

# Tharati Village at a Glance

BL Mohana, GD Nageswara Rao, VR Kiresur and MCS Bantilan

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)-supported Village Dynamics in South Asia (VDSA) Project of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), 42 villages (18 in the semi-arid tropics (SAT) of peninsular India, 12 in humid tropics of East India, and 12 in Bangladesh) were selected, based on certain relevant characteristics, to track rural poverty in household and village economies in the region, to provide the most efficient way to understand the farming systems in rural areas, and to identify the socioeconomic constraints faced by the farming community. In the SAT region, 18 villages spread across 9 districts in 5 states were identified for the study, of which 6 were chosen way back in 1975

under the erstwhile Village Level Studies (VLS) project of the Economics Program of ICRISAT, while 12 new villages were included in the expanded VDSA project during 2009. Tharati (including the nearby hamlet Ajjihalli) is one of these 12 new villages.

Originally, Tharati was called “Thuru Hatti Roppa”—Thuru in Kannada means the land that is used by cattle for grazing and rearing purposes. The Mysore rulers changed the name of the village to Tharati. Tharati village (13°29.01' N 77°11.38' E) is in Koratagere taluka of Tumkur District in Karnataka state. Tumkur district was formed in 1966 under Nandidurga division, located between 12°45' to 14°20' N and 76°20' to 77°31' E. Koratagere taluka falls under the Central Dry Zone in South Interior Karnataka. The annual rainfall





of the zone ranges between 453-717 mm, of which more than 55% is received in the kharif season. On average, the region annually receives over 600 mm rainfall in about 45 rainy days. September is the wettest month, with monthly rainfall in excess of 170 mm. The elevation ranges between 450-900 m and the soils are red sandy loams in major areas, shallow to deep black in the remaining areas.

In Tharati (including Ajjihalli), habitation extends over nine ha with a population of 1703 grouped into 401 households. The total geographical area of the village is 519.45 ha. Most of the villagers depend on agriculture and agriculture-related activities for their livelihood. The primary crops grown in the village are ragi, paddy, cut flowers such as chrysanthemum and jasmine, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds and other horticultural crops, namely, arecanut, betelvine, coconut, *Acorus calamus* (Sweet Flag or *baje* in Kannada) and banana. The cut flowers grown in the village are marketed in Tumkur and Bangalore cities.

The village is 6 km from Koratagere (taluka headquarters), 18 km from Tumkur (district headquarters), 88 km from Bangalore (state capital) and 650 km from Hyderabad by road. To reach Tharati, one can go to Bangalore by bus/train/air, then on to Tumkur by bus on the Bangalore-Pune National Highway (NH4) or train on Bangalore-Hubli railway line, and go towards the northeast on State Highway No.33, which passes through Tharati and connects Koratagere, Madhugiri and Pavagada.

## II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND / DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE

During the last three decades, Tharati village has progressed to varying degrees, in terms of social,



political, economic, technological, institutional, infrastructural, educational and religious advancement.

**Social:** Households in the village belong to three different caste groups, based on the social progression, namely, Other Backward Caste (OBC), Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST), each made up of several castes. As many as 10 castes exist in the village, of which Thigala, Vakkaliga, Bhajantri, Vaishnav, Lingayat, Achar and Kuruba belong to OBC, Adikarnataka and Bhovi belong to SC, while Nayak belong to ST. Lingayat, Vakkaliga and Thigala are considered to be upper castes and SC and ST are considered to be lower castes. SC people live in a separate colony on the periphery of the village.

**Political:** The village is politically administered by a group Gram Panchayat located at Jetty Agrahara, which is about one km from the village. This Gram Panchayat administers 16 villages and consists of 17 members including the President. The village panchayat coordinates all the development activities of the village. One village accountant working for the revenue department maintains the land records and one agricultural assistant (*Gram Sevak*) performs agricultural extension activity. All panchayat ward members as well as the president of the village belong to, or are strong supporters of, political parties even though they were not elected on any party symbol. The present Gram Panchayat, elected in August 2009 for a period of 5 years, has 17 members representing 5 wards, and the President is a woman (Ms Kempakka) from the SC community.

