



## Economic Resources: A Case Study of Beed District

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### Introduction:

Natural resource economics deals with the supply, demand, and allocation of the Earth's natural resources. One main objective of natural resource economics is to better understand the role of resources in the economy in order to develop more sustainable methods of managing those resources to ensure their availability for future generations. Resource economists study interactions between economic and natural systems, with the goal of developing a sustainable and efficient economy. In this paper, an attempt is made to analysis the natural economic resources in Beed District.

### Forestry

This includes all land classified as forest under any legal enactment dealing with forest or administered as forest, whether state owned or private and whether wooded or simply maintained as forest land. Within the forest area itself, there may be occasionally cultivated patches or grazing lands, but such area are shown under column 104 of the Village Directory as forest. The process of regularization of land grants and effecting relevant changes in the basic records of survey and settlement are somewhat protracted and time consuming. Therefore the information based on records is in some cases at least, likely to be different when compared with the actual field situation.

### Minerals and mining

The District as a whole is monotonously covered by Deccan trap basaltic lava flows, which are spread out in the form of horizontal sheets or beds. The trap rocks are uniform in composition and are dark gray or dark greenish gray in colour. They are distinguished into two types; Vesicular and non- Vesicular. The non-vesicular traps are hard, tough, compact and medium to fine grained and break with a Conchoidal fracture. The vesicular types are softer and tend to break more easily.



The Deccan traps by decomposition under tropical conditions, give rise to a porous rock called laterite, which forms a thin cap over the traps at many places. The traps often wither into a rich and fertile black cotton soil, which forms vast, spread in different places. Nodules of kankar are commonly found in the soil.

Trap rocks are generally barren of any economically useful and important minerals but being hard, dense and durable are most suitable for building purposes, road metal, railway ballast and as an aggregate for concrete mixtures. Kankar on burning yields good lime, which is locally used for construction purposes. Mining activity is therefore, confined only quarrying of stones, clay, sand etc.

### **Soil and Cropping pattern**

The soils of the District are essentially derived from the Deccan trap, which is the predominant rock formation of the District. The main factor that has influenced the development of soils is the undulating and hilly topography of the District. The soils of the District can be broadly grouped into three kinds.

#### **(i) Shallow soil:**

The shallow soils are dark brown to dark yellowish brown in colour. They have single grain to blocky structure and are sandy loam to loamy in texture. These are inferior soils having very low nutritious content and respond to all kinds of fertilisers.

#### **(ii) Moderately deep soil:**

Moderately deep soils are dark brown, dark reddish brown or dark grey brown in colour. They have single grain to blocky structure and are sandy loam to clayey in texture. Like shallow soils, these are also of inferior quality and have low nutritious content. They also respond to all kinds of fertilizers.

#### **(iii) Medium deep and deep soils:**

The medium deep and deep soils are dark brown or black in colour. They are granular or blocky structure and are sandy loam to clayey in texture. The nutritious elements of these soils vary considerably and they respond favourably to nitrogenous and phosphate fertilizers.

### **Agriculture**

Most of the people of this District are engaged in agricultural activities. As per 2011 Census, 48.29 percent of the total workers are engaged



as cultivators and 29.75 percent as agricultural labourers in the District. Together constitute 78.04 percent of the total workers of the District.

### **Irrigation**

The Concept of irrigation implies the existence of source of water supply within a reasonable distance and an arrangement to regulate the supply of the water according to the day-to-day needs of the crops rose in these fields. Naturally therefore all areas, which are cultivated under purely rain fed conditions, are treated as un-irrigated lands.

Columns 113 and 114 of the Village Directory give all the agricultural land and when added together would correspond to the net area sown. Area sown more than once during the same year, if any, in the village is counted only once under this column.

### **Animal Husbandry**

As per Census of livestock 2007, the information on important number of livestock and livestock indicators are given below.

1) Total Cross bred I Indigenous Cattle	---	5,88,799
2) Total Buffaloes	---	2,12,909
3) Total sheep	---	91,151
4) Total Goats	---	3,97,515
5) Total Equine	---	593
6) Other Livestock	---	1,14,350
7) Total Hens	---	9,91,221
8) Total Poultry	---	9,91,221

In the District there are 5,88,799 cross bred indigenous cattle, 2,12,909 buffaloes, 91,151 Sheep, 3,97,515 goats, 593 Equine and 9,91,221 hens.

### **Fishery**

Fishing is mainly confined to the Godavari river, which flows along the northern District boundary. As the smaller rivers dry up in summer and hence restrict the development of fisheries. However, the completion of a number of irrigation projects has increased the scope of fisheries in the District.



Fishing in rivers and tanks is done by mean of cast nets, drag nets, drift nets and hook and line. Except in a few villages along the banks of the Godavari, in Georai and Manjlegaon Tahsils, the population of fishermen is scattered in the District and fishing is done mainly as a part time job with agriculture being the main occupation. The chief fishing communities are Kahar, Pardeshi, Koli and Phutana Bhoi. The important varieties of fish caught in the District are Khiroda, Vambat, Tambu, Dhok, Murrel and Singhi. Fast growing varieties of major carps like Rohu, Catla and Mrigal are imported and stocked in tanks.

### **Transport**

The following Table shows the number of various types of vehicles available in the District in the year 2009 - 10. It may be seen that the District had 1,22,517 two wheelers. There were 538 buses, 4,300 Cars and Station Wagons, 12,266 Jeeps, 909 taxies and 6,437 auto rickshaws. Besides, 1,028 other modes of transport, the District also had 7,192 tractors and 5,681 trailers as means of transport.

### **Industry**

Industrially, Maharashtra is one of the advanced States in the country but Bid is one of the industrially under-developed Districts in the State. Presence of railway tracks contributes in development of industries but unfortunately Bid is not well connected by rail. This is one of the reasons for its industrial backwardness. Bid is mainly agricultural rather than industrial District.

Cultivators and Agricultural labourers together account for 78.04 percent of the total workers. While household industry recorded only 1.68 percent and other workers recorded 20.28 percent in the District. There is a thermal electricity project at Parli-Vaijanath. The raw materials available in the District are mostly agricultural products like sugarcane and cotton. The main manufactured goods are sugar, plastics pipes and bags, wooden furniture, oil, jaggery, cement and bakery products etc. The existing industrial establishment are mostly very small. The employment in non-agricultural sector depends mainly on the village cottage industries. There are industrial estates in Bid and Parli Tahsils.

The most important small scale industries in the District are leather processing, manufacturing of electrical appliances, oil mills and saw mills etc., which are located in Bid and Parli.



### **Trade and Commerce**

The electricity produced is supplied to the Mahavitaran Company for distribution. The chief exported goods are ground nut, cotton, hybrid jowar, confectionery, bajra, tur, pulses, cotton bales, light bulbs, edible oil, and tiles. The chief imported commodities are steel, oil seeds, cloth, kerosene etc. Most of these goods are imported from neighbouring District. Out of 1,357 inhabited villages, 69 villages are having commercial and cooperative banks and 904 villages are having agricultural credit societies in their respective revenue limits.

### **Electricity and Power**

All the 1,357 (100 percent) villages and 9 towns in the District are enjoying the power supply facility.

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