

## **Performance Of Fisheries Cooperatives In Tamil Nadu**

**F.REKHA MORAIS**

Assistant Professor in Economics, V.O.Chidambaram College, Thoothukudi– 628 008  
Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli – 627012,  
Tamil Nadu, India.

### **Abstract**

The present paper deals with the trend and growth of the members enrolled in Fisheries Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during the years from 2014-2015 to 2017-2018. The study has the following objectives

1. To study the structure of fisheries co-operatives in India.
2. To find out the state-wise division of Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies in India.
3. To understand the number of Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during the years from 2014-2015 to 2017-2018.
4. To analyse the trend and growth of the members enrolled in Fisheries Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during the years from 2014-2015 to 2017-2018.

The study based on secondary data from 2014 to 2018. The secondary data collected through internet, books, newspaper, journals records and brochures. The tools used for the study were percentage analysis, mean, standard deviation compound growth rate and trend analysis. It found that the trend coefficient was found to be statistically significant for number and members enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies. It indicates, on average, it had increased by 2.3 percent for number enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies and 5.4 percent for members enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies per annum. The growth rates are found to be 18.41 percent and 19.22 percent for number and members enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies. The value of  $R^2$  indicates that the variations in number enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies (0.653) and member enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies small-scale industries (0.815) explain variations independent variables to the extent of 65 percent and 81 percent respectively. The present study deliberates the role of fishery cooperative societies in growth of marine fishing. From the period of 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the growth rates of membership of societies were 81 percent which indicates the better development in membership of societies in Tamil Nadu.

**Keywords:** fishing industry, economic condition, marketing facilities, Fisheries Co-operative Societies, finance management.

## INTRODUCTION

Fishing is one of the oldest avocations of man, older than even hunting and farming. In the beginning, man used his bare hands to collect/capture fish and other aquatic animals found on and along the shores of lakes, rivers and seas (M. Vallathan, 2005). In order to enhance fishermen's economic condition the government introduced a series of measures for their upliftment.

Among them the prime and chief one was the introduction of Co-operative Societies for the welfare of the fishermen community and the development of the fishing industry (Madras Information, 1965). The government sanctioned of a few Co-operative Inspectors to work under Regional Assistant Directors for the organisation of societies and a Co-operative Sub-Registrar for the head office to coordinate their work (Administrative Report of the Department of Fisheries, 1954).

The objectives of the Fisheries Co-operative Societies are, by providing better marketing facilities and to procure and supply the established needs of the members they assist fishermen (Madras Information, 1965). Importance of cooperative is well documented for the cause of socioeconomic upliftment of one of the most downtrodden community in India, the fishermen (D'cruz, 1998).

The fisheries cooperative structure in India is broadly three-tiered and it consists of a primary co-operative for a village; a district or regional federation; and a state level cooperative federation (BOBP, 1983). Establishment of fishery cooperative societies has made impressive progress particularly after introduction of Five Year Plans in 1950-51 (Rao, 1973).

There had been tremendous growth in formation of different levels of cooperative societies in India. The primary fisheries cooperative societies have a membership of about 1.92 million, which are over 32% of fisher population (Anon, 2006). Efforts made in formation of large number of societies in fisheries sector have yielded good results in some areas but the overall performance of fishery cooperatives is not encouraging (Prakash, 2000).

In general, fisheries cooperatives have not reached to desired level due to poor management, lack of skill enhancement mechanism, discouraging production and productivity trends, lack of infrastructure facilities, problematic financing and finance management, and 'poor linkages with concerned organizations (Anon, 2002).

The primary aim of Fishermen Co-operative Societies are building a sound economy, they have taken different schemes such as, sale of fishery inputs, crafts and gears and canalisation of loans from the government and Co-operative Banks to its members. Recently

some Co-operative Societies are running fair price shops, which also supply consumer goods to their members (Ravi Acharya, 1984).

