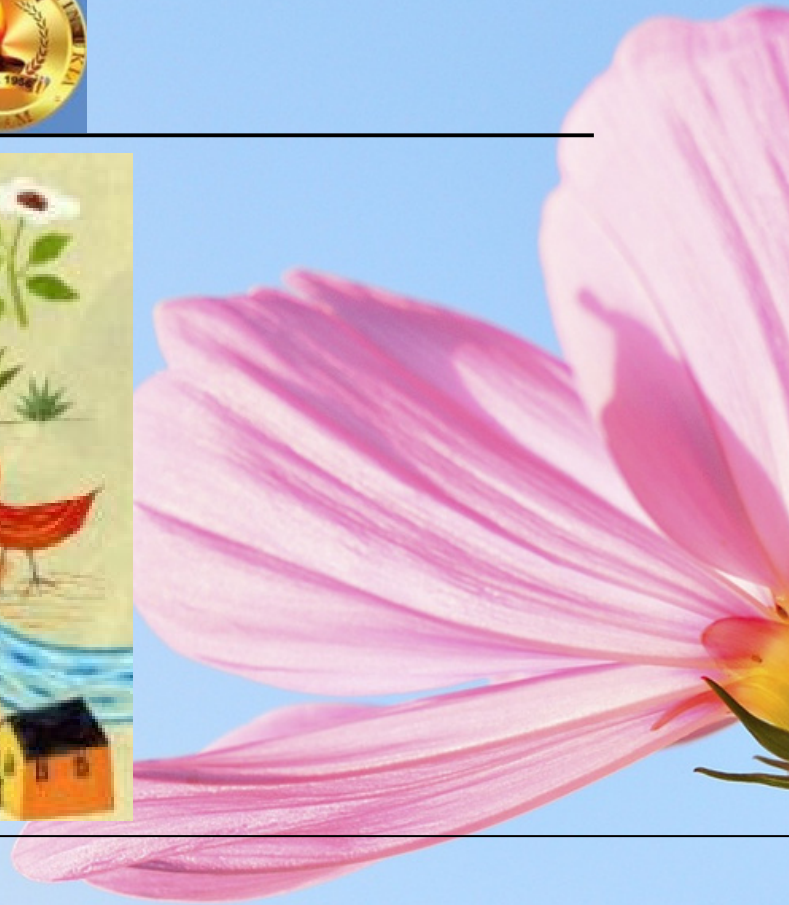
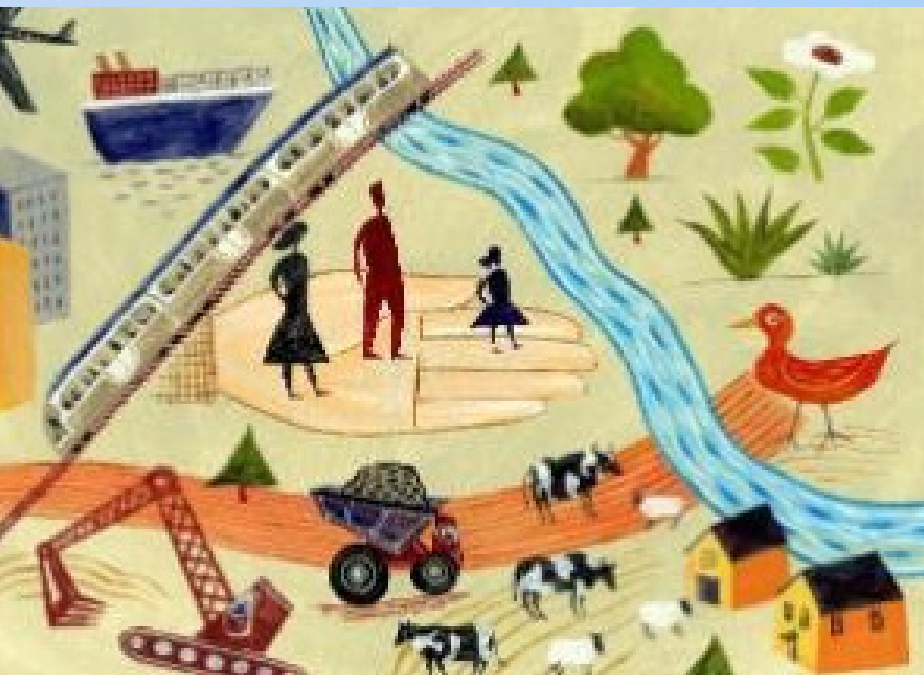


ECOZINE

E-MAGAZINE

VOL. I, ISSUE I, NOVEMBER-2022

WOMEN'S COLLEGE, TINSUKIA

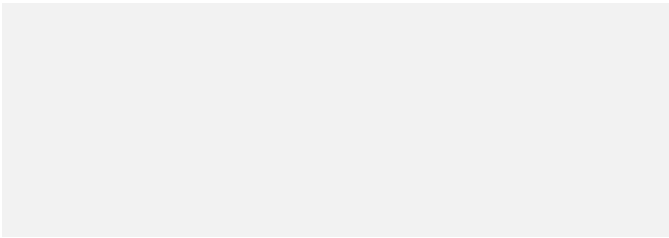


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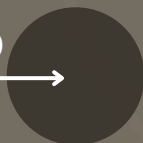
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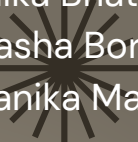


