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## **AGRO ECONOMIC FEATURES OF CHITRADURGA DISTRICT**

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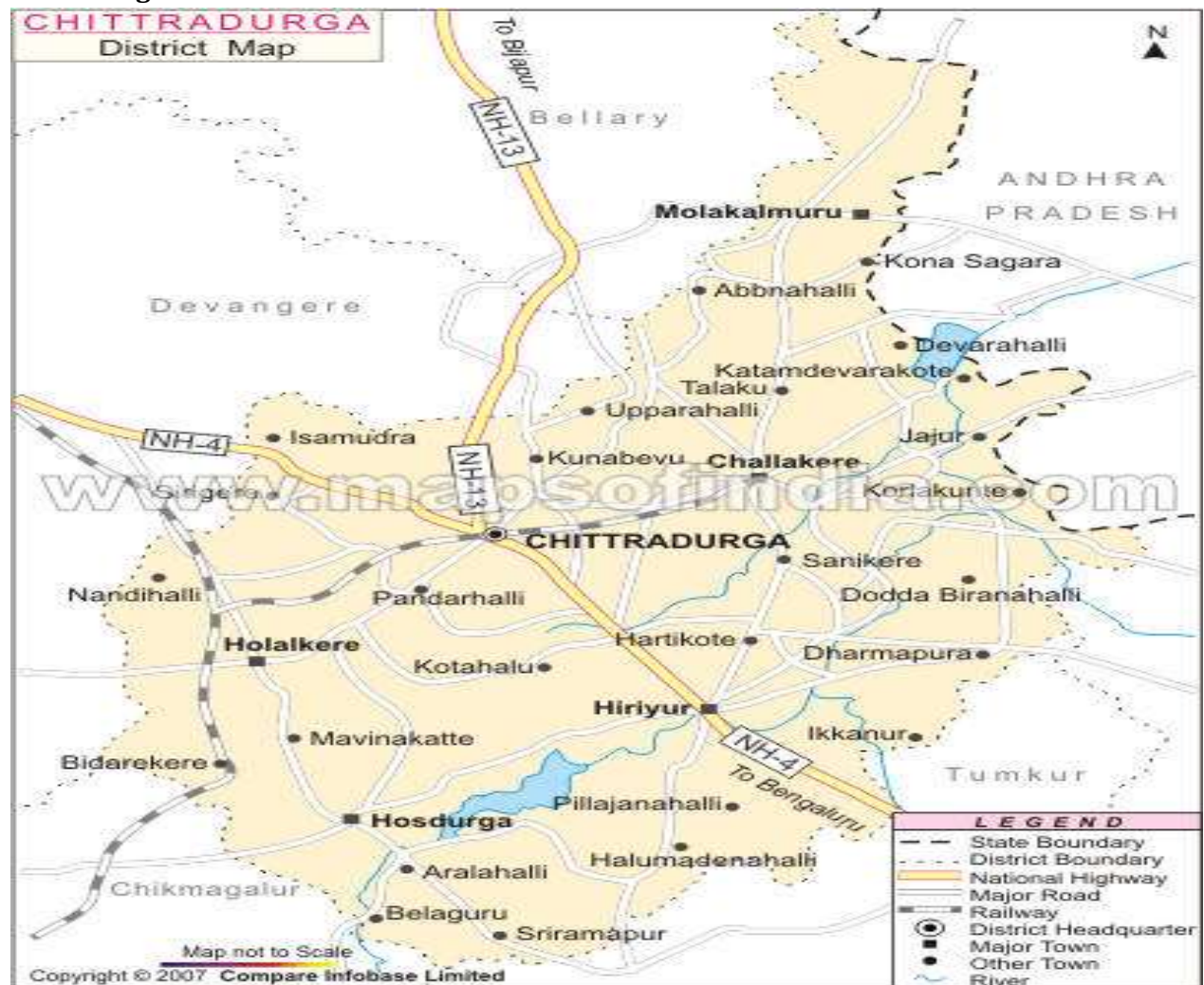
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### **Introduction:**

This is an attempt give Agro economic features of chitradurga district in Karnataka state which holds 10<sup>th</sup> rank in Rural population and 21<sup>st</sup> rank in terms of urban population and increasing poised to become one of the hot spot of tourism in this part of the state. This write up is to instigate interested researchers to inquire into economic prospects and constitution of the demography of the area.

