

V. LAND UTILISATION.

The Union Territory of Pondicherry possesses fertile land coupled with adequate water resources. The aggregate geographical area according to village papers is 46,822 hectares. The net area sown is 31,523 hectares i.e. 67.3%. However, the total cropped area is 50,617 hectares, which naturally implies that 19,094 hectares are sown more than once. 10,389 hectares or 22.2% of the total area is put to non-agricultural use. Practically there is no forest area in this Union Territory. It is also pointed out incidentally, that the proportion of net area sown to total area is remarkably high and is the third highest in the country as a whole with the exception of Laccadive islands. Another noteworthy feature is that the cultivable area per agricultural worker is too low, being 0.51 hectare and this is also below the All-India average of 1.21 hectares. It will

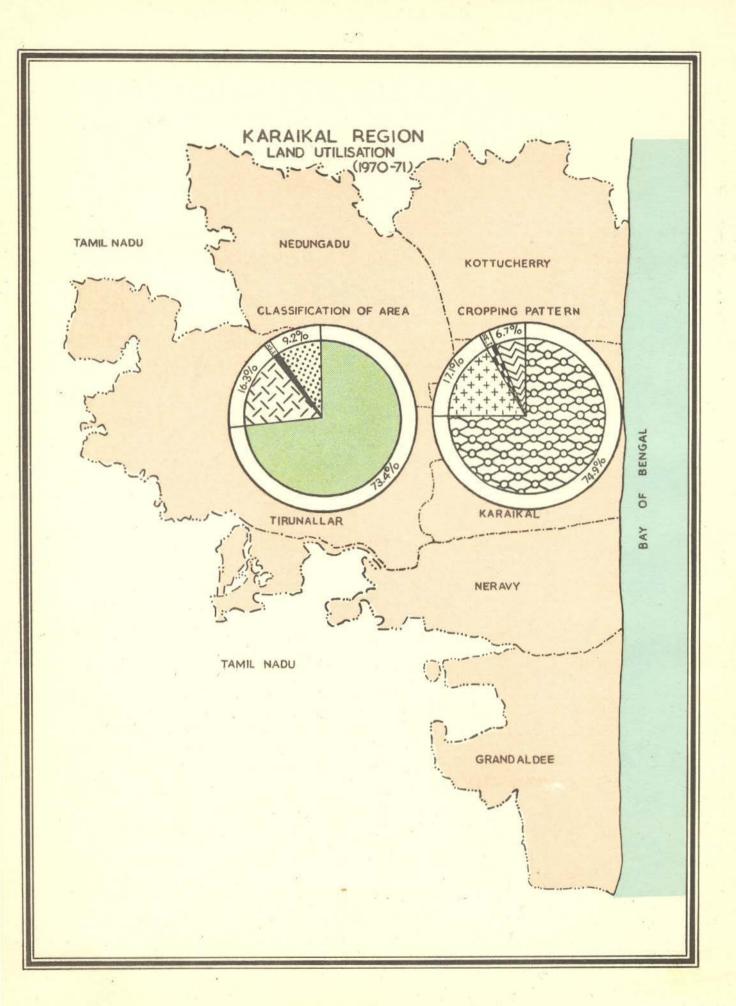
also be relevant to point out that "90 per cent owners owned 48 per cent of the total land. This means that 10 per cent of land-owners own 52 per cent of the land" (Techno-Economic Survey of Pondicherry 1965). Another noteworthy feature is that three-fourth of the persons engaged in agriculture are agricultural labourers and only one-fourth are cultivators according to 1971 Census.

Pondicherry Region.

The total geographical area of Pondicherry region according to village papers is 29,377 hectares. The land utilisation data for the agricultural year 1970-71 are furnished below:—

Sl. No.	Type of utilisation		Area in hectares
(1)	(2)		(3)
1.	Land put to non-agricultural uses	**	7,664
2.	Barren and uncultivated land		101
3.	Permanent pastures and other grazing lands		5
4.	Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves		1,276
5.	Culturable waste	100	479
6.	Other fallow lands	* *	188
7.	Current fallows		632
8.	Net area sown	**	19,632
9.	Area sown more than once	**	10,983
10.	Total cropped area	16.00	30,015

The proportion of net area sown to total geographical area works out to 64.8% in Pondicherry region.



