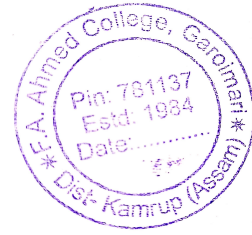


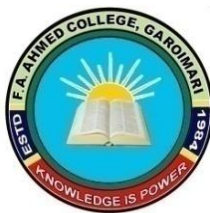
Synopsis

on

Problems and Prospects of Agriculture Sector in Goroimari Development Block under Kamrup District, Assam



A Part of Internship Programme of B.A. 4th Semester Students
(FYUGP under Gauhati University)



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1. Introduction:

Agriculture is the oldest and most important source of livelihood of mankind. The history of human civilization reveals that agriculture had transformed human life from nomadic to the civilized society. When human being shifted from hunting to an agrarian way of life, human society got changed forever. The progress of mankind had been closely associated with plantation and harvesting of crops. As they started to settle in a particular place and grew plants for food, it irreversibly had changed their living.¹

The term agriculture is derived from the Latin word *agricultūra*, from ‘ager’ meaning ‘a field’ and ‘cultūra’ meaning ‘cultivation’. Literally, the meaning of agriculture is the ‘tillage of soil or fields’ for extracting human needs. Agriculture had been associated with the production of crops for long but now a days, coverage of agriculture is no longer confined within the production of crops alone, but its allied activities have also been incorporated with it. Besides production of crops, it horizontally covers forestry, horticulture, fruit cultivation, mushroom, dairy, fishery, bee keeping, arbitrary and animal husbandry and vertically covers marketing, processing and distribution of agricultural products.² The scope of agriculture has widened up to the extent that it even takes into account some off farm activities like supply of agro-inputs i.e., fertilizer, pesticides, credit, insurance, veterinary service etc.

Agriculture is the backbone of national as well as state’s economy of Assam. Indian lives in the villages. If anyone wants to see the real picture of India, it can be seen in rural villages where agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the area. Importance of agriculture in India can hardly be exaggerated because it is the foundation of Indian economy.³ According to the census 2011, about 54.5 per cent of the working population were directly or indirectly engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Of course, dependency rate on agriculture in the country has been declining but at a slower rate.

¹ Rather, Howard C. & Carter M. Harrison (1951): *Field Crops*, Second Edition, McGraw-Hill Books Company, London, p. 1.

² Sony, R. N. (2000): *Leading Issues in agricultural Economics*, Shoban Lal Nagin Chand & Co. Jalandar (India), p. 1.

³ Dewett, K.K. & J.D. Varma (1983): *Indian Economics (A Development-oriented Study)*, Thirty-second Edition, S. Chand & Company Ltd, New Delhi, p. 71.

India is, by and large, the world most populous country at present. With the alarming growth of population, the demand for food production has also increased at a faster rate. The period of mid-1960s was very significant for agricultural sector because of introduction of HYV in this particular sector. Since then, it had been regarded as one of the important sectors of the world economy. Norman Ernest Borlaug initiated “Green Revolution” that saved billions of people from starvation.⁴ In some parts of Asia and Latin America, a dynamic changes in the field of agriculture was initiated with the beginning of Green Revolution that resulted a positive impact through the introduction of chemical fertilizer, High Yielding Varieties (HYV) especially in the production of rice, wheat and maize.⁵ The necessity of agriculture was realised and more emphasis was given on its role rather than its voluntary contribution.⁶

HYV was initiated in India at the same time initially it was applied in five states viz., Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu that bypassed Assam. With the introduction of HYV, use of chemical fertilizer & pesticides, irrigation and farm mechanization has become more impressive. Average consumption of fertilizer has increased at a greater extent that has also been creating threat for living organism. And hence, sustainable agriculture is an imperative from economic as well as environment point of view. Sustainable agricultural growth is essential to check the hunger and poverty in the vulnerable population of the country, as 1 per cent growth in agricultural sector occurs, it reduces 2-3 per cent poverty.⁷ Hence, agricultural development is rationale and should be given the first priority. Agriculture is an important conduit for India to move out of poverty. However, with the effort of extracting more agricultural product, use of technology has been one and only way for the farming families. Therefore, there has been threaten for the living organism with the environmental hazards due to excessive use of chemical fertilizers

⁴ Norman Borlaug, Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia, retrieved from, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Borlaug, on 2/1/2014.

