International Journal of Social Science and Economic Research

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

Macro and Micro Level Status of Common Property Resources (CPRs) in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu: Evidences from Secondary Data

Kannan. A[1] and S. Levin Sarath[2]

[1]Dr. A. Kannan, Principal Investigator in CMRG Project & Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Economics, School of Economics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai – 21, Tamil Nadu

[2]Project Assistant, CMRG Project, Department of Environmental Economics, School of Economics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai – 21, Tamil Nadu

DOI: 10.46609/IJSSER.2026.v11i02.014 URL: https://doi.org/10.46609/IJSSER.2026.v11i02.014

Received: 12 January 2026 / Accepted: 16 February 2026 / Published: 26 February 2026

ABSTRACT

The study aims to analyze land use patterns in India, specifically in Tamil Nadu and the Tirunelveli district, focusing on the status of Common Property Resources (CPRs) from 1950-51 to 2024-2025. This paper is a part of the outcome of the major research project funded by the Chief Minister`s Research Grant (CMRG) scheme instituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The study shows that forest areas have risen from 40.48 million hectares (14.24%) in 1950 to 72.02 million hectares (23.46%) in 2024, demonstrating effective afforestation and conservation policies. Conversely, barren and unculturable land decreased from 38.16 million hectares (13.42%) to 16.59 million hectares (5.40%), highlighting land reclamation. Culturable wasteland has sharply declined, showing better land use, while permanent pastures remain low and stagnant, reflecting pressure on grazing resources. Variability in current and other fallow lands is noted due to changes in rainfall and agricultural practices. In India, the area of Common Property Resources (CPRs) has diminished from 125.71 million hectares (44.21%) in 1950 to 121.57 million hectares (39.60%) in 2024, highlighting ongoing pressures from population growth and encroachment. In contrast, Private Property Resources (PPRs) increased from 158.62 million hectares (55.79%) to 185.39 million hectares (60.39%), indicating a shift towards land privatization and the expansion of both cultivated and non-agricultural lands. In Tamil Nadu, forest area has marginally increased from 18.14 million hectares (14%) in 1950 to 21.57 million hectares (16.5%) in 2024, indicating limited potential for forest growth due to high population density. Conversely, barren land has diminished significantly from 9.73 million hectares (7.5%) in 1950 to 4.57 million hectares (3.5%) in 2024. Additionally, culturable wasteland has reduced from 8.7 million hectares (6.7%) to 3.5 million hectares (2.7%), and

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

permanent pastures have declined from 3.75 million hectares (3%) to 1.07 million hectares (0.8%), negatively impacting agricultural sustainability and livestock rearing. Land use pattern data for Tirunelveli district indicates that forest areas remained stable until the 1990s, followed by a noticeable increase in later decades. Barren and unculturable land decreased until 2000, then began to rise again. Non-agricultural permanent pastures and grazing lands consistently contracted, indicating pressure on common lands and diminished support for livestock livelihoods. Agricultural operations show instability due to factors like rainfall uncertainty and soil conditions, leading to a continuous decline in net area sown and gross cropped area, reflecting lower agricultural intensity. Urban uses expanded steadily up to 1990, correlating with urban growth and economic diversification.

Keywords: Agricultural intensity, CPRs, Land use pattern, Livelihoods, Livestock, PPRs.

Introduction

Common property resources are vital for the livelihoods of the rural population in India, particularly the rural poor. However, their quantity and quality have significantly deteriorated in recent decades due to various economic and non-economic activities. Despite this degradation, their contributions to rural economies remain essential. There are studies also highlighting this fact that Pasha (1992) study of 14 villages in Karnataka state reveals that around 6999 acres i.e., 35.6 per cent total area of land was available and used as CPRs in 14 villages of Karnataka. At the period of 1989-90, CPR in this sample village reduced in 6999 acres (i.e. 35.6 per cent to 23.7 per cent). Increase in population both human and animal as well as the decline in quality of CPRs, the poor have to survive on the decreased availability of CPRs. The reason of reduction in CPRs is mainly due to encroachment by rural households and the government led to developmental programmes. Government has tried to improve the access of rural poor by distributing the CPR lands to individuals for crop cultivation, housing and for afforestration which amounts to 600 acres. The total CPRs lost was 52 per cent, owing to encroachment by the rural rich depriving the access of the poor of complete access to it. The rural poor had a greater extent of access to CPRs in the past, which had come down by nearly 50 per cent. Environmental degradation has led to climate change, which in turn exacerbates the degradation of natural resources, heightening the vulnerability of the rural poor in dry regions. Research by Kannan A & P. Ranjithkumar (2015) indicates that common grazing lands have declined due to insufficient rainfall and overgrazing, threatening livestock and income for rural communities. Livestock holders increasingly rely on trees for fodder, contributing to environmental degradation. Jodha (1995) noted a decline in common property resources (CPRs) across 80 villages in dry tropical India, with CPR area proportion dropping from 39-58% between 1950-1982, showing a continued reliance of rural poor on these resources despite their decline. Dadibhavi R.V. (1998)

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

highlighted that the responsibility for the protection and regeneration of common property resources (CPRs) lies with the entire community. However, socio-economic changes, such as population growth, technological advancements, and governmental interventions, have led to a decrease in both the area and quality of CPRs, which dropped from 35% in 1960-61 to about 30% in 1990-91. Notably, pastures have declined by 37% over 30 years. A micro-level study found a loss of 9282 acres of CPRs in 22 villages from 1967 to 1994, attributing this to population pressures, encroachments, and neglect.

