

STATUS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMON PROPERTY LAND RESOURCES (CPLRS) IN TAMIL NADU: EVIDENCES FROM SECONDARY SOURCES

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Abstract

The Common Property Land Resources (CPLRs) are the most important source of rural poor in the rural pockets of India. The rural population in general and the poor in particular depend largely on common property land resources for their sustenance. In the last few decades, the availability of such immense resources was degraded in both qualitatively and quantitatively across the regions in India. The study results revealed that the availability and accessibility of CPLRs has coming down slowly from year-by-year exception to the category of other than current fallow land in Tamil Nadu during 1998-99 to 2013-14. It is estimated that around 4.3 per cent of CPLRs increase were observed in the state during the study periods. In Tamil Nadu, it is accounted that 4.3 per cent of PPLRs were converted into CPLRs during the periods of 1998-99 to 2013-14. It is further accounted that the per capita availability of forest, CPLRs and private land has also observed that declining trend during the study periods.

Keywords: Common Property Land Resources (CPLRs), Private Property Land Resources (PPLRs), availability, population growth,

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Introduction

The common property land resources (CPLRs) are the most important source of rural poor. The rural population in general and the poor in particular depend largely on common property land resources for their sustenance. CPRs include all resources like village pastures and grazing grounds, village forest and woodlots, protected and unclassed government forests, waste land, common threshing grounds, watershed drainage, ponds and tanks, rivers, rivulets, water reservoirs, canals and irrigation channels (NSSO, 54th Round). A study conducted by Jodha (1986) finds that between 84 and 100 per cent of the poor households gathered food, fuel, fodder, and fibre items from CPRs. In contrast, just 10-28 per cent of large farmers depended on CPRs for these items. However, a greater proportion of large farmers collected items like silt from CPRs. He pointed out that the poor households' dependence on CPRs is reinforced by some degree of match between the characteristics of CPR based activities and features of the labour endowment of the poor.

For recent decades, the common property land resources has continuously declined due to various causes like population growth, economic stress, privatization, commercialization, market forces, intervention of state government and mainly by encroachment of the local elites. For instance, Kannan et al., (2011) study finds that the availability of common land declined by three times over the period from 1950-51 to 2000-01. This is due to the conversion of CPR into private land and also by ever growing population of both human and animals. This is not only by the growth of population but also by other factors like economic development of a nation, intensive cultivation, uses of modern technology, improvement of agricultural implement like tractor, high plough machine, new varieties of seeds and fertilizers, improvement of irrigation facilities and the developmental programme of the state by distribution of common land to the private individual through different poverty eradication programmes.

Another study by Arnold (1993) explored that the common property resources has continuously declined due to erosion of the traditional production and management systems. He pointed out that the CPRs reduction is also due to increasing population pressure, political, social changes, technological changes, in migration of outsiders and other activities too. Privatization of CPRs in the form of land to the landless people as well as the land given to the corporate sector in

Tamilnadu both previous and present government are the major causes for reduction of CPR in the local areas (Kannan et al., 2011).

With this background, the present article made an attempt to analyze the status of various forms of CPLRs, the per capita availability of CPLRs and PPLRs in Tamil Nadu during the period of 1998-99-2013-14 and to find out the causes of CPLRs reduction in Tamil Nadu.

Materials and methods

This research paper is entirely based on secondary data which was obtained from Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India during the period of 1998-99 to 2013-14. For analytical purpose, the simple percentage analyses were used for this paper.

Results and Discussion

This section deals the present status of the CPLRs in Tamil Nadu is based on the available secondary data which was obtained from the official sources of Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India during the period of 1998-99 to 2013-14. Further, we have made an attempt to analyse the categories of CPLRs available to the rural masses; the classification of common property land resources (CPLRs); private property land resources (PPLRs) and the per capita availability of CPLRs and PPLRs in the study state of Tamil Nadu.

