

Farming in Indus Valley Civilization

Farming related IVC signs are displayed here and a word of caution must be applied here, as these logo-syllabic signs are predominantly syllables and not ideograms, so caution must be applied in reading lines as other semantic values could apply in other instances.

M77 Sign	Glyph	Syllable	DED	Description	Tamil
12	𑀩	uṛavan	688	farmer	உழவன்
13	𑀪	uṛavāl	688	farm worker	உழவாள்
14	𑀫	per-uṛavan	688	big farmer	பேர் உழவன்
15	𑀬	uṛavūr	688	working, farming town	உழவூர்
112	𑀭	ñālam, nallam	2913, 3613	land, fertile black-soil	நாலம், நல்லம்
169	𑀮	nilam	3676	land, ricefield	நிலம்
169-112	𑀮𑀭	ñālam-nilam	2913-3676	land, ricefield	நாலம் நிலம், நல்லம் நிலம்
113	(𑀭𑀮)	viḷai-ñālam	5437, 2913	fertile land	விளை நாலம்
389	𑀯	pañ-nilam	3837	ploughed land	பண்ணிலம்
178	𑀰	kalappai	1304	plough	கலப்பை
124	𑀱	ēr	2815	plough	கலப்பை
341	𑀲	uṛu	689	harrow	உழு (பரப்பு, பரம்பு)
176	𑀳	vanji	5265, 56, 55	paddy, rice	வஞ்சி
412	𑀴	nāñkuṛu	2906	earthworm	நாண்குழு

Praise heaped on the farmer

The barter system's accumulation of wealth by the ruling elite (sign-30 𑀵 “kovan”), accumulated in store-houses (sign-267 𑀶 “koṭṭa”) necessitates a rhetoric of praise on the toiling farmer (sign-12 𑀩 “vuṛavan”) like:

M77 signs	Glyphs	Syllable	Tamil	Description
12-75	𑀩 𑀭	peru.mu.kanni-vuṛavan	பெரும்முக்கன்னி உழவன்	Enormously mature and soft farmer
12-2-86	𑀩 𑀭𑀮	mutal-kāvalan-vuṛavan	முதன்மை காவலன் உழவன்	First guardian farmer

12-325-86	மு ன் னி லை	mutal-ilai-vuṛavan	முன்னிலை உழவன்	The foremost farmer
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Such eulogy of farmer and farming has continued even 2000 years after IVC culture in Thirukkural:

Kural 1031: Howe'er they roam, the world must follow still the plougher's team;

Kural 1032: The ploughers are the linch-pin of the world; they bear.