

SELF HELP GROUPS FORMED IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Sl. No.	Year	Year-wise Group formation	Percentage to Total
1	1999-2000	35301	5.04
2	2000-01	63808	9.12
3	2001-02	48731	6.97
4	2002-03	39668	5.67
5	2003-04	100631	14.39
6	2004-05	97906	14.05
7	2005-06	100123	14.32
8	2006-07	106085	15.17
9	2007-08	106801	15.27
Tota l		699054	100.0 0

Source: Ministry of Rural Development compiled various issues

SHG-Bank linkage in Andhra Pradesh

The financial status of households and savings capacities has improved due to improvement in access to formal credit institutions, since SHGs are linked with banks. The table shows that in the year 2001-02 under the coverage groups 88,575 and in 2007-09, these are increased to 4, 31,515. The sanction of loan

under SHGs in 2001-02, 197.70 crores and in 2007-08, this amount of loan increased 5882.79 Crores. During the 2011 March 7092.71 Crore of Bank loans to 5, 89,444 Self Help groups.

Profile of the Krishna District

Location and Extent

Guntur district is a part of Krishna delta. The district extends approximately between $15^{\circ} 18'$ and $16^{\circ} 50'$ of North latitude and $79^{\circ} 10'$ and $80^{\circ} 55'$ of East longitudes. River Krishna bounds the district almost from three sides, Western, Northern and Eastern. The district occupies an area of 11391 sq. k.ms divided into 57 revenue mandals and divided into three revenue divisions. There are 729 revenue villages with 1024 *Grama Panchayats* and 10 municipalities. As per 2001 population census, the total population of the district is 44, 65,144 and of this 71.2 per cent are living in rural areas. It is also observed that 42 per cent of total populations are workers and literates constitute 55 per cent of the total population in the district, which is higher than both the State and National average. The density of population in the district is above 392 square k.m.

The black cotton and red loamy soils are predominant in the district 69 per cent of the total area of the district is black cotton while 24 per cent of that is the red loamy soils. The soils of the district are broadly divided into alluvial regar, red and arenaceous and are further subdivided into clayey, loamy and sandy. Of these alluvial soils occupy 7 percent, while 53 per cent fall under regar series, 38 per cent under red and the remaining 2 per cent is covered by the arenaceous series. The district receives an average normal rainfall of about 8 m.m. of which 499 m.m. is of South West monsoon between June and September and remaining rainfall is of North east monsoon between October and December.

Demographic Features

The demographic particulars of the Guntur district are presented in Economy of any region is influenced by its demographic aspects of the district considered. The district is predominantly rural with nearly 75 per cent of population inhabiting in the rural areas. The population of the district increased from 28.5 lakhs to 44.05 lakhs by 2001, i.e., a growth of 54.88 per cent which is less than that of the State (74.08 per cent growth). According to 2011 census, the total population of Guntur district is 4,889,230 lakhs. Out of the total population, the male population is 2,441,128 lakhs and Female population is 2,448,102. Sex wise, while there is no much difference in the rates of growth in rural areas between male and female, but the rate of growth of females is higher than those of males. The district witnessed a remarkable growth in urban population. This is similar to the pattern observed at the state level. Most of the populations live in rural areas (72.05) while the percentage of population in urban areas is 27.94 percent. In respect of literacy, the district stood on a better footing with high percentage of literates.

In 2001 the literacy rate in krishna district was 62.54 per cent and it increased to 67.99 per cent in 2011 and in case of female literacy rate it was 53.74 per cent in 2001 and it increased to 60.64 per cent in 2011. Literacy rate between males and females is taken into view it is not surprising that male literacy rate is much higher than female literacy rate both at district and state levels. The working population is in Guntur district 49.71 per cent out of which female total workers is 19.27 per cent and scheduled caste female workers is 4.62 per cent and scheduled tribe female workers is 28.82 percent. Nearly 9 per cent are cultivators out of which female cultivators is 2.73 per cent and scheduled caste female

cultivators is 0.12 per cent and scheduled tribe female cultivators is 0.08 per cent and 24.36 per cent are agricultural labour of the total population out of which female agricultural labour is 12.91 percent, scheduled caste female agricultural labour is 4.07 per cent and scheduled tribe female agricultural labour is 0.97 per cent. Maternal Mortality rate was 294 and 49.51 per cent of population live below poverty line in the Guntur district. However the district urban population growth rate is much lesser than that of State. This reflects basically on the rural urban migration character of the district with a growth in urbanization.