Table 1 show that about 50.55 per cent of forest is available in 1998-99 and it comes down to 44.56 percent in 2013-2014. It finds that around 6 per cent of the forest area has declined during the study period. The availability of barren and uncultivable land in 1998-99 was 11.36 percent. It has also come down to 10.24 percent in 2013 to 2014. In rural areas, most of the people in general and the poor people in particular depend mostly on permanent pasture and grazing lands for their livestock maintenance. But the present status of these vital resource available for access in 1998-99 was around 3 percent. It has come down to 2.3 percent in 2013-14. In Tamil Nadu, the availability of culturable wastelands was 8.3 percent in 1998-99 and it has come down to 6.9 percent in 2013-14.

Table 1: Categories CPLRs in Tamil Nadu during 1998-99 to 2013-14 (in hectares)

Year	Forest	Barren and Unculturable land	Permanent pasture and other grazing lands	Culturable wasteland	Fallow other than current fallows	Total CPRs
1998-1999	2140342 (50.95)	477517 (11.36)	123451 (2.93)	348497 (8.29)	1110728 (26.44)	4200535 (100)
1999-2000	2133654 (50.55)	475850 (11.27)	122585 (2.90)	348640 (8.26)	1139522 (27.00)	4220251 (100)
2000-2001	2133617 (49.47)	475821 (11.03)	122953 (2.85)	352154 (8.16)	1228010 (28.47)	4312555 (100)
2001-2002	2131726 (47.12)	477381 (10.55)	118463 (2.61)	386806 (8.55)	1408944 (31.14)	4523320 (100)
2002-2003	2131604 (46.25)	478237 (10.37)	118313 (2.56)	389289 (8.44)	1491311 (32.35)	4608754 (100)
2003-2004	2122041 (42.54)	509378 (10.21)	113474 (2.27)	379439 (7.60)	1862861 (37.35)	4987193 (100)
2004-2005	2122069 (43.99)	509275 (10.55)	113563 (2.35)	374026 (7.75)	1704139 (35.33)	4823072 (100)
2005-2006	2110703 (45.77)	503255 (10.91)	110309 (2.39)	368661 (7.99)	1518008 (32.92)	4610936 (100)
2006-2007	2106113 (46.12)	502404 (11.00)	110293 (2.41)	354264 (7.75)	1493069 (32.69)	4566143 (100.00)
207-2008	2105818 (46.30)	492229 (10.82)	110127 (2.42)	346889 (7.62)	1493069 (32.82)	4548132 (100)
2008-2009	2105906 (46.39)	491908 (10.83)	110009 (2.42)	333441 (7.34)	1497549 (32.99)	4538813 (100)
2009-2010	2126672 (46.27)	490335 (10.66)	109924 (2.39)	326445 (7.10)	1542137 (33.55)	4595513 (100)
2010-2011	2125475 (45.85)	489253 (10.55)	109568 (2.36)	330958 (7.13)	1580173 (34.08)	4635427 (100)
2011-2012	2125475 (45.73)	488557 (10.51)	109568 (2.35)	329117 (7.08)	1594305 (34.30)	4647022 (100)
2012-2013	2125475 (44.77)	488512 (10.29)	109568 (2.30)	328026 (6.90)	1695689 (35.71)	4747270 (100)
2013-14	2125475 (44.56)	488460 (10.24)	109567 (2.29)	328326 (6.88)	1717831 (36.01)	4769659 (100)

Sources: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.

Around 1.1 per cent of decline of culturable wasteland was observed in the same period. The estimated availability of fallow other than current fallow is 26.44 percent in 1998-99. Fortunately it has increased to 36 percent in 2013-14. Around 9.6 per cent of increase was observed in the

case of fallow other than current fallows in Tamil Nadu. In overall, it states that the availability and accessibility of CPLRs has coming down slowly from year by year exception to the category of other than current fallow land in Tamil Nadu. For instance, Raghunath Sahoo and Mamata Swain (2013) study of four villages in Odisha revealed that CPR area in the study villages ranges between 41 per cent in Madanpur and 80 per cent in Birgovindpur in 1980-81 and 7 per cent in Kantipal and 68 per cent in Birgovindpur in 2010-11. Further, the area under forest land increased from 32 to 58 hectares in Kolimati and from 100 to 108 hectares in Birgovindpur village due to implementation of social forestry programme. There is significant decline in the area under forest land from 170 to 105 hectares in Madanpur village due to encroachments by rural households and distribution of CPR land to poor households. The study estimated that of the total 506 hectares of lost CPR area, 233 hectares (46 per cent) has been encroached by the rural non-poor.