**Economic:** Earlier, the people of Tharati were very poor since they were dependent mainly on farming and were using traditional farming practices characterized by low output. Farmers were initially predominantly growing







ragi; but now, after the introduction of borewells, irrigation pump sets and supply of electricity in the village, they diversified the cropping system to include many commercial crops.

Village development took place through diversification in both farm and nonfarm sectors. Agriculture is the major occupation of about half of the households, followed by nonfarm occupations such as sand mining, labor for loading/unloading sand and civil construction works, etc. Sources of livelihood were specifically enhanced by diversification to high value horticultural crops. The household's income has improved over time by adopting new crop production technologies, by growing commercial crops, increase in area irrigated by borewells, access to irrigation pump sets and electricity, daily out-migration for nonfarm activities. The increase in area cultivated under flower and horticultural crops, application of recommended fertilizers and plant protection measures have helped increase the incomes of the farmers through higher productivity and better prices. Due to improved roads, the marketability of crop produce, especially flowers and horticultural produce, has improved. During the last five years, land value has increased five-fold from Rs 40,000-2,00,000 per acre of dry land and Rs 1,00,000-4,00,000 per acre of irrigated land.

**Technological:** Adoption of modern agricultural technologies has resulted in rapid improvement in the economic condition of the villagers. The prime crops grown in the village are ragi, paddy, flowers, vegetables, and other horticultural crops, namely, arecanut, betelvine, and coconut. Nearly 90 percent of the farmers have adopted high-yielding varieties/hybrids of almost all the crops cultivated. Earlier farmers used to grow *Acorus calamus* (a medicinal plant) with

crop duration of one year, which has been largely replaced by floriculture over the years. Some farmers are provided with certified and improved hybrid seed varieties from the State Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture under a subsidy scheme.

Use of tractors is common, especially for land preparation. More than 70 percent of the farmers cultivate crops using tractors, and as many as 10 tractors are available in the village on custom hiring. The rental value of tractor services ranges between Rs 400-450 per hour. In addition, puddlers and tillers are used for cultivation, JCBs for land leveling, and threshers for ragi, paddy and maize, all hired from nearby villages. Soil and water conservation measures are also adopted by the farmers with government support. Area under irrigation has increased due to drilling of more borewells and adoption of drip irrigation for certain crops. Almost all the farmers apply chemical fertilizers and pesticides, while 50 percent of them use weedicides and micronutrients.





**Institutional:** The village has two government schools (Standards 1-7), one each at Tharati and Ajjihalli, and two Anganwadis, one started in 1983 and the other in 1993. The village post office is at Jetty Agrahara, while the telephone exchange (BSNL), Primary Health Centre (PHC) and veterinary hospital are at Koratagere. Villagers go to private and government hospitals located at Koratagere and Tumkur for major health problems. A government milk collection center existing at Jetty Agrahara and a private dairy unit within the village collect milk from the villagers daily; this has encouraged the farmers to take up dairying activities. Four self-help groups (SHGs) with women members help them to save money and get credit from banks for their immediate needs and developmental activities.

There is a Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) situated at Jetty Agrahara and two commercial banks (State Bank of Mysore and Karnataka Bank) at Koratagere, which meet the credit requirements of the villagers. They also access Kalpataru Grameena Bank (KGB) located at Beladhara, three km away from the village. Farmers sell their crop produce immediately after harvest to the traders in the village and also at Tumkur due to lack of storage facilities and urgent cash needs for repayment of debts.

**Infrastructural:** The village is well connected to State Highway No.33 and also to National Highway NH4, which runs from Bangalore to Pune, joining at Tumkur. Tharati has access to the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus services apart from private buses. Popular modes of transport are KSRTC and private buses, autorickshaws, and four- and two-wheelers. Marketing facilities have improved due to improvement in roads, communication and transport vehicles. A few roads within Tharati are tarred. The village was electrified in 1968 and almost 90% of the households have access to electricity. Nearly 50 street

lights have been installed and are maintained by the Gram Panchayat. There are frequent power cuts in the village and only about nine hours supply of electricity is assured. Drinking water is supplied through 48 public taps and 54 private individual taps connected by pipeline to one overhead tank, in addition to two hand pumps. Villagers have good communication facilities, ie, telephones (landline and cell), television, radio, and newspapers. Agricultural extension services are available through State Agricultural Department personnel and private input dealers.