Jodha (2000) observed a 31-55% decline in CPR areas across 82 villages in 8 Indian states due to privatization from the 1950s to the 1980s, while CPRs contributed significantly to poor farmers' inputs throughout various agricultural phases. Kannan A. & M. Ravichandran (2011) indicated the role of CPRs in providing income and employment through cultivation, disproportionately benefiting the rural rich. Pasha (1992) found that CPRs supply crucial fuel wood and fodder, with poor households relying on these resources more heavily than non-poor households. Sakthivel S & Kannan A (2023) report that 88% of respondents in study villages rely on common property resources (CPRs). The primary uses include 31% for cattle management, 29% for employment, and 29% for gathering materials. Approximately 39-42% of land in these villages is degraded due to encroachment on CPRs. Kannan A and T. Jeyanthi (2022) highlight that CPRs significantly contribute to income and employment for people below the poverty line (BPL); 68.1% of households fully depend on CPRs for daily needs. CPRs provide 51.5% of fuelwood for BPL households compared to 13.2% for above poverty line (APL) households. Income from CPRs contributes 11.5% to total household income, with 16.8% for BPL and 6% for APL households. The current study examines land use patterns in India, focusing on Tamil Nadu and Tirunelveli from 1950-51 to 2024-2025.

Methods and Materials

This research paper utilizes secondary data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, covering the period from 1950-51 to 2024-25. It focuses on descriptive and analytical aspects of the subject matter. The present study examines land use patterns in India, with a specific focus on Tamil Nadu and the Tirunelveli district, from 1950-51 to 2024-2025. It utilizes simple statistical tools, such as percentages, to analyze the extent and categories of Common Property Resources (CPRs) in these areas during the specified period, aiming to assess the status of CPRs from both macro and micro perspectives.

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

Results and Discussion

The current research examines the status of Common Property Resources (CPRs) from both macro and micro perspectives, covering the period from 1950-51 to 2024-2025. It includes tables discussing changes in land use patterns and the specific status of CPRs during these time frames.

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

Table 1: Land Use Pattern in India from 1950 to 2024 (MH)

Year	Forest	Barren & Uncultivable	Non-Agricultural use	Culturable waste	Permanent Pasture & other grazing land	Miscellaneous	Current Fallow	Other Fallow	Net area sown	Reporting Area	Total Geographical Area
1950	40.48 (14.24)	38.16 (13.42)	9.36 (3.29)	22.94 (8.07)	6.68 (2.35)	19.83 (6.97)	10.68 (3.76)	17.45 (6.14)	118.75 (41.77)	284.32	328.73
1960	54.05 (18.18)	35.91 (12.08)	14.84 (4.99)	19.21 (6.46)	13.97 (4.69)	4.46 (1.50)	11.64 (3.92)	11.18 (3.76)	133.2 (44.81)	297.25	328.73
1970	63.92 (21.03)	28.16 (9.26)	16.48 (5.42)	17.5 (5.76)	13.26 (4.36)	4.3 (1.41)	11.12 (3.66)	8.76 (2.88)	140.27 (46.16)	303.89	328.73
1980	67.47 (22.18)	19.96 (6.56)	19.66 (6.46)	16.74 5.50	11.97 (3.94)	3.61 (1.19)	14.83 4.88	9.92 (3.26)	140.0 (46.03)	304.13	328.73
1990	67.81 (22.24)	19.39 (6.36)	21.09 (6.92)	15.0 4.92	11.4 (3.74)	3.82 (1.25)	13.7 4.49	9.66 (3.17)	143.0 (46.90)	304.88	328.73
2000	69.53 (22.79)	17.76 (5.82)	23.86 (7.82)	13.61 4.46	10.66 (3.49)	3.43 (1.12)	14.77 4.84	10.31 (3.38)	141.4 (46.36)	305.02	328.73
2010	71.56 (23.28)	17.18 (5.58)	26.16 (8.51)	12.95 4.21	10.34 (3.36)	3.21 (1.04)	16.01 5.21	10.84 (3.53)	139.17 (45.27)	307.41	328.73
2020	71.75 (23.37)	16.54 (5.39)	27.78 (9.05)	11.95 3.89	10.48 (3.41)	3.13 (1.02)	13.78 4.49	11.24 (3.66)	139.9 (45.57)	306.98	328.75
2024	72.02 (23.46)	16.59 (5.40)	28.55 (9.30)	11.59 3.78	10.21 (3.33)	2.95 (0.96)	14.9 4.85	11.16 (3.64)	138.99 (45.28)	306.964	328.76

Source: Government of India (2025) Land Use Statistics at Glance 2023-24, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Economics, Statistics Evaluation Division, New Delhi.

