The study reveals Perumatty Panchayath in Palakkad district has experienced rice declination in drastic manner and the losses area of rice field was converted mainly into plantation crops like coconut, areca nut etc. The key focus of economic liberalization policies has been the commercialization of agriculture by growing cash crops of greater value addition for export. Over all the commercialization of agriculture has mostly benefited large scale producers instead of small scale subsistence farmers in India. In general the lack of subsidy credit, improper government policies, debits together with high cost of inputs etc. resulted in the shifting of rice cultivation towards commercial crops.

CHAPTER IV
DYNAMICS OF RICE CULTIVATION IN PERUMATTY – FIELD SURVEY ANALYSIS

The present chapter is an attempt to describe the condition of the Indian farmers especially the farmers in Kerala. The state witnessed remarkable transformation in agricultural sector since its formation. The first major achievement was the ordinance on abolition of tenancy system in 1969 by the first ministry of E.M.S. Namboothiripad. (The Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963). The law has become the death knell of feudalism and become a turning point and landmark in Kerala agricultural sector and a stepping stone for further reforms in this field. The production sector has also witnessed major changes. The net irrigated area of 2 lakh hectares during 1980 – 81 has increased to around 3.9 lakh hectares in 2013 – 14. (Economic and statistics report 2014). After 1990 the area under rice declining at an alarming rate to an area of 4.3 lakh hectares and 8.7 lakh ton during 1996 – 97 and 2.89 lakh hectares with 6.67 lakh ton during 2010 – 11 (Govt. of Kerala report 2011).

Land use 2010 – 11

The land use of the area during 2011 indicates that there has been a vast changes from that of 1990s. The rice cultivation remain high and occupies first place in this panchayath but the area under cultivation has been drastically reduced. The area under mixed crops and plantation crops increased considerably as compared to the land use data 1990. Coconut regard as the major competitive crop of rice and the two crops show opposite growth rate in area.

While analyzing the land use data of 2011, it provides a different picture from that of 1990. Some land use classes particularly rice had undergone reduced and others have