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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES OF LAND USE PATTERN

G N Doddamani and L D Vaikunthe

Research Scholar Dept of Economics Kanratak University Dharwad.
Professor of Economics Karnatak University Dharwad.

Abstract:-Generally the land use pattern indicates the way in which the land area used under various circumstances. The pattern of land use of a country at any particular time is determined by the combination of economic and institutional framework. Hence, the land use pattern and the trends during years will help to suggest the scope for planned shift in the pattern. The analysis regarding trend of land use in India during the period 1990-91 to 2010-11 are as follows.

Keywords: Legal And Administrative Issues , pattern indicates , economic and institutional framework.

INTRODUCTION :-

Land is an important natural resource that embraces the ele¬ments like the overlying temperature, moisture, topography, soil matrix and physical structure. It is certainty a manifesta¬tion of the past and present human activities. But land has the characteristics of its fixity in supply and scarcity. Therefore land use pattern is directly concerned with the problem arising in the process of deciding upon and carrying out into action the optimum use. In a dynamic world, certain modification can oc¬cur in the existing pattern of land utilization (Lekhi R.K. & Jogin¬dre Singh, 2011).

The integrated use and management of land, water and vegetation are essential for human life. During three to four decades after independence, the fast growing population and chronic scarcity of food led to extension of area under cultivation including denudation of forests bringing more areas under irrigation either through surface or ground water, application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides a large scale and introduction of new varieties which demanded more of them. Mean while, in response to the acute food scarcity, Land Utilization Order was promulgated in 1957 and later amended with enlarged powers in 1967, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The order sought to protect areas under food crops especially paddy, through stringent measures of prohibition of alternate agricultural use or non- agricultural use. It even provided that lands left fallow could be taken over for cultivation by Government. It is widely acknowledged that this order has been observed more in breach and that the permission for conversion, where sought and granted, has been largely without any established and transparent criteria of land use. in the middle of 1970's the need to reverse land degradation and soil loss before appropriate land use was stressed at the highest level ill the Government of India and States were advised to promulgate land use policy and establish Land Use Board.

The nine-fold land use classification is as follows

1) Area under forests
2) Barren and uncultivable lands
3) Land put to non-agricultural uses
4) Permanent pastures and other grazing lands
5) Cultivable wastes
6) Miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in the net area sown
7) Current fallows
8) Fallows other than current fallow and
9) Net area sown

The present pattern of classification is considered as static harmony and adjustment with the other main characteristics of the economy of the region.

LAND USE STATISTICS OF KARNATAKA

The reported area of the state is 1,90,49,836 hectares. In 1980-81 the forest area was 15.92 per of the total area. Barren and uncultivable land and land put to non-agricultural uses were 4.43 and 5.60 per cent respectively. The area under permanent pastures and other grazing lands, cultivable wastes and miscellaneous tree crops and groves were 7.07, 2.64 and 1.60 per cent respectively. Current fallows accounted 7.66 per cent while, follows other than current fallow accounted 2.93 per cent. The net area sown was 51.96 per cent of the total area. As against this, during 2010-11 the forest area share was 16.13 per cent. Barren and uncultivable land and land put to non-agriculture uses accounted 4.14 and 7.19 per cent respectively. The area under permanent pastures and other grazing land, cultivable wastes and miscellaneous tree crops and groves accounted 4.88, 2.18 and 1.52 per cent, respectively of the total area. Current fallows accounted 6.62 per cent while, fallows other than current fallow accounted 2.65 per cent. The net area sown increased and was 54.69 per cent of the total area.

IMPORTANCE OF THE LAND USE STUDIES

Land is the most important resource in any production system and constrained by its limited supply. The availability of land and all its resources decides the development of the economy in any country or region. From the available land statistics, it appears to be rare and difficult prospects to expect a significant and substantial horizontal increase in the area under different uses. Owing to an upsurge in the growth rate of population and multiplicity of human wants, the assessment of physical resources of land and

its utilization pattern has assumed paramount importance in all types of economics. Hence, this scarce non-renewable natural resource should be used judiciously through proper management.

