

A study on Varada River Region Agriculture Development

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Abstract:

Karnataka is divided in ten agro-climatic zones, taking into consideration the rainfall pattern, texture, depth, soil types and elevation, physic-chemical properties, topography, major crops and the type of vegetation. The contribution of agriculture sector to the overall GDP saw an increase from 13.14% to 13.16% in 2021-22 against 2020-21. In **Varada River** (Malnad) Region the villages are scattered to lying in remote areas. This region in the state sets special problems of development mainly due to peculiar settlement, sparse population, topography, dense forest, numerous rivulets etc. **Varada River** (Malnad) Region Area Development Board was created in order to hasten the development of the area, as per **Varada River** (Malnad) Region Area Development act, 1991 with a view to achieve overall development of **Varada River** (Malnad) Region area by implementing necessary development projects/works. The districts covered initially in this region were Shivamogga, Uttara Kannada, Haveri, At present total jurisdiction of the board covers part or full area of 3 districts of the state namely Haveri, Shivamogga, Uttar kannada

Keywords: Malenadu Region, Varada River, Agriculture, Crops, Cropping Systems, **Development Programmes**,

I. Introduction:

Agriculture provides most of the world's food and fabrics, cotton, wool, and leather are all agricultural products. Agriculture also provides wood for construction and paper products. These products, as well as the agricultural methods used, may vary from one part of the world to another.

Around 85% of the world's extreme poor live in rural areas. In many developing countries, food security and rural development are ongoing challenges. Climate change and other global crises increasingly threaten rural livelihoods. Consequently, there is a rural exodus: poor farmers move to the cities in search of income, placing a greater strain on food security. **Varada River** (Malnad) Region of Karnataka state in

south India. Malnad covers the western and eastern slopes of the Western Ghats or Sahyadri mountain range,

Agriculture is the mother of all culture and the progenitor of human civilization. Agriculture provides the main economic support to the nation. The importance Karnataka had given to agriculture is indicated by the statement of famous Kannada poet Sarvajnya who says that '*Meti Vidye*' is superior to '*Koti Vidye*' (millions of other sciences).



Major Crops of Varada River Region

Varada River (Malnad) region has the highest lands, it utilized for agriculture and for growing commercial crops. The region is one of the top destinations in India for nature holidays. National laureate Kuvempu is from Malnad region. **Varada River** (Malnad) Region has some of the highest mountain peaks in Karnataka. Crops grown in Karnataka include rice, which is more or less the staple food, maize, pulses and oil seeds, sugarcane, cashews, cardamom and chilies are also produced on a large scale in the state. Karnataka happens to be the largest producer of coarse cereals, coffee and silk in India. Sandalwood, jackfruit, hebbalasu, honne, silk cotton tree, teak, nandi, rosewood are the main trees of the **Varada River** (Malnad) Region. Agriculture is the main occupation in this region. Paddy, coconut, areca nut, black pepper, beetle leaves, coffee,

cardamom, tea, and spices are the major crops found here. The main crops in the district are paddy, ragi, jowar, maize, cotton, chilly, groundnut, pulses, horse-gram, sugarcane, areca nut and sunflower. Some of the fruits crops in the Varada River (Malnad) Region are papaya, jackfruit, rambutan, litchi, orange, mango, banana, pear, guava, etc.

Types of Cropping Systems:

1. Mono Cropping
2. Crop Rotation
3. Sequential Cropping;
4. Inter Cropping
5. Relay Cropping - Civil daily.

Mono Cropping: Mono Cropping is when the field is used to grow only one crop season after season, example planting wheat year after year in the same field. A dis-advantage of mono cropping is difficult to maintain cover on the soil; it encourages pests, diseases and weeds; and it can reduce the soil fertility and damage the soil structure.

Crop Rotation: Crop rotation means changing the type of crops grown in the field each season or each year (or changing from crops to fallow). Crop rotation is a key principle of agriculture conservation because it improves the soil structure and fertility, and it helps to control weeds, pests and diseases. Example planting maize one year, and beans the next.