Table (2) reveals that the availability of CPLRs was 32.31 percent in 1998-99. But it has increased to 36.59 percent in 2013-2014. It is estimated that around 4.3 per cent of CPLRs increase were observed in the state during the study periods. The study estimated that the availability of PPLRs in 1998-1999 was 67.68 per cent. But it has decreased to 63.40 percent in 2013-2014. In Tamil Nadu, it is accounted that 4.3 per cent of PPLRs were converted into CPLRs during the periods of 1998-99 to 2013-14.

Table 2: Percentage of CPLRs and PPLRs in Tamil Nadu

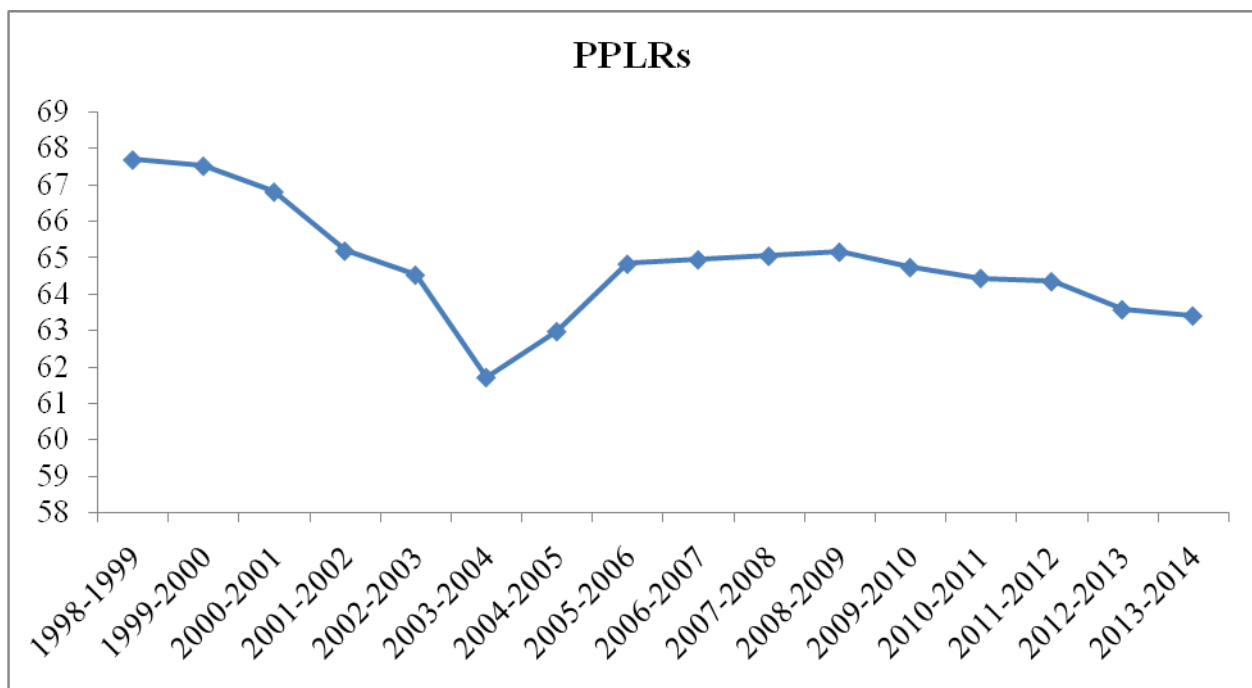
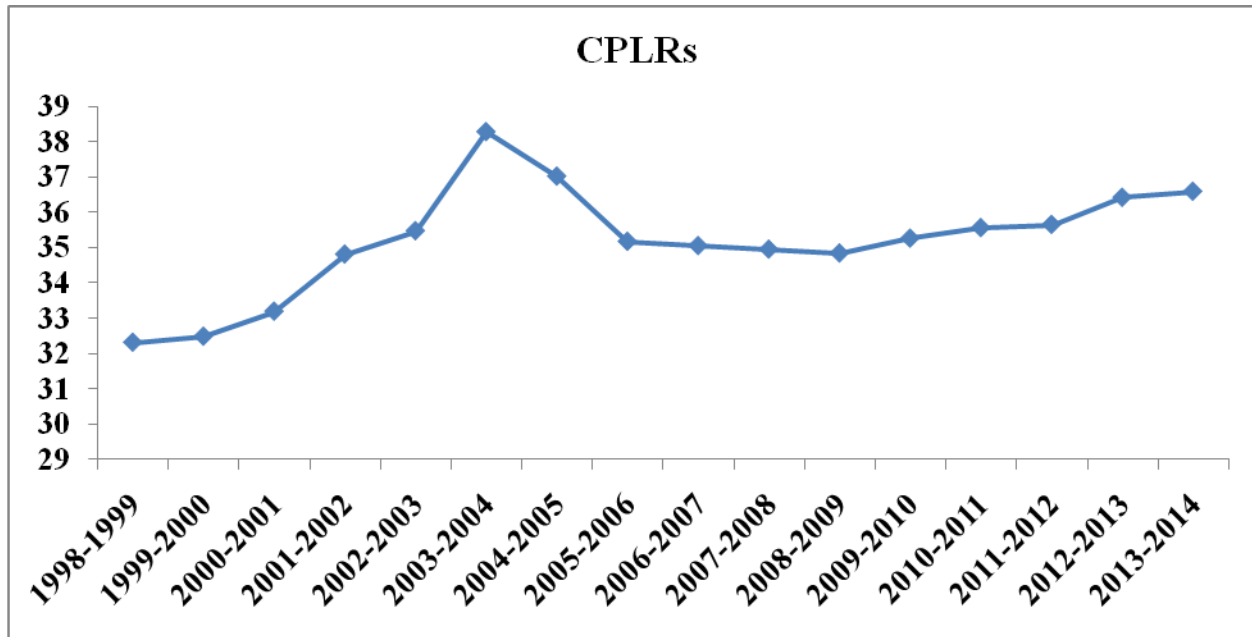
Year	CPLRs	PPLRs	Total geographical area
1998-1999	4200535 (32.31)	8797287 (67.68)	12997822 (100)
1999-2000	4220251 (32.48)	8771071 (67.51)	12991322 (100)
2000-2001	4312555 (33.19)	8678767 (66.80)	12991322 (100)
2001-2002	4523320 (34.81)	8468002 (65.18)	12991322 (100)
2002-2003	4608754 (35.47)	8382568 (64.52)	12991322 (100)

