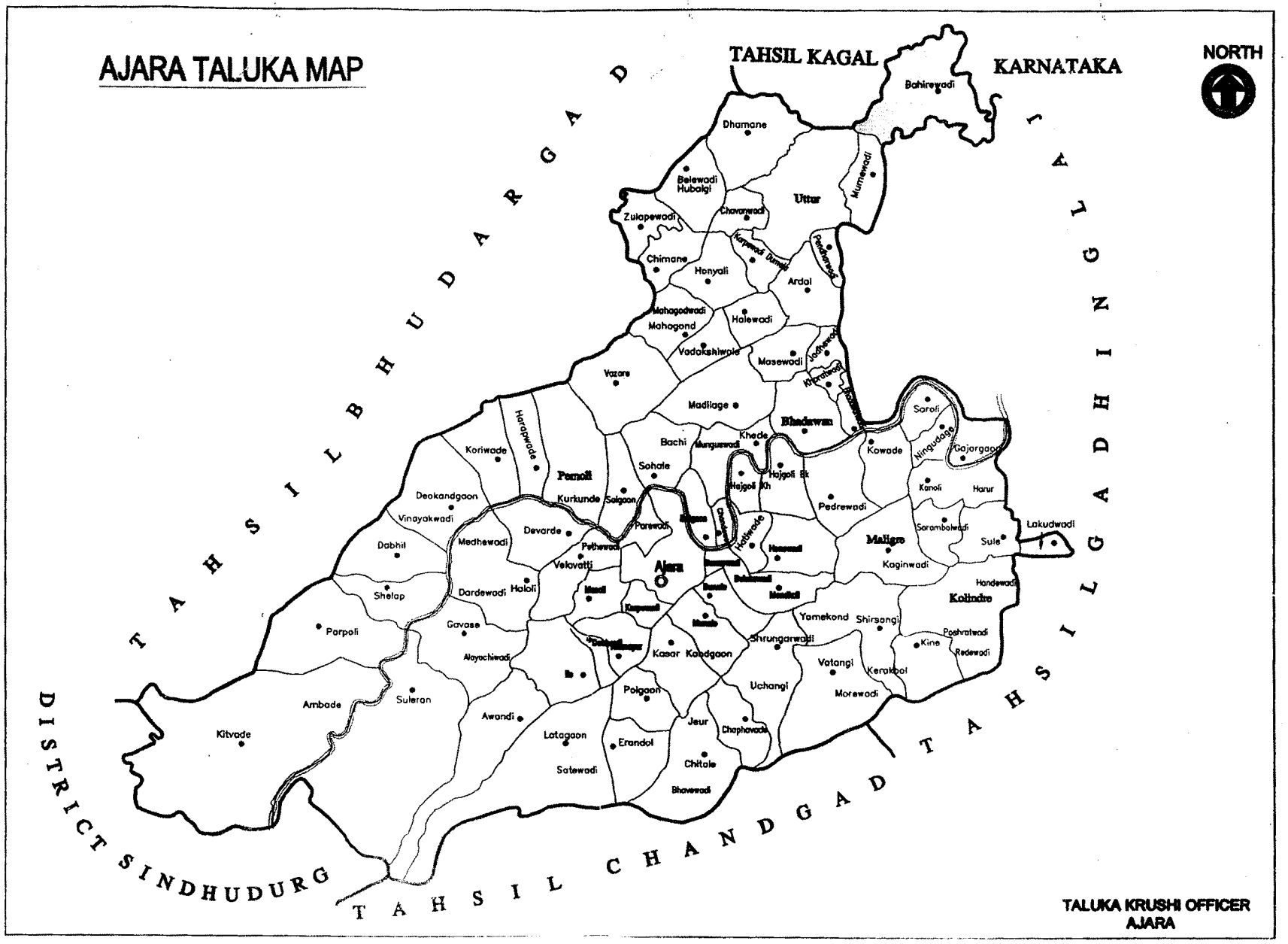
CHAPTER – IV

PROFILE OF AJARA TALUKA


AJARA TALUKA MAP
TAHSIL KAGAL
KARNATAKA
NORTH
TAHSIL BHUDARGAD
TAHSIL GADHINGLAJ
DISTRICT SINDHUDURG
TAHSIL CHANDGAD
Bahirewadi
Dhamane
Belewadi Hubalgi
Murmewadi
Uttur
Zulpewadi
Chavanwadi
Chimane
Honyali
Ardal
Mahagodwadi
Mahagond
Halewadi
Vadakshiwale
Masewadi
Vazare
Madilage
Bhadewan
Sarofi
Khede
Kowade
Gajargaon
Koriwade
Harapwade
Pemoli
Bachi
Sohale
Hajgoli Bk
Hajgoli Kh
Kanoli
Harur
Deokandgaon
Kurkunde
Salgaon
Pedrewadi
Vinayakwadi
Devarde
Sarambalwadi
Lakudwadi
Dabhil
Medhewadi
Pethewadi
Velavatti
Maligre
Sule
Ajara
Kaginwadi
Shelap
Dardewadi
Haloli
Handewadi
Kolindre
Parpoli
Gavase
Yamekond
Shirsangi
Poshratwadi
Alayachiwadi
Shrungarwadi
Kine
Redewadi
Kasar Kandgaon
Vatangi
Kerakbal
Ambade
Suleran
Polgaon
Uchangi
Morewadi
Awandi
Jeur
Chaphawade
Kitvade
Latagaon
Erandol
Satewadi
Chitale
Bhavewadi
TALUKA KRUSHI OFFICER
AJARA

CHAPTER-IV

PROFILE OF AJARA TALUKA

4.1 Introduction

Ajara is one of the southernmost talukas in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra. It is blessed by nature in terms of forest, mountains and waterfalls. Ajara is 85 kms away from Kolhapur and only 33 kms from Amboli hill station in Sindhudurg district. It is a central place, which connect the Konkan region and Karnataka. It is easily accessible from konkan area, Karnataka and Goa state. Being a taluka place, it has a well developed ST bus stand, bus depot, school-colleges, bazarpeth, hotels and technical institutions. etc. Gadhinglaj is the nearest major town for Ajara. Ajara is the birthplace of the great Marathi novelist late Shree Shivaji Sawant, a Sahitya Academy Award winner and great Educationist late Dr. J. P. Naik.