Sequential Cropping: Sequential cropping involves growing two crops in the same field, one after the other in the same year. In some places, the rainy season is long enough to grow two crops: either two main crops or one main crop followed by a cover crop. Growing crops two crops may also be possible if there are two rainy seasons, or if there is enough moisture left in the soil to grow a second crop. Example planting maize in the long rains then beans during the short rains.

Inter Cropping: Intercropping means growing two or more crops in the same field at the same time. Examples - planting alternating rows of maize and beans, or growing a cover crop in between the cereal rows.

Mixed Inter Cropping: Distribution of the seeds of the both crops, and dibbling the seeds without any row arrangement. This process is called mixed intercropping. It is easy to do but makes weeding, fertilization and harvesting difficult. Individual plants may compete with each other because they are too close together. Planting the main crop in rows and then spreading the seeds of the intercrop (such as a cover crop).

Row Inter Cropping: Planting both the main crop and the intercrop in rows. This is called row intercropping. The rows make weeding and harvesting easier than with mixed intercropping.

Stir Cropping: Stir cropping involves planting broad strips of several crops in the field. Each strip is 3–9 m wide. On slopes, the strips can be laid out along the contour to prevent erosion. The next year, the farmer can rotate crops by planting each strip with a different. Example planting alternating strips of maize, soybean and finger millet.

Advantages:

- The residues from one strip can be used as soil cover for neighboring strips.
- It produces a variety of crops, the legume improves the soil fertility and rotation helps reduce pest and weed problems.
- At the same time, strip cropping avoids some of the disadvantages of intercropping: managing the single crop within the strip is easy, and competition between the crops is reduced.
- The Varada was flowing above the danger mark in Talaguppa hobli owing to which paddy crop cultivated in 1,100 acres of land has been inundated. Beesanagadde village has been converted into an island by the river. The Sagar taluk administration has provided a motor boat for villagers. The water-level in Linganamakki reservoir has increased by 4 ft in a span of 24-hours owing to heavy rain in catchment areas of Tirthahalli and Hosanagar taluks. The water-level in the reservoir was recorded at 1,782 ft against the full reservoir level of 1,819 ft. Inflow

at the rate of 53,478 cusecs was recorded here. Chandragitti, uddari, Kotipura, Gudavi, Banksana, Kuppuggade, etc

Development Programmers of Agriculture:

- Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)
- Bhoo chetana
- Karnataka Krishi Mission (KKM)
- Agri Business in Karnataka
- Suvarna Bhoomi Yojane
- Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion Programme (INSIMP)
- Raitha Samparka Kendra (RSK)
- Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)
- Relief schemes
- Karnataka Seed Mission
- National Food Security Mission
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
- Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana (RKBY)
- Raita Sahayavani Kendra (Farmers Helpline Centre) .
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras
- Minimum Support Price (MSP)
- Crop Insurance
- Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme .
- Modified National Agricultural Crop Insurance Scheme
- “Krishi Karman” Award .
- Krishi Prashasthi Programme
- Krishi Pandit Prashasthi Programme

II. Conclusion

Karnataka is the coffee capital of India producing 70% of India’s output. Karnataka is the leader in horticulture and floriculture business. The state is the largest exporter of gherkins and flowers in the country. Karnataka is the largest producer of coffee, raw silk, sandalwood, ragi (finger millet), sunflower, tomato and India’s second largest producer of maize, safflower, grapes, pomegranate and onions. The state ranks fifth in India in terms of total area under horticulture. It stands fifth in production of vegetable crops and third in fruit crop production. It is also the largest producer of spices, aromatic and medicinal crops and tropical fruits. It is the second largest milk-producing state after Gujarat.

The state mainly follows a rice-based cropping pattern. Major crop alternatives to rice are ragi, bajra, cotton, groundnut, jowar and maize. Other important crops are wheat and minor millets and pulses like tur, bengal gram, horse gram, black gram, green gram, cowpea etc. Oilseeds include groundnut, sesame, sunflower, soybean and sunflower. Commercial crops include sugarcane in the eastern region, cotton in the North-Western region and tobacco. Cashew, coconut, areca nut (southern region), cardamom, and chilies are other important crops. The Western Ghats are well known for coffee and tea plantations while maize is grown mainly in the northern region of the state. Due to its climate, the coastal region is favorable for the cultivation of fruit orchards.

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