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total geographical area

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

The land use pattern in India shown in Table 1 notable structural changes over the period from 1950 to 2024. Forest area has augmented steadily from 40.48 million hectares (14.24%) in 1950 to 72.02 million hectares (23.46%) in 2024, indicating sustained afforestation efforts and forest conservation policies.

In contrast, barren and unculturable land declined from 38.16 million hectares (13.42%) to 16.59 million hectares (5.40%), reflecting land reclamation and developmental use. The area under non-agricultural uses expanded consistently from 9.36 million hectares (3.29%) in 1950 to 28.55 million hectares (9.30%) in 2024, highlighting rapid urbanisation, industrialisation, and infrastructure growth. Culturable wasteland declined sharply over time, showing improved land utilisation. Permanent pastures and grazing lands remained relatively low and stagnant, indicating pressure on common grazing resources. Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves showed a gradual decline, suggesting conversion into other land uses. Current fallows and other fallow lands fluctuated across years due to rainfall variability and agricultural practices. The net area sown remained around 45–47 percent, indicating limited scope for horizontal expansion of agriculture.

Table 2: CPRs and PPRs in India

Year	Common Property Resources (CPRs)	Private Property Resources (PPRs)
1950	125.71 (44.21)	158.62 (55.79)
1960	134.32 (45.00)	164.14 (55.00)
1970	131.6 (43.30)	172.17 (56.65)
1980	126.06 (41.45)	178.1 (58.55)
1990	123.26 (40.43)	181.61 (59.57)

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

2000	121.87 (39.95)	183.46 (60.05)
2010	122.87 (39.97)	184.55 (60.03)
2020	121.96 (39.73)	184.59 (60.13)
2024	121.57 (39.60)	185.39 (60.39)

Source: Government of India (2025) Land Use Statistics at Glance 2023-24, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Economics, Statistics Evaluation Division, New Delhi.

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total geographical area

The table 2 reveals a gradual decline in Common Property Resources from 125.71 million hectares (44.21%) in 1950 to 121.57 million hectares (39.60%) in 2024. This reduction indicates continuous pressure on common lands due to population growth, encroachment, and conversion to private uses. Conversely, Private Property Resources (PPRs) increased from 158.62 million hectares (55.8%) to 185.39 million hectares (60.4%), reflecting privatisation of land resources and expansion of cultivated and non-agricultural areas. The trend highlights a structural shift from collective resource management towards individual ownership, raising concerns about sustainability and equity.

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

Table: 3 Land Use Pattern in Tamil Nadu

Year	Forest	Barren & Uncultivable	Non-Agricultural use	Culturable waste	Permanent Pasture & other grazing land	Miscellaneous	Current Fallow	Other Fallow	Net area sown	Total Geographical Area
1950	18.14 (14.0)	9.73 (7.5)	12.7 (9.8)	8.7 (6.7)	3.75 (3.0)	2.49 (1.9)	11.05 (8.5)	6.6 (5.1)	56.38 (43.5)	129.56
1960	18.95 (14.6)	8.88 (6.8)	13.39 (10.3)	6.78 (5.2)	3.46 (2.7)	2.65 (2.0)	9.64 (7.4)	6.13 (4.7)	60.25 (46.3)	130.12
1970	20.05 (15.4)	7.05 (5.4)	16.01 (12.3)	4.17 (3.2)	1.98 (1.5)	2.15 (1.6)	12.02 (9.2)	5.31 (4.1)	61.36 (47.2)	130.06
1980	20.77 (16.0)	5.58 (4.3)	17.95 (13.8)	3.09 (2.4)	1.45 (1.1)	1.82 (1.4)	16.18 (12.4)	7.03 (5.4)	56.22 (43.2)	129.98
1990	21.44 (16.5)	4.95 (3.8)	19.07 (14.7)	3.25 (2.5)	1.23 (0.9)	2.31 (1.8)	10.57 (8.1)	10.93 (8.4)	56.32 (43.3)	129.98
2000	21.2 (16.3)	4.93 (3.8)	21.05 (16.2)	3.61 (2.8)	1.14 (0.9)	2.69 (2.1)	10.08 (7.7)	15.24 (11.7)	50.22 (38.6)	130.16
2010	21.25 (16.3)	4.89 (3.7)	21.77 (16.7)	3.31 (2.5)	1.1 (0.8)	2.52 (1.9)	10.15 (7.8	15.8 (12.1)	49.54 (38.0)	130.33
2020	21.57 (16.5)	4.58 (3.51)	26.6 (20.4)	3.23 (2.5)	1.08 (0.8)	2.21 (1.7)	9.2 (7.1)	19.06 (14.6)	47.38 (36.3)	130.33
2024	21.57 (16.5)	4.57 (3.5)	22.07 (16.9)	3.5 (2.7)	1.07 (0.8)	1.7 (13.1)	9.61 (7.4)	18.66 (14.3)	47.56 (36.5)	130.33

Source: Various issues of Season and crop reports of Tamil Nadu

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total geographical area

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

Tamil Nadu land use pattern in Table 3 reflects increasing pressure on land resources. Forest area increased marginally from 18.14 million hectares (14%) in 1950 to 21.57 million hectares (16.5%) in 2024, showing limited scope for forest expansion due to high population density. Barren land declined significantly, while non-agricultural uses increased sharply, reaching 22.07 million hectares.