2003-2004	4987193 (38.28)	8039452 (61.71)	13026645 (100)
2004-2005	4823072 (37.02)	8203573 (62.97)	13026645 (100)
2005-2006	4610936 (35.17)	8415709 (64.82)	12981852 (100)
2006-2007	4566143 (35.05)	8460502 (64.94)	13026645 (100)
2007-2008	4548132 (34.95)	8472862 (65.04)	13026645 (100)
2008-2009	4538813 (34.84)	8487832 (65.15)	13026645 (100)
2009-2010	4595513 (35.26)	8437559 (64.73)	13033072 (100)
2010-2011	4635427 (35.56)	8397709 (64.43)	13033116 (100)
2011-2012	4647022 (35.65)	8386094 (64.34)	13033116 (100)
2012-2013	4747270 (36.42)	8285846 (63.57)	13033116 (100)
2013-2014	4769659 (36.59)	8263457 (63.40)	13033116 (100)

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.

The below diagram illustrate that the trends in CPLRs and PPLRs in Tamil Nadu during the periods from 1998-99 to 2013-14

Diagram 1: Percentage of CPLRs and PPLRs in Tamil Nadu



Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India

Table 3. Classification of private property land resources in Tamil Nadu (in hectare)

Year	Area under non agricultural uses	Land under Miscellaneous tree crops and Groves not included in Net area	Current fallows	Net area sown	Total PPLRs
1998-1999	1967765 (22.36)	239501 (2.72)	955507 (10.86)	5634514 (64.04)	8797287 (100)
1999-2000	1978320 (22.55)	242990 (2.77)	1085385 (12.37)	5464376 (62.29)	8771071 (100)
2000-2001	1985891 (22.58)	255302 (2.94)	1134280 (13.06)	5303294 (61.10)	8678767 (100)
2001-2002	1998296 (23.59)	271363 (3.20)	1025851 (12.11)	5172492 (61.08)	8468002 (100)
2002-2003	2012525 (24.00)	277596 (3.31)	1502616 (17.92)	4590331 (54.76)	8382568 (100)
2003-2004	2113353 (26.28)	282980 (3.51)	953963 (11.86)	4689156 (58.32)	8039452 (100)
2004-2005	2124564 (25.89)	290072 (3.53)	691926 (8.43)	5097011 (62.13)	8203573 (100)
2005-2006	2138679 (25.41)	274351 (3.25)	758840 (9.01)	5243839 (62.31)	8415709 (100)
2006-2007	2159781 (25.52)	268071 (3.16)	906578 (10.71)	5126072 (60.58)	8460502 (100)
2007-2008	2169195 (25.60)	261025 (3.08)	980723 (11.57)	5061919 (59.74)	8472862 (100)
2008-2009	2172597 (25.59)	258965 (3.05)	1013374 (11.93)	5042896 (59.41)	8487832 (100)
2009-2010	2175608 (25.78)	252828 (2.99)	1116981 (13.23)	4892142 (57.98)	8437559 (100)
2010-2011	2177034 (25.92)	252580 (3.00)	1014937 (12.08)	4953658 (58.98)	8397709 (100)
2011-2012	2180732 (26.00)	252468 (3.01)	967037 (11.53)	4985857 (59.45)	8386094 (100)
2012-2013	2183903 (26.35)	249544 (3.01)	1308159 (15.78)	4544240 (54.84)	8285846 (100)
2013-2014	2189876 (26.50)	244678 (2.96)	1115041 (13.49)	4713862 (57.04)	8263457 (100)

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.

Above table 3 proved that the availability of area under non agricultural uses was 22.36 percent in 1998-99 and it has increased to 26.50 in 2013-14. The land under miscellaneous tree crops and

groves not included in the net area was increased from 2.72 percent in 1998-99 to 3.01 percent in 2012-13 and then it declined to 2.96 percent in 2013-14. Further, it is estimated that the area under current fallow was increased from 10.86 percent to 13.49 percent in the above said period. The availability of net area sown as observed in the state of Tamil Nadu was a continuous decline from 64.04 percent in 1998-99 to 57.04 percent in 2013-14. For instance, Kannan and Ramar (2013) study in Theni district of Tamilnadu reveals that about 35.90 percent of forest was available in 1996 and it increased to 41.57 percent in 2012. They estimated that about 10.51 percent of CPRs in the study district in 1996 and it has increased to 13.28 percent in 2012. Around 10.56 percent of CPRs have been declined between the periods of 1996-2012. The endowment of private property resources (PPRs) in this district was 53.59 percent in 1997 and it has gone to 45.84 percent in 2012. It observed from this study an increment of 7.75 percent in the case of private property during the period of 1997 to 2012.