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF CHITRADURGA**

Chitradurga Fort or as the British called it Chitaldoorg, straddles several hills and a peak overlooking a flat valley in the town of Chitradurga. Chitradurga owes its name to Chitrakaladurga, or Picturesque castle. This is a massive fortress on top of granite hills that rises dramatically from the ground. The first instance of fortification at Chitradurga is by Kamageti Timmanna Nayaka around 1562 A.D. Obanna Nayaka, also known as Madakari Nayaka, declared his independence from Vijayanagara Empire and wrested the fort. From 1620 A.D. onwards Chitradurga continued to be held by his successors until 1779 A.D. when it was taken over by Haider Ali. Coming under the class of Giridurga, the fort of Chitradurga occupies a granatoid hillock. Popularly known as '*Yelu Suttina Kote*', the fort has seven lines of defence with bastions of various shapes at regular intervals of which three are at the foot of the hill and the remaining four over the hill. The outermost wall has four gateways, one on each side. Zig-zag entrances are provided through these seven lines of fortification with batteries and magazines. The height of the wall of each line varies from 8 to 15 mt. At places brick walls of 1.21 to 1.82 mt. are also used to add to the height. The three outer walls of defence are provided with deep broad moats. The fortification once had nineteen gateways, thirty eight postern-gates, thirty five secret entrances. Much of the fort was strengthened by Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in stone. Inside these fortifications, there are shrines dedicated to Sampige Siddeshwara, Hidimbeswara, Phalguneshwara, Gopalakrishna, Ganesa, Anjaneya and Ekanatheshwari. Secular structures like Murugharajendra Matha and subsidiary structures like granary, oil tanks and massive grinding stones are of the post-Vijayanagara period. The ruins of palaces built in mud are also encountered. To facilitate the collection of rain water, there were many natural and stone built tanks. The city is situated in the middle part of Deccan peninsula. The Chitradurga district has six taluks i.e., Molakalmuru, Challakere, Hiriya, Holalkere, and Hosadurga which are shown below.

**Chitradurga district**

The district falls under central dry zone. The district is having undulated terrain and dotted with isolated hills. The normal rainfall of the district is 486.6mm, Vedavathi River a tributary of Thunga Bhadra flows through the district. Two reservoirs i.e., Vanivilas Sagar and Rangayyanadurga offer irrigation facilities in Hiriyyur and Molakalmuru taluks. Apart from major and medium irrigation projects, there are about 315 large Minor irrigation tanks, irrigating an aggregate area of 20,600 hectares.

**GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

Chitradurga is the eastern most district of Karnataka state. It belongs to the central midan group of districts as distinct from the mountainous western positions of the state called Malnad. The total geographical area of the district is 7, 70,702sq.kms, It is situated between the north latitude 13°42' to 15°01' and east longitude 75°43' to 77°02' and it is bounded by Davangere, Chikmagalur, Bellary and Tumkur districts of the state -Karnataka. In area Chitradurga occupies 9<sup>th</sup> largest place among the districts of Karnataka with six taluks namely Chitradurga, Challekere, Hiriyyur, Holalkere, Hosdurga, and Molkalmuru. It has an undulating terrain; its average altitude lies between 542m -726m. Altitude increases in the central zone of the district. Hills, minerals and forests are the main natural resources. Forest covers only 9.6 percent of the total

geographical area of the district. In hilly tracts where soils are rocky, gravel and forests are poorly managed. Vegetation on these areas is either of dry deciduous type or of thorny shrub type. It has a distinct hill range with an offshoot of the eastern ghat mountains. Almost all taluks are predominantly hilly areas. These hills are mostly without vegetation and rocky in nature.

### AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the major occupation in the district. Out of the total population 81.93 percent belongs to rural area and their main occupation is agriculture. Among the total working population 67.66 percent are engaged in agricultural operations as cultivators and agricultural laborers.

### Demographic features of Chitradurga District

Sl. No	Particulars	Challekere	Chitradurga	Hiriyur	Holalke	Hosadurga	Molakalmuru	District total
1.	Area (sq km)	2063.93 (24.6)	1375.72 (16.4)	1701.4 (20.3)	1094.84 (13.05)	1416.4 (16.9)	736.49 (8.8)	8388.78 (100)
2.	Population	332718 (21.9)	376506 (24.8)	264719 (17.4)	197766 (13.0)	219445 (14.6)	126742 (8.4)	1517896 (100)
3.	Density of population	161	274	156	181	155	172	179
4.	Sex ratio	953	946	957	960	970	944	955
5.	Rural population	283651	251336	215913	183192	196957	112609	1243658
6.	Urban population	49067	125170	48806	14574	22488	14133	274238
7.	Literacy (in %)	57.68	72.28	63.64	68.55	65.05	53.27	64.5
8.	Total workers	164719	158322	126607	106294	108991	61902	726835
	1.Main workers	131995	131495	104102	75830	85517	47096	576035
	2.Marginal workers	32724	26827	22505	30464	23474	9806	145800
	* Cultivators	59102	51148	44972	52256	52476	17344	277298
	* Agri laborers	36584	46417	42580	36472	29491	22900	214444
	* Household industry	7434	2658	5635	1941	2364	4094	24126
	* Other workers	34599	58099	33420	15625	24660	12564	178967
	* Non workers	167999	218184	138112	91472	110454	69840	796061

Source: Chitradurga district at a glance 2009-10

Note: Values in the parenthesis represent percentage to total

### SOIL

Black soil with rich water holding capacity suitable for crops like cotton, ground nut, Jowar , Tur and Dal is found in Northern parts. The red soil found though more in southern parts with shallow to medium depth, is found throughout the district.

