increased sharply. Rice cultivation remains the major class with an area of 2108.96 hectare, which is 35.28% of the total area. Mixed crops is the second major land use category that occupies an area of 1360.38 hectares which is 22.75% of the total area. Plantation crops, the third major category with an area of 1462.15 hectares (24.46%). Other important land use categories are water bodies with an area of 480.35 hectare (7.82%), waste land covering an area of 303.20 hectares (4.81%), build up area with an area of 177.96 hectares and other crops covering 116.02 hectares of land.

This chapter shows the present condition of Indian farmers, especially the farmers in Kerala. The liberalization of third world agricultural economics including India clearly represents a stagnant picture of debt and dependency. After the implementation of neo-liberal policies in 1990, the agriculture sector in Kerala & India had undergone fast structural changes which include income of farmers, attitudinal change of farmers and laborers, cropping pattern, unscientific policies etc. Rice field has many of positive externalities associated with wet land systems. National policy of economic liberalization has serious consequences for Kerala agriculture. It is feared that the reclamation of rice field may result vanishing of the remaining rice field in the near future and we need to do something before there is nothing to preserve.

CHAPTER V

CURRENT SCENARIO OF AGRICULTURE

Introduction

Perumatty Panchayath has an interesting location for this research work on agricultural transformations and its socio-economic and ecological impacts due to it varied relevant features. These include agricultural transformation, cropping pattern, crop diversity, land use changes, environmental changes etc. This study also reveals the crisis of decadal changes of agricultural transformations and its economic, social and ecological impacts. Both qualitative and quantitative data collection helped in generating relevant data for this study. The thesis therefore to contribute to understand and analyse the pathetic conditions of agricultural scenario of Kerala in general and Perumatty Grama Panchayath in particular.

During the study I feel there are many different observations. Actually the rice cultivation in this region has faced various problems. Rice cultivation is not a source of food, and it is the grain of culture and civilization. The shifting of agriculture from traditional food grain crops to
commercial cash crops had affected the income and employment opportunity of women in this region. The reclamation of rice land has affected the social life of indigent rural population in this region directly. The rice field reclamation have resulted the fall in the share of live stock and agriculture depended animals. The political ecological approach provided a new dimension of the political power relations and its influence in the reclamation of rice cultivation, how far it affects the ecology, economy and livelihood conditions of the local people.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