Agricultural Economy

Guntur district is well known for its commercial crops like Chillies, Tobacco and Cotton etc. The district is one of the agriculturally advanced districts in the State. Agricultural economy of the district witnessed many changes. Guntur district occupies the foremost place in the state for cultivation in both food and non-food crops. The predominant crops grown in the district are paddy, jowar and bajra among cereals, blackgram, greengram and redgram among pulses, cotton, chillies, turmeric and tobacco among non-food and commercial crops. The advent of high yielding varieties, the increased use of fertilizers, pesticides and management practices have resulted in increased yield per acre. There has been increase in the yield of pulses also. But after 1990 the yield of crops especially cotton and chillies is in a decreasing way. Virginia tobacco is very famous in Guntur district for a very long time. However with the release of Nagarjuna Sagar project water and with the change in cropping pattern the area has gone down in the district. The reputation of Guntur chillies is well known, cotton and that too sophisticated cotton of extra long staple has become popular in this

district, which is cultivated in 2.5 lakh acres. In this district Groundnut crop, which is only a rain fed crop previously, is now being cultivated in the Nagarjuna sagar project Ayacut land also. For the last few decades the district has made great strides in agricultural production due to irrigation facilities, use of high yielding varieties, use of machines in farm operations, greater use of fertilizers and pesticides in the hands of enterprising farming community.

Land utilization

The land use pattern of the study area for the year 2007-08 is presented in Table 1. The table describes that out of the total geographical area of 1139100 hectares nearly 607861 hectares are under cultivation which is accounting for 53.36 per cent of the total geographical area. An area of 34420 hectares is cultivable wasteland, which is accounted for 3.02 per cent of the total geographical area and more than 14 per cent of the total geographical area is under forest.

Cropping Pattern

The total area under principle crops in Guntur district is 6,07,861 hectares. Out of total geographical area of 11,39,100 hectares nearly 6,07,861 hectares are under cultivation. It is evident from the table that the food crops occupied most important place in cropping pattern, occupying about 73.98 per cent of the gross cropped area. Within the food crops paddy has emerged as the most important food crop occupying about 36.94 per cent of the total gross cropped area. Cotton which has an important commercial crop of the area occupied an important place among non-food crops accounting for nearly 17.99 per cent of the total cropped area. The share of chilies accounts for 7.77 per cent of the total cropped area. The farmers have stated growing new crops like sugarcane and turmeric

in place of tobacco. Even though the area under these crops is very small, their place in the agro-business is significant.

Yields of Principal Crops

The yields of principal crops during 2006-07 and 2007-2008 The yields of Red gram (16.57 percent), groundnut (40.53 percent), jowar (9.07 percent), blackgram (-69.32 percent), Green gram (-32.86 percent) and sugarcane (-89.30) witnessed a decline. The district experienced commercialization of agriculture during 1995-96 and 2000-2001 periods. This in turn transformed the nature of agricultural operations towards a greater degree of mechanization. The impact of agricultural prosperity of the district is also reflected in the growth of agro- based industries and development of tertiary sector as observed in the foregoing analysis.

Irrigation

One of the major input requirements of agriculture is the availability of water resources. To maximize agricultural production and to free agriculture from the vagaries of monsoon, the state government has undertaken several steps in major, medium as well as minor irrigation sectors. The two Major irrigation projects in the District are 1. Old Krishna Ayacut, now renamed as Prakasam Barrage with an Ayacut of 2,02,032 hectares and 2. Nagarjuna Sagar Project. Both are constructed on the river of Krishna. The total area irrigated by different sources of irrigation in Guntur district, is through a medium irrigation Canal by name Guntur Branch Canal (GBC) having an Ayacut of 10,823 hectares and the Minor irrigation sources like tanks, filter points, tube wells etc. The information on the net area irrigated by different sources .Shows that 383530 hectares irrigated under canals, under tube wells 97224 hectares land