

# LANDS AND CROPS IN PUDUKOTTAI REGION UNDER THE IMPERIAL AND LATER CHOLA'S

Dr.S.Saravanan,  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of History,  
R.D.Govt. Arts College,  
Sivagangai,  
Tamilnadu.

## Abstract

The Sangam age of Tamil country with its Kurinji, Mullai, Marudam, Neidal and Palai tracts was having agriculture as a primary occupation. The Imperial Cholas came to power soon after the eclipse of the Pallavas. They ruled South India from 9<sup>th</sup> Century to 13<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. They established Chola Mandalam which was in the region between the two rivers, Pennar and Vellar. All human depends on agricultural food. Agriculture is the basic source of supply of all the countries of the world. Though agriculture was the prime occupation of the majority of the residents of this vast stretch of land of natural wealth and prosperity, the farmers and peasants were forced to suffer a lot due to the distinctive types of deficiencies. Agriculture growth determine lands and crops. Cholas periods in pudukottai region was one of the Cholas power but different kinds of land measurements and different types of crops in this region so this research article explore the contemporary society.

## Introduction

The Imperial Cholas came to power soon after the eclipse of the Pallavas. They ruled South India from 9<sup>th</sup> Century to 13<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. They established Chola Mandalam which was in the region between the two rivers, Pennar and Vellar. Vijayalaya defeated the Muttaraiyars who had thrown in their lot with the Pandya King Varagunavarman and captured Tanjore.<sup>1</sup> He was founded the imperial Chola Empire.<sup>2</sup> Vijayalaya was practically the independent ruler of the territories comprising the modern districts of Trichirapalli, Tanjore and South Arcot and parts of North Arcot and the Pudukottai state.

## Keywords

Puncey,Nancey,Nartrangal,Urnattam,Antarattali Karkidai,Ma,Veli,Kuli.

## **ImperialCholas**

Vijayalaya was the founder of the Imperial Chola dynasty which was the beginning of one of the most splendid empires in Indian history. Vijayalaya, possibly a feudatory of the Pallava dynasty, took an opportunity arising out of a conflict between the Pandya dynasty and Pallava dynasty in Bc.850,captured Thanjavur from muttarayar,and established the imperial line of the medieval Chola Dynasty.Thanjavur became the capital of the Chola Dynasty.

## **Later Chola**

Marital and political alliances between the Eastern Chalukyas began during the reign of Rajaraja following his invasion of Vengi. Rajaraja Chola's daughter married Chalukya prince Vimaladitya and Rajendra Chola's daughter Ammanga Devi was married to the Eastern Chalukya prince Rajaraja Narendra. Virarajendra Chola's son, Athirajendra Chola, was assassinated in a civil disturbance in 1070, and Kulothunga Chola I, the son of Ammanga Devi and Rajaraja Narendra, ascended the Chola throne. Thus began the Later Chola dynasty.

## **Pudukottai**

Pudukottai was created by Raghunatha Kilavan Setupati of Ramnad (1674–1710 A.D.) married Kathali Nachiar, the sister of Thondaiman. He appointed his brother-in-law, Raghunatha Kilavan Thondaiman, as a chief of the district of Pudukottai. Raghunatha Thondaiman earlier had ruled Thirumayam. In appreciation of Raghunatha Thondaiman's services, Raghunatha Setupati gave Pudukkottai as an honour for his services. In later centuries, the Thondaiman rulers, while nominally feudatories of the Ramnad state, often pursued an independent foreign policy, a trend common in all parts of India at that time. After the death of Raghunatha Kilavan Setupati Raghunatha Thondaiman become ruler of Pudukottai.

## **Classification of lands**

Cultivated land was classified as Puncey (Punjai) or Nancey (Nanjai). Nanjai was also known as nirnilam or wet-land, and was classified as Unnilam or land with crop, nartrangal or nursery and piranilam, all other kinds of wet-land, Non-taxable lands included the urnattam or village site, temples, tanks, water courses, hamlets of the artisans and pariahs, buring-grounds, antarattali or sites

of urn-burials<sup>4</sup> and Karkidai or Cairns, Mudutarisu was immemorial waste, Kalar (Venkalar), Saline land and adhavayal, common lands and forests.