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MESSAGE

It gives me pleasure to know that the students of the Economics department of Women's College, Tinsukia is bringing out its E-Magazine, the "Ecozine". The department, which is a premier department of the college, has been rendering great services to the institution since its inception and Ecozine as been a true reflection of its academic and literary brilliance at the undergraduate level. I would like to congratulate the entire Editorial Board for their successful venture and I am sure, this issue of the Ecozine will also be able to do justice to its hard earned reputation as a quality literary endeavor of the department.



A handwritten signature in black ink on a grey rectangular background. The signature appears to be 'Rajib Bordoloi'.

Dr. Rajib Bordoloi
Principal

Women's College, Tinsukia

Tinsukia, 09-11-2022

Editorial

Anyone who undertakes to produce a volume of surveys in economic development must confront the question: Does the world really need another one? The field changes over time and, one hopes, knowledge accumulates. So, one motive is the desire to cover the more recent advances. And indeed, economic development has been one of the most dynamic and innovative fields within economics in recent years. A central concern of development economics is the analysis of changing economic and social institutions, the forces which shape them, and the outcomes in terms of the levels and distribution of living standard. The study of change requires observation of individuals and communities at different points in time. The study of living standards involves knowledge of the circumstances of individuals.

Notwithstanding their fundamental place in the process of enquiry into economic development, such data are rare. The rarity is understandable since those who would observe have finite and changing lives and those to be observed may not stay still, remain alive, or wish to be followed.

-Reetika Choudhury
Editor

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Rural Economic Development Of Assam

-Ruchika Dasgupta



In today's world, the nature of rural areas have transformed due to increasing urbanization and the change in global production networks. Rural development refers to the method of enhancing the quality of life and financial well-being of individuals, specifically living in populated and remote area. This process in India is the overall progress in the economic and social conditions of Indians residing in rural areas. So it can be said that rural development actively contributes to the economic growth of a rural region and the country as a whole.

The Indian economy is largely based on agriculture and accounts for nearly one-fifth of our gross domestic product. For the development of the rural sector in India, a number of programs pertaining to rural development in India have been planned by the Indian Government to stimulate the growth of agriculture. According to the Population Census of 2011, the percentage of people residing in rural areas is close to 69% of the Indian population. It roughly translates to about 83.3 crore Indians who are settled in rural areas. Thus, rural development also includes the measures implemented by government bodies to curb the poverty rate in such areas. As per another report by the Government of India, the percentage of the Indian population that was situated Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in 2011-2012 amounted to 21.9%. To curb this percentage, rural development is necessary for the increase in income opportunities for people living in rural areas.

The rural subsystem of the North East Region (NER) economy consists of some 35 thousand villages inhabited by over 32 million people who constitute about 85 percent of the total population in the region. Of approximately 10.6 million main workers in the NER economy, about eight million workers are directly engaged as cultivators or agricultural labourers. However, the land-base of the rural economy in NER is not much promising. Except in some parts of Assam, Manipur and Tripura, the landform is not very attractive for cultivation. Socio-economically, most of the farmers in the region are poor and marginal farmers. Thus, the NER has generally not benefitted from modern technology and has not registered any significant increase in productivity

Some Profound Economists of Assam

-Reetika Choudhury



BHABANANDA DEKA

Prof Bhabananda Deka (19 August 1929 – 4 December 2006) was a pioneer Assam economist and author who conducted novel research on the economy of the far eastern part of India. He was also a leading Indian-Assamese litterateur of the famed 'Awahon-Ramdhenu Era' of Assamese literature during the mid-20th century. He was the author of a total of 115 English and Assamese books including textbooks on a range of fifteen subjects including economics, ancient Assamese literature, philosophy, education, religion, mythology, archaeology, tribal study, poetry, drama, memoirs, civics, political science, biographies; he also edited books and journals.

He also authored a variety of research papers and articles about the state of Assam, a state in the north-eastern part of India. He pioneered the writing of books on Economics in Assamese. His Assamese book Axomor Arthaneeti was the first ever research-based comprehensive book on Assam Economics, which was published for the first time in 1963. He was conferred with the honorary title of 'Asom Ratna' -- 'Jewel of Assam' by the intellectuals of Assam on 19 August 2007 at a public meet held under the presidency of Prof. (Dr) Satyendra Narayan Goswami.

JAYANTA MADHAB



Dr. Jayanta Madhab(25 October,1929-17 October,2020) was an eminent economist who served as an advisor to the chief minister of Assam, India, from 2003 to early 2009. During his time in government, he advised the chief minister on economic and financial affairs before taking up the mandate of employment generation in Assam in the chief minister's second term. He has worked for the Asian Development Bank, as well as the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEFDI). He did his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics.

