



SEASON AND CROP REPORT

2009 - 10

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 bounded by Cuddalore and Villupuram Districts of Tamil Nadu State, while Karaikal region, which is also situated in East Coast, bounded by Nagapattinam and Thiruvannamalai Districts of Tamil Nadu State. Puducherry region is located in the West Coast near Cannanore District of Kerala State and Yanam region is located in the East Godavari 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 ” 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 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 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, with a sex ratio of 1000 females to 1000 males. The regional break up figures with density of population is given below.

Region	Population 2001 Census			Density per Sq.Km
	Males	Females	Total	
Puducherry	3,69,428	3,65,904	7,35,332	2,536
Karaikal	84,487	86,304	1,70,791	1,061
Mahe	17,153	19,675	36,828	4,092
Yanam	15,893	15,501	31,394	1,570
U.T. of Puducherry	4,86,961	4,87,384	9,74,345	2,030

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) 2009-10	Per-capita Net Area Sown (in Hectare)		Density of Agricultural workers per 100 Hectare of net area sown
					Total Population	Agricultural workers	
Puducherry	2,65,660	44,569	16.78	11472	0.016	0.257	389
Karaikal	57,497	12,937	22.50	6055	0.035	0.468	214
Mahe	9,292	173	1.86	593	0.016	3.428	29
Yanam	9,903	1,867	18.85	614	0.020	0.329	304
U.T. of Puducherry	3,42,352	59,546	17.39	18734	0.019	0.315	318

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 of the Union Territory of Puducherry and this sector had 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

- South–West monsoon
- North–East monsoon
- Winter period
- Hot weather period.

SOUTH–WEST MONSOON (JUNE 2009 TO SEPTEMBER 2009)

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	18	312.8	378.5
Karaikal	8	106.0	258.7
Mahe	81	2694.0	2729.8
Yanam	28	329.5	691.3

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 2009 TO DECEMBER 2009)

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

Name of the Region	Number of Rainy days	Total rainfall (in m.m)	Normal rainfall (in m.m)
Puducherry	30	1034.0	849.4
Karaikal	36	1359.5	993.2
Mahe	15	519.6	367.2
Yanam	8	200.6	450.3

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 PERIOD (JANUARY 2010 AND FEBRUARY 2010)

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

<i>Name of the Region</i>	<i>Total Rainy days</i>	<i>Total rainfall (in m.m)</i>	<i>Normal rainfall (in m.m)</i>
Puducherry	2	22.0	46.0
Karaikal	5	60.1	66.5
Mahe	2	30.0	10.4
Yanam	2	9.0	27.1

Puducherry Karaikal and Yanam regions have recorded low level of rainfall during the winter season while Mahe region have recorded a high level of rain fall compared to normal rain fall.

HOT-WEATHER PERIOD (MARCH 2010 TO MAY 2010)

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

<i>Name of the Region</i>	<i>Total Rainy days</i>	<i>Total rainfall (in m.m)</i>	<i>Normal rainfall (in m.m)</i>
Puducherry	3	111.0	64.3
Karaikal	2	108.8	68.4
Mahe	17	391.2	279.7
Yanam	5	155.0	70.1

During the above season Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions recorded a high level of rain-fall when compared to the normal rainfall during the season.

RAINFALL ABNORMALITIES

The rainfall abnormalities are classified as follows

- Excess (+) 20% and above normal
- Normal (-) 19.9% to (+) 19.9%
- Deficient (-) 20% to (-) 59.9%
- Scanty (-) 60% to (-) 99.9%
- 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, 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.

SL.No.	Category	2009- 10	
		Area in Hectare	Percentage to total Geographical area
1.	Forest	—	-
2.	Land put to non – agricultural use	18466	37.96
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	1131	2.32
6.	Culturable waste	4433	9.11
7.	Other fallow land	2526	5.19
8.	Current fallow	3289	6.76
9.	Net area sown	18734	38.51

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 Ter 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 2009-10, area under this category was 18466 hectares (37.96%) of the total geographical area, which was more than 183 hectares as compared to the previous year 2008–

BARREN AND UNCULTURABLE LANDS

Land where cultivation is not at all possible comes under this category. During the year 2009–10, 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 ur category during the year 2009-10

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 1,131 hectares (2.32%) was recorded under this category.

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 (in succession for one reason or the other, are classified as culturable waste. During the year 2009-10, 4433 hectares have been recorded under this category, which constitutes 9.11% of the total geog 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 years are considered fallow lands. During the year 2009-10, 2,526 hectares were recorded as area under this category which is 5.19% 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 2009-10, this category was recorded as 3289 hectares which is 6.76%

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 sow current year 2009–10 was 18734 hectares as against 19205 hectares recorded last year(2008-09) representing a fall of 2.45%.

