

UNIT

4

Agriculture in Tamil Nadu



Learning Objectives

- To know about the agricultural activity in Tamil Nadu
- To know the extent of land under cultivation in Tamil Nadu
- To understand the importance of water and irrigation in agriculture
- To know about various crops grown in Tamil Nadu
- To analyse the crop productivity in Tamil Nadu



Introduction

Most of the people of Tamil Nadu depended on agriculture at the time of independence and even after 40 years of independence. That situation is being changed in the recent years. It has been noticed that the number of farmers in Tamilnadu has got reduced during the last 10 years according to the 2011 census data. Similarly the number of agricultural workers also reduced during the same period. According to the 2001 census, 49.3% out of the total population of workers were involved in agriculture. The percentage has reduced to 42.1 in the next 10 years. In 2011 there were three crore 29 lakh workers in Tamilnadu of which 96 lakh were agricultural workers.

In 2011, nearly 55% of the women were involved in agriculture whereas nearly one third (35.3%) of the male population was involved in agriculture during the same year.

4.1 Sectors of people involved in agricultural activities

A major portion of the workers involved in agricultural activities are landless labourers. All the land holders do not have the same amount of land. Many have very little land and very few people hold large areas of land.

During 2015-16, there were 79,38,000 cultivators in Tamil Nadu. But five years earlier there were 81,18,000 cultivators. There was a reduction of 1,80,000 cultivators in these five years. Similarly, the area under cultivation also reduced from 64.88 lakh hectares to 59.71 lakh hectares during the same period. That is, the state of Tamil Nadu had lost nearly 1,03,400 hectares on an average during these five years.

Most of the cultivators in Tamil Nadu are micro farmers who cultivate in an area less than