## Land Measures

Chola's capital near places measurement of the land 16 feet – rod scale only. This rod was called as Ulagalantha kol. But Pudukottai region people was used land measurement scale of Padinettu adi-kol or 18 feet – rod and Padinaru adi-kol or 16 feet – rod scales were used in common. There are various rods measured that was called as the village. In which they were used “Mattiyur Nila Alavukol”. The Principal square – measures of land was the Veli. Smaller squares measures were called as ma, varavai and kuli Land was measured in Kuzhi – which was one rod in length and one rod in width. Three Kuzhi made a Maa. 20 Maa made a Veli (sometimes called Sey as well). A Maa approximates to 33 cents.

## Boundaries of Lands

When the boundaries of a village were being demarcated, a cow-elephant was ridden in front of those who perambulated the area for the purpose. The devadanam lands granted to Siva temples were demarcated by boundary-stones marked with a trident (tirucculakkal), those granted to vishnu temples by stones marked with the Cakra or discus (Tiruvalikkal) and those granted to Jain institutions by stones with triple umbrellas carved on them (tirumukkudaikkal). Lands endowed to Madams, or feeding-houses were demarcated by stones marked with a ladle (Tiruccattuvakkal).

## Crops

The principal crop was a paddy in this region. The different stages of the paddy harvest was Kodai bhogam or summer – harvest and Kalabhogam or normal harvest. The Paddy cultivation was divided into two stages in one year. The first one was short and another one was long term. Among the former, which were the Principal Crop, was the Samba variety known as Tiruccennelnadai or tiruccennadai which was solely cultivated for offerings in temples. Another long term paddy mentioned was Pacanam the harvest of which was called Pacanabhogam or Perumpu meaning major harvest. The short term varieties of paddy mentioned are Kuruvai and Navirai.

The Principal cereal dry crops were Tinai or Italian Millet and Varagu other cereals were Keppai also called Kelvaragu or Ragi and Samai, Sugarcane seems to have been very important crop ranking with Pacanabhogam. The most important non-cereal was gingelly. The leguminous crops, probably grown in rotation were Payaru or greengram and Kol or horse gram. Two other important leguminous crops, dholl and blackgram. Cotton is mentioned only occasionally. The common vegetable crops were Valutalai or Brinjal, Pusani or Pumpkin, Karunai or Pungentyam, manjal or Turmeric and inji or Ginger. The important fruit bearing trees were the ma or mango, pala or jack and Valai or Plantain and among the Palms, Tengu or Coconut and Kamuku or Arecanut

### **Conclusion**

This study is based on types of lands, crops, measurements and boundaries at Pudukottai region under the Chola Kingdom. Chola's Capital area people used 16 feet rod – scale land measurement. It was called as Ulagalantha ko. But pudukottai region people used two types of land measurements. One is called Padinettu adi kol or 18 feet – rod scale. Another one is called Padinaru adi-kol or 16 feet – rod scale. My research finding is all regions peoples are used same type of lands and crops, but land measurement scale was different in Chola's kingdom. This research work is used for the younger generation to know Chola's past 1000 years agrarian History.

**End Notes**

- 1.South Indian Inscriptions,vol,III.No.205.
- 2.Pillai,K.K.,Tamilaka Varalaru Makkal Panpadum,2015,P.281.
- 3.Swaminathan,A.,SocialCulturalHistoryof Tamilnadu,1985,p.205.
4. Dehejia, Vidya., The Art of the Imperial Cholas, 1990,p.XIV.
- 5.Majumdar, R. C., (1987) [1952], Ancient India, p.405.
- 6.Chopra, P. N., Ravindran,T., Subrahmanian,N., History of South India: Ancient, Medieval and Modern,2003,p.120.
- 7.Venkata Rama Ayyar, K.R., Manual of Pudukottai State, Pudukottai, 1940, p.578.
- 8.Pillai. K.K., History of South India, Part I, Chennai, 1958, p.116.
- 9.Srinivasa Ayyar.K.R., P.S.I.38, Pudukottai, 1941, P.33.
- 10.Venkatarama Ayyar K.R., op.cit, p.519.
- 11.Komathinayakam.P.,Tamilnadu history, Rajapalayam, 2007, P.92.
- 12.Venkatarama Ayyar. K.R., op.cit, p.671.
- 13.Pudukottai state inscriptions, 182, 274, 275,439,440,441,454, 613.
- 14.Nelson,J.H.,The Madura Country A Manual,Chpter IX,p.206.
- 15.Rajaram Row,T.,Manual of the Ramnad samasthanam,p.228.