

# A Study on Socio-Economic Condition of Paddy Cultivators in Vellore District of Tamil Nadu

**Dr. P. ANBALAGAN**

Associate Professor, Research Supervisor  
Head, Department of Economics  
Vice-principal, Voorhees College, Vellore

## Abstract

Rice in India, particularly in Tamil Nadu plays an important role in the contribution to the country's rice production. The state's impressive per-hectare production of 3900 kg showcases its efficiency in utilizing agricultural land. Despite having less land under paddy cultivation, Tamil Nadu ranks fifth in the country in terms of rice production, emphasizing the state's agricultural prowess. Rice's global importance is underscored as it represents not just a staple meal but also embodies the way of life, culture, and tradition for millions of people worldwide. The UN's proclamation of the International Rice Year in 2004 further emphasizes its significance. The study's objectives, focusing on Vellore district, aim to understand the challenges faced by farmers during cultivation and marketing. By relying on empirical data from secondary sources, including consultations with agriculture officials, the study provides valuable insights. The conclusion, emphasizes the need for government intervention to address the persisting challenges in paddy production. The issues identified, both in production and marketing, require strategic solutions for sustainable agricultural growth. The review serves as a call to action, urging policymakers to rectify these problems for the future improvement of paddy production in India.

**Keywords:** Cultivation Problems, Marketing Problems, Paddy Production, Channels of Marketing, Problems Faced by the Farmers

## Introduction

Paddy is the important food crop in India. India is one of the world's largest producers of white rice and brown rice, accounting for 20 per cent of all world rice production. India exported substantial quantity of both Basmati as well as Non-basmati rice to the world, and import in the same categories were insignificant during 2009-10 and 2016-17 (up to January 2017). Tamil Nadu has a seven per cent share in the total rice production in India. The state has 19 lakh hectares of land under paddy cultivation. In terms of per hectare production, Tamil Nadu is right at the top among all the states with a staggeringly high number of 3900 kg. This is the reason why the state, despite having lesser land under paddy cultivation, is placed fifth in the country in terms of production. Tamil Nadu produced 75.85 lakh tonnes of rice during the 2016.

Rice deserves to be acknowledged as the world's most valuable good because for millions of people, it represents their way of life, culture,

tradition, and source of income. It is a significant staple meal that provides consumers with 66 - 70% of their daily body calorie needs. The UN General Assembly proclaimed the International Rice Year in 2004. In fact, compared to 4.72 percent during the Five Years Plan, the agricultural sector grew at a pace of 2.44 percent. Agriculture growth is projected to be 3.28 percent under the current Five Years Plan, below the 4% goal. In order to achieve inclusive growth, lower poverty levels, improve the rural economy, and increase farm incomes, minimum agricultural growth must be achieved. India is a developing nation with a predominantly agrarian economy. Despite economic growth and industrialization, India's economy is based mostly on agriculture. It serves as India's

Economy's major pillar. A considerable portion of the population is active in agro based activities in addition to those who are directly employed in the agriculture sector. Indian agriculture provides for the country's enormous population's food needs. Wet

farming is mainly for paddy cultivation, and one crop makes up the majority of the total planted area. In arid areas, there are diverse cropping patterns and no one crop accounts for a significant portion of the total cultivated area. The main types of farming that are practiced in these areas are millet and cash crops. The rice crop is cultivated by farmers whenever there is water, even in arid areas. The greatest area under agriculture is for paddy, then cotton. In Vellore, Odugathur, Gudiyatham, Palikonda, Pennathur, and Thiruvalem, paddy is mostly grown.

### Objectives

- To Study the problems faced by the farmers while cultivation of paddy in Vellore district.
- To know the various problems connected with marketing of the paddy in the study area.
- To offer suggestions for the improvement of the marketing of the paddy.

### Methodology

The present study is based on the empirical nature. For the purpose of the study, data was collected from the secondary sources. The secondary data have been collected from books, journals, news papers and reports. Various officials from the Department of agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu, were consulted and their expert opinion obtained and useful data were collected from the Vellore district.

### Review of Literature

Rajkrishna (1964) has estimated the Cobb-Dong lastype function on the basis off arm management data fort wodistricts of Punjab for the year 1954-55 to 1956-57. He has fitted a sample line argression model for examining the relationship between output per labour that the farmers in Punjab have optimally utilized the given resources an the marginal product of each input equal to its acquisition cost.

Hanumantha Rao(1965)hasused production function to analyse agricultural data. Heused Cobb-Douglas Function and relates production with inputs of land and labour. Further, he finds the production elasticity of labour to be higher than that of land in two relatively less fertile region sand are verse situation in the track of Marathwada.

