

SEASON AND CROP REPORT

2008 - 09



INTRODUCTION

The Union Territory of Puducherry consists of four regions viz. Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, which are not geographically contiguous. Puducherry region Villupuram Districts of Tamil Nadu State, while Karaikal region, which is also situated in East Coast, bounded by Nagapattinam and Thiruvavur Districts of Tamil Nadu State. Mahe 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 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 engaged 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 Field Supervisors of the Directorate provide able guidance to the primary enumerators in carrying out their work successfully and scientifically.

POPULATION

According to 2001 Population census, the total population of the Union Territory of Puducherry is 9,74,345 persons. Of this 4,86,961 are males and 4,87,384 are females. The regional break up figures with density of population is given below.

Region	Population 2001 Census		
	Males	Females	Total
Puducherry	3,69,428	3,65,904	
Karaikal	84,487	86,304	
Mahe	17,153	19,675	
Yanam	15,893	15,501	
U.T. of Puducherry	4,86,961	4,87,384	

The rural population is 3,25,726 persons (33.43%) whereas the urban population is 6,48,619 persons which constitutes 66.57% of the total population.

The following table reveals the available working force in U.T. of Puducherry as per 2001 Census.

Region	Total workers	Agricultural Workers (Cultivators and Agricultural labourers)	Percentage of Agricultural workers to total workers.	Net area sown (in Hectares) 2008-09	Per-capita
					Total Population
Puducherry	2,65,660	44,569	16.78	11756	
Karaikal	57,497	12,937	22.50	6262	
Mahe	9,292	173	1.86	593	
Yanam	9,903	1,867	18.85	594	
U.T. of Puducherry	3,42,352	59,546	17.39	19205	

The total Population of the Union Territory of Puducherry is 9,74,345 and out of this 3,42,352 (35.14%) are classified as workers. Agriculture is the main economic activity employed 59,546 persons who are either Cultivators or Agricultural workers. The above table gives the clear picture of workforce of the Territory on 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 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 2008)

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 above season is given below.

Name of the Region	Number of Rainy days	Total rainfall (in m.m)
Puducherry	14	140.0
Karaikal	12	117.2
Mahe	73	2036.0
Yanam	38	688.0

It may be noted that Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions have recorded a low level of rainfall while compared to normal rainfall during the season.

NORTH-EAST MONSOON (OCTOBER 2008 TO DECEMBER 2008)

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)
Puducherry	28	1238.0
Karaikal	31	1055.7
Mahe	16	485.6

Yanam	10	242.1
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Puducherry, Karaikal and Mahe regions have recorded a high level of rainfall when compared to Normal rainfall. But in Yanam region has recorded low level of rainfall as compared to normal.

WINTER (JANUARY 2009 AND FEBRUARY 2009)

The region – wise rainfall during the winter season is presented in the following table:

Name of the Region	Total Rainy days	Total rainfall (in m.m)
Puducherry	2	18.0
Karaikal	4	44.5
Mahe	-	-
Yanam	-	-

Puducherry and Karaikal regions have recorded low level of rainfall during the winter season while Mahe and Yanam regions have recorded no rain fall compared to normal.

HOT-WEATHER PERIOD (MARCH 2009 TO MAY 2009)

The above season's rainfall details are given in the following table.

Name of the Region	Total Rainy days	Total rainfall (in m.m)
Puducherry	6	224.0
Karaikal	5	227.4
Mahe	15	272.8
Yanam	2	17.2

During the above season Puducherry and Karaikal regions recorded high level rainfall which are fairly above the normal rainfall of the respective regions and in Mahe as compared to the normal rainfall during the season.

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 the Survey of India in different 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.

Sl.No.	Category	Area in Hectare
1.	Forest	-
2.	Land put to non – agricultural use	18283
3.	Barren and un culturable land	72
4.	Permanent pastures and other grazing land	0
5.	Land under misc. tree crops and groves	1212
6.	Culturable waste	4390
7.	Other fallow land	2454
8.	Current fallow	3035
9.	Net area sown	19205

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.

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 2008- 09, area under this category was 18283 hectares (37.58%) of the total geographical area, which was more than 142 hectares as compared to the year 2007-08.

BARREN AND UNCULTURABLE LANDS

Land where cultivation is not at all possible comes under this category. During the year 2008 – 09, 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 in 2008-09.

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 1,212 hectares (2.49%) was recorded under this category in 2008-09.

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 other, are classified as culturable waste. During the year 2008-09, 4390 hectares have been recorded under this category, which constitutes 9.02% of the total geographical area.