Land use studies therefore are of importance for the assessment of resource base of any region under evaluation and for its rational use, conservation and management view point in the long run. In the dynamic context, keeping in view the natural endowments and the recent advances in technologies in various fields of economic importance, the overall interests of the country may dictate certain modification or a change in the existing land use pattern of a region. This would also enable the policy makers to identify long term perspective of land use dynamics. A close study of the present land use pattern and the trends during recent years will help to suggest the scope for its planned shifts in the pattern. A scientific study of land use pattern is important for the formulation of appropriate land use options and agricultural development policies. The study of land use dynamics has a greater implication in the context of its use for agricultural production especially when agriculture forms a basic and primary sector of production. The investigations reveal the direction and extent of its use and thereby guide the policy makers to make more advantageous sustainable long term policy options more particularly towards agricultural uses. Hence, keepings this views the present study is undertaken with the following specific objectives

Land use pattern in Karnataka

(Area in '000' hectares)

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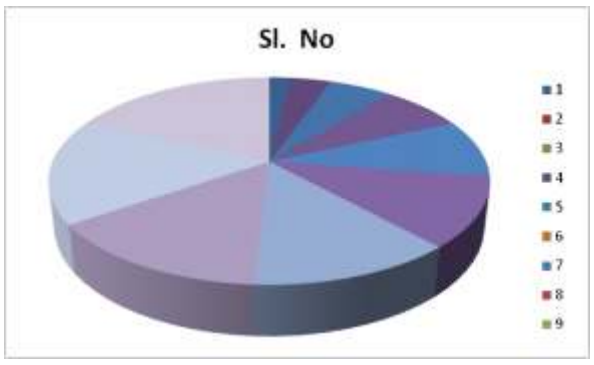
Sl. No	Particulars	1980-81	2010-11
1	Total Reported Area	19,050 (100.00)	19,050 (100.00)
2	Area under forests	3,033 (15.92)	3,072 (16.13)
3	Barren and uncultivable lands	844 (4.43)	
4	Land put to non-agricultural uses	1,067 (5.60)	1,369 (7.19)
5	Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	1,346 (7.07)	930 (4.88)
6	Cultivable wastes	502 (2.64)	415 (2.18)
7	Miscellaneous tree crops and groves	342 (1.80)	290 (1.52)
8	Current fallows	1,459 (7.66)	1,262 (6.62)
9	Fallows other than current fallow	558 (2.93)	505 (2.65)
10	Net area sown	9,899 (51.96)	10,419 (54.69)

Note:
Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to reported area
Source: Karnataka at a Glance 2008-09 and statistical abstract Karnataka



How far the ideals of sustainable development arc followed In the Indian administrative and legislative policies towards utilization of natural resources especially land and water remains as a question to be asked.

Proper management of land and water resources is an important element of maintaining ecological balance. as well as achieving economic growth, without disturbing the resource base. For soil conservation and quality of land. unhindered supply of water is essential. Inevitably, a sound land use policy will have to take into account the various methods of water management. In India, both land and water are matters which come under the state list in the Constitution. Only the states can enact legislation in these areas in normal circumstances. The Indian Republic being a union of states with law making power. may find it difficult to implement a comprehensive national policy relating 1(1 land and water resources, despite its quasi federal character.

The policy may differ from one state to another. In the absence of national consensus on methods and mechanisms for comprehensive legal control. Scientific and sustainable management of land and water uses becomes a difficult task.

LAND USE UNDER DECENTRALISED PLANNING

A scheme for land development should aim at maintenance of soil and eco system. It should neither upset the socio economic conditions under which the people live, nor should it block the future growth and development of the regions, The issue is who will bear the burden of these responsibilities - village bodies, district councils district bureaucracy , state corporation, or the state administration. The seventy third and seventy fourth amendments to the Constitution added new dimensions of power local government. A specific mention is made of the power of the states to legislate on environmental protection and ecological aspects. It is interesting to note that the responsibility of environmental protection and ecological preservation is given to municipalities, The responsibilities of protection and maintenance of land quality could be given both to panchayats and municipalities under local bodies' legislation.

It is to be noted that the Land Use Commission is empowered to (i) to prepare and update data on land use in the State and monitor the same from time to time for development purposes;(ii) to play a major role as disseminating and awareness creating agency on the management and sustainable development of land resources;(iii) to provide a forum for sharing information and experience on land use;(iv) to lay down the parameters and guidelines for land use at state, district level and at the level of village panchayat or municipality; (v) to co-ordinate and provide direction to bring about the scientific and integrated approach to the use of land resources;(vi) to. advise Government on land use policies antr on institutional co-ordination and changes that are necessary for healthy and scientific management of land resources;(vii) to co-ordinate the activities of different departments of the Government involved in the preparation and implementation of the land use programme of the Commission. However, at present, the lack of coordination among the various departments of the govt. such as the Geology Department, the Revenue Department, the Industries Department and the Land Use Commission is causing concern over sustainable land use in Karnataka

CONCLUSION:

The secondary data analysis clearly projects the comparison of growth rate and ratio of net area sown and horticultural area in India and Karnataka. The area of horticulture has been sig¬nificantly increased when compared with that of the net area sown in India as well as in Karnataka. The net area sown has been increased in Karnataka significantly higher than India and the horticulture area has been increased in India significantly higher than Karnataka. The ratio of horticultural area to net area sown is more in Karnataka compare to India.

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