**MAJOR CROPS**

Ground nut, onion, cotton, ragi and jowar are the major crops followed by sunflower, onion, sugar cane, oil seeds, millets and pulses. Area covered under groundnut onion and sunflower has increased during last few years.

**HORTICULTURE**

There are 19 horticultural departmental farms/Nurseries on 784 hectares; Coconut and areca nut are the important horticultural crops. There is ample scope for popularizing remunerative floriculture and fruit crops like pomegranate; guava, and mango etc., papaya is already being grown extensively.

**ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

Dairy, sheep and goat rearing are the major subsidiary activities. The district was blessed with a sheep breeding farm at Khudapura in Challakere block, now the same has been shifted to Hosadurga block. Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is serving the district through Shimoga milk Union. There are 148 milk producers' co-operative societies out of which only 114 are functioning.

**LAND UTILIZATION**

Land utilization is important as it throws light upon the land use, available fallows and net area sown as well as consequent economic contribution for the development of the area. The land-utilization details are given in the following table.

**Land utilization details in Chitradurga district**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Area (Hectare)	Percentage to total Geographical area
1.	Total geographical area	7,70,702	100%
2.	Forest	73,719	9.57%
3.	Non-agricultural use	51,243	6.65%
4.	Barren and cultivatable waste	47,018	6.101%
5.	Permanent pasture	88,740	11.51%
6.	Trees and groves	11,317	1.5%
7.	Current fallow land	93,403	12.12%
8.	Other fallow land	39,319	5.1%
9.	Net area sown	3,65,923	47.5%

Source: Chitradurga district statistics at a glance 2009-10.

**Land utilization pattern for various purposes**

It is evident from the table that the total geographical area of the district was 7, 70,702 hectares. The share of the area under forest in the total land available was 9.57 percent. The net area sown to the total geographical area of the district was 47.5 percent. The land put to non-agricultural use, barren and uncultivable land covers 6.65 percent and 6.1 percent of total geographical area respectively. Permanent pastures constitute 11.51 percent and trees and

groves constitute only 1.5 percent of total geographical area. The proportion of area under current fallow was 12.12 percent and other fallow land was 5.1 percent.

Taluk wise land use pattern is shown in the above Table, it is evident that in terms of total geographical area, Challkere taluk the largest taluk while Molakalmuru is the smallest one. In terms of forest coverage it is Hosadurga taluk at top with Challekere at the bottom. In terms of total area sown Challekere is the largest taluk and Molakalmuru is having the least acreage.

Challakere taluk has 1,94,380 hectares and of this total geographical area 82,649 hectares was net area sown. In the case of total geographical area of 66,955 hectares, Molakalmuru taluk has only 25,422 hectares as net area sown during the year.

### Taluk wise land utilization particulars in Chitradurga district

(In hectares)

Sl. No	Particulars	Challekere	Chitradurga	Hiriyur	Holalke re	Hosadurga	Molakalmuru	Total
1.	Geographical area	1,94,380 (25.2)	1,23,502 (16)	1,37,423 (17.8)	1,35,868 (17.6)	1,12,574 (14.6)	66,955 (8.7)	7,70,702 (100)
2.	Forest	6,987 (9.5)	12,049 (16.3)	11,358 (15.4)	8,878 (12)	19,074 (25.9)	15,373 (20.8)	73,719 (100)
3.	Non-agriculture use	10,568 (20.6)	12,295 (24)	7,613 (15)	5,540 (10.8)	10,088 (19.7)	5,139 (10)	51,243 (100)
4.	Barren	11,695 (46)	4,455 (17.5)	606 (2.4)	5,868 (23.1)	2,584 (10.2)	195 (0.77)	25,403 (100)
5.	Cultivable wasteland	16,020 (74)	25 (0.11)	2,540 (11.7)	620 (2.9)	1,037 (4.8)	1,373 (6.3)	21,615 (100)
6.	Permanent pastures	21,768 (24.5)	11,278 (12.7)	25,926 (29.2)	21,000 (23.7)	3,392 (3.82)	5,376 (6)	88,740 (100)
7.	Trees and groves	604 (5.3)	891 (7.9)	7,416 (65.5)	625 (5.5)	1,479 (13)	302 (2.67)	11,317 (100)
8.	Current fallow land	40,734 (43.6)	1,754 (1.9)	28,049 (30)	9,972 (10.6)	4,198 (4.5)	8,696 (9.3)	93,403 (100)
9.	Other fallow land	3,355 (8.5)	3,000 (7.6)	10,610 (27)	15,055 (38.3)	2,220 (5.6)	5,079 (13)	39,319 (100)
10.	Net area sown	82,649 (22.6)	77,755 (21)	43,305 (11.8)	68,290 (18.6)	68,502 (18.7)	25,422 (6.9)	3,65,923 (100)

Source: Chitradurga district statistics at a glance 2009-10.

Note: Values within brackets represent percentages to the total

#### Reference:

1. Potential credit linked plan- 2009
2. Chitradurga district statistics at a glance 2009-10.
3. DDC Banks in Karnataka with special referece to CDCC Bank
4. Census of India Report

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