Ajara is a secular place where Hindu, Muslim and Christan communities are living peacefully from centuries. The Ramthirth waterfalls is famous point of tourist attraction. It is 2 kms away from Ajara and during the rainy season thousands of tourists visit this place. Due to high quantity of rice available in this area "Murmures" are made on large scale. The quality and taste of Ajara murmure is very popular. Cashew, Mango and Jack-fruits are famous in this area.

4.2 Area

The total geographical area of the Ajara taluka is 54,872, hectares out of which 14,346, hectares is forest area where as 35,442 hectares area suitable for cultivation. The area under kharif crops is 27,132 hectares and 2,600 hectares under rabi crops. It is situated at an altitude of feet 914.40 mm Ajara taluka is one of the gates of konkan region. It is hilly

area with heavy rainfall. It is situated at a extreme part of western Maharashtra and resembles with the lower konkan area.

4.3 Location and Extent of Ajara Taluka

Ajara taluka comes under sub south Konkan Costal Zone area of the taluka is 95146 hectares out of this 26390 hectares land is under forest.

Ajara taluka situated in southern part of Kolhapur district. It lies between $16'^{0}$ and $16'1^{0}$ 'north latitudes and $74^{0}5$ and $74^{0}2^{0}$ east longitude. The taluka is covered under the survey of India toposheet no's 47-L/4 and L/8.

4.4 Climate

This taluka comes under the agro climatic Zone no IV i.e transition Zone-1 .The climate is rainy and dry thought the year. The daily mean maximum and minimum temperature shows great variation. The average annual rainfall of this taluka is 1900 mm.

4.5 Soil

Red to radish brown soils of varying depths are found with great extent in this taluka. These soils are fairly rich in calcium and are fertile. Coarse shallow and medium black soils are also found in taluka.

