

SEASON AND CROP REPORT

2010 - 11

INTRODUCTION

The Union Territory of Puducherry consists of four regions viz. Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, which are not geographically contiguous. Puducherry region is located in the East Coast bounded by Cuddalore and Villupuram Districts of Tamil Nadu State, while Karaikal region, which is also situated in East Coast, bounded by Nagapattinam and Thiruvarur Districts of Tamil Nadu State. Mahe region is located in the West Coast near Cannanore District of Kerala State and Yanam region is located in the East Godhavari District of Andhra Pradesh State.

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Puducherry is declared as the State Agricultural Statistics Authority and the scheme viz " Collection of Agricultural Statistics" is being implemented in Puducherry Region since 1961-62 and in phases, this scheme was extended to the other three regions of the Union Territory of Puducherry. The Field Supervisors of this Directorate, are responsible for the collection of field level statistics in the three seasons of an agricultural year. These primary workers visit each and every plot and collect "Land Utilisation Statistics" with the help of village maps supplied by the Revenue Department, Puducherry. The supervisory staff of the Directorate provide able guidance to the primary enumerators in carrying out their work successfully and scientifically.

POPULATION

According to 2011 Population census, the total population of the Union Territory of Puducherry is 12,44,464 persons. Of this 6,10,485 are males and 6,33,979 are females, with a sex ratio of 1048 females to 1000 males. The regional break up figures with density of population is given below.

Region	Population 2011 Census			Density per Sq.Km
	Males	Females	Total	
Puducherry	4,66,143	4,80,457	9,46,600	3,231
Karaikal	97,796	1,02,518	2,00,314	1,252
Mahe	19,269	22,665	41,934	4,659
Yanam	27,277	28,339	55,616	3,272
U.T. of Puducherry	6,10,485	6,33,979	12,44,464	2,598

The rural population is 3,94,341 persons (31.69%) whereas the urban population is 8,50,123 persons which constitutes 68.31% of the total population. The

percentage of rural population was reduced from 33.43% to 31.69% compared to previous census

The following tentative table of work force in the U.T. of Puducherry is arrived at utilizing 2011 Census figures in the same proportion as in 2001 Census as data on work force for 2011 Census is yet to be published.

(Provisional)

Region	Total workers	Agricultural Workers (Cultivators and Agricultural labourers)	Percentage of Agricultural workers to total workers.	Net area sown (in Hectares) 2010-11	Per-capita Net Area Sown (in Hectare)		Density of Agricultural workers per 100 Hectare of net area sown
					Total Population	Agricultural workers	
Puducherry	3,35,209	58,522	17.46	11,354	0.012	0.194	515
Karaikal	66,554	15,367	23.09	5,978	0.030	0.389	257
Mahe	10,438	199	1.91	588	0.014	2.955	34
Yanam	16,996	3,413	20.08	645	0.012	0.189	529
U.T. of Puducherry	4,29,197	77,501	18.06	18,565	0.015	0.240	417

The total Population of the Union Territory of Puducherry is 12,44,464 and one third of it belongs to workers category. The above table gives the clear picture that major workforce of the Territory is predominantly in Agricultural Sector.

RAINFALL AND SEASONAL CONDITION

The Union Territory of Puducherry receives rainfall both from “South – West monsoon” and “North–East monsoon.”

The monsoon period (June to May) is divided into four seasons

- i) South–West monsoon
- ii) North–East monsoon
- iii) Winter period
- iv) Hot weather period.

SOUTH–WEST MONSOON (JUNE 2010 TO SEPTEMBER 2010)

This season's rainfall is vital as regards to the production of Khariff Crops. Mahe region which is located in the West coast of Kerala State receives its major rainfall during this season. The region –wise rainfall during the above season is given below.

Name of the Region	Number of Rainy days	Total rainfall (in m.m)	Normal rainfall (in m.m)
Puducherry	28	627.0	355.7
Karaikal	31	718.3	261.4
Mahe	85	2263.4	2613.5
Yanam	39	1002.1	692.1

It may be noted that Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions have recorded a high level of rainfall while compared to normal rainfall during the season whereas in Mahe region the rainfall is low as compared to its normal rainfall. Comparatively this year in all four region, the number of rainy days are higher than the last year.

