| 4.38 | Rice field comparison 1990-2011 | 91 |
| 4.39 | Land use comparison 1990-2011 | 92 |
| 4.40 | Conclusion | 94 |

**CURRENT SCENARIO OF AGRICULTURE - 5**

**CHAPTER – I**

**RESEARCH DESIGN**

Agriculture is the source of livelihood for millions in most part of the world since human society started settled life. The states agrarian economy has undergone radical and far reaching changes. There was a decline in rice cultivation in Kerala from 1980. Studies on cropping pattern and land use changes possess great academic attention in the present age of food deficit, increasing farm suicides and agrarian distress.

Land use is a general term for the nature of human modification on earth’s terrestrial surface. The issue of land use changes at present is viewed as a decision of land owners. Nevertheless at farm level monetary benefits act as a guiding principle while opting for a particular crop/cropping pattern. This shift away of geographical factors from a determining factor is not a accidental one, it is the result of the international interventions in the agriculture sector by local, national and international political institutions.
Palakkad is a region that is referred to as the ‘rice bowl’ of Kerala. Palakkad and Kuttanad is the leading rice producing regions in Kerala. Rice cultivation in Palakkad has witnessed a steady decline in recent decades. Farmers has been facing various problems of their paddy did not fetch the reasonable price. We look at the issue of conversion from the perspective of the local society, we could see environmental resource depletion impacting directly on the poverty level and livelihood conditions of the indigent local population dependent on land. Degradation of the environment hurts the poor than the rest of the society. This study discusses some of the significant aspects of rice fields in rural Kerala.

**Statement of the problem**

Rice field reclamation creates lot of social and ecological problems across the world. The rich rice field cultivation is fast disappearing and we need to do something before here nothing to preserve. The transformation of agriculture from subsistence to a capitalist mode of production has been an ongoing process in many parts of world and India. It has lead to an overall improvement for some countries but it also impoverished in the Third World countries.

**Objective** To analyse the trend of decadal changes of rice cultivation, its economic and ecological impacts in the study area and to evaluate the role of rice centric government policies and its impacts in Kerala, specifically Perumatty Panchayat.

**Research questions**

1. Is there any significant decadal change in cropping pattern to different land uses in Perumatty panchayat
2. Do there exist any significant trend in rice cultivation
3. If so, how much area of rice field is converted
4. How rice centric government policies affected the rice land conversion of study area

**Theoretical frame work**

Political ecology is the study of relationships between political, economic and social factors with environmental issues and changes. Political ecology understands the complex relations between nature and society through of a care full analysis of what one might call the forms of access and control over r In this chapter provide a general view of topic i.e., agriculture an overview, importance of agriculture, trend of agriculture,