ANNEXURE - I

APPLYING TANK SILT (MINOR IRRIGARTION WATER BODY) ON DRY LAND FARMS FOR IMPROVING SOIL FERTILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY

Increase in yield, resistance to pests and diseases, improvement in quality of produce and retention of moisture in soil and saving of expenditure on inorganic fertilisers due to application of tank silt to lands:

Crop	Average crop yield (quintals per hectare)		% increase
	Without tank silt	With tank silt	
Groundnut (protective irrigation)	9	14.4	60
Ragi (irrigated)	22	40	82
Ragi (rain-fed)	9	16.2	80
Maize (irrigated)	30	53	77
Potato (irrigated)	160	268	90
Tomato Hybrid (irrigated)	400	720	80
Mulberry lead yield (irrigated)	16	28	80

Chatrakodihalli 1997

(A M Krishnappa *et al,* `Impact and Economics of Tank Desiltation in Southern Districts with Special Reference to Kolar', University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore).

WHAT IS TANK SILT?

During monsoons along with rain run-off water the top soil on the dry farms in the catchment areas of the TANKs (known as surface water reservoirs) flows into the tanks and deposit there. The topsoils are very fertile and it retains moisture in the rain fed farms. It is called as SILT. The practice in the rain fed districts in Karnataka State (a southern Indian state) farmers during summer periods transport this silt on bullock carts and tractors to fertile their farms once in two or three years. If 50 tractor loads of such fertile silt is applied on one Hectare of farm, farmers do not require any chemical fertilizers for their crops.

The information ABOVE is the result of a study conducted by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore on Impact and Economics of Tank silt application on rain fed farms in general and with reference to Kolar in particular.