NORTH-EAST MONSOON (OCTOBER 2010 TO DECEMBER 2010)

The region-wise rainfall during the season is shown in the following table:

Name of the Region	Number of Rainy days	Total rain fall (in m.m)	Normal rainfall (in m.m)
Puducherry	42	1045.0	832.0
Karaikal	27	1007.4	1003.0
Mahe	28	566.8	403.1
Yanam	27	1082.2	415.3

The number of rainy days compared to last year in the case of North-East Monsoon also high except Mahe. Puducherry, Mahe and Yanam regions have recorded a high level of rainfall when compared to Normal rainfall. But in Kakaikal region has recorded meager increase level of rainfall as compared to normal rainfall.

WINTER PERIOD (JANUARY 2011 AND FEBRUARY 2011)

The region – wise rainfall during the winter of 2010-11 is as follows:

Name of the Region	Total Rainy days	Total rainfall (in m.m)	Normal rainfall (in m.m)
Puducherry	2	12.0	54.1
Karaikal	4	50.7	79.5
Mahe	0	0.0	14.1
Yanam	1	28.0	31.2

During 2009-10, Mahe region received 30mm total rainfall but this year this was nil. Similarly in Yanam region during the winter of 2009-10 it received rainfall of only 9 mm but this year Yanam region received a total rainfall of 28 mm in 2010-11 during winter period. Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions have recorded low level of rainfall during the winter season while Mahe region has recorded no rain fall compared to normal rain fall.

HOT-WEATHER PERIOD (MARCH 2011 TO MAY 2011)

The Hot-Weather period rainfall details are given in the following table.

Name of the Region	Total Rainy days	Total rainfall (in m.m)	Normal rainfall (in m.m)
Puducherry	5	150.0	81.2
Karaikal	4	64.7	91.7
Mahe	8	174.4	313.4
Yanam	3	194.6	75.7

During 2009-10 Hot-Weather period, the Karaikal region have received a higher rainfall of 108.8mm compared to the same period during the current year (i.e. 64.7mm). Likewise, Mahe region also during the hot weather period have received a higher rainfall of 391.2 mm compared to a 2010-11 total rainfall of 174.4 mm. During the above season Puducherry and Yanam regions have recorded a high level of rainfall when compared to the normal rainfall during the season. But as far as Karaikal and Mahe regions concerned these are low levels of rainfall when compared to their normal rainfall.

RAINFALL ABNORMALITIES

The rainfall abnormalities are classified as follows

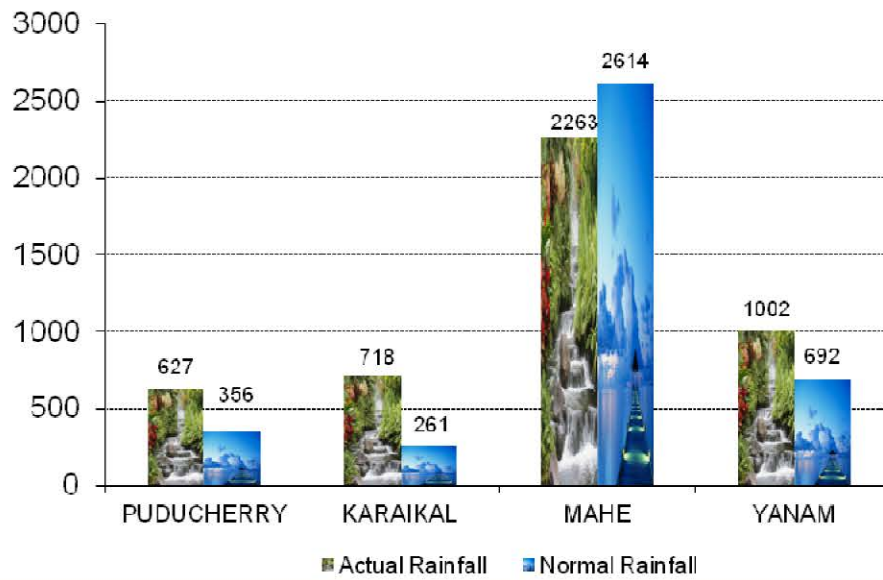
- i) Excess (+) 20% and above normal
- ii) Normal (-) 19.9% to (+) 19.9%
- iii) Deficient (-) 20% to (-) 59.9%
- iv) Scanty (-) 60% to (-) 99.9%
- v) No rain (-) 100%