The fisheries co-operative structure in India is broadly three-tier and it consists of a primary fishery co-operative for a village, a district or regional federation, and a state level cooperative federation (BOBP, 1983). Fishery Co-operatives would enable fishermen to develop an institutional structure through which they can avail themselves of financial and technical assistance to increase the catch of fish and gain a bargaining power for securing better price and thus improving their economic conditions (Marine Small Scale Fisheries of Tamil Nadu, 1983). The present paper deals with the trend and growth of the members enrolled in Fisheries Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during the years from 2014-2015 to 2017-2018.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study has the following objectives

1. To study the structure of fisheries co-operatives in India.
2. To find out the state-wise division of Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies in India.
3. To understand the number of Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during the years from 2014-2015 to 2017-2018.
4. To analyse the trend and growth of the members enrolled in Fisheries Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during the years from 2014-2015 to 2017-2018.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study based on secondary data from 2014 to 2018. The secondary data collected through internet, books, newspaper, journals records and brochures. The tools used for the study were percentage analysis, mean, standard deviation compound growth rate and trend analysis.

### **STRUCTURE OF FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVES IN INDIA**

The structure sustained to develop over the years in multifunctional components. At the primary level there are primary fisheries co-operatives and at district level there are district federations at district/regional level and at national levels. Nowadays there is one national level federation. It is well-known as 'National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operative Ltd.' (FISHCOPFED), New Delhi, 18-State Level Federations and 125- Central (District/ Regional) level federations in the country. Table 1 below presents, state-wise division of Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies (PFCS) covered under the assessment.

**TABLE 1**

**FISHERY CO-OPERATIVES IN INDIA IN 2018**

Name of the State / UT	Number of Societies (level)				No. of Members
	State Level	Regional Level	District Level	Primary Level	
Andhra Pradesh	1		13	2,347	2,60,579
Arunachal Pradesh				11	230
Assam	1			272	43,845
Bihar	1		6	510	4,10,007
Chhattisgarh	1		5	765	26,154
Goa				20	1,503
Gujarat	1		3	263	26,045
Haryana			1		11
Himachal Pradesh				45	5,837
Jammu Kashmir				1	18
Jharkhand	1		1	384	22,853
Karnataka	1		2	418	2,04,689
Kerala	1		1	651	4,60,486
M.P.	1		1	2,290	85,731
Maharashtra	1	2	36	3,315	3,32,636
Manipur	1		3	240	18,433
Meghalaya				18	611
<b>Mizoram</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>47</b>	<b>1,656</b>
Nagaland				267	9,234
Odisha	1	1	3	657	1,38,143
Punjab			1	1	18
Rajasthan	1		1	34	4,130
Sikkim				8	230
Tamil Nadu (TN)	1		11	1,353	6,01,620
Telangana	1		10	4,005	2,86,687
Tripura	1			142	22,967
UP	1		22	1,011	54,521
Uttarakhand				13	634
West Bengal	1		20	1,433	92,759
Andaman Nicobar Islands	1			41	1,361
Daman and Diu				7	3,176
Lakshadweep				6	2,910
Puducherry	1		1	64	58,525
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>20,639</b>	<b>31,78,239</b>

Source: <http://www.fishcopfed.in/DataBank>

In order to improve a complete database of primary fisheries cooperative societies in the country, FISHCOPFED (National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operative Ltd) has commenced a primary survey of 18,550 primary cooperative societies across 26 states and 4

union territories across India. This report presents an investigative position of primary fisheries cooperative societies in the country as well as state detailed reports for 26 states and 4 union territories across India.

**FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN TAMIL NADU**

The Fisheries Co-operative Societies play an essential role in the upliftment of fishermen and fisherwomen in the State. The Department is performing numerous welfare schemes to fishermen/ fisherwomen through Fisheries Co-operative Societies. About 7.21 lakh fishermen / fisherwomen have been registered as members of 1,431 primary Fishermen/Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies / District Co-operative Federation / Apex Co-operative Federation. Fishermen Cooperative Societies are functioning 51 full time fair price shops and 15 part time fair price shops.