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	39.05	61.24
2.	Karaikal	37.82	32.32
3.	Mahe	68.16	3.16
4.	Yanam	25.68	3.28

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	52.65	
2.	Karaikal	70.82	
3.	Mahe	99.50	
4.	Yanam	63.04	

TOTAL CROPPED AREA (GROSS CROPPED AREA)

The Total Cropped area was recorded as 31910 hectares during the year 2009-10 as against 32768 hectares (2008-09) registering a decrease of 2.62% The area sown more than o reported as 13176 hectares during 2009-10 as compared to 13563 hectares during the year 2008-09.

AREA IRRIGATED BY DIFFERENT SOURCES OF IRRIGATION

The Net Area Irrigated by different sources of irrigation during the year 2009-10 was recorded as 15991 hectares. In Puducherry region, 88.60% of the net area sown was irrigated, Karaikal region the respective figure is 90.50%. The relevant figures for Mahe and Yanam region was 5.40% and 51.30% 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	5755	35.99
2	Tank	0	0
3	Tubewell	10187	63.70
4	Ordinary Well	0	0
5	Other Source	49	0.31
Total		15991	100

It may be noted that 5755 hectares in Karaikal & Yanam regions were irrigated through canals and in Puducherry region the main source of irrigation was “Tube Wells”.

During the year 2009-10, the Gross area irrigated under different crops was 26503 hectares as against 26768 hectares in 2008-09. Percentage of area irrigated to total cropped area was 85 the Union Territory of Puducherry. It is worth mentioning here that 89.94 % of the total cropped area in Puducherry region alone was irrigated whereas the respective figures for Karaikal, Mahe and regions were 73.81% , 5.70% and 57.60% 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	-	78.96%	Sugarcane	-	6.74%
Ragi	-	0.13%	Fruits and Vegetables	-	3.08%
Cumbu	-	0.19%	Condiments and Spices	-	0.03%
Cholam	-	0.02%	Groundnut	-	1.62%
Other Millets	-	0.00%	Other Non- food crops	-	8.68%
Pulses	-	0.55%			

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	
	2008-09	2009-10
Paddy	100.00	100.00
Ragi	100.00	100.00
Groundnut	98.46	97.95
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 31910 hectares in 2009-10 which is less by 858 hectares as compared to 2008-09. During the year 2009-10 the area under food crops accou 82.44 % and respective percentage of non-food crops is 17.56%.

The cropping pattern in the Union Territory of Puducherry as a whole during 2008-09 and 2009-10 is as below :-

Name of the crop	Percentage of area under principal crops to total cropped area	
	2008-09	2009-10
Food-Crops		
Paddy	63.41	65.58
Ragi	0.12	0.11
Cumbu	0.17	0.19
Other Millets	0.01	0.02
Pulses	7.94	6.42
Sugarcane	5.94	5.60
Other food-crops	4.57	4.52

Total Food Crops	82.16	82.44
Non-Food Crops		
Cotton	0.15	0.03
Groundnut	2.18	1.37
Gingelly	0.55	0.77
Coconut	6.36	6.70
Casuarina	4.79	5.06
Other Non-food Crops	3.81	3.63
Total Non-Food Crops	17.84	17.56

In Puducherry region, food crops were cultivated in 79.65% of the total cropped area whereas in Karaikal region it was 96.11%. In this aspect Mahe and Yanam regions recorded 20.8 62.63 % respectively.

PADDY

Paddy is the principal crop amongst all crops and Paddy was cultivated in an area of 20926 hectares during the year 2009-10 which accounts for 65.58% of the total cropped area . T under Paddy in 2008-09 was 20780 hectares. Production of Rice during 2009–10 was reported as 52330 tonnes as against 50716 tonnes in 2008-09. The average yield rate of Rice was 2501 Kgs. Per during 2009-10.

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	64.70
Karaikal	73.33
Mahe	0.00
Yanam	57.29

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 se a year. Paddy first crop (Kuruval) 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 th 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 33 hectares. This crop is mainly sown in dry lands and irrigated by tube wells.

The production was estimated at 91 tonnes. 0.11% of total cropped area was utilized for Ragi cultivation.

CUMBU

Cumbu was cultivated only in Puducherry region to an extent of 60 hectares in 2009-10 and the production being 111 tones. Cumbu is mainly sown in dry lands for two seasons viz. and Rabi-II.

OTHER MILLETS

Other Millets such as Thenal and Cholam were grown only in Puducherry region in an area of 1 hectare and 6 hectares respectively which are too small to take note off.

PULSES

Pulses were cultivated in 2050 hectares in the entire Union Territory and of the Blackgram and Greengram occupied 980 hectares and 1,064 hectares respectively. The production of Bl was 169 tonnes and that of Greengram was 94 tonnes.