Shan kanyan and Sirohi (1971) have made use of Cobb Douglas productionfunctionto measure productivity of various agriculture resources in theseed potato farm and to examine the possibilities of increasing returns by reallocation of existing resources within seed potato and Mainecrops.

Salini (1979) in her study has estimated unrestricted form of Cobb Douglas function by themethod of ordinary least squares to evaluate the efficiency offarmers in north- western India.

Junakar (1980) tested the join thypothesis of profit maximizing behavior and competitive behaviours of Indian farmers. The study was based on crosssections data pertaining to paddy growing farmers of Thanjavur district in Tamil Nadu, for 1969-70.

Kalirajan (1981) studied the economic efficiency of farmergroups using profit function along with four variable in put demand equations relating to labour, chemical fertilizer, pesticides and bullock pair.

S. Anitha Jose (2016) has studied the main objectives where to know thescope for paddy cultivation, know the modern technology thatcan be applied in agriculture, various problems faced by the paddy cultivation, getting yield and marketing of paddy.

M.Ramasuntharam & K.Banukumar (2012) in their study examined the crop combination region in Tamil Nadu, usingMap Info and GIS. To identify the ranking of crops and cropcombination regions Tamil Nadu crop combination.

Richard Paul V & Radha Devi (2017) analyzed the paddy cultivation in different size level off armer sand the constraint analysis applied and concluded as providing financial assistance and establishing agriculture information centers for proper utilization of input variables by farmers may increase the paddy production.

Muhammad Abdullah, Cuixia, Bushra Ghazan (2013) analyzed socio economic characteristics andalso inquired about the problems faced by rice growers and determined the satisfaction level among the rice farmers about government policies.

### **Paddyvariety inIndia and in Vellore**

India is many varieties of paddy cultivation. Some important paddy varieties are 74 count, AizonRice, Ambemohar, Annapoorna, Atop, Basmati Rice, Bhut Muri (keras), Champaa Rice, Clear field Rice, Gandhasala, GobindoBhog, Hansaraj, HasanSerai, HMT rice,Idly Rice-Short grain,Jay Shri ramaRice, Joha Rice, Jyothi, Kamini Rice,katta sambar, Laxmi Bhog, Minicate, Super minicate, Molakolukulu, NavaraRice, Patna Rice, Masori, BPT, Fine, No – III, 2716, Coarse, Parmal, Swarna, Super Fine, Patnai Fine, CR 1009 and No I.(KasulaSekhara-2019).

### **Varieties of Paddy in Vellore**

1. ADT 36: is a popular paddy variety suitable for cultivation in Vellore. This variety is known for its good yield potential and excellent grain quality. It matures in approximately 135-140 days and exhibits resistance against major pests and diseases, making it highly suitable for this region's agro-climatic conditions.
2. ADT R 43: is another widely grown paddy variety in Vellore. It is a fine-grained rice variety that matures in about 135-140 days. ADT R 43 has excellent cooking qualities, appealing taste, and high market demand. It also possesses good

resistance against pests and diseases, making it an attractive option for farmers.

3. CO 43: is a dominant paddy variety cultivated throughout Tamil Nadu, including Vellore. This variety is known for its high yield potential and adaptability to various agro-climatic conditions. CO 43 exhibits a medium-duration growth cycle, maturing around 125-130 days. It produces long and slender grains with good cooking quality, making it a preferred choice for both domestic consumption and export purposes.
4. Co 47: is another important paddy variety suitable for cultivation in Vellore. This variety belongs to the medium-duration category, maturing within 130-135 days. Co 47 is known for its high yield potential and resistance against pests and diseases, ensuring a good harvest outcome. The rice grains produced by Co 47 are medium-grained, possessing desirable cooking qualities and flavor.

### **Marketing of Paddy**

The marketing of paddy in Vellore district, Tamil Nadu, plays a pivotal role in the agricultural economy of the region. Paddy, being a staple food crop and a major component of the diet in India, holds significant economic importance for farmers in Vellore. However, the marketing process is fraught with challenges that impact both farmers and the overall supply chain. Small and marginal farmers dominate the landscape, leading to a lack of collective bargaining power. This fragmentation often results in farmers selling their produce individually, making them susceptible to exploitation by intermediaries and traders. These intermediaries, commonly known as commission agents or middlemen, play a crucial role in the marketing chain but can sometimes exploit farmers by offering lower prices for their produce.

