

**Agrarian Structure and Re-construction of Livelihood through Migration in Tamil Nadu:
Comparison of Cauveri Delta, South and West of the state**

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This study examines nature and extent of change in agrarian social structure in Tamil Nadu since globalisation and analyse to understand livelihood construction pathways including migration. Agrarian social structure we means that the manner in which different social classes are organised and interact with each other around the activity of agricultural production. In the case Tamil Nadu, water is critical factor which motivate or demotivate farmers to do or not to do agriculture in the given season or the year. Considering this, for this study, four different villages based on access to dominant water source such as, canal irrigated (Cauvery Delta), tank irrigated (Southern District), well irrigated (Western District) and rain fed (Middle part) has been selected purposively. Results were shown that irrespective of dominant water resources, all the four villages experienced inconsistency in water availability during the cropping period. Consequently, farmers in the study villages diversified their resources such land, labour and capital. Cauvery delta village and Tank irrigated village were dominantly practice international migration whereas Rain fed village and Well irrigated village were diversified their income source through non-farm activities and seasonally migrated to nearby industrial cities. This study concluded that agricultural dependent population in the all the villages encountered with frequent crop failure and unexpected crop loss due to water shortages. They increasingly lost faith on agriculture and there by diversifying the land and labour in the nonfarm sector. The income accrued through nonfarm sector are not invested in farm.