4.6 The Geography of Ajara Taluka

Ajara is a small town located in southern part of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra state, India. The average annual rainfall recorded is 1900 mm. The region is composed of hilly terrain with rich laterite soil conductive for the magnificent growth of Ajara Ghansal variety of rice. Besides, cool climatic condition, prevailing in whole region of Ajara. It

has further influenced the production level of the rice. As per the government records, the total cultivated area of the Ghansal Rice is approximately 100 hectares and the trend is increasing.

4.7 Demographics

According to Indian census, 2001 Ajara had a population of 14,845. Males constitute 51% of the population and females 49%. It is estimated that the population of Ajara taluka has increased to 1,21,430 by 2011.The figures of Indian census 2011 have not yet been declared.

4.8 Literacy

The average literacy in Ajara taluka is 75%, which is higher than the national average of 59.5%; with 55% of the males and 45% of females literate.

4.9 Rainfall and Forests

Ajara taluka experiences heavy rainfall varying from 1800 to 3500 mm. The important species of trees found in this forest are Ain, Sisva, Dhaman, and Awala etc. Due to heavy rainfall the forest area is significant, nearly 28%.

4.10 Agriculture

Agriculture is main occupation for the people in this area. The soil is red; the environment in this area is suitable for rice farming. Hence the rice is main crop. The other crops include like, groundnut, nachana, sugarcane and soyabin etc. Along with the hybrid varieties of rice, some local varieties are also grown in this area. There are about 25 local varieties of rice which include Ghansal , Kalajirga, Champakali, Jondhali, Kothrmirsal, Masad, Earkal, Somesal, Havala Rice, Warngal etc. Ajara Ghansal is highly aromatic rice famous in the state.

4.11 Horticulture

Cashew and jak-fruits are grown on a large scale in Ajara taluka. In recent years due to the government efforts some farmers have turned to production of mango, banana, and other fruits and vegetables.

4.12 Agriculture Related Occupation

Dairy farming is secoundary occupation in this area. The number of co-operative dairy societies would be near about 100. There is one co-operative sugar factory at Gavase having a daily crushing capacity of 2500 metric tonnes.

Recently, one co-operative spinning mill is established in Ajara taluka with the grant and financial support of Maharashtra government.

4.13 Industries

There is lack of industrial development in Ajara Taluka. Ajara taluka has no medium and large scale industries. All industries in this area are small scale industries and cottage industries namely murmure making, poha, bakeri, food product, furniture making, 43 cashew processing units , 3 food processing units, 8 Rice mills ,saw mills and cotton power looms. Due to high quality of rice available in this taluka murmures are made on large scale. The quality and tastes of Ajara murmure is very popular. Ajara MIDC was established in 1960, with area of 6 hectares. The rice based small scale industries, (spinning mill), always help to provide employment in this region.

4.14 Irrigation

Ajara taluka lacks irrigation facilities. The area under irrigation is only 3200 hectares, less than 10% of the cultivated land.During the recent year the newly constructed chitri dam has helped to increase the

agricultural development to Ajara and Gadhinglaj Tahsil .It also provides indirectly water source and drinking water through wells, rivers, tanks, tube-wells, jack-well etc.

4.15 Surface Reservoirs

The chitri (Rajewadi) and chikotra (Zulpewadi) are two medium capacity projects in taluka. The storage capacities of these projects are 53.41 M.C.M and 43.115 M.C.M respectively. The Uchangi, Ambevol and Sarfnala are three medium projects are in progress having capacity of 617 M.C.F.T. and 1239 M.C.F.T. and 670 M.C.F.T respectively. As well as 5 minor projects are existed having average capacity of 80 M.C.F.T. In all total out of durable area of ajara taluka will be under the irrigation in future. The drainage in this taluka is dendritic and sub parallel. Hiranyakeshi river is major river in this taluka. This river flows west to east and forms a narrow valley which is flanked on both the sides by fairly high elevations reaching over 914.40 MM above the sea level.

4.16 Educational Facilities

There are 113 primary schools, 54 secondary schools, 5 junior colleges and a senior College and Industrial Technical Institution (ITI) in Ajara taluka.