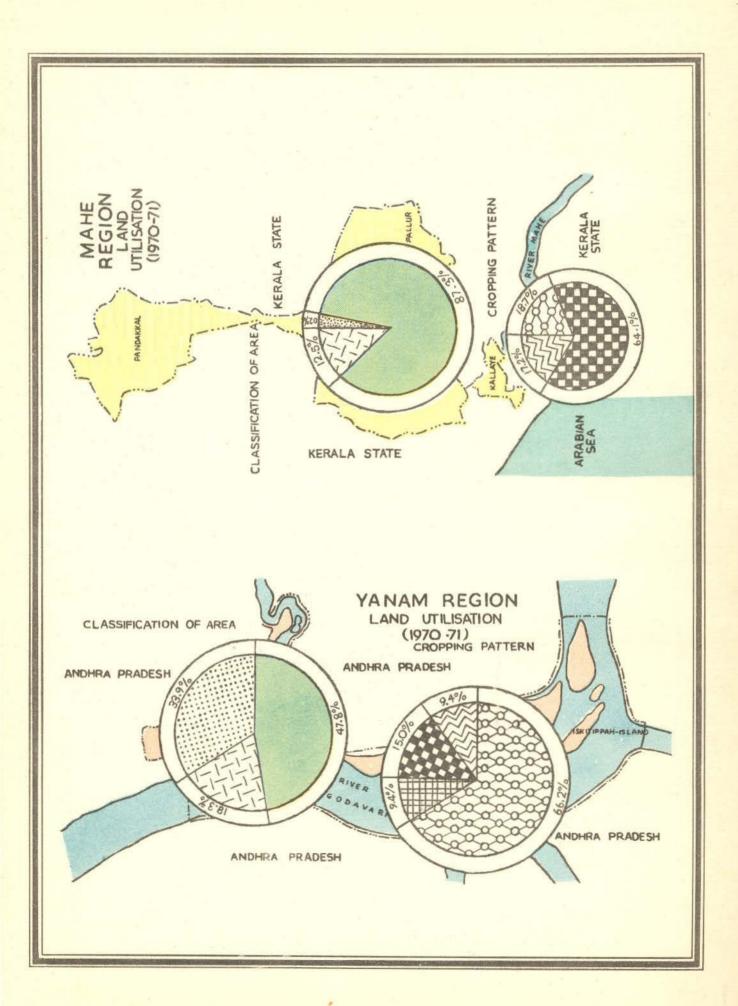
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Karaikal Region.

The total geographical area of Karaikal region according to village papers is 14,920 hectares. The data on the utilisation of land for the year 1970-71 are furnished below:—

Sl. No.	Type of utilisation		Area in hectares
(1)	(2)		(3)
1.	Land put to non-agricultural use		2,398
2.	Barren and uncultivated land	•:•	36
3.	Permanent pastures and other grazing lands		94
4.	Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves		637
5.	Culturable waste		641
6.	Other fallow lands		2
7.	Current fallows		159
8.	Net area sown		10,953
9.	Area sown more than once		7,726
10.	Total cropped area		18,679

Net area sown represents 73.4% of the total geographical area in Karaikal region.



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Mahe Region.

The total geographical area of Mahe region according to village papers is 841 hectares. The land utilisation data for the year 1970-71 are indicated below:—

Sl. No.	Type of utilisation	Area in hectares
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Land put to non-agricultural use	88
2.	Barren and uncultivated land	17
3.	Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves	2
4.	Net area sown	734
5.	Area sown more than once	118
6.	Total cropped area	852

Yanam Region.

The total geographical area of Yanam region according to village papers is 1,684 hectares. The land utilisation data for the agricultural year 1970-71 are furnished below:—

Sl. No.	Type of utilisation				Area in hectares
(1)	(2)				(3)
1.	Land put to non-agricultural use				239
2.	Barren and uncultivated land				70
3.	Permanent pastures and other graz	ing land	2 2		347
4.	Land under miscellaneous tree crop	ps and g	roves	* *	74
5.	Culturable waste				150
6.	Net area sown				804
7.	Area sown more than once				267
8.	Total cropped area	* *	٠.,		1,071