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 year 2008-09, 2,454 hectares were recorded as area under this category which is 5.04% 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 2008-09, this category was recorded as 3035 hecta

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 one 19205 hectares as against 19869 hectares recorded last year(2007-08) representing a fall of 3.34%.

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	
1.	Puducherry	40.02	
2.	Karaikal	39.11	
3.	Mahe	68.16	
4.	Yanam	24.84	

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	53.53
2.	Karaikal	68.33
3.	Mahe	99.66
4.	Yanam	56.73

TOTAL CROPPED AREA (GROSS CROPPED AREA)

The Total Cropped area was recorded as 32768 hectares during the year 2008-09 as against 34682 hectares (2007-08) registering a decrease of 5.52% The area sown 2008-09 as compared to 14813 hectares during the year 2007-08.

AREA IRRIGATED BY DIFFERENT SOURCES OF IRRIGATION

The Net Area Irrigated by different sources of irrigation during the year 2008-09 was recorded as 16202 hectares. In Puducherry region, 88.53% of the net area sown figure is 87.62%. The relevant figures for Mahe and Yanam region was 5.06% and 46.80% 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)
1	Canal	5707
2	Tank	0
3	Tubewell	10443
4	Ordinary Well	0
5	Other Source	52
Total		16202

It may be noted that 5707 hectares in Karaikal & Yanam regions were irrigated through canals and in Puducherry region the main source of irrigation was "Tube Wel

During the year 2008-09, the Gross area irrigated under different crops was 26768 hectares as against 26937 hectares in 2007-08. Percentage of area irrigated to to Puducherry. It is worth mentioning here that 89.53 % of the total cropped area in Puducherry region alone was irrigated whereas the respective figures for Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam are 5.06%, 46.80% and 87.62% respectively.

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	-	77.63%	Sugarcane	-	7.27%
Ragi	-	0.14%	Fruits and Vegetables	-	3.27%
Cumbu	-	0.17%	Condiments and Spices	-	0.02%
Cholam	-	0.01%	Groundnut	-	2.63%
Other Millets	-	0.00%	Other Non- food crops	-	8.10%
Pulses	-	0.76%			

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	
	2007-08	
Paddy	100.00	
Ragi	100.00	
Groundnut	97.25	
Sugarcane	100.00	
Cotton	100.00	

AREA SOWN WITH CROPS (TOTAL CROPPED AREA)

The total cropped area under all crops was 32768 hectares in 2008-09 which is less by 1,914 hectares as compared to 2007-08 During the year 2008-09 the area under non-food crops is 17.84%.

The cropping pattern in the Union Territory of Puducherry as a whole during 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as below :-

Name of the crop	Percentage of area under principal crops to total cropped area	
	2007-08	
Food-Crops		
Paddy	58.93	63.41
Ragi	0.21	
Cumbu	0.18	
Other Millets	0.01	

Pulses	12.91	
Sugarcane	6.70	
Other food-crops	4.54	
Total Food Crops	83.48	
Non-Food Crops		
Cotton	0.19	
Groundnut	2.20	
Gingelly	0.38	
Coconut	6.24	
Casuarina	4.10	
Other Non-food Crops	3.41	
Total Non-Food Crops	16.52	17.84

In Puducherry region, food crops were cultivated in 78.73% of the total cropped area whereas in Karaikal region it was 96.40%. In this aspect Mahe and Yanam region

PADDY

Paddy is the principal crop amongst all crops and Paddy was cultivated in an area of 20780 hectares during the year 2008-09 which accounts for 63.41% of the total 20437 hectares. Production of Rice during 2008-09 was reported as 50716 tonnes as against 53324 tonnes in 2007-08. The average yield rate of Rice was 2441 Kgs. Per hectare during

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	62.73
Karaikal	70.77
Mahe	0.00
Yanam	49.57

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 the 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 months of 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 38 hectares. This crop is mainly sown in dry lands and irrigated by tube wells.

The production was estimated at 103 tonnes. 0.12% of total cropped area was utilized for Ragi cultivation.

CUMBU

Cumbu was cultivated only in Puducherry region to an extent of 55 hectares in 2008-09 and the production being 100 tonnes. Cumbu is mainly sown in dry lands for the first crop.

OTHER MILLETS

Other Millets such as Thenai and Cholam were grown only in Puducherry region in an area of 1 hectare and 2 hectares which are too small to take note off.

PULSES

Pulses were cultivated in 2602 hectares in the entire Union Territory and of the Blackgram and Greengram occupied 1,359 hectares and 1,225 hectares respectively. The production of Greengram was 233 tonnes.