Elections were directed for 1,431 Fisheries Cooperative Societies working under the control of Commissioner/Director of Fisheries and 10,091 elected Board of Directors assumed charge of these Societies. Currently all the Fisheries co-operative societies are managed by the Elected Board of Management of the societies. As on 31st March 2004, 1175 Fisheries Co-operative Societies are functioning in Tamilnadu with a total membership of 4,88,844. Out of which 512 societies with 3,22,006 members are functioning among marine fishermen and 296 societies with 93551 members are functioning among marine fisherwomen, 280 societies with 61979 members are functioning among inland fishermen and 66 societies with 6132 members among inland fisherwomen. 21 special types of fisheries societies with 5176 members are also functioning for the upliftment of fisherfolk in Tamil Nadu (Report of Fisheries Department, 2004). The details of the Fisheries Co-operative Societies / Members are given in the following table 1.

**TABLE 2**

**DETAILS OF NUMBER OF FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN TAMIL NADU**

<b>No. of Primary Co-operative Societies</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>CGR</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>SD</b>
Marine Fishermen Co-operative Societies	575	557	563	559	-0.70%	563.5000	8.06226
Marine Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies	445	452	455	460	0.83%	453.0000	6.27163
Inland Fishermen Co-operative Societies	303	300	302	303	0.00%	302.0000	1.41421

Inland Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies	66	68	68	71	1.84%	68.2500	2.06155
Other types	23	24	25	26	3.11%	24.5000	1.29099
Total Number of societies and members enrolled	1,389	1,401	1,400	1,419	0.54%	1402.2500	12.41974
District Fishermen Co-operative Federation	11	11	11	11	0.00%	11.0000	.00000
Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation	1	1	1	1	0.00%	1.0000	.00000

Source: Various publications of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, Policy Note, Government of Tamil Nadu

Table 2 shows the number of Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during the years from 2014-2015 to 2017-2018. It could observe from Table 2 that there has been a steady growth of the Marine Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018. The total numbers of Marine Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies are 445 in numbers at the beginning of the year 2014-2015, and the same rose to 460 in numbers by the end of 2017-2018.

On the other hand, there has been a steady decline of the Marine Fishermen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu from 575 to 559 during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018. The District Fishermen Co-operative Federation and Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation are unchanged in numbers as 11 and 1 during this period. The Inland Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies and total number of societies and members enrolled with a continuous increase witnessed during this period.

Moreover, from Table 2, the number of Marine Fishermen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the number of Marine Fishermen Co-operative Societies was -0.70%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 563.5 and 8.06226 respectively.

The number of Marine Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the number of Marine Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies was 0.83%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 453 and 6.27163 respectively.

The number of Inland Fishermen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the number of Inland Fishermen Co-

operative Societies was 0%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 302 and 1.41 respectively.

The number of Inland Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the number of Inland Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies was 1.84%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 68.25 and 2.06 respectively.

The number of other types of Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the number of other types of Co-operative Societies was 3.11%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 24.5 and 1.29 respectively.

The number of societies and members enrolled in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the number of societies and members enrolled was 0.54%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 1402.25 and 12.42 respectively.

The number of District Fishermen Co-operative Federation in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the number of District Fishermen Co-operative Federation was 0%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 11 and 0 respectively.

The number of Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the number of Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation was 0%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 1 and 0 respectively.

**TABLE 3**

**DETAILS OF MEMBERS OF FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

<b>Members enrolled in Primary Co-operative Societies</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>CGR</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>SD</b>
Marine Fishermen Co-operative Societies	3,38,271	3,55,717	3,61,312	3,66,357	2.01%	35541 4.2500	12227. 15435
Marine Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies	2,18,538	2,46,417	2,48,112	2,50,276	3.45%	24083 5.7500	14948. 82538
Inland Fishermen Co-operative Societies	79,110	85,458	86,105	87,399	2.52%	84518. 0000	3694.5 3624
Inland Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies	7,371	7,662	7,792	8,009	2.10%	7708.5 000	266.67 146
Other types	7,200	7,202	7,211	7,283	0.29%	7224.0 000	39.623 23
Total Number of societies and members enrolled.	6,43,290	7,02,456	7,04,541	7,19,324	2.83%	69240 2.7500	33591. 76914