⁵ Norman, D. W. (2002): The Farming Systems Approach: A Historical Perspective, retrieved from http://www.ifsa.boku.ac.at/cms/fileadmin/Div/Norman_FarmingSyst.pdf, on 27/10/2013, pp. 1-3.

⁶ Timmer, C. P. (2008): Transformation of Agriculture, retrieved from www.dipsa.unifi.it/romano/PDF/Timmer_HDE_ch08.pdf, on 10/2/2012, p. 3.

⁷ Gautam, H. R & E. R. Kumar (2013): *op. cit.*, p. 2.

as well as pesticides. It has become part and parcel to take precaution to get rid of such hazards.

Assam is one of the backward states of India belongs to the North-eastern region (NER). Agriculture is a vital sector in Assam's economy in the sense of occupation and livelihood support for about 70 per cent of rural population. According to the government report, as much as 99 per cent of the total geographical area of Assam belongs to the rural area⁸. Therefore, agriculture and allied activities is the most convenient source of state GDP. The contribution of agriculture (Crop + Livestock) sector to GSDP at current price was 17.19 per cent in 2020-21 that declined to 14.33% in 2024-25.

Rice is the principal crop, and other key crops include wheat, pulses, oil-seeds, jute, sugarcane, and various horticultural crops. Assam also has a significant tea industry and a thriving agro-based industry with poultry and livestock farming contributing to meat, egg, and dairy production.

Goroimari Development Block is located in the core part of the rural Assam under Kamrup District, Assam. The block is situated in 27. No. Chamaria LAC on the south bank of Brahmaputra River at a distance about 70 km. away from state headquarter Guwahati. It is a rural administrative unit comprising 70 revenue villages where 30 villages being in the Brahmaputra river's Char (river island) area. It serves as a platform for implementing various government schemes and programs for the rural populace. The total geographical area is 13934 *Bigha 3 Katha 05 Lessa*, which is approximately 1,863.83 Ha. is about 199.51 square kilometers.

The population of Goroimari block was 122987 with 62633 male and 60354 female with a population density 704 people per square kilometer as per population census 2011. There are about 11 Gaon Panchayats under Goroimari Development Block.

Goroimari Area is generally dominated by religious Minority Muslim people constituting as much as 93.31%. Majority of the population belong to BPL families whose main occupation is agriculture. About 80 per cent people are directly or indirectly dependent on this particular sector. The literacy rate in Goroimari

⁸ Government of Assam (2010): *Economic Survey 2011-12*, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam.

development block is lower than the district average, with a literacy rate of 38.65% as per the 2011 census. While the male literacy rate was 44.53%, the female literacy rate was 32.55% in the corresponding period.

1.3 Significance of the study

F.A. Ahmed College, Garoimari is the only educational institute offering higher education among the students in undergraduate level in Arts stream. The College is situated in Goroimari Development Block under Kamrup District, Assam. More than 90 per cent of the students are of religious Minority Muslims whose family background is economically poor (belong to BPL families). Inflow of students from other state or district is comparatively less. Agriculture and allied activities is the main source of the family income of majority of the students. Considerable number of students are also coming from Char-Chapori⁹ areas where agriculture is the only sources of income. The students of the College are also directly indirectly related with agriculture because they have to support their families in the business of livelihood. Most of the male students are the part time workers in their family occupation that help in managing and maintaining their families.

NEP 2020 is the policy undertaken by the government of India in creating capable manpower who can cope up in competitive market situation even in international standard. NEP 2020 is developed on the basis of past experiences of education policies implemented where it will be tried to get effective outcome with minimal wastage of resources. For fulfilling such goals, implementation will be the most important part of the mission.