**Educational:** Tharati had a government primary school (Standards 1-4) established in 1951, which was upgraded up to Standard 7 in 1994. Ajjihalli also had a government primary school established in 1963, which was upgraded to Standard 7 in 1994. Private schools, including English medium schools, exist at Koratagere, which provide education up to diploma and graduation level. Tharati and Ajjihalli have one anganwadi each, which were established in 1983 and 1993, respectively.

With the increase in educational facilities and household incomes, the education levels and literacy rates have improved for both male and female children over the last decade. The government encourages children to attend school regularly by providing mid-day meals, uniforms, books, school bags and bicycles (to Standard 8 students), all of which have resulted in increased literacy levels in the village.

**Religious:** All the villagers are Hindus, and very religious. They worship the gods Ranganatha Swamy and Shani Mahathma, and Goddesses Kempamma, Maramma and Ajjilamma. Every year, the villagers celebrate the festival Kempamma Maramma jatre (Big Fair). During this festival villagers offer goats and poultry birds to Goddess Kempamma in the belief that they will receive good rains and will get good harvest. Ugadi, Vinayaka Chaturthi, Dussera and Diwali are the important festivals celebrated in the village.





### III. BASIC STATISTICS OF THE VILLAGE

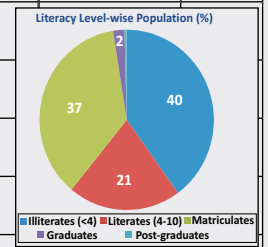
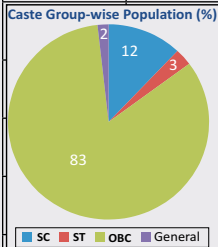
#### A) LOCATION / ACCESSIBILITY

- Village: **Tharati (including Ajjihalli hamlet)**
- Taluka: **Koratagere**
- District: **Tumkur**
- State: **Karnataka**
- PIN: **572 129**
- GPS values: (a) Latitude: **13°29.01' N** (b) Longitude: **77°11.38' E** (c) Altitude (m): **783**
- Nearest town: (a) Name: **Koratagere** (b) Distance from village (km): **6**
- Nearest State Highway: (a) Number: **SH 33** (b) Distance from village (km): **0**
- Nearest National Highway: (a) Number: **NH 4** (b) Distance from village (km): **16**
- Name of the Village Panchayat in which the village falls: **Jetty Agrahara**
- Details of the Sarpanch/President of Village Panchayat:
  - Name: **Ms Kempakka**
  - Cell No.: **09844610664**
  - Tel (Off): **08138 - 290068**
- Details of the Agricultural Officer:
  - Name: **Mr GK Nagaraju**
  - Cell No.: **09731566648**

#### B) DEMOGRAPHY (As on 31 December 2010)

- Population (No): **1703**
- Households (No): **401**
- Voters (No): **1242**
- Farmer accounts/Khatas (No): **223**
- Classification of Population:

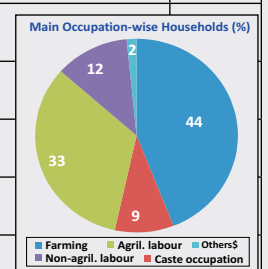
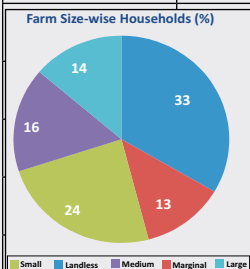
Category	No.	Farm Size*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Literacy	No.	Gender	No.
SC	107	Landless	670	Hindu	1703	Thigala	1338	Illiterates (<4)	1286	Male	739
ST	11	Marginal	740			Vakkaliga	172	Literates (4-10)	320	Female	668
OBC	1585	Small	145			Adikarnataka	72	Matriculates	70	Children (<14y)	296
		Medium	88			Bhajantri	41	Graduates	25		
		Large	60			Bhovi	35	Postgraduates	2		
						Vaishnav	15				
						Lingayat	13				
						Nayak	11				
						Achar	3				
						Kuruba	3				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1703</b>		<b>1703</b>		<b>1703</b>		<b>1703</b>		<b>1703</b>		<b>1703</b>



\*0ac=Landless; <0.75ac=Marginal; 0.76-1.75ac=Small; 1.76-3.75ac=Medium; >3.76ac=Large.