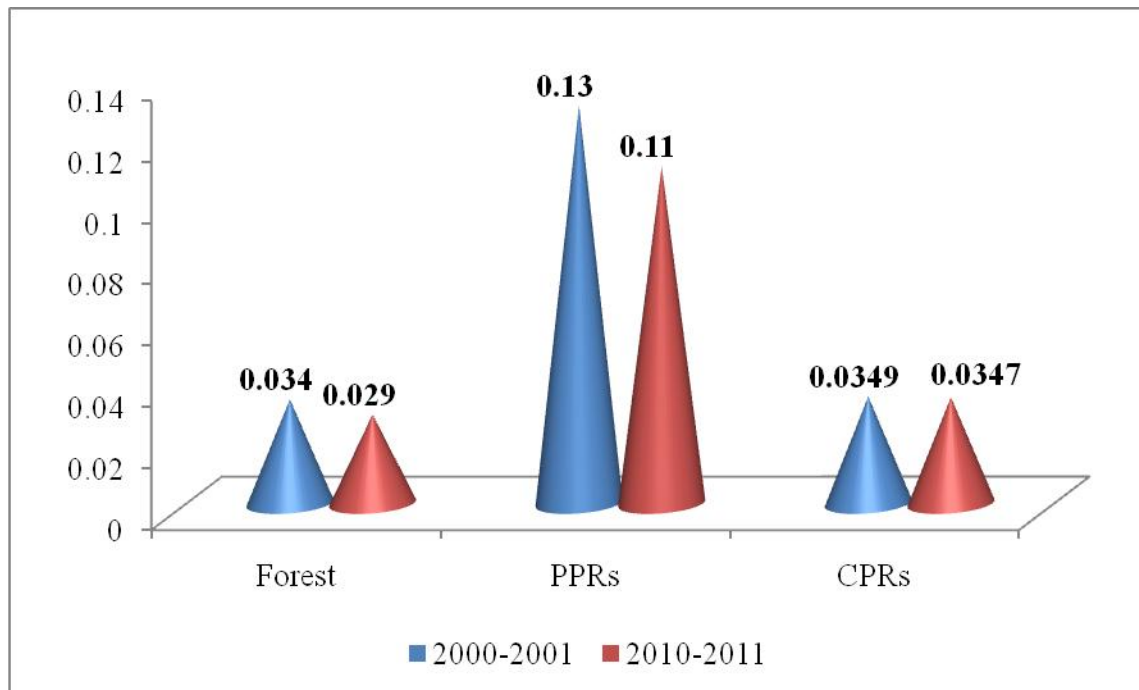
Table 4: Per capita availability land categories in Tamil Nadu

Year	Forest	PPRs	CPRs	TOTAL
2000-2001	2133617 (0.034)	8678767 (0.13)	2178938 (0.0349)	62405679
2010-2011	2125475 (0.029)	8397709 (0.11)	2509932 (0.0347)	72138958

Source: 1. Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.

2. Population census, Tamilnadu 2001 and 2011.

Table 4 indicates that the per capita availability forest was 0.034 hectare in 2000-2001 and it has declined to 0.029 hectare in 2010-2011. The per capita availability of private property resources has also observed that the decline of 0.13 hectare to 0.11 hectare in the same periods. It is estimated that the per capita availability of common property land resources in 2000-01 was 0.0349 hectare and it declined to 0.0347 hectares in above said periods. It implies that the growth of population is an important indicator of the per capita availability of all kinds of land resources.

Diagram2: Per capita availability land categories in Tamil Nadu

The above diagram show that the decline in per capita availability of forest, CPLRs and PPLRs in Tamil Nadu during the study periods.

Conclusion

The common property land resources form a crucial part of environmental resources. It plays a vital role in the rural poor's life in particular and local people life in general. The earlier studies evidenced that the growth of population, overexploitation, ecological degradation, state intervention, commercialization, privatization, and liberalization have been found responsible for the rapid depletion of common property land resources in India. The study research reveals that except the availability of fallow other than current fallow, all other categories of CPRLs were showing a decline during the period from 1998-99 to 2013-14 in Tamil Nadu. The study finds that the availability and accessibility of CPLRs has coming down slowly from year-by-year exception to the category of other than current fallow land in Tamil Nadu. It is estimated that around 4.3 per cent of CPLRs increase were observed in the state during the study periods. It implies that 4.3 per cent of PPLRs were converted into CPLRs in Tamil Nadu during 1998-99 to 2013-14. It is further accounted that the per capita availability of forest, CPLRs and PPLRs are also observed that the declining trend during the study periods.

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