CLASSIFICATION OF AREA

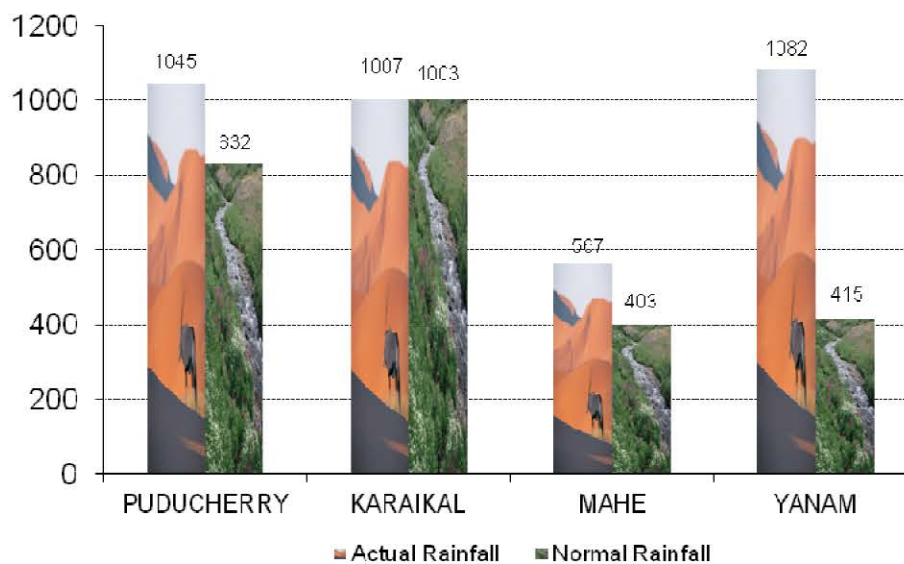
The total geographical area of the Union Territory of Puducherry is 480.58 Sq. Km according to the Survey of India, whereas it is reported as 48,651 hectares according to village paper, which is classified into nine categories.

The following table gives the nine fold classification of land utilization and the area under each category with its respective percentage to the total geographical area.

Rain fall - South West Monsoon - 2010-11



Rain fall - North East Monsoon - 2010-11



Sl.No.	Category	2010 – 11	
		Area in Hectare	Percentage to total Geographical area
1.	Forest	-	-
2.	Land put to non – agricultural use	18547	38.12
3.	Barren and un culturable land	72	0.15
4.	Permanent pastures and other grazing land	0	0.00
5.	Land under misc. tree crops and groves	1199	2.46
6.	Culturable waste	4663	9.59
7.	Other fallow land	2369	4.87
8.	Current fallow	3236	6.65
9.	Net area sown	18565	38.16
10.	<u>Social Forest</u>	-	-
11.	<u>Marshy Land</u>	-	-
12.	<u>Water logged body</u>	-	-

It is evident when comparing last year data, during the current year the land put into non-agricultural use has increased from 18,466 hectares to 18,547 hectares. But the land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves has increased from 1131 hectares to 1199 hectares. The Cultural Waste has also increased from 4433 hectares to 4663 hectares during the current year occupying 9.59% of Total Geographical area. Other fallow land area has decreased from 2526 hectares to 2369 hectares compared to last year. Similarly, the Net Area Sown is also decreased from 18734 hectares to 18565 hectares compared to last year.

During the current year report, as recommended by Dr. Rangarajan's commission report, three more classification are added to the existing nine-fold classification. However, as far as the U.T. is concerned the Marshy land and Water logged area are almost nil and only meager area of Social forestry do exist.

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

FOREST

All lands classified as "Forest" under any legal enactment dealing with forests or administered as forests whether State owned or private. There is no forest area in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

LAND PUT TO NON-AGRICULTURAL USE

All lands occupied by Buildings, Paths, Roads, Railways, Rivers, Ponds, Lakes, Canals and other lands put to non-agricultural purposes are brought under this category.

During the year 2010-11, area under this category was 18547 hectares (38.12%) of the total geographical area, which was more than 81 hectares as compared to the previous year 2009-10.

BARREN AND UNCULTURABLE LANDS

Land where cultivation is not at all possible comes under this category. During the year 2010-11, 72 hectares (0.15%) were under this category.

PERMANENT PASTURES AND OTHER GRAZING LANDS

All grazing lands, whether they are permanent pastures or meadows are considered as permanent pastures and other grazing lands according to their nature. No area was recorded under this category during the year 2010-11

LAND UNDER MISCELLANEOUS TREE CROPS & GROVES (not included in net area sown)

Lands in which trees and groves are grown which are not included in the net area sown come under this category. An area of 1,199 hectares (2.46%) was recorded under this category. This is also an increase of 68 hectares when compared to last year.

