

**Submitted by: M. Amanulla**

**Supervised by: Prof. Mohd Mazhar Ali Khan**

**Department of Geography, Faculty of Natural Sciences, JMI**

## **Agricultural Development in Tamil Nadu (1975-2005): A Geographical Analysis**

---

### **Abstract**

In 2005, the forest area in the state Tamil Nadu was about 16.3 per cent of the total geographical area and in 1975, it was 15.9 per cent making a marginal increase of 0.4 per cent. As per 2005 records, the barren and unculturable waste lands measure 3.9 per cent of the total geographical area while in 1975, it was only 0.52 per cent. In 2005, the land put to non-agricultural uses in the state of Tamil Nadu was 16.32 per cent, and in 1975, it was 13.39 per cent showing an increase of 2.93 per cent. As per 2005 records, the culturable waste land was about 2.87 per cent that was 3.11 per cent in 1975. The pastures and other grazing lands were 1.49 per cent in 1975 that further declined to 0.86 per cent in 2005. In the year of 2005 The Land under Miscellaneous Tree Crops and Groves not included in the Net Area Sown category of land use measures 2.17 per cent of the total geographical area while in 1975, it was 1.67 per cent. As per 2005 the fallow land in the state of Tamil Nadu were 19.17 per cent of the total geographical area. In 1975, it was 15.62 per cent of total geographical area. The increase of this land is 3.54 per cent during the study period 1975 - 2005. As per 2005 records, the net area sown in the state of Tamil Nadu was 38.46 per cent while in 1975 it was 48.30 per cent.

The changes in the crop productivity in the Tamil Nadu between 1975 - 2005 exhibit that more than half of the districts follow negative growth. The crop diversification in 1975 was 0.77 which increased to 0.8 in 2005. The changes in the cropping intensity in the Tamil

Nadu between 1975 - 2005 exhibit that more than eighty per cent of the districts follow a negative growth. Percentage of area under HYVs in 1975 in the study area was 0.036 which increased to 51.57 in 2005. For the area under HYVs, a positive trend is recorded in all districts in these decades. In the year 1975 areas under HYV were in the decimal figures which increase considerably in all districts. Per hectare consumption of NPK fertilisers in 1975 in the study area was just 46.29 kg/ha which increased to 170.34 kg/ha in 2005. The irrigation intensity in the state in 2005 was about 116.33 per cent which was 130.26 per cent in 1975. The negative changes in irrigation intensity between 1975 - 2005 are recorded by more than 2/3 of the districts. The rest of the districts show a positive growth. The changes in agricultural mechanisation in the Tamil Nadu between 1975 - 2005 exhibit that data speaks about the fact that agricultural mechanisation has been greatly improved in all the districts of Tamil Nadu between the study period. Agricultural workers in the study area between 1975 - 2005 exhibit that more than half of the districts follow positive growth in the availability of workers. The changes in the animal husbandry in Tamil Nadu in the study period exhibit that more than half of the districts follow a positive growth. In case of road density, a positive trend is recorded every where in the state in all districts during study period. The changes in the rural electrification in Tamil Nadu between 1975 - 2005 exhibits reveals that there is an overall positive growth in the consumption of electricity in all the districts.

(Key Words: Agricultural Development, Tamil Nadu, Geographical Analysis, Crop Productivity, Crop Diversification, Irrigation Intensity, Agricultural Mechanisation, Cropping Intensity, HYV, Fertilisers, Road Density, Rural Electrification, Animal Husbandry, Land Use)