

AREA SOWN WITH CROPS (TOTAL CROPPED AREA)

The total cropped area under all crops was 36,392 hectares in 2005-06 which is less by 2422 hectares as compared to 2004-05. During the year 2005-06 the area under food crops accounted for 84.19 % and respective percentage of non-food crops is 15.81%.

The cropping pattern in the Union Territory of Puducherry as a whole during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as below :-

Name of the crop	Percentage of area under principal crops to total cropped area	
	2004-05	2005-06
<u>Food-Crops</u>		
Paddy	63.95	62.99
Ragi	0.27	0.15
Cumbu	0.57	0.18
Other Millets	0.09	0.06
Pulses	9.33	9.98
Sugarcane	3.91	5.77
Other food-crops	4.99	5.06
Total Food Crops	83.11	84.19
<u>Non-Food Crops</u>		
Cotton	1.88	0.50
Groundnut	4.20	3.23
Gingelly	0.37	0.36
Coconut	5.51	6.03
Casuarina	2.08	2.84
Other Non-food Crops	2.85	2.85
Total Non-Food Crops	16.89	15.81

In Puducherry region, food crops were cultivated in 82.22% of the total cropped area whereas in Karaikal region it was 95.30%. In this aspect Mahe and Yanam regions recorded 22.58 % and 64.08 % respectively.

PADDY

Paddy is the principal crop amongst all crops and Paddy was cultivated in an area of 22,925 hectares during the year 2005-06 which accounts for 62.99% of the total cropped area . The area under Paddy in 2004-05 was 24,822 hectares. Production of Rice during 2005-06 was reported as 53,617 tonnes as against 61,036 tonnes in 2004-05. The average yield rate of Rice was 2,339 Kgs. Per hectare during 2005-06.

Percentage of area under Paddy to the total cropped area in respect of each region of Union Territory of Puducherry can be studied from the following table.

Region	Percentage of area under Paddy to total cropped area
Puducherry	64.97
Karaikal	64.39
Mahe	-
Yanam	45.98

Paddy is normally cultivated in wetlands, which are irrigated by different sources of irrigation such as Canals, Tanks and Tube Wells. Usually paddy is cultivated during three different seasons in a year. Paddy first crop (Kuruvai) is normally sown during the months of May to July and harvested during September to October. Paddy second crop (Samba), which is predominant, is sown during the period from August to October and harvested during December to February. The sowing season of paddy third crop (Navarai) is from January to March and is harvested during May to June.

RAGI

Ragi was cultivated in Puducherry region to an extent of 56 hectares. This crop is mainly sown in dry lands and irrigated by tube wells.

The production was estimated at 101 tonnes. 0.15 % of total cropped area was utilized for Ragi cultivation.

CUMBU

Cumbu was cultivated only in Puducherry to an extent of 64 hectares in 2005-06 and the production being 133 tonnes. Cumbu is mainly sown in dry lands for two seasons viz. Khariff and Rabi-II.

OTHER MILLETS

Other Millets such as Thenai and Cholam were grown only in Puducherry region in an area of 1 hectare and 22 hectares which are too small to take note off.

PULSES

Pulses were cultivated in 3631 hectares in the entire Union Territory and of this Blackgram and Greengram occupied 1638 hectares and 1971 hectares respectively. The production of Blackgram was 626 tonnes and that of Greengram was 617 tonnes.

SUGAR CANE

Sugarcane is the major crop among the commercial crops and grown mainly in Puducherry region. During the year 2005-06 Sugarcane was cultivated in

2,099 hectares of which 2,074 hectares was recorded in Puducherry region alone. The production of Sugarcane during the year 2005-06 was estimated as 2,99,000 tonnes as against 1,15,690 tonnes during 2004-05.

COTTON

Cotton is the only fibre crop grown in Puducherry and Karaikal region only. During 2005-06 area under cotton was reported as 183 hectares of which 117 hectares was grown in Karaikal region alone. Production of Cotton was 133 tonnes.

GROUNDNUT

Groundnut is one among the leading Oilseeds cultivated in the Union Territory of Puducherry. During the year 2005-06, the area under Groundnut area was reported as 1,175 hectares which is 3.23 % of the total cropped area and the production was estimated at 2,302 tonnes as compared to 3,157 tonnes in 2004-05. Groundnut is sown as an irrigated crop during December to February and as a dry crop in July and August of a year.

COCONUT

Coconut is another important oil seed crop, cultivated in 2,194 hectares during 2005-06 of which 1,192 hectares fall in Puducherry region and 487 hectares in Mahe region. It is significant to note that in Mahe, 77.42 % of the total cropped area are occupied by Coconut.

GINGELLY

Gingelly was sown in an area of 132 hectares in 2005-06 as against 142 hectares during 2004-05 with an average yield of 644 kgs. Per hectare.