CULTURABLE WASTE

All lands available for cultivation whether not taken up for cultivation or taken up for cultivation once, but not cultivated during the current year and continuously for the last five years or more, in succession for one reason or the other, are classified as culturable waste. During the year 2010-11, 4663 hectares have been recorded under this category, which constitutes 9.59% of the total geographical area. This shows an increase of 230 hectares when compared to last year.

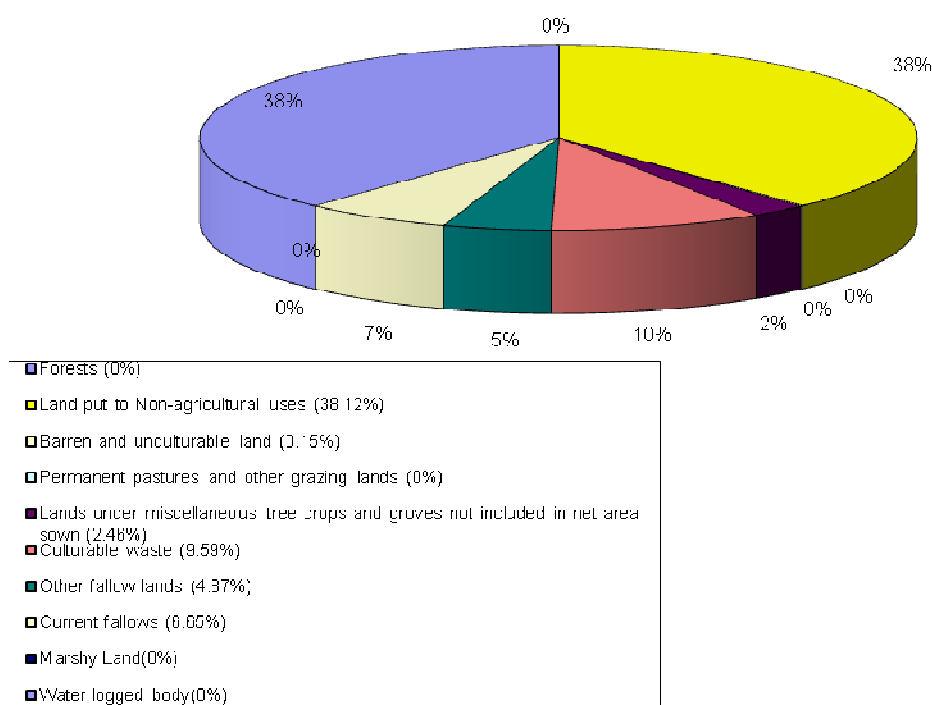
OTHER FALLOW LANDS

All lands, which are usually taken up for cultivation but are temporarily suspended from cultivation for a period of not less than one year and not more than five years are considered as other fallow lands. During the year 2010-11, 2,369 hectares were recorded as area under this category which is 4.87% of the total geographical area.

CURRENT FALLOWS

Cultivable lands, which are kept fallow during the entire period under review, are known as current fallows. During 2010-11, this category was recorded as 3236 hectares which is 6.65%.

CLASSIFICATION OF AREA (%) 2010-11



NET AREA SOWN

Net area sown represents the area sown with crops at least once in any of the crop season of the year, counting area sown more than once in the same year, only once. The net area sown in the current year 2010-11 was 18565 hectares as against 18734 hectares recorded last year(2009-10) representing a fall of 0.90%.

WATERLOGGED LAND

Waterlogged land is that land where the water is at/or near the surface and water stands for most of the year. Such lands usually occupy topographically low-lying areas. It excludes lakes, ponds and tanks.

MARSHY/SWAMPY LAND

Marshy land is that which is permanently or periodically inundated by water and is characterized by vegetation, which included grasses and weeds. Marshes are classified into salt/brackish or fresh water depending on the salinity of water. These exclude Mangroves.

SOCIAL FORESTRY

Social forestry means the management and protection of forests and afforestation on barren lands with the purpose of helping in the environmental, social and rural development.

The table below represents the region-wise distribution of **net area sown** to their respective geographical area.