SUGAR CANE

Sugarcane is the major crop among the commercial crops and grown mainly in Puducherry region. During the year 2009–10 Sugarcane was cultivated in 1785 hectares of whic hectares was recorded in Puducherry region alone. The production of Sugarcane during the year 2009–10 was estimated as 2,47,254 tonnes as against 1,62,323 tonnes during 2008–09.

COTTON

Cotton is the only fibre crop grown in Puducherry and Karaikal region only. During 2009-10 area under Cotton was reported as 10 hectares of which 9 hectares was grown in Karaika alone. Production of Cotton was 8 tonnes.

GROUNDNUT

Groundnut is one among the leading Oilseeds cultivated in the Union Territory of Puducherry. During the year 2009-10, the area under Groundnut was reported as 438 hectares which is of the total cropped area and the production was estimated at 921 tonnes as compared to 1,565 tonnes in 2008-09. Groundnut is sown as an irrigated crop during December to February and in July and of a year.

COCONUT

Coconut is another important oil seed crop, cultivated in 2,138 hectares during 2009-10 of which 1,169 hectares fall in Puducherry region and 472 hectares in Mahe region. It is signi note that in Mahe, 79.19 % of the total cropped area are occupied by Coconut.

GINGELLY

Gingelly was sown in an area of 247 hectares in 2009-10 as against 180 hectares during 2008–09 with an average yield of 919 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 analytical note on the price Puducherry Market is discussed below.

PADDY

The annual average wholesale price of Paddy (I-sort) for the year 2009-10 stood at `1129.73 per quintal and a mixed trend was witnessed during the last five years as may be seen from ta

RICE (BOILED – I SORT)

In the open market annual average wholesale price of Boiled Rice (I-sort) was reported as `3390.75 per quintal during the year 2009-10 and a similar mixed trend as that of Paddy was during the last five years.

RAGI AND CUMBU

The annual average wholesale price of Ragi for the year 2009-10 stood at `1063.79 per quintal as against `920.87 in 2008-09 witnessing an increasing trend. The annual average wholesale price of Cumbu(T.V) was reported as `1127.76 per quintal in 2009-10 as against `904.53 in 2008-09 registering a increasing trend.

PULSES

The yearly average wholesale prices of Greengram, Blackgram and Redgram Dhall (I-sort) were registered as `5,892.67, `4,429.11 and `7,592.83 per quintal respectively during 2008-09 against `4,002.08, `3,026.69 and `4,695.75 per quintal during 2008-09.

CONDIMENTS AND SPICES

The annual average wholesale price of Chillies (sannam) was reported as `6,505.58 per quintal and a mixed trend was witnessed during the last five years.

ONION

The annual average wholesale price of Onion (Bellary) which was reported as `1,350.92 per quintal during 2009-10 as against `1,961.46 in 2008-09 registering a decreasing trend.

GROUNDNUT (KERNALS) AND GINGELLY SEEDS

The annual average wholesale price of Groundnut (Kernals), was reported as `3,076.24 per quintal in 2008-09 increased to `3,287.34 in 2009-10. The annual average wholesale price of Gingelly seeds which was reported as `3,799.73 in 2008-09 increased to `3,960.41 per quintal in 2009-10 witnessing a increasing trend.

COCONUT

The annual average wholesale price of Coconuts (per 1000 nuts) reported as `4,964.58 in 2009-10.

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 of agricultural labourers during 2009-10 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 labourers in the 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 day of every month during the year 2009-10. 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 289 for the year 2009-10 as against 235 in 2008-09.

SOWERS AND TRANSPLANTERS

The index number of wages paid to men which were reported to 254 for the year 2009-10, where as for women, the average figure was reported as 280.

WEEDERS

The index number of wages paid to weeders (women) varied from 294 and 339 during 2009-10 the annual average being 318.

REAPERS AND HARVESTERS

The index number of wages paid to Reapers and Harvesters (men) ranged between 301 and 427 and that of woman between 325 and 585.

OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

The index number of wages paid to this category (men) slightly increased from 250 in September 2009 to 256 in October 2009, thereafter significantly varied at range between 266 to 295 in November onwards. The respective figure for women reported as 334.

SKILLED LABOURERS

The index number for Carpenters ranged between 226 and 255. The same for Blacksmith varied from 226 to 262.

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, Crop intensity, Cropping pattern and 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 2009-10 index is 71.17.

The index of net area sown also varied from 99.69 in 2000-2001 to 72.79 in 2009-10, showing a revised trend.

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 6.21 points from previous year and stood at 89.15 in 2009-10.

The index of cropping intensity shows a mixed trend and quoted at 97.78 in the year 2009-10.

The index of cropping pattern increased from 101.74 in 2007-08 to 105.76 in 2009-10.

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