(16.9%) in 2024, indicating rapid urbanisation and industrial growth. Culturable wasteland and permanent pastures declined over time, affecting agricultural sustainability and livestock rearing. The net area sown diminished from 43.5 percent in 1950 to 36.5 percent in 2024, reflecting land diversion away from agriculture

Table: 4 CPRs and PPRs in Tamil Nadu

Year	**Common Property Resources**	**Private Property Resources**
1950	46.92 (36.2)	82.62 (63.78
1960	44.2 (34.0)	85.93 (66.0)
1970	38.56 (29.6)	91.54 (70.4)
1980	37.92 (29.2)	92.17 (70.9)
1990	41.8 (32.1)	88.27 (67.9)
2000	46.12 (35.4)	84.04 (64.6)
2010	46.35 (35.6)	83.98 (64.4)
2020	49.52	85.39

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

	(38.0)	(65.5)
2024	49.37 (37.9)	80.94 (62.1)

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, Tirunelveli District Statistical Handbook in various issues upto 2023-2024

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total geographical area

Above the table 4 show CPRs in Tamil Nadu increased from 46.9 million hectares (36.2%) in 1950 to 49.37 million hectares (37.9%) in 2024, showing fluctuations rather than a steady increase. However, PPRs consistently dominated land ownership, accounting for over 60 percent throughout the period. The increasing dominance of PPRs indicates growing privatisation of land resources, which may reduce access to commons for marginal farmers and rural households dependent on shared resources.

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

Table: 5 Land Use Pattern in Tirunelveli District

Year	Forest	Barren & Uncultivable	Non-Agricultural Use	Culturable waste	Permanent Pasture & other grazing land	Miscellaneous	Current Fallow	Other Fallow	Net area sown	Total Geographical Area
1970	133631 (11.70)	60013 (5.30)	117381 (10.30)	66555 (5.80)	31088 (2.70)	19026 (1.70)	119420 (10.50)	129372 (11.30)	465436 (40.70)	551350
1980	136994 (12.70)	32869 (2.80)	159449 (14.20)	59777 (5.20)	20475 (1.90)	13634 (1.60)	145065 (15.00)	104664 (9.20)	469469 (38.00)	569828
1990	137336 (12.00)	45127 (4.00)	161715 (14.20)	59632 (5.20)	15988 (1.40)	14356 (1.30)	121253 (10.60)	177970 (15.60)	407306 (35.70)	468236
2000	122055 (17.89)	27191 (3.99)	100013 (14.66)	71967 (10.55)	9807 (1.44)	8845 (1.30)	12933 (1.90)	165364 (24.24)	164133 (24.06)	682308
2010	127758 (18.90)	30725 (4.55)	103815 (15.36)	38960 (5.76)	5353 (0.79)	9032 (1.34)	37594 (5.56)	166649 (24.66)	155964 (23.08)	675850
2020	83758 (21.61)	23787 (6.14)	62442 (16.11)	25232 (6.51)	4124 (1.06)	6810.3 (1.76)	6800 (1.75)	108219 (27.92)	66434 (17.14)	387606
2024	87582 (21.61)	23787 (6.14)	62442 (16.11)	25152 (6.49)	4112 (1.06)	6772.9 (1.75)	11801 (3.04)	102731 (26.50)	67050 (17.30)	387606

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, Tirunelveli District Statistical Handbook in various issues upto 2023-2024

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total geographical area

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

The land use structure of Tirunelveli district as shown in Table 5 reveals significant transformations over the study period of 1970 to 2024. Forest area showed marginal stability until the 1990s, but a noticeable increase is observed in the later decades. It was observed that an increase from 11.7 per cent in 1970 to 21.61 per cent in 2024. The extent of barren and unculturable land declined upto 2000 then it slowly increased in the subsequent years, suggesting limited reclamation efforts and redistribution of land for alternative uses. The share of land under non-agricultural uses expanded steadily up to 1990, reflecting urban growth, infrastructure development, and economic diversification. Although minor fluctuations appear in subsequent years, non-farm land use continues to occupy a considerable portion of total geographical area. Culturable waste land increased during the middle years, pointing to under-exploitation of land resources, but later reductions indicate improved land management practices. Permanent pastures, grazing lands, and miscellaneous tree crops consistently contracted, highlighting pressure on common lands and reduced support for livestock-based livelihoods. Variations in current and other fallow lands reveal instability in agricultural operations, possibly due to rainfall uncertainty, soil conditions, and changes in cropping decisions. The net area sown shows a continuous decline over time, accompanied by a reduction in gross cropped area in recent years, indicating lower agricultural intensity. Overall, the shifting land use pattern reflects a gradual transition away from traditional agriculture, raising concerns about sustainable land management and long-term agricultural viability in Tirunelveli district.