Sl. No.	Region	Percentage of net area sown to	
		Geographical area of the region	Total net area sown in the U.T
1.	Puducherry	38.65	61.16
2.	Karaikal	37.33	32.20
3.	Mahe	67.59	3.17
4.	Yanam	26.98	3.47

The following table shows the region-wise intensity of total cropped area to net area sown.

Sl. No.	Name of the region	Percentage of Net area sown to total cropped area
1.	Puducherry	54.01
2.	Karaikal	68.24
3.	Mahe	99.49
4.	Yanam	60.68

TOTAL CROPPED AREA (GROSS CROPPED AREA)

The Total Cropped area was recorded as 31437 hectares during the year 2010-11 as against 31910 hectares (2009-10) registering a decrease of 1.48% The area sown more than once was reported as 12872 hectares during 2010-11 as compared to 13176 hectares during the year 2009-10.

A marginal increase of percentage of Net area sown to total cropped area is prevailed in Puducherry region only. All other regions showed a marginal decreasing trend.

AREA IRRIGATED BY DIFFERENT SOURCES OF IRRIGATION

There is a declining trend in the Net area irrigated by different source of irrigation compared to the last year i.e. from 15991 hectares to 14769 hectares in Puducherry region. The percentage of Canal irrigation also decreased from 35.99% to 30.86% in Puducherry region during 2010-11. But the tube-well irrigation has increased from 63.70% to 68.82% during the period under reference. The Net Area Irrigated by different sources of irrigation during the year 2010-11 was recorded as 14769 hectares. In Puducherry region, 88.07% of the net area sown was irrigated, while in Karaikal region

the respective figure is 73.82%. The relevant figures for Mahe and Yanam region was 5.10% and 50.54% respectively.

The following table shows the area irrigated by different sources of irrigation in respect of Union Territory of Puducherry.

Sl. No.	Sources of Irrigation	Net Area Irrigated (in Hect)	Percentage
1	Canal	4558	30.86
2	Tank	0	0
3	Tubewell	10164	68.82
4	Ordinary Well	0	0
5	Other Source	47	0.32
Total		14769	100.00

Similarly a declining trend is noticed in Karaikal and Yanam regions under canal irrigation from 5755 hectares to 4558 hectares compared to the last year. It may be noted that 4558 hectares in Karaikal & Yanam regions were irrigated through canals and in Puducherry region the main source of irrigation was "Tube Wells".

During the year 2010-11, the Gross area irrigated under different crops was 25472 hectares as against 26503 hectares in 2009-10. Percentage of area irrigated to total cropped area was 81.03% in the Union Territory of Puducherry. 88.95 % of the total cropped area in Puducherry region alone was irrigated whereas the respective figures for Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions were 70.29%, 5.41% and 54.94% respectively. The percentage of total cropped area in Karaikal region has marginally decreased compared to the last year.

The details of the percentage of gross area irrigated under different crops are shown below in respect of Union Territory of Puducherry as a whole.

Paddy	-	78.57%	Sugarcane	-	6.93%
Ragi	-	0.09%	Fruits and Vegetables	-	3.03%
Cumbu	-	0.09%	Condiments and Spices	-	0.04%
Cholam	-	0.00%	Groundnut	-	1.61%
Other Millets	-	0.00%	Other Non- food crops	-	10.01%
Pulses	-	1.24%			

It may be noted that the percentage of gross area irrigated under pulses has increased marginally during 2010-11.

The percentage of area irrigated under principal crops to total area sown under each crop is given in the following table

Name of the crop	Percentage of area irrigated to total area sown under the crops	
	2009-10	2010-11
Paddy	100.00	100.00
Ragi	100.00	100.00
Groundnut	97.95	98.80
Sugarcane	100.00	100.00
Cotton	100.00	100.00

AREA SOWN WITH CROPS (TOTAL CROPPED AREA)

The total cropped area under all crops was 31437 hectares in 2010-11 which is less by 473 hectares as compared to 2009-10. During the year 2010-11 the area under food crops accounted for 82.27 % and respective percentage of non-food crops is 17.73%.