- Classification of households: Male headed (No): **345** Female headed (No): **56**

Category	No.	Farm Size*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Main occupation	No.
SC	34	Landless	112	Hindu	401	Thigala	284	Farming	158
ST	2	Marginal	106			Vakkaliga	62	Caste occupation	3
OBC	365	Small	118			Adikarnataka	24	Agril. labor	133
		Medium	52			Bhovi	10	Non-agril. labor	62
		Large	13			Bhajantri	9	Others <sup>§</sup>	45
						Lingayat	4		
						Vaishnav	4		
						Nayak	2		
						Achar	1		
						Kuruba	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>401</b>		<b>401</b>		<b>401</b>		<b>401</b>		<b>401</b>



§ includes salaried, moneylenders, middlemen, service sector, etc. \*As in B(5) above.

### C) LAND USE PATTERN (2009-10)

1. Distribution of Geographical Area	Ha
Agricultural land	228
Forest	68
Waste lands	96
Land used for roads, buildings and nonagricultural purposes	11
Land occupied by water resources (tank, river)	89
Land occupied by hills, rocks, etc.	
Water channels (streams)	6
Grazing lands	21
<b>Total Geographical Area</b>	<b>519</b>

2. Cropped Area	Ha
Kharif	121.10
Rabi	12.15
Summer	19.04
Annual/Perennial crops	19.49
<b>Gross Cropped Area</b>	<b>171.77</b>
3. Irrigated Area	Ha
Kharif	14.38
Rabi	12.15
Summer	19.44
Annual/Perennial crops	19.49
<b>Gross Irrigated Area</b>	<b>65.46</b>

### D) LAND RESOURCES

Soil Distribution		Irrigation Sources (as on 31 December 2010)				
Soil Type	% Area	Source	Total No.	Working No.	Approx. Depth (m) of Working Wells	Irrigated Area (Ha yr <sup>-1</sup> )
Red sandy loam	65	Borewells	95	48	168-183	29.57
Loamy	25	Open wells	43	43	9-12	22.68
Medium black	10				Approx. land area covered (ac)	
		Tanks	1	1	17	9.72

3. Rainfall (Jun '09-May '10): (a) Quantity (mm/year):

Normal: **600**

Actual (2009-10): **669**

(b) No. of rainy days:

Normal: **45**

Actual (2009-10): **49**

### E) CROP PRODUCTION (2009-10)

Kharif		Rabi		Summer		Annual/Perennial	
Crops	Area (Ha)	Crops	Area (Ha)	Crops	Area (Ha)	Crops	Area (Ha)
Ragi	60.75	Flowers	9.72	Ragi	4.9	Areca nut	7.70
Paddy	17.01	Vegetables	1.22	Paddy	2.0	Betelvine	5.27
Flowers	14.18	Fodder Jowar	1.22	Flowers	10.9	Coconut	3.24
Horse gram	8.10			Vegetables	1.2	<i>Acorus calamus</i> (baje)	1.62
Groundnut	5.27					Banana	1.62
Pigeonpea	4.05						7.70
Fodder Jowar	4.05						
Others <sup>#</sup>	7.70						
<b>Total</b>	<b>121.10</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>12.15</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>19.44</b>

#Includes cowpea, avare, maize and vegetables.

## F) ASSETS (as on 1 June 2010)

1. Productive Assets			
Livestock		Heavy Machinery	
Type	No.	Type	No.
Cow(indigenous)	65	Tractor	10
Cow(exotic)	27	Auto	9
Buffalo	53	Flour mill	2
Bullock	103	JCB	2
Sheep	151		
Goat	146		
Poultry	175		
Pig	4		
Milk sale (L day <sup>-1</sup> )	110		

2. Consumer Assets	
Type	No.
Television	190
Refrigerator	5
LPG connection	35
Dish Antenna	83
Motorbike/Scooty	70
Car/Jeep	2
Truck/Bus	6
Computer	4
Sewing machines	12
Mobiles	210

3. Buildings	
Type	No.
Houses-Pucca	85
Houses-Kuchcha	293
Houses-Thatched	23
Cattle sheds	40
Irrigation pump houses	65
Storage godowns	2
Sheep shed	7
Pig shed	1