Table: 6 CPRs and PPRs in Tirunelveli

Year	CPRs	PPRs
1970	420659 (36.85)	720963 (63.15)
1980	356586 (31.21)	785896 (68.77)
1990	436053 (38.23)	704630 (61.77)
2000	396384 (58.09)	285924 (41.91)
2010	369445	306405

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

	(54.66)	(45.34)
2020	245120.4 (63.24)	142485.8 (36.76)
2024	239540.7 (61.80)	148065.5 (38.20)

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, Tirunelveli District Statistical Handbook in various issues upto 2023-2024

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total geographical area

The distribution of Common Property Resources (CPRs) and Private Property Resources (PPRs) in Tirunelveli district in Table 6 shows a clear shift in ownership pattern over time. In 1970, private property resources dominated the land structure, while CPRs accounted for a relatively smaller share of the total area. A gradual decline in CPRs is observed during the 1980s, indicating increasing privatization and conversion of common lands. By 1990, CPRs recorded a moderate recovery, but the overall dominance of PPRs continued. A major structural change is evident from 2000 onwards, where the share of CPRs increased sharply, surpassing PPRs. This shift suggests reclassification of land, changes in land use records, or policy-driven recognition of common lands. During 2010 and 2020, CPRs continued to occupy a larger proportion of total land compared to PPRs, although the absolute area under CPRs declined. This reflects both pressure on common resources and reduced availability of land overall. In 2024, CPRs maintained their dominant share, while PPRs remained comparatively lower, indicating sustained reliance on common resources. Overall, the trend highlights a transition from private-dominated land ownership to increased dependence on common property resources, raising important concerns regarding resource management, access equity, and sustainability of CPRs in Tirunelveli district.

Table: 7 Per capita of CPRs and PPRs in Tirunelveli

Year	CPRs	PPRs
1970	1.65	2.83
1980	1.14	2.52
1990	0.44	0.72

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

2000	0.15	0.11
2010	0.12	0.10

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, Tirunelveli District Statistical Handbook in various issues upto 2023-2024

Census of India 2011, Directorate of Census Operation Tamil Nadu,

The per capita availability of Common Property Resources (CPRs) and Private Property Resources (PPRs) in Tirunelveli district in Table 7 shows a sharp and continuous decline over the study period. In 1970, both CPRs and PPRs recorded relatively high per capita values, indicating better access to land resources for the population at that time. By 1980, a noticeable reduction is observed, reflecting rising population pressure on available resources. The decline becomes more pronounced by 1990, where per capita availability of both CPRs and PPRs drops significantly, suggesting increased fragmentation of land and reduced access at the individual level. By 2000 and 2010, per capita values reach very low levels, highlighting severe scarcity of both common and private land resources. The absence of per capita figures for 2020 and 2024 further suggests limitations in data availability or methodological constraints due to rapid demographic changes. Overall, the persistent fall in per capita CPRs and PPRs clearly indicates mounting population pressure, declining land availability, and increasing stress on livelihood-supporting resources in Tirunelveli district.

Table 8: Percentage of PPRs and CPRs in Valliyur Part 1

Year	**CPRs**	**PPRs**	Total Geographical Area
1988-1989	1259.05 (62.49)	755.84 (37.51)	2014.88
1989-1990	1414.19 (66.27)	719.69 (33.72)	2133.87
1993-1994	1414.59 (66.29)	719.68 (33.72)	2133.87
1995-1996	1413.96 (66.26)	719.92 (33.73)	2133.87
1996-1997	1413.96 (66.26)	719.92 (33.73)	2133.87
1998-1999	1413.96 (66.26)	719.92 (33.73)	2133.87
1999-2000	1413.14 (66.22)	720.73 (33.78)	2133.87
2000-2001	1413.14	720.93	2133.87

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

	(66.22)	(33.79)	
2005-2006	1413.14 (66.22)	720.12 (33.75)	2133.87
2007-2008	1413.14 (66.22)	720.12 (33.75)	2133.87
2008-2009	1413.14 (66.22)	742.96 (34.82)	2133.87
2013-2014	1412.63 (66.20)	743.47 (34.84)	2133.87
2014-2015	1412.63 (66.20)	743.47 (34.84)	2133.87
2017-2018	1412.63 (66.20)	743.47 (34.84)	2133.87
2021-2022	1412.63 (66.20)	743.47 (34.84)	2133.87
2022-2023	1412.63 (66.20)	743.47 (34.84)	2133.87
2024-2025	1412.63 (66.20)	743.47 (34.84)	2133.87

Source: Valliyur Part I, Fasali-1398 (1988-1999) to Fasali-1434 (2024-2025)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total geographical area

In Table 8 reveals proportion of CPRs and PPRs available in Valliyur Part I, PPRs consistently accounted for around 66 percent, while CPRs formed about 34 percent of the total geographical area. The stability of percentages across years indicates limited land-use change, but continued dominance of private land.