The cropping pattern in the Union Territory of Puducherry as a whole during 2009-10 and 2010-11 is as below:-

Name of the crop	Percentage of area under principal crops to total cropped area	
	2009-10	2010-11
<u>Food-Crops</u>		
Paddy	65.58	63.66
Ragi	0.11	0.07
Cumbu	0.19	0.11
Other Millets	0.02	0.00
Pulses	6.42	8.41
Sugarcane	5.60	5.61
Other food-crops	4.52	4.41
Total Food Crops	82.44	82.27
<u>Non-Food Crops</u>		
Cotton	0.03	0.02
Groundnut	1.37	1.32
Gingelly	0.77	0.42
Coconut	6.70	6.78
Casuarina	5.06	4.95
Other Non-food Crops	3.63	4.24
Total Non-Food Crops	17.56	17.73

In Puducherry region, food crops were cultivated in 79.03% of the total cropped area whereas in Karaikal region it was 96.31%. In this aspect Mahe and Yanam regions recorded 20.30 % and 65.48 % respectively.

PADDY

Paddy is the principal crop amongst all crops and Paddy was cultivated in an area of 20014 hectares during the year 2010-11 which accounts for 63.66% of the

total cropped area. The area under Paddy in 2009-10 was 20926 hectares. Production of Rice during 2010-11 was reported as 51960 tonnes as against 52330 tonnes in 2009-10, showing a downward trend. The average yield rate of Rice has increased from 2501kgs.(2009-10) to 2596 Kgs. Per hectare during 2010-11.

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	63.30
Karaikal	69.90
Mahe	0.00
Yanam	54.84

The percentage of area under Paddy to total cropped area has decreased from 73.33% to 69.90% in Karaikal region compared to last year. A similar trend is noticed in case of Yanam region also.

Paddy is normally cultivated in wetlands, which are irrigated by different sources of irrigation such as Canals and Tube Wells. Usually Paddy is cultivated during three different seasons in a year. Paddy first crop (Kuruva) 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 (Navara) is from January to March and is harvested during May to June.

RAGI

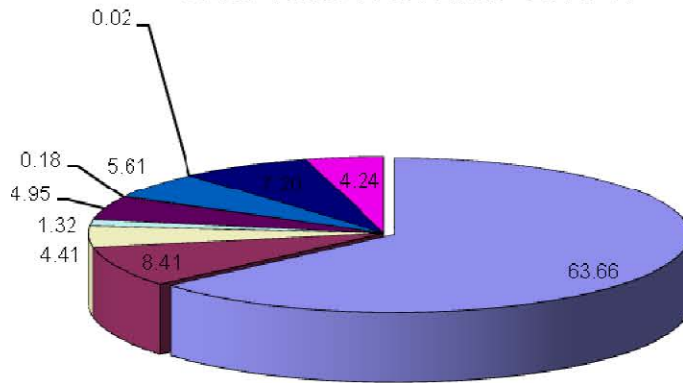
Ragi was cultivated in Puducherry region to an extent of 23 hectares, a reduction of 10 Hecs areawise compare to last year. This crop is mainly sown in dry lands and irrigated by tube wells.

The production was estimated at 51 tonnes. This was 91 tonnes during 2009-10. 0.07% of total cropped area was utilized for Ragi cultivation.

CUMBU

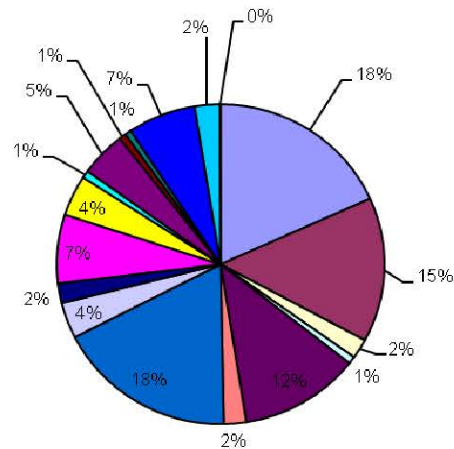
Cumbu was cultivated only in Puducherry region to an extent of 34 hectares in 2010-11 and the production being 79 tones. The area and the production of Cumbu during 2009-10 was 60 Hecs and 111 tonnes respectively during 2009-10. Cumbu is mainly sown in dry lands for two seasons viz. Khariff and Rabi-II.

CROPPING PATTERN - 2010-11



Paddy (63.66%)	Pulses (8.41%)
Other Food Crops (4.41%)	Groundnut (1.32%)
Casuarina (4.95%)	Other Cereals (0.18%)
Sugar cane (5.61%)	Cotton (0.02%)
Other Oil Seeds (7.20%)	Other Non Food Crops (4.24%)

Horticulture Crops 2010-11



Banana (18%)	Mango (15%)	Guava (2%)
Watermelon (1%)	Cashewnut (12%)	Other fruits (2%)
Tapioca (18%)	Brinjal (4%)	Ladys finger (2%)
Other Vegetables (7%)	Betel nuts (4%)	Pepper (1%)
Tamarind (5%)	Other condiments (1%)	Betel vines (1%)
Fodder crops (7%)	Flower garden (2%)	Other medical plant (0%)

OTHER MILLETS

Other Millets such as Varagu, Samai, Thenai and Cholan were not grown in Puducherry during the agricultural year under review.