4.17 Cropping Pattern

Ajara has latertic soil on hill tops and ridges while in valleys the soils are of mixed character varying from brownish to reddish in colour local name "Tambadi Mati" not retentive of moisture. Paddy, Nachani, Jawar, Sugarcane and other crop are grown. Staple food of the people is rice and Nachani. In the irrigated area mainly sugarcane, pulses, vegetable oil-seeds are grown on the un-irrigated area Jawar, Nachini etc are grown.

4.18 Food grains

Food grains play a major role in the cropping pattern of the region. This is mainly due to their importance both as grains for human being and straw for animal in the region under study. In Ajara Taluka is the area under food grains is between 50% and 60%. Food grains include cereals and pulses.

Cereals such as rice, jowar ragi, vari, bajra, wheat etc, are of much importance among the food grains crops. They are both of superior and inferior quality.The inferior quality cereals survive well in areas having poor soil while the superior cereals are raised on level fertile soil. Cereals occupy 45% to 55% area in the region. Pulses like Tur, Gram, Masur, and Moong are taken after harvesting of rice. They require a shorter period of two to three months. The production of jawar is less in this area because of non-suitability of soil, high rainfall and adverse climate conditions. In hilly areas, low quality food grains like ragi, bajra are grown.

Rice is the leading crop of the study area locally called as 'Bhat' or Sal. It is sown at the beginning of June and harvested during the middle of September onwards depending upon whether. It is the popular tropical crop requiring high temperature and well distributed rainfall between 1800 to 3500 mm during the growing season.

Rice is major a tropical crop, requiring high temperature and humidity for its growth. Production of rice is mainly dependent upon climate condition rather then soil conditions. The critical mean temperatures for flowering and fertilization range from 16% to 31% .Most important cropping season is aman (kharif) season, in which paddy is cultivated on large scale with the onset of southwest mansoon. The second crop is sown in second half of October to January.

4.19 Features of farming

Following are some characteristics of farming in Ajara Taluka.

1. Small Size

Agricultural land in the "Ajara village" is divided in very small parts. Therefore use of machinery in such small plots becomes inconvenient and expensive.

2. Large dependency on rain/ less irrigated

Out of the total agricultural area about $3/4^{th}$ land is totally dependent upon rainwater; rest $1/4^{th}$ of the land is irrigated. In the agricultural area about 30% agricultural land is irrigated by wells and Chitri Dams across the river.

3. Labour Intensive

The basic character of agriculture in "Ajara Taluka" is labour intensive farming. Human and animal labour is used extensively. The use of machinery in farming is at very low level. However the farmers now days have turned to use more machines in the farming.

4. Diversification of Labour

In ajara taluka towards metropolition cities is major problem in Agriculture.

5. Cropping Pattern

As mentioned above major part of agricultural land is unirrigated depending upon natural rain. And major part of irrigated land is covered by sugarcane. That is why majority farmers are adopting single cropping pattern very few efforts are made to take double crops. This also is restricted to very small area.

6. Diversity of Cropping

As the agricultural area is very small divided into small plots, the farmers grow different types of crops at different places. Generally they are growing Rice, Sugarcane, Tomato, Chille and Nachani (Ragi).

7. Low Productivity

Because of diverse cropping and small holding of agriculture land the farmers cannot concentrate on a particular crop. Majority crops are taken repetitively in the same farm. There is absence of water management, high quality input and mechanization resulting into low agricultural productivity.

8. Fertility of Land

Fertility of land depends upon the cropping pattern, climate conditions, a use of pesticides, and other cultivation practices, harvesting technologies and use of raw material again in the soil etc. It is affected by taking the same crop year after year.

9. Absence of Record

Majority of the farmers are illiterate and therefore they have not maintained any record regarding agricultural activities. Even educated farmers also do not keep the record. Therefore farmers are not in the position to know the cost of inputs and profitability of a particular crop. They cant's maintain the cost benefit ratio in agriculture.

In order to get this information one needs to keep record of all activities undertaken by the farmers. Maintaining record is simple job but it requires continuity. If the farmers keep a record of all activities one can ascertain "the profitability" of a particular crop by preparing suitable crop account.

Summary

It may be said that Ajara Taluka is a developing taluka with the help of natural resource. Creation of adequate infrastructural facilities like transport, water, electricity, telecommunication and provision of technical education will definitely boost the development process of Ajara Taluka.