Table 9: Percentage of PPRs and CPRs in Valliyur Part II

Year	PPRs	CPRs	Total Geographical Area
1989-1990	1992.48 (84.00)	379.38 (15.99)	2371.86
1990-1991	1992.49 (84.00)	396.19 (16.70)	2371.86
1991-1992	1992.48 (84.00)	379.38 (15.99)	2371.86
1992-1993	1992.48 (84.00)	379.38 (15.99)	2371.86
1993-1994	1992.48 (84.00)	379.38 (15.99)	2371.86

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

1998-1999	2003.75 (84.48)	362.57 (15.29)	2371.86
2006-2007	1992.49 (84.01)	379.38 (15.99)	2371.86
2009-2010	1978.22 (84.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2010-2011	1978.22 (83.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2011-2012	1978.22 (83.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2012-2013	1978.22 (83.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2013-2014	1978.22 (83.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2014-2015	1978.22 (83.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2015-2016	1978.22 (83.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2017-2018	1978.22 (83.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2018-2019	1978.22 (83.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2020-2021	1978.22 (83.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2021-2022	1978.22 (83.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2023-2024	1978.22 (83.40)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86
2024-2025	1979.22 (83.45)	393.65 (16.59)	2371.86

Source: Valliyur Part II, Fasali-1399 (1989-1990) to Fasali-1434 (2024-2025)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total geographical area

In Table 9 reveals proportion of CPRs and PPRs available in Valliyur Part II, PPRs were significantly higher, exceeding 83 percent, leaving less than 17 percent as CPRs. This indicates

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

strong privatisation and reduced common land availability, affecting grazing and common livelihood activities.

Table 10: Percentage of PPRs and CPRs in Panagudi Part I

Year	PPRs	CPRs	Total Geographical Area
1979-1980	5242.15 (80.11)	1300.58 (19.88)	6543.57
1985-1986	888.37 (75.63)	286.3 (24.37)	1174.665
1986-1987	888.37 (75.63)	286.3 (24.37)	1174.665
1987-1988	888.37 (75.66)	286.3 (24.38)	1174.18
1988-1989	842.69 (74.80)	283.88 (25.19)	1126.55
1989-1990	842.69 (74.80)	283.88 (25.19)	1126.56
1990-1991	842.69 (74.80)	283.88 (25.19)	1126.56
1991-1992	842.69 (74.80)	283.87 (25.19)	1126.56
1992-1993	842.69 (74.80)	283.88 (25.19)	1126.56
1993-1994	841.48 (74.69)	285.08 (25.31)	1126.56
1994-1995	841.48 (74.69)	285.08 (25.31)	1126.56
1998-1999	841.18 (74.67)	285.08 (25.31)	1126.56
2000-2001	846.48 (75.14)	285.08 (25.31)	1126.56
2001-2002	841.48 (74.69)	285.08 (25.31)	1126.56
2002-2003	841.48 (74.69)	285.08 (25.31)	1126.56
2003-2004	841.48 (74.69)	285.08 (25.31)	1126.56
2004-2005	841.48 (74.69)	285.08 (25.31)	1126.56
2005-2006	841.48 (74.69)	285.08 (25.31)	1126.56

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

2006-2007	841.48 (74.69)	285.08 (25.31)	1126.56
2009-2010	837.44 (74.34)	289.13 (25.66)	1126.56
2011-2012	837.44 (74.34)	289.13 (25.66)	1126.56
2012-2013	837.44 (74.34)	289.13 (25.66)	1126.56
2024-2025	886.743 (78.67)	290.38 (25.76)	1127.12

Source: Panagudi Part I, Fasali-1389 (1979-1980) to Fasali-1434 (2024-2025)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total geographical area

The land distribution pattern in Panagudi Part I is clearly dominated by Private Property Resources (PPRs) throughout the study period. During 1979–80, PPRs accounted for 80.11 percent of the total geographical area, while Common Property Resources (CPRs) constituted only 19.88 percent. Over time, although minor fluctuations were observed, the dominance of PPRs remained intact, ranging between 74 and 79 percent in most years. The gradual decline in the share of PPRs during the late 1980s and 1990s suggests marginal adjustments in land classification, possibly due to administrative revisions or land reallocation. However, from 2000 onwards, the proportion of PPRs stabilised again, indicating a relatively rigid land ownership structure. CPRs, though slightly increasing in some years, never exceeded 26 percent, highlighting limited availability of common lands. This persistent imbalance indicates increasing dependence of local livelihoods on privately owned land, while access to common grazing lands, village commons, and shared resources remains constrained. Such a structure can intensify pressure on CPRs, especially for small farmers, landless labourers, and livestock-dependent households.