PULSES

Pulses were cultivated in 2646 hectares in the entire Union Territory and of the Blackgram and Greengram occupied 1,127 hectares and 1,493 hectares respectively. Area cultivated under pulses has increased considerably compared to 2009-10. Similarly the production of Blackgram also showing an increasing trend from 169 tonnes to 597 tonnes compared to last year and that of Greengram also showing an upwards trend from 94 tonnes to 701 tonnes compared to the previous year.

SUGAR CANE

Sugarcane is the major crop among the commercial crops and grown mainly in Puducherry region. During the year 2010-11 Sugarcane was cultivated in 1,765 hectares of which 1,764 hectares was recorded in Puducherry region alone. The production of Sugarcane during the year 2010-11 was estimated as 2,77,683 tonnes as against 2,47,254 tonnes during 2009-10.

COTTON

Cotton is the fibre crop grown in Karaikal region only. Previously it was grown in Puducherry region also. During 2005-06, Cotton was grown to the extent of 183 hectare in the U.T. of Puducherry but was shrunked to the level of 5 hectares during 2010-11. The reason for this status needs consideration. The area under Cotton was reported as 5 hectares in Karaikal region. Production of Cotton has gone down from 8 tonnes to 5 tonnes compared to 2009-10.

GROUNDNUT

Groundnut is one among the leading Oilseeds cultivated in the Union Territory of Puducherry. During the year 2010-11, the area under Groundnut was reported as 416 hectares which is 1.32 % of the total cropped area and the production was estimated at 816 tonnes as compared to 921 tonnes in 2009-10. The production of Groundnut was at the level of 1565 tonnes during 2008-09, showing a considerable

decrease in production during the span of just three years, point requires a special attention. Groundnut is sown as an irrigated crop during December to February and in July and August of a year.

COCONUT

Coconut is another important oil seed crop, cultivated in 2,131 hectares during 2010-11 of which 1,167 hectares fall in Puducherry region and 471 hectares in Mahe region. It is significant to note that in Mahe, 79.70 % of the total cropped area are occupied by Coconut.

GINGELLY

Gingelly was sown in an area of 180 hectares during 2008-09 which was increased to the level of 247 hectares during 2009-10 but again decreased to the level of 131 hectares in 2010-11. Similarly the average yield per hectare as gone down from 919 kgs. to 802 kgs.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

AT PUDUCHERRY MARKET

The wholesale prices of some important agricultural commodities are collected every week in Puducherry Market under "Market Intelligence Scheme". The analytical note on the price trend in Puducherry Market is discussed below.

PADDY

The annual average wholesale price of Paddy (I-sort) in Puducherry Market for the year 2010-11 stood at Rs.1,179.75 per quintal, showing a marginal upward trend compared to previous year and a mixed trend is witnessed during the last five years as may be seen from table -VI

RICE (BOILED – I SORT)

In the open market annual average wholesale price of Boiled Rice (I-sort) was reported as Rs.3,201.25 per quintal during the year 2010-11, showing a considerable decrease in price compared to 2009-10 and a similar mixed trend as that of Rice was noticed during the last five years.

RAGI AND CUMBU

The annual average wholesale price of Ragi for the year 2010-11 stood at Rs.1,052.15 per quintal as against Rs.1,063.79 in 2009-10 witnessing a marginal decrease. The annual average wholesale price of Cumbu(T.V) was reported as Rs.1,118.33 per quintal in 2010-11 as against Rs.1,127.76 in 2009-10 registering a decreasing trend.

PULSES

The yearly average wholesale prices of Greengram, Blackgram and Redgram Dhall (I-sort) were registered as Rs.6,823.88, Rs.5,017.43 and Rs.6,589.92 per quintal respectively during 2010-11 as against Rs.5,892.67, Rs.4,429.11 and Rs.7,592.83 per quintal during 2009-10. The prices of Greengram& Blackgram showing a upward trend while that of Redgram Dhall (I-sort) showing a downward trend.

