Declaration

I, Shijitha M, do hereby affirm that the written account entitled **"Land Use Pattern in Kerala"** is a bonafide record of research done by me under the Guidance of Dr.K.M.Francis, Associate Professor (Retd), and the Co-Guidance of Dr.Sabu P.J., Assistant Professor and Head of Department, Research and Post Graduate Department of Economics, St. Thomas College(Autonomous), Thrissur. I also declare that the Thesis has not been submitted by me earlier for the award of any degree, diploma, fellowship or any other similar title.

SHIJITHA M

Place: Thrissur

Date: November 2021

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Place : Thrissur ***SHIJITHA M***

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Abstract

Land refers to the total physical surface area and all the natural resources which are free gifts of nature as well as man-made resources which are the contributions of human beings. The natural resources includes soil, natural water reservoirs such as rivers and oceans, hills and mountains, heat of sun and climate, forests and all the resources which are gifted by nature. Land use pattern in Kerala is relevant as 53 percent of total Geographical area is utilised as Net Area Sown and is the main source of income for farmers through production of Food- Crops as well as Non- Food Crops. Provision of Food Crops is a direct way towards creation of food security in order to build up a strong and healthy younger generation. Land use with proper development plans for the future will be helpful for the proper utilisation of the land with preference to Sustainable Development which is important in Minimum Attainable Goals.

Division of the Total Geographical Area into three climatically distinct and parallel physiographic zones such as Lowlands, Midlands and Highlands is necessary to know about variations in the land use especially the Net Area Sown in Kerala. Net Area Sown has the highest Mean Value in all decades followed by Area under Forest and are the main components of Land Use in Kerala during the whole period of 1956-2017. The Net Area Sown under Food Crops and Non- Food Crops during the period 2005-2017 is reflected in two different ways - the area under Food crops is decreasing at an increasing rate, while that of Non- Food crops are decreasing at a decreasing rate which reflects the probability for the occurance of food shortage in the future time periods. Kerala is proving to be a model for other states due to existence of the crop diversification which reduces the risk and uncertainty in agricultural production and provides guidance to agriculturists to bravely face the possibility of occurrence of an agricultural crisis and be risk averters in agricultural sector.

The Compound Growth rate of Land Use Categories in different Periods is estimated by Loglin Semilog Model which help to identify the trend and pattern of Land Use in Kerala. The Herfindal- Hirschman's Index of Crop Diversification is applied to analyse the Crop Diversification and Magnitude of Crop Diversification in Kerala and Multiple Regression Analysis is used for interpreting the relationship between Net Area Sown and its determinants. Net Area Sown is also influenced by the lagged values of price, revenue and cost of the crops cultivated.

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