examine the factors led for food scarcity in India.

- ❖ To analyze the problems of Famine and drought in the Madras State between 1937 and 1967
- ❖ To study the Green Revolution of India. The main objectives of the Green Revolution to use fertilizer better methods of irrigation and introduction of high yielding variety (HYV) of seeds.
- ❖ To describe the process of food production in India in order to reduce the scarcity of food production.
- ❖ To investigate the commitment of three conspicuous people Dr.M.S.Swaminathan, C.Subramaniam and B. Sivaraman
- ❖ To examine the function of Madras Presidency Government in agriculture before and independence.
- ❖ To assess the expansion of food production in India so as to decrease the shortage.

### **Hypothesis**

The following hypothesis has been framed for this study.

- ❖ The significant role of Indian Government and Madras State to overcome food shortage and severe famine and drought, were to be assessed.
- ❖ Role of agricultural administration in Madras State to be studied.
- ❖ Food production in India in order to reduce the scarcity of food production has to be discussed the causes and effects of the Green Revolution in India, with particular focus on the State of Madras Presidency are to be highlighted.

### **Methodology**

The Method followed in the study is both historical and analytical. The study is overall descriptive in approach. It includes the socio, economic, and political dimension. Both primary and secondary sources were consulted and synthesized for this study.

### **Sources**

Primary sources such as Government orders, Government publications, statistical reports, manuals and gazettes were consulted. Secondary sources like books and journals published by eminent historians were referred to bring out the description of this study. Interview method has also been followed.

## **Review of Literature**

There were food shortages in India 1867, 1987, 1900 and 1943. During the World War II food was derived to feed British soldiers, So 200 people were died of hunger everyday in Calcutta and Madras Presidency. In 1963 Indians population was surging by 10 million people a year and country faced another food shortages.

Despite the above documentation by some researches, there is no full fledged document covering the above facts. Therefore this study tries to portray the economic crisis and explorations and its impacts on the society.

The research topic is **AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY (1937 – 1967 A.D) – With special reference to Green Revolution** in Madras presidency had 26 Districts. “Imperial gazetteer of Madras state “Volume 1, Volume 2, and Volume 3 and 4 illustrated the administration of agriculture and subsidies for the farmers.

B.Natarajan, “Food and Agricultural”, in this book the government of Madras gave a detailed picture about the process of Agriculture Cultivation of food crops. Henry Knish “Food Administration in India” discussed the food grains policy committee in India. The rationing system introduced in 13 cities in the whole of India.

S.C.Joseph, “Food policy and Economic Development in India” analysed the political factor determined the condition which the whole system was functioning in India. P.A. Gopala Krishnan, “India’s Food Problem” explained the worst condition of the presidency during the war.

Statistical Atlas of India Books clearly showed the report of rainfall and failure of Monsoon and efforts of the Government in the 26 Districts of Madras Presidency. The Author “Economic History of Indian Agriculture in India” 2006, written in his book, the 18<sup>th</sup> century was technically backward and stagnant. Dr. Mahesh Vikram Sing, Dr.Brij Bhushan Shrivastava, Economic impact of colonial rule in India 2011, mentioned in the book all the land revenue policies were also led so the rise of new class of revenue farmers and taluqars whose extortions’ from the peasantry often knew no bounds.

Ashish Bose “From population to people” 1988 also explained that the major cause of poverty India was high rate of growth population in the Country. The Bhrathiya Vidya Bhavan of Coimbatore published the Books Bharat Ratna C.Subramaniam’s

“Hand of Destiny” volume – I and “The Turning Point” volume – II. The Green Revolution mentioned what were the problem faced to solve the Food scarcity in India.

### **Chapterization**

The present study has been presented in Five chapters excluding introduction and conclusion.

- ❖ The Introductory chapter explains the nature and scope of the study, and examines the objectives, methodology, and sources of the study.
- ❖ The First chapter describes the historical background and topography of Madras Presidency.
- ❖ The Second chapter illustrates the Cropping Pattern in the Madras State.
- ❖ The Third Chapter analyses the agrarian crisis in the Madras State.
- ❖ The Fourth Chapter highlights the constructive measures of the Madras State launched during the study period.
- ❖ The Fifth Chapter examines the genesis of the Green Revolution in the Madras State, contribution of the Central Government and the achievements of Dr.M.S.Swaminathan, C.Subramaniam and B.Sivaraman.

### **Conclusion**

The conclusion of this work brings out the mainstream and key points of the above mentioned chapters. The British administration nourished several problems in India especially shortages of food. So when the Congress Ministry was elected to power in madras state, right from 1937 before and after Independence the government faced with agrarian crisis and over population. So ultimately it led to the introduction of the Green Revolution it Consequently brought out self-sufficiency in Food administration. A large increase in crop production in developing countries like India, achieved by the use of artificial fertilizers, pesticides, and high yield crop varieties is called as Green revolution. As a result, is allowed us to create more food than the conventional methods of cultivation. The above measured had ultimately led for some positive impacts on Agriculture and strengthened India as a self – sufficient Country with enormous opportunities.