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## THE PROBLEM OF THE LOW INCOME OR SUB-MARGINAL FARMER

by

S. V. DURAISWAMI, B. A., B. Sc. AG.

*Lecturer in Agricultural Economics, Agricultural College, Bapatla.*

In our country a large proportion of the cultivators are small holders who till small areas which may be said to be marginal or submarginal. In fact due to the existence of these poor peasants, the development of our agriculture on modern lines has been a very slow process. The statistics given below give us an idea of the proportion of the submarginal farmers among the agricultural community in Bapatla.

*Proportion of cultivators according to area.*

Size of holding	Percentage of cultivators to total cultivators
1 acre and less	22.5
1 to 2½ acres	15.4
2½ to 5 acres	17.9
5 to 10 acres	20.5
over 10 acres	23.7

100

According to the above figures over 30 per cent are submarginal farmers. The following statement classifying the farmers according to the amount of assessment paid would indicate the position to be worse.

Amount of assesment paid	No. of Pattas Single or joint	Average area in acres
Less than a rupee .. .. .	1,465,575	0.63
Above Re 1 and below Rs. 10 .. .. .	3,652,536	2.83
Rs. 10 to Rs. 30 .. .. .	1,165,902	6.56
Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 .. .. .	234,909	11.28
Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 .. .. .	120,102	20.63
etc. .. .. .	etc.	

### *The small holders of Bapatla*

In the neighbourhood of the college, the soil is absolutely sandy and the water table is high. This kind of soil extends for over 20 miles in the coastal area of the taluk. The whole area was evidently under the sea, hundreds of years back and it has receded at the rate of about half a mile for every hundred years. The majority cultivating this area are small holders, owner cultivators or tenants or both. Enquiries have been

made of these cultivators in some of the villages situated in the neighbourhood, regarding the economics of production and their economic status. The information gathered from ten of such submarginal farmers has been analysed and given below in the form of two statements.

S. No.	Name of farmer	Area in acres		No. of members of family		Side line of farming
		owned	on lease	Adults	children	
1.	Venkatareddi ..	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	2	Keeps 1 Buffalo and 1 Hen
2.	D. Samireddi ..	2	2	2	—	—
3.	P. Venkiah ..	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	—	—
4.	B. Subbiah ..	—	2	2	4	—
5.	Ankireddi ..	$1\frac{1}{2}$	—	5	—	—
6.	K. Kotireddi ..	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3	8	3	—
7.	Ramaswamireddi ..	$1\frac{1}{2}$	—	6	1	2 Buffalos and 10 hens.
8.	D. Venkateswaralu ..	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	2	3	—
9.	K. Venkatasubbareddi	2	—	4	—	1 buffalo
10.	K. Venkateswaralu ..	$2\frac{1}{2}$	—	4	—	2 buffaloes and 1 cow.

Serial No. of farmer	Amount of family expenditure per annum	Total income from land	Deficit	How made good
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1	490	400	90	sale of milk
2	380	260	120	working as casual labourer
3	1,200	1,100	100	cattle business
4	690	240	450	working as labourers
5	850	720	130	Do.
6	2,050	1,350	700	Do.
7	870	830	40	Do.
8	710	320	390	Do.
9	1,710	1,160	590	Sale of milk and working as labourer
10	990	350	640	Do.

From a study of the data given above we can draw the following general conclusions pertaining to the economic condition and status of the majority of the submarginal farmers of Bapatla. It may be noted with some pleasant surprise that only two of them had debts to an extent of a few hundred rupees.

1. The majority are owner cultivators and utilise family labour to the fullest extent.
2. No standard can be fixed for judging or estimating family expenditure.
3. Equal areas of land yield varied incomes depending on the extent to which intensive culture of cash crops have been undertaken.

4. Extra income is obtained more commonly through working as casual labourers in the neighbouring wet area and casuarina plantations.
5. The chief cash crops giving a very high return are tobacco and chillies, the former as nurseries only.
6. The high water table, 4 to 8 feet, enables the farmer to raise even three crops in the year, including nurseries, though hand watering is the rule.
7. There is ample scope for greatly increasing the yields by more and more intensive manuring.

### *Conclusion*

The economic position of the submarginal farmers of Bapatla is not so bad as may be imagined. There is scope for increasing their income considerably by means of heavier application of manure, particularly artificials. More farmers should be helped with finance to maintain buffaloes so that they can supplement their income by sale of milk. The other directions in which they should be helped are: removal of illiteracy, better houses and better sanitation.

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## AN ENQUIRY INTO THE ECONOMICS OF MILK PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE CITY OF MADRAS

*by*

D.R. B. NATARAJAN, M. A., D. Litt.

*Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras.*

### *Introduction*

Although it is agreed on all hands that the most perfect single food for man is milk, very little is known about the economics of its production and distribution beyond the qualitative fact that its inadequate supply has been a serious menace to the health of the people, particularly in large urban centres. When therefore at the last session of the All India Agricultural Economic Conference at Hyderabad it was decided that Economics of Milk Production and Distribution should be a topic for discussion this year, I welcomed the decision as affording an opportunity for a scientific study of the subject. Accordingly an enquiry was started under my supervision into the economics of milk production and distribution in the city of Madras. The salient features of his enquiry are summarised in this paper, the details having been reserved for a more elaborate thesis to be published at a later stage.