CONDIMENTS AND SPICES

The annual average wholesale price of Chillies (sannam) was reported as Rs.6,542.29 per quintal and a increasing trend was witnessed during the last three years.

ONION

The annual average wholesale price of Onion (Dindugal) which was reported as Rs.2,667.92 per quintal during 2010-11 as against Rs.1,350.92 in 2009-10 registering a mixed trend.

GROUNDNUT (KERNALS) AND GINGELLY SEEDS

The annual average wholesale price of Groundnut (Kernals), was reported as Rs.3287.34 per quintal in 2009-10 increased to Rs.3,844.70 in 2010-11. The annual average wholesale price of Gingelly seeds which was reported as Rs.3,960.41 in 2009-10 decreased to Rs.3,563.27 per quintal in 2010-11 witnessing a decreasing trend.

COCONUT

The annual average wholesale price of Coconuts (per 1000 nuts) reported as Rs.5,850.00 in 2010-11. During 2009-10, it was only Rs4964.58

WAGES PAID TO AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

Statistics relating to daily wages paid to agricultural and skilled labourers are collected every month from four selected centres at Puducherry region, two selected centres at Karaikal region and one selected center at Yanam region of the Union Territory of Puducherry. The agricultural labourers are mainly classified into two groups viz.,

- i) Field Labourers and
- ii) Skilled labourers.

Field labourers comprise of Ploughmen, Sowers, Transplanters, Weeders, Reapers and Harvesters. Skilled labourers are Carpenters and Blacksmiths. Data regarding average daily wages paid to agricultural labourers during 2010-11 in

Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions are detailed in the tables VII-A, VII- B and VII-C. The summary table consists of the average daily wages in respect of Union Territory of Puducherry. The index numbers of agricultural wages are also given in a separate table taking the agricultural year 1999-2000 as base year.

The average daily wages paid to each category of labourers have been computed with simple arithmetic mean of the wage rates that prevailed in the seven selected centers on the last working day of every month during the year 2010-11. The base year average of daily wages has been worked out with the simple average of all months of the year 1999-2000.

The monthly wage relative computed by expressing the average daily wages paid to each category of Labour during a month of the current year as percentage of the corresponding base year average wage rates.

The index numbers of wages paid are discussed in detail below:

FIELD LABOUR

PLOUGH MEN

The average index number of wages paid to Ploughmen which was reported as 340 for the year 2010-11 as against 289 in 2009-10, a hundred points increased within the span of last three years.

SOWERS AND TRANSPLANTERS

The index number of wages paid to men which were reported to 336 for the year 2010-11, where as for women, the average figure was reported as 283.

WEEDERS

The index number of wages paid to weeders (women) varied from 288 and 389 during 2010-11 the annual average being 309.

REAPERS AND HARVESTERS

The index number of wages paid to Reapers and Harvesters (men) ranged between 315 and 406 and that of woman between 349 and 520.

OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

The index number of wages paid to this category (men) slightly increased from 329 in September 2010 to 361 in October 2010, thereafter significantly varied at range between 363 to 374 from November onwards then it is decreased to 349 during January'11 and February'11 and varied from 362 to 371. The respective figure for women reported as 490.

SKILLED LABOURERS

The index number for Carpenters ranged between 285 and 325. The same for Blacksmith varied from 332 to 368. The trend for both Carpenter and Blacksmith are in increase.

REVIEW ON AGRICULTURAL INDICES

Agricultural Indices are computed with the base year of triennium ending 1999-2000 =100. Index numbers for area under all Crops, Net area sown, Yield, Agriculture production, Cropping intensity, productivity per hectare and Cropping pattern are constructed.

The index of area under all crops shows a mixed trend every year due to unstable cropping pattern followed by ryots and availability of water. In 2010-11 index is 69.68.

The index of net area sown also varied from 99.69 in 2000-01 to 71.68 in 2010-11, showing a disturbing trend the reason is mainly due to land put into non-agricultural use especially agricultural lands are being converted into housing plots.

The index of yield and productivity per hectare crossed the 100 mark for the past ten years, which is a good sign of improvement.

The index of agricultural production increased by 3.11 points from previous year and stood at 96.26 in 2010-11.

The index of cropping intensity shows a mixed trend and quoted at 97.20 in the year 2010-11.

The index of cropping pattern decreased from 105.76 in 2009-10 to 104.45 in 2010-11.