Internship Programme is an approach of NEP 2020 imperatives for the students of B.A. 4th Semester. The main objective of the programme is enhancing employability and to develop research aptitude among the students so that scientific temperament can be created among them and also they can be prepared self-dependent. The objective will minimize gap between traditional and pragmatic methods of learning. It is not necessary to say that one of the biggest challenges of

⁹ The river Brahmaputra flows over the plain areas of Assam and deposits huge quantum of sediments that virtually gives the birth of numerous braided channels in 14 districts popularly known as char and chapori.

India is to offer job for the big sunk of youth. When youth will be enabled to acquire skillfulness, it will boost up the economy into positive direction.

Since, F.A. Ahmed College, Garoimari is located in rural area where agriculture is the principal source of livelihood of the people. Hence, agriculture is very relevant and significant issue to be selected as the subject matter of internship out of topic assigned by the Gauhati University to be undergone by the students of the College. Present study will enable to identity and address the local issue to be resolved. It will benefit students along their families as well as state's economy. It will sure to be effective for the policy makers to prepare the developmental strategies for the Goroimari in particular and Assam in general.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The proposed study depends on the following objectives.

1. To assess the land holding pattern in Goroimari area of Assam.
2. To examine existing cropping pattern in the Goroimari Development Block.
3. To find out way of using fertilizer by the cultivators of the block.

1.5 Research Methodology

The Internship Programme will be undertaken in the revenue villages of Goroimari. It will be managed and maintained by the Research & Development Cell of the College in collaboration with Agriculture Department, Boko Sub-division. The study will be conducted by the B.A. 4th Semester students of F.A. Ahmed College, Garoimari under the guidance of Nodal Officer, Supervisor/Mentor of internship programme. The Nodal Officer will liaise the team where the teacher of the College will be the supervisor/Mentor in the programme.

Present study will be conducted on the basis of primary sources of information. The primary data will be collected through interviews with peasants, general people, village headmen etc. using a suitable 'schedule' which will be developed as per the objectives of the study to be investigated. A systematic research design called 'Descriptive Survey Method' will be chosen for the present study. The Survey Method is one of the most commonly used approaches in modern researches. Account of the total number of revenue villages will collected from the selected villages. While,

population of the selected villages will be collected from the village headman (*Gaonbuda*) according to the current electoral voter's list.

'Households' will be regarded as the unit of the sample. The sample will be designed on the representation basis. Since, population in the study will be quite large, 'sample' will have to be selected from the selected villages. The sample households will be selected at a random on the basis of simple random sampling.

There are about 11 G.P. and 70 revenue villages under Goroimari Revenue Circle. In the first stage, 60% of the G.P. will be selected as the sample G.P. In the second stage, 20 per cent of the village will be selected as sample village. In the third stage, 20 per cent of the Households (HHs) will be selected as the sample HHs. Total number of sampling is supposed to be 450.

The students will be grouped consisting of 15 members lead by supervisor/mentor who will visit to their assigned village to gather the required information. There are 240 students B.A. 4th Semester at F.A. Ahmed College, Garoimari in the current session. Therefore, total number of students group will be 16. Each group will have supervisor/mentor to support the students.

Sl. No.	Name of G.P.	No. of Sample Village		No. of Households		
		Total	Selected	Name of Villages	Total	Selected
01.	Achalpara	10	02	Achalpara	325	32.5
				Topar Pathar	332	33.2
02.	Majortop	10	02	Alikash	212	21.2
				Majortop	333	33.3
03.	Bhauria Bhitha	10	02	Champurpara Gaon	308	30.8
				Bhaoriabhita	315	31.5
04.	Hatichala Bhalukbari	10	02	Bhulukabari	750	75
				Koraibil	385	38.5
05.	Hatipara	10	02	Hatipara	607	60.7
				Bihapara	298	29.8
06.	Jorsimalu	10	02	Jorshimuli	810	81
				Hachari	850	85
07.	Tukrapara	10	02	Tukrapara	834	83.4
				Kanhara	382	38.2
Total:				14	6741	674

Chapterisation:

Chapter-1: Introduction

Chapter-2: Review of Literature

Chapter-3: Research Methodology

Chapter-4: Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Chapter-5: Findings

Chapter-6: Policy Implications

Chapter-7: References


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