Table 13: Percentage of PPRs and CPRs in Panagudi Part II

Year	PPRs	CPRs	Total Geographical Area
1986-1987	945.13 (64.14)	528.38 (35.86)	1473.5
1988-1989	946.14 (64.13)	529.2 (35.87)	1475.34
1991-1992	935.37 (63.39)	539.99 (36.60)	1475.35
1997-1998	935.37 (63.39)	540.39 (36.63)	1475.35

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

1999-2000	935.36 (63.39)	540.39 (36.63)	1475.35
2005-2006	935.36 (63.44)	539.41 (36.59)	1474.37
2006-2007	935.36 (63.44)	539.41 (36.59)	1474.37
2011-2012	935.37 (63.44)	540.72 (36.67)	1474.37
2015-2016	935.38 (63.44)	540.72 (36.67)	1474.37
2016-2017	935.38 (63.44)	540.72 (36.67)	1474.37
2017-2018	935.38 (63.44)	540.72 (36.67)	1474.37
2018-2019	935.38 (63.44)	540.72 (36.67)	1474.37
2020-2021	935.38 (63.44)	540.72 (36.67)	1474.37
2021-2022	935.38 (63.44)	540.72 (36.67)	1474.37
2023-2024	935.38 (63.44)	540.92 (36.69)	1474.37
2024-2025	935.38 (63.44)	540.92 (36.69)	1474.37

Source: Panagudi Part II, Fasali-1396 (1986-1987) to Fasali-1434 (2024-2025)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total geographical area

Panagudi Part II presents a relatively more balanced land distribution compared to Part I, though PPRs continue to dominate. In 1986–87, PPRs constituted 64.14 percent, while CPRs accounted for 35.86 percent of the total geographical area. This pattern remained largely stable across subsequent years, with PPRs fluctuating narrowly around 63–64 percent and CPRs around 36–37 percent. The stability of percentages over nearly four decades indicates minimal land conversion between common and private categories. Unlike Part I, the comparatively higher share of CPRs in Part II suggests better availability of common lands such as grazing grounds, village wastelands, and shared natural resources. However, the absence of significant expansion in CPRs also implies limited policy intervention aimed at strengthening or restoring common property resources. With rising population pressure and livelihood dependence, even this relatively higher proportion of CPRs may not be sufficient to sustain long-term ecological balance and rural livelihoods.

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

Table 14: Percentage of PPRs and CPRs in Radhapuram

Year	PPRs	CPRs	Total Geographical Area
1965-1966	6466.48 (82.47)	2662.93 (33.96)	7840.94
1972-1973	6510.94 (83.03)	1330.78 (16.97)	7841.72
1977-1978	6453.42 (82.29)	1323.20 (16.87)	7841.72
1991-1992	2639.62 (83.18)	533.90 (16.82)	3173.53
1993-1994	2637.76 (83.12)	535.77 (16.88)	3173.53
1996-1997	2637.76 (83.12)	535.77 (16.88)	3173.53
2002-2003	2636.05 (83.06)	537.92 (16.95)	3173.53
2015-2016	2635.33 (83.04)	538.19 (16.96)	3173.53
2016-2017	2635.33 (83.04)	538.20 (16.96)	3173.53
2018-2019	2635.33 (83.04)	538.20 (16.96)	3173.53
2019-2020	2635.33 (83.04)	538.20 (16.96)	3173.53
2020-2021	2635.33 (83.04)	538.20 (16.96)	3173.53
2021-2022	2635.33 (83.04)	538.20 (16.96)	3173.53
2022-2023	2635.33 (83.04)	538.20 (16.96)	3173.53
2023-2024	2635.33 (83.04)	538.20 (16.96)	3173.53

Source: Radhapuram, Fasali-1375 (1965-1966) to Fasali-1433 (2023-2024)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total geographical area

Radhapuram exhibits overwhelming dominance of PPRs, consistently above 82 percent, with CPRs limited to around 17 percent. This pattern remained stable across decades, indicating entrenched land ownership structures. Limited CPR availability suggests reduced access to common lands for vulnerable groups, increasing dependence on private markets and wage labour.