District Fishermen Co-operative Federation	915	1982	1215	975	1.60%	1271.7500	490.91980
Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation	602	673	698	785	6.86%	689.5000	75.54469

Source: Various publications of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, Policy Note, Government of Tamil Nadu

Table 3 shows the members enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during the years from 2014-2015 to 2017-2018. It could observe from Table 3 that there has been a steady growth of the Marine Fishermen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018. The total members enrolled in Marine Fishermen Co-operative Societies are 3,38,271 in members at the beginning of the year 2014-2015, and the same rose to 3,66,357 in members by the end of 2017-2018.

Similarly, there has been a steady increase of the Marine Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu from 2,18,538 to 2,50,276 during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018. The District Fishermen Co-operative Federation and Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation are increasing in members during this period. The Inland Fisher men and women Co-operative Societies and total number of societies and members enrolled with a continuous increase witnessed during this period.

Further from Table 3, the members enrolled in Marine Fishermen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the members enrolled in Marine Fishermen Co-operative Societies was 2.01%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 355414.25 and 12227.15 respectively.

The member of Marine Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the member of Marine Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies was 3.45%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 240835.75 and 14948.83 respectively.

The member of Inland Fishermen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the member of Inland Fishermen Co-operative Societies was 2.52%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 84518 and 3694.54 respectively.

The member of Inland Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the member of Inland Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies was 2.10%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 7708.50 and 266.67 respectively.

The member of other types of Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the member of other types of Co-operative Societies was 0.29%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 7224 and 39.62 respectively.

The member of societies and members enrolled in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the member of societies and members enrolled was 2.83%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 692402.75 and 33591.76914 respectively.

The member of District Fishermen Co-operative Federation in Tamil Nadu during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the member of District Fishermen Co-operative Federation was 1.60%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 1271.75 and 490.92 respectively.

The member of Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation during 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the compound growth rate for the member of Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation was 6.86%. Average and Standard Deviation values were 689.50 and 75.54 respectively.

The trend and growth of the number and members enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu during the years from 2014-2015 to 2017-2018 shown in Table 4.

**TABLE 4**  
**TREND AND GROWTH OF NUMBER AND MEMBERS ENROLLED IN PRIMARY FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES DURING 2014-15 TO 2017-18**

Particulars	Trend Coefficient		R <sup>2</sup>	Compound Growth Rate in Percent
	a	b		
No. of Primary Co-operative Societies	8.2364	0.023*(1.5521)	0.653	18.41
Members enrolled in Primary Co-operative Societies	6.9143	0.054*(1.9823)	0.815	19.22

Figures in brackets represent 't' values

\*Significant at 5 percent level.

It found from Table 4 that the trend coefficient was found to be statistically significant for number and members enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies. It indicates, on average, it had increased by 2.3 percent for number enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies and 5.4 percent for members enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies per annum. The growth rates are found to be 18.41 percent and 19.22 percent for number and members enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies.

The value of  $R^2$  indicates that the variations in number enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies (0.653) and member enrolled in Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies small-scale industries (0.815) explain variations independent variables to the extent of 65 percent and 81 percent respectively.

### **CONCLUSION**

The present study deliberates the role of fishery cooperative societies in growth of marine fishing. It has been concluded from the present study, that there is a great necessity of such societies for the development of this occupation. From top to bottom all the societies should become energetic and should provide safeguard to the weakest sector of the fishing community. Fisheries cooperative societies must deliver the rudimentary necessities and should elucidate the difficulties of fishermen by providing them passable preparation and should also give credit for fishing gear.

From the period of 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the growth rates of membership of societies were 81 percent which indicates the better development in membership of societies in Tamil Nadu. This indicates that the neutral role of societies in the financial support to fishermen. In Tamil Nadu, the role of cooperative societies is good as compared to the rest of India. There is a great opportunity to the societies in Tamil Nadu to develop a role model in every fishing village in the states of India.

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