

Study on upheavals (Regress) of Agriculture in Kerala

**Submitted to Shri. Oomman Chandy, Honourable Chief
Minister, Government of Kerala**

**Shri. Sharad Pawar, Union Minister for Agriculture &
Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman,
Planning Commission**

By

Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations

8/32, South Patel Nagar, New Delhi – 110 008

Ph. 011 25842111, 24505048, Fax: 011 25842123

E-mail: cifa_delhi@yahoo.com www.indianfamers.org

About CIFA

- **CIFA – Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations.**
- An apex farmers body that specializes in policy advocacy on matters concerning agriculture.
- Works with govt and private bodies with the aim of improving the competitiveness Indian agriculture.
- Has offices in Delhi and Hyderabad
- Members from all agriculturally important states.
- Website: www.indianfarmers.org

Facts about Kerala Agriculture

Net cultivated area : **22 lakh ha**

Cultivation extends from plains to peaks that are 2700 meters above MSL hence, can grow Variety of crops.

Number of rivers : **44**

Average annual rainfall : **2700 mm** (from both SW and NE monsoons)

Number of colleges and research centers under Kerala Agri university and state seed farms under Kerala agri department : **100** (in 14 districts). The highest in India.

Kerala should be leading player in Indian agriculture.

But, between 2005-06 and 2009-10, the Agricultural. Income in Kerala decreased from Rs 18042 crores to Rs 16684 crores.

(Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics)

Major Government Institutes (List incomplete)

State Government	Central Government
Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Ltd	Coconut Development Board
Kerala Agro Marketing Corporation Ltd	Coir Board
Kerala State Co-operative Marketing Federation	Rubber Board
Kerala Kerakashaka Sahakarna Federation	Spices Board
State Farming Corporation of Kerala	Indian Institute of Spices Research
Kerala State Horticultural Producers Development Corpn	Directorate of Arecanut & Spices Development
Vegetables and Fruits Promotion Council of Kerala	Central Plantations Crops Research Inst
Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium	Central Tuber Crops Research Inst
Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation	Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development
The Plantation Corporation of Kerala	Cashew Export Promotion Council of India
Kerala Land Development Corporation	Rajeev Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology
State Agricultural Prices Board	Centre for Water Resource Development
Kerala State Co-op Rubber Marketing Federation	
Trivandrum Rubber Works	

Huge money goes towards maintaining them

Their relevance and contribution remain questionable

About www.kissankerala.net

Karshaka Information Systems Services And Networking (KISSAN Kerala) was launched on 1st Nov 2003 with hefty budget to provide authentic agricultural information.

This website is still incomplete and carries outdated data & information. For example, it carries the cropped area and production data of 2001-02 and not afterwards.

It carries a disclaimer* which says “*Kerala Department of Agriculture does not make any warranty as to the completeness or correctness of the information provided*”

*accessed on 10th Sept 2011

Kerala Agrl. Dept's Website*

(www.keralaagriculture.gov.in)

Under “**What's New**”, the web page gives extensive information about:

- General Transfer 2011 (of clerks and Agrl. Assts)
- Promotion/transfer of Head Clerks
- Seniority list of LD clerks
- Transfer and posting of Agrl. Officers

Data concerning milk and egg production is not updated after 2001-02

Data on livestock population is not updated after 1996

It recommends pesticides such as Aldicarb, Captafol, Methyl Bromide etc that are banned long ago by government of India...!

The Decline....The Regress...!

Rice

Principal food grain in Kerala.

Production steadily declined from **13 lakh tons** in 1974-75 to **9 lakh tons** in 1994-95 to **6 lakh tons** in 2009-10.

During this period, India's production of rice increased from **390 lakh tons** (1974-75) to **890 lakh tons** (2009-10)

The annual requirement of rice in Kerala is **40 lakh tons**.

The huge shortage (nearly 90%) is met by supplies from other states.

Tapioca (Cassava)

Tapioca is a primary source of food for many in Kerala.

Central Tuber Crops Research Institute was established in Kerala 1963.

Over the years , Kerala has lost its pre eminent position to Tamilnadu.