SUGAR CANE

Sugarcane is the major crop among the commercial crops and grown mainly in Puducherry region. During the year 2008-09 Sugarcane was cultivated in 19,437 hectares in Puducherry region alone. The production of Sugarcane during the year 2008-09 was estimated as 1,62,323 tonnes as against 2,28,416 tonnes during 2007-08.

COTTON

Cotton is the only fibre crop grown in Puducherry and Karaikal region only. During 2008-09 area under cotton was reported as 48 hectares of which 25 hectares was in Puducherry and 23 hectares in Karaikal. The production was 39 tonnes.

GROUNDNUT

Groundnut is one among the leading Oilseeds cultivated in the Union Territory of Puducherry. During the year 2008-09, the area under Groundnut was reported as 1,565 hectares and the production was estimated at 1,565 tonnes as compared to 1,505 tonnes in 2007-08. Groundnut is sown as an irrigated crop during December to February and as a dry crop in March to May.

COCONUT

Coconut is another important oil seed crop, cultivated in 2,084 hectares during 2008-09 of which 1,112 hectares fall in Puducherry region and 472 hectares in Mahe and Yanam. The total cropped area are occupied by Coconut.

GINGELLY

Gingelly was sown in an area of 180 hectares in 2008-09 as against 132 hectares during 2007-08 with an average yield of 1000 kgs. per hectare.

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 analysis of these prices is discussed below.

PADDY

The annual average wholesale price of Paddy (I-sort) for the year 2008-09 stood at Rs.1244.98 per quintal and a mixed trend was witnessed during the last five years as compared to Rs.1244.98 per quintal in 2007-08.

RICE (BOILED - I SORT)

In the open market annual average wholesale price of Boiled Rice (I-sort) was reported as Rs.2653.13 per quintal during the year 2008-09 and a similar mixed trend was witnessed during the last five years as compared to Rs.2653.13 per quintal in 2007-08.

RAGI AND CUMBU

The annual average wholesale price of Ragi for the year 2008-09 stood at Rs.920.87 per quintal as against Rs.786.78 in 2007-08 witnessing an increasing trend. The price of Cumbu was Rs.904.53 per quintal in 2008-09 as against Rs. 814.40 in 2007-08 registering an increasing trend.

PULSES

The yearly average wholesale prices of Greengram, Blackgram and Redgram Dhall (I-sort) were registered as Rs. 4,002.08, Rs.3,026.69 and Rs.4,695.75 per quintal Rs.2,536.76 and Rs.3,911.25 per quintal during 2007-08.

CONDIMENTS AND SPICES

The annual average wholesale price of chillies (sannam) was reported as Rs.6,054.58 per quintal and a mixed trend was witnessed during the last five years.

ONION (DINDUGUL)

The annual average wholesale price of Onions which was reported as Rs.1,961.46 per quintal during 2008-09 as against Rs.1,457.29 in 2007-08 registering a increasing

GROUNDNUT (KERNALS) AND GINGELLY SEEDS

The annual average wholesale price of Groundnut (Kernals), was reported as Rs.2,910.49 per quintal in 2007-08 increased to Rs.3,076.24 in 2008-09. The annual reported as Rs.3,001.12 in 2007-08 increased to Rs. 3,799.73 per quintal in 2008-09 witnessing a increasing trend.

COCONUT

The annual average wholesale price of Coconuts (per 1000 nuts) reported as Rs.5,845.83 in 2008-09.

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 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 during 2008-09 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 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 centres year 2008-09. 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

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 235 for the year 2008-09 as against 169 in 2007-08.

SOWERS AND TRANSPLANTERS

The index number of wages paid to men which were reported to 208 for the year 2008-09, where as for women, the average figure was reported as 211

WEEDERS

The index number of wages paid to weeders (women) varied from 218 and 276 during 2008-09 the annual average being 239.

REAPERS AND HARVESTERS

The index number of wages paid to Reapers and Harvesters (men) ranged between 144 and 316 and that of woman between 198 and 219.

OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

The index number of wages paid to this category (men) slightly increased from 204 in August 2008 to 207 in September 2008, thereafter significant increase in November reported as 303.

SKILLED LABOURERS

The index number for Carpenters ranged between 173 and 223. The same for Blacksmith varied from 226 to 249.

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, Agricultural productivity per hectare 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 2008-09 index is 73.4

The index of net area sown also varied from 99.69 in 2000-2001 to 74.94 in 2008-09, showing a revised trend.

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

The index of agricultural production decreased by 7.80 points from previous year and stood at 82.94 in 2008-09.

The index of cropping intensity shows a mixed trend and quated at 97.94 in the year 2008-09.

The index of cropping pattern increased from 101.74 in 2007-08 to 105.16 in 2008-09.

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