## G) BASIC NEEDS (as on 31 December 2010)

- Type of food (# of households): (a) Pure vegetarian: **10** (b) Non-vegetarian: **391**
- Type of clothes: (a) Men: **Shirt and Lungi/Trousers** (b) Women: **Saree and Blouse (Chudidhar-Kurta for youth)**
- Type of houses (Number): (a) Pucca: **85** (b) Kuchcha: **293** (c) Thatched: **23**

## H) INFRASTRUCTURE (as on 31 December 2010)

- Village electrification: **Yes** No. of houses having access to electricity: **356**
- Tar/metal/cement road to village: **Yes**
- Is there a tar/metal/cement road inside the village? **Yes** Length of the road (km): **0.25**
- Public transport facility:  
Public/private bus facility to village: **Yes** No. of trips/day from town to village: **48**  
Other modes of travel available? **Yes** Available modes: **Autos / Trucks**
- Drinking water facility: **Yes** Sources: **Tank / Open well / Bore well**  
Tap connections available? **Yes** No. of connections: **48 (Public) + 54 (Private)**
- Public toilet/urinal facility: **No**
- Public health facility: **No** Private Doctors: **1 RMP at Ajjihalli**  
Distance to nearest PHC/Private Doctor (km): **6 (Koratagere)**
- Veterinary health facility: **No** Distance to nearest facility (km): **6 (Koratagere)**
- Banking facility: **No**
- Educational facilities:

Level	Number of Institutions	Enrolment (No.)	
		Male	Female
Pre-primary (Anganwadi)	2	32	37
Primary (Standard 1-4 years)	2	54	49
Secondary (Standard 5-7 years)	2	38	37

## 11. Agricultural input shops:

Input	Available in village?	If no, nearest available place	Distance from Village (km)
Seed	Yes		
Fertilizer	Yes		
Pesticide	Yes		
Machinery – Purchase	No	Tumkur	18
Machinery – Custom hiring	Yes		

12. Agricultural output market:  
Weekly shandy in the village? **No**  
No. of wholesale traders / commission agents in the / visiting the village: **40**
13. Storage godowns / warehouses: **No**
14. Other business units (number):  
Grocery shop: **6**                      Hotel/Canteen: **2**                      Flour Mill: **2**                      Meat shop: **3**  
Carpenter: **7**                              Mason: **10**                              TV/Radio mechanic: **1**  
Cycle repair shop: **1**                      Motorcycle repair shop: **1**                      Moneylender: **8**  
Petty (Tea) Shop: **6**                      Barber: **2**                              Tailor: **2**                              Telephone Booths: **7**
15. Other institutions (number):  
SHG: **4**                                      Milk Dairies: **2 (Government-1, Private-1)**  
Youth Club: **1**                              Chit Fund: **5**                              ICRISAT Office: **1**
16. Place of worship (No):                      Temple: **5**

## I) GOVERNMENT WELFARE PROGRAMS / POLICIES (as on 31 December 2010)

1. Government programs recently implemented/ongoing and their beneficiaries:

SN	Government Program	Beneficiaries (No. of households)
1	Public distribution system (PDS)	335
2	Pension scheme (old age, widow and physically handicapped)	60
3	Mid-day meals scheme	178
4	Anganwadi	93
5	Self Help Groups	56
6	Allotment of house or subsidy on construction	3
7	MGNREGS (360 persons from 125 families)	360
8	Construction of toilets	37
9	Bhagya Jyothi Scheme (free power to house)	17
10	Free electricity to farmers for agricultural usage	91
11	Agriculture input subsidies	50
12	Yashaswini card beneficiaries	4
13	Drinking water supply through pipeline by Gram Panchayat	401

## About ICRISAT



The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. Covering 6.5 million square kilometers of land in 55 countries, the semi-arid tropics have over 2 billion people, and 644 million of these are the poorest of the poor. ICRISAT and its partners help empower these poor people to overcome poverty, hunger, malnutrition and a degraded environment through better and more resilient agriculture.

ICRISAT is headquartered in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, with two regional hubs and four country offices in sub-Saharan Africa. It belongs to the Consortium of Centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

ICRISAT-Patancheru  
Patancheru 502 324, Andhra Pradesh, India  
Tel +91 40 30713071 Fax +91 40 30713074  
icrisat@cgiar.org

[www.icrisat.org](http://www.icrisat.org)