The number of middle men involved in the marketing process depend upon the nature of the

crop. Paddy marketers includes four middlemen such as village merchants, mill owners, wholesalers and retailers. The existence of a large number of superfluous middlemen reduce the share of the farmers' profit. The yielded paddy are assembled for selling after the harvest. But the assembling is done in an unsystematic manner. In the Vellore, there is no agency for regulating the commission agents activities. Hence, they indulge their malpractice such as false accounting, under invoicing, false weighing and so on. Each regulated market is facilitated with communication facility. So that the cultivators may get the information about the rates prevailing in nearby markets. The commission agents fix the price of the paddy according to the supply and demand conditions in the market. This price fluctuations are caused by these causes frequently. Generally the commissions depend upon the volume of sales and differ from place to place.

### Problems of Paddy Cultivators

Rice cultivation in the Vellore district of Tamil Nadu faces numerous challenges, impacting the livelihoods of farmers and the overall agricultural landscape. These problems encompass a range of issues, from environmental factors to socio-economic constraints. Understanding these challenges is crucial for devising effective solutions and improving the well-being of rice cultivators in the region. Following are the few problems which are faced by the paddy cultivators in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu.

- One significant challenge is water scarcity. Vellore district is known for its predominantly arid climate, and the availability of water for agriculture is a perennial concern. Insufficient rainfall and depleting groundwater levels pose a direct threat to rice cultivation. Farmers often struggle to secure adequate water for their crops, leading to reduced yields and economic hardship.
- The erratic monsoon patterns in the region further exacerbate water-related challenges. Unpredictable rainfall can result in uneven distribution of water, affecting the germination and growth of rice crops. Inconsistent precipitation patterns disrupt the traditional farming calendar, making it difficult for cultivators to plan their activities effectively.
- The issue of soil health also looms large over rice cultivation in Vellore district. Continuous cultivation without proper soil management practices has led to soil degradation. Depleted soil fertility affects the nutrient content of rice crops, leading to lower yields and diminished product quality. Farmers are often unable to invest in soil rejuvenation measures due to financial constraints, perpetuating a cycle of declining agricultural productivity.
- The lack of technological advancements in agriculture compounds the problems faced by rice cultivators in Vellore district. Limited access to modern machinery and techniques hampers the efficiency and productivity of farming operations. Traditional methods, while rooted in local practices, may not be sufficient to meet the growing demands of the population and the market.
- Farmers' financial constraints contribute substantially to the challenges faced in rice cultivation. Limited access to credit and financial resources prevents them from adopting new technologies, purchasing quality inputs, and investing in sustainable farming practices. This financial instability not only hinders individual farmers' progress but also restricts the overall development of the agricultural sector in the region.
- Market dynamics and pricing issues add to the woes of rice cultivators. Fluctuating market prices and lack of fair pricing mechanisms often

leave farmers in a vulnerable position. Without a stable and remunerative market for their produce, cultivators struggle to secure a decent income, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and inhibiting agricultural growth.

- Inadequate infrastructure poses logistical challenges for rice farmers. Poor transportation facilities and storage options contribute to post-harvest losses and limit market access. The absence of proper storage facilities also leaves crops susceptible to damage, reducing their market value.

### Suggestions

- The cost of the manures and fertilizers are very high. Their cost comes to 55 percent in the production\ cost of paddy. Hence it is required subsidy from the government.
- Financial assistance may be extended to satisfy the various requirements of the growers to prepare field for cultivation, such as planting, maturing, irrigation and other similar cultural operations.
- Government may take steps to prevent malpractice such as defective weights and measures, exploitation manipulation of price caused by the agents, brokers and so on. Thus the government saves the farmers from the clutches of the unscrupulous elements.
- Most of the farmers are unaware of the regulated market. So publicity may be made to aware the farmers about the existence and the functioning of regulated market in the area.
- Government may take steps to set up vast warehouses and processing units for storage and processing of the paddy.
- Water is the life blood of every plant. The scarcity of water is found in this study area during the summer season which hamper the production of paddy. Hence Government may

introduce favourable schemes and extend loans to the paddy cultivators for digging well or bore well in this area.

### Conclusions

From above the study it is concluded at rice growers are facing a lot of problems, during production and marketing. Production problems includes: Monsoon failure, lack of waterresources, high cost of fertilizers, Non availability of bullock, shortage of labour, Lack of Green leaf bio fertilizers. Marketing problems are large number of middlemen, fluctuation marketprice, delay in payment, lack of market information, lack of co-operative market. The majority of rice farmers are heavily dependent on support prices, input subsidy and governmentintervention in marketing and input cost items helpful rates of deduction. But the above mentioned problems are still unsolved, and have to be rectified by the Government for future improvement in paddy production in our country.

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