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

CONCLUSION

The study aims to analyze land use patterns in India, specifically in Tamil Nadu and the Tirunelveli district, focusing on the status of Common Property Resources (CPRs) from 1950-51 to 2024-2025. This paper is a part of the outcome of the major research project funded by the Chief Minister`s Research Grant (CMRG) scheme instituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The study shows that forest areas have risen from 40.48 million hectares (14.24%) in 1950 to 72.02 million hectares (23.46%) in 2024, demonstrating effective afforestation and conservation policies. Conversely, barren and unculturable land decreased from 38.16 million hectares (13.42%) to 16.59 million hectares (5.40%), highlighting land reclamation. Culturable wasteland has sharply declined, showing better land use, while permanent pastures remain low and stagnant, reflecting pressure on grazing resources. Variability in current and other fallow lands is noted due to changes in rainfall and agricultural practices. In India, the area of CPRs has decreased from 125.71 million hectares (44.21%) in 1950 to 121.57 million hectares (39.60%) in 2024, highlighting ongoing pressures from population growth and encroachment. In contrast, Private Property Resources (PPRs) increased from 158.62 million hectares (55.79%) to 185.39 million hectares (60.39%), indicating a shift towards land privatization and the expansion of both cultivated and non-agricultural lands. In Tamil Nadu, forest area has marginally enlarged from 18.14 million hectares (14%) in 1950 to 21.57 million hectares (16.5%) in 2024, indicating limited potential for forest growth due to high population density. Conversely, barren land has reduced significantly from 9.73 million hectares (7.5%) in 1950 to 4.57 million hectares (3.5%) in 2024. Additionally, culturable wasteland has reduced from 8.7 million hectares (6.7%) to 3.5 million hectares (2.7%), and permanent pastures have declined from 3.75 million hectares (3%) to 1.07 million hectares (0.8%), negatively impacting agricultural sustainability and livestock rearing. Land use pattern data for Tirunelveli district indicates that forest areas remained stable until the 1990s, followed by a noticeable increase in later decades. Barren and unculturable land decreased until 2000, then began to rise again. Non-agricultural permanent pastures and grazing lands consistently contracted, indicating pressure on common lands and diminished support for livestock livelihoods. Agricultural operations show instability due to factors like rainfall uncertainty and soil conditions, leading to a continuous decline in net area sown and gross cropped area, reflecting lower agricultural intensity. Urban uses expanded steadily up to 1990, correlating with urban growth and economic diversification. In India, the reduction of common lands reflects ongoing pressure from population growth, encroachment, and privatization, indicating a structural shift from collective resource management to individual ownership. This trend raises sustainability and equity concerns, particularly in Tamil Nadu, where the rise of Private Property Rights (PPRs) may restrict access to commons for marginal farmers and rural households reliant on shared resources. The study district of Tirunelveli shows a gradual transition from traditional agriculture, raising concerns over sustainable land management and

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

the long-term viability of agriculture. A gradual decline in CPRs is observed during the 1980s, indicating increasing privatization and conversion of common lands. By 1990, CPRs recorded a moderate recovery, but the overall dominance of PPRs continued. A major structural change is evident from 2000 onwards, where the share of CPRs increased sharply, surpassing PPRs. This shift suggests reclassification of land, changes in land use records, or policy-driven recognition of common lands. During 2010 and 2020, CPRs continued to occupy a larger proportion of total land compared to PPRs, although the absolute area under CPRs declined. This reflects both pressure on common resources and reduced availability of land overall. In 2024, CPRs maintained their dominant share, while PPRs remained comparatively lower, indicating sustained reliance on common resources. Overall, the trend highlights a transition from private-dominated land ownership to increased dependence on common property resources, raising important concerns regarding resource management, access equity, and sustainability of CPRs in Tirunelveli district.

Note:

This paper forms part of a Major Research Project funded by the Chief Minister`s Research Grant (CMRG) scheme instituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu, entitled **"Local Commons, Rural People's Livelihood Sustenance and Climate Change: A Study of Four Villages in Two Different Agro-Climatic Zones in Tamil Nadu"**. The authors are grateful to the CMRG, Government of Tamil Nadu for financial support. The usual disclaimers apply.

REFERENCES

1. Dadibhavi. R.V. (1998). CPRs and their Contributions: Evidence from Karnataka. Indian Economy after 50 years of Independence Experiences and Challenges. (Eds.) Debendra. K. Das. Deep and Deep Publications. F-159. Rajuvri Garden New Delhi-110027- pp.355-368.
2. Jodha N.S. (1995), "Common Property Resources and the Environmental Context: Role of Bio-physical versus Social Stresses", Economic and Political Weekly. Vol.30. (51), pp.3278-3283.
3. Jodha, N. S. (2000) "Wastelands Management in India: Myths, Motives and Mechanisms. Economic and Political Weekly. Vol.34(6), pp.466-473.
4. Kannan A and P. Ranjithkumar (2015) "Social Vulnerability and Common Property Resources (CPRs) in Dry Region of Tamil Nadu", International Journal in Management and Social Science, Vol.03 (2), pp. 919-929.

ISSN: 2455-8834

Volume:11, Issue:02 "February 2026"

5. Kannan A and T. Jeyanthi (2022) **"**Rural Poverty, CPRs and Rural People's Livelihood Sustenance: Findings from Tamil Nadu", International Journal of Ecological Economics and Statistics; Vol. 43 (2), pp. 121-130.
6. Kannan. A and M. Ravichandran (2011) "Ecosystem services: Valuation of Common Property Resources in Tamil Nadu, India", Indian Journal of Economics, Vol. 365 (XIIC), pp. 237-248.
7. Pasha S. A. (1992), "Common Property Resources and the Rural Poor; A Micro Level Analysis", Economic and Political Weekly. Vol.27 (46), pp.2499-2503
8. Sakthivel S and Kannan. A (2023) "An Economic Analysis of Common Property Resources and Livelihood Patterns Among Rural Poor in Tamil Nadu: A Comprehensive Study", Juni Khyat, Vol.13 (11 & 05), pp. 180-191.