Kerala's production declined from **51 lakh tons** in 1976-77 to **25 lakh tons** in 2009-10

During this period its production in Tamil Nadu jumped from **9 lakh tons** to **69 lakh tons**

Share of Kerala in tapioca production in India tumbled from **52 %** in 1976-77 to **25%** in 2009-10

The yield of Tapioca/ha in Kerala is much lower than the all India average yield.

Source : Directorate of Economics and Statistics
National Horticulture Board

Cashew Nut

Cashew Export Promotion Council was established in Kerala in 1955
Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development was established in Kerala in 1966
The Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation was established in 1969.
In 1990s, Kerala ranked No 1. Now it ranks fourth.

State	1993-94	2009-10
Kerala	140200(1)	66000 (4)
Maharashtra	46860 (2)	198000 (1)
Andhra Pradesh	46750(3)	99000 (2)
Orissa	43420(4)	84000 (3)

Source : Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development

Between 2001-02 and 2009-10, India's import of cashew nut increased from **3.5 lakh tons** to **7.5 lakh tons**, whereas its exports barely increased from **0.97 lakh tons** to **1.08 lakh tons** (Source: Cashew Export Promotion Council)

Cashew Export Promotion Council should be re-named as Cashew Import Promotion Council...!

Pepper

While the production in Karnataka is increasing steadily, it is declining in Kerala

State	2002-03	2009-10
Kerala	67360	37899
Karnataka	2310	15645

Unit : MT

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics

India exported **43800** tons of pepper in 1999-00. By 2009-10, it has slumped to **19800** tons due mainly to decreased production in Kerala.

Spices Board's website (accessed on 5th July 11) does not carry production data beyond 2006-07.

Spices

Kerala produces **1.4 lakh tons** of spices.

Whereas Gujarat produces **4 lakh tons** of spices...!

Kerala's share of India's spices production (**40 lakh tons**) is now barely **3.5 %**

Is Kerala still the land of spices?

Source: National Horticulture Board
Data for 2009-10

Fruits and Vegetables

Fruits:

Both Kerala and Bihar have equal area under fruits.

But , Bihar produces one million tons more fruits than Kerala

Particulars	Kerala	Bihar
Area (lakh ha)	3	3
Production(mill.tons)	2.4	3.4

Vegetables:

Kerala produces only 10 lakh tons of vegetables (excluding tapioca) and is heavily dependent on other states for vegetable requirements

Source: National Horticulture Board
Data for 2009-10

Coconut

Kerala's share in area under coconut cultivation in the country has fallen sharply from **57%** in the early 1990s to **43 %** in 2008 (Source: Economic Survey of Kerala Planning Board)

Average yield (number of nuts/ha) in Kerala at **7365** is much lower than the average yield in Gujarat - **9851** nuts/ha.

In neighboring Tamil Nadu, it is as high as **13771** nuts/ha

(Source : Coconut Board)

During 2009-10, Kerala Dept Agriculture allotted **Rs 14.53 crores** for coconut development.

Now it has been increased to **Rs 30 crores..!**

Milk, Egg Fish and Meat Production

Kerala's milk production fell from **27** to **25 lakh tons** between 2001-2010

During this period, milk production in India increased from **800** to **1120 lakh tons**.

Between 2001-02 and 2009-10, egg production in Kerala fell from **2002 million nos** to **1633 million nos**

Poultry meat production in Kerala fell from **33000 tons** to **22000 tons**

Between 2003-04 and 2009-10, fish production remained stagnant at **6.8 lakh tons**

Source: Economic Review 2010
Dept of Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fisheries

Conclusions and Recommendations

In spite of plethora of government run institutions and huge budgetary allocations for agriculture ,there is all round failure in Kerala agriculture.

Though having fertile soil ,adequate rainfall and abundant river systems, Kerala has become net food importer.

Kerala is now heavily dependent on other states to feed her people.

Kerala should review the relevance and close down obsolete corporations and commodity boards.

Kerala must thoroughly revamp agricultural research and extension activities with strong accountability to targets and deliverables.

Thank You

For further information and suggestions, contact:

Mr. P. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General, CIFA

Email : cifa_delhi@yahoo.com

Phone No: 011-25842111.