

Project title	<b>Estimation of Panchayat wise Data on Agriculture for Plan Formulation and Implementation at Local Self Government (LSGI) Level</b>
Source of funding	Department of Agriculture, Government of Kerala
Year	2016

### Abstract

Government of Kerala have accorded sanction vide GO (MS)No.31/2014/AD dated 12-02-2014 for a pilot study in 25 Grama Panchayaths belonging to Chittumala & Kottarakkara blocks in Kollam district and Mala & Pazhayannur blocks in Thrissur district, for “Estimation of Panchayathwise Data on Agriculture for Plan Formulation and Implementation at Local Self Government (LSGI) Level”. A state level committee formed as per GO (Rt)No.2191/2014/AD Dated 11-12-2014 provided overall guidance for the project.

The list of farmers registered under “Farmers Registration Programme” in the selected Panchayaths, was used for random selection of farmer households. Field work was conducted by KSI with the help of data collectors identified by Krishi Bhavans concerned.

#### Chittumala Block

There were eight Panchayaths in Chittumala Block. Proper details of geographical area and land under cultivation were not available in any records verified by KSI field team. This discrepancy in area figures affected the estimation of land utilization pattern in the survey.

It was observed that households without cultivation were nil in Thrikkadavur Panchayath. Highest percentage of households in all the Panchayaths have agricultural holding of 0.04 to 0.10 hectares. Percentage of households cultivating jack fruit were found above 50% in all the Panchayaths. Mango trees were present in more than 60% households in all the Panchayaths. Tamarind, Cashew and Aanjili were not prominent in any of the Panchayaths. Percentage of households having teak in their homesteads was found comparatively high in Panayam Panchayaths.

#### Kottarakkara Block

Gross area estimated in the survey for Kottarakkara block was compared with DES figures for 2012-13 & 2013-14 and found agreeing in respect of all major indicators. Data on area under cultivation available in 2011 census, Taluk Statistical Offices and Krishi Bhavans varied significantly mainly due to conceptual differences. Crops like vegetables, tapioca, other tubers, etc. were covered in the estimates. Production of crops could not be estimated realistically from the figures obtained in the survey.

It is observed that households without cultivation were below 1% in all the Panchayaths except Kottarakkara (2.25%) and Neduvathur (1.02%). Coconut cultivation was prominent in all the Panchayaths and the highest in Ezhukone Panchayath. Tamarind, Mahagony, Cashew and Aanjili were not prominent in Panchayaths. Percentage of households having teak in their homesteads was found comparatively high in Veliyam and Pooyappally Panchayaths. The report gives item-wise data tables on area and number of households in comparison with the respective figures for Kottarakkara Block.



## Mala Block

Data on land classification, cropping pattern, households according to area under cultivation, area under cultivation according to size of holdings were estimated at Panchayath level. Alur, Anamanada, Kuzhur, Mala and Poyyaare were the five Panchayaths covered in Mala Block. Coverage of wetland crops including paddy could not be estimated properly due limitations of sample size.

It is observed that households without cultivation were below 10% in all the Panchayaths except Alurpanchayath (11.34%), below 2% in Mala and Poyya Panchayaths. Coconut cultivators were the highest in Poyya and Mala panchayath and above 80% in all the other panchayaths. Rubber cultivation was nil or insignificant in all the Panchayaths. Percentage of households cultivating jack fruit and mango were found below 60% in all the Panchayaths. Tamarind, Cashew and Aanjili were not prominent in any of the Panchayaths.

## Pazhayannur Block

Data on land classification, cropping pattern, households according to area under cultivation, area under cultivation according to size of holdings were estimated at panchayath level. Crops like vegetables, tapioca, other tubers, mahogany etc. were covered in the estimates. Chelakkara, Kondazhy, Panjal, Pazhayannur, Thiruvilwamala and Vallathol Nagar, were the six panchayaths covered in Pazhayannur Block. Coverage of wetland crops including paddy could not be estimated properly due to limitations of sample size.

It was observed that households without cultivation were below 5% in all the Panchayaths except Thiruvilwamala panchayath (5.22%). Households without cultivation were found to be below 2% in Kondazhy, Panjal and Vallathol Nagar Panchayaths. Ginger and turmeric cultivations were found to be below 50 hectares in all the Panchayaths. Coconut cultivators were above 30% in all Panchayaths. Tamarind, Cashew and Anjili were not prominent in any of the panchayats. The report gives item-wise data tables on area and number of households in comparison with the respective figures for Pazhayannur Block.

Use of the list of cultivators covered under 'Farmers Registration Programme' as the frame for the survey became a major limitation for the survey. Another limitation was the unrealistic figure of production reported by the informants. Indications for development of a simple and replicable methodology for generating agricultural statistics at local body level are given in the report.