Organic Farming

-Anjali Gupta, Sweta Gupta, Sristy Mishra



Organic farming is an eco friendly farming system that follows the principle of health in relation to soil, environment including animals and human beings. The produces under organic farming are nutritious, safe and free from chemical residues.

Organic farming is one of the ways to sustain and improve soil fertility. The production rate will be uniform will be in uniform for long period of time because of good soil health. Thus it will help the farmers to double their production following suitable cropping system. Organic produces, if certified, will have good demand in the market with premium prices over the common commodities, giving an additional return to the producer farmers. Generally for getting certified under organic farming a transition period of three years are required so that the production system becomes free from chemical residues if any. Two types of certification systems are followed in organic farming - 1. Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and 2. Third Party Certification system.

Because of less or no application of fertilizers and chemicals in production process, in comparison to the other progressive states, most of the areas of Assam are considered as organic by default. These areas may be easily converted to organic cultivation for production of different horticultural crops. In other hand, in the commercial production pockets it becomes difficult to change the mind set of grower farmers for adoption of complete organic procedures. In a cluster area where organic crop production is followed, because of non use of any kind of chemicals, the whole area becomes free of chemicals and the milk, meat, fish etc. food commodities produced in the cluster becomes organic.

Presently there are three organic schemes of Central sector, being implemented in the state -

1. Paramparagat Krishi Vikash Yojana (PKVY)
2. Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojana - Organic (RKVY - Organic)
2. Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER).

Mission Organic Value Chain Development in Assam (MOVCD)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has launched a Central Sector Scheme named as Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region during 12th Plan period considering the special observation on the existing fertile soil and favourable climatic conditions in North Eastern Region.

Realizing the potential of organic farming in the region North East, the scheme aims at development of certified organic production in a value chain mode to build up a bridge between growers with consumers and to support the sustainable development of entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, planting materials, certification, to the creation of facilities for collection, post harvest management, aggregation, processing marketing and brand building initiative with an out lay of Rs. 400 crores for the three years from 2015-16.

The main motive of this scheme is to ensure safe and healthy food to everyone's plate. Growing demands of population, industrialization and globalization has made a significant need of organic farming in the country. The utmost increasing demands in the sector likely to focus on the North Eastern region for organic agriculture. North Eastern Region being traditionally an organic hub, it has tremendous potential for development of organic farming because of its mostly rain-fed and hilly areas, existing of mighty rivers Brahmaputra and Barak, fertile soil and mountainous terrain etc. with the help of those legacies the region can boost in organic agriculture.

Keeping in view, focusing on the supporting development of entire region the scheme "Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)" is being implemented in Assam.

In this regard, Centre mainly emphasized on the minimal use of chemicals, fertilizers in the state's agriculture, also to capture the available potential for production and export organic products from North Eastern Region, also to identify the areas, products and market to develop. Centre also spotlight to enhance an upgraded road map to promote production. Assam has identified the area with feasibility of organic farming is at its zenith point. Already Ten (10) clusters were formed in Chirang, Cachar, Dhemaji, Majuli, Golaghat (2), Kamrup, Sonitpur, Kokrajhar and Nalbari with a target to attain 500 Ha of area in each. The Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing, Khanapara, Guwahati has also worked on another Ten (10) additional clusters. All those selected clusters have supposed to form FPC (Farmer' Produce Company) among themselves to promote production and create a market of its own. Believing that it can able to reach those unreached growers with consumers and markets.





Marketing Of Agricultural Products

-Debjani Bhowmick, Gargee Deka

India is an agricultural country and one third population depends on the agricultural sector directly or indirectly. As food being essential need of mankind, much emphasis has been on commercializing agricultural production. Agricultural marketing comprises all the activities involved in the supply of farm inputs and output - including all those operations which are related to the procurement, collecting, grading, storing, food and agro-processing, transportation, financing and selling of agricultural products. The agricultural marketing system also relates to economic growth of the agricultural sector and ensuring safe and affordable food to consumers, both of which are directly linked to the food security of the country.

OBJECTIVES OF EFFICIENT AGRI- MARKETING

As per the report of the National Commission of Agriculture [1976], the objectives of an efficient agri-marketing system are :-

To enable the farmers as primary producers to reap the best possible benefits.

To provide facilities for lifting all the produce the farmers are willing to sell, at a price incentive.

VARIOUS PLATFORMS FOR MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

There are some alternative market platforms also that can be utilised by farmers to sell their produce. These are :-

Direct Marketing :- In direct marketing the farmers directly sell with the produce consumers. These markets have helped in mitigating the problems of supply chain. Along with it, the quick movement of produce from farmer to consumer save losses considerably. In these market no market fee is charged but services charges are collected from sellers.

Organised retailing :- Organised retailing on the lines of SAFAL (the fruit & vegetable marketing subsidiary of mother dairy) which is an example of indigenously organised retailing network.

Cooperatives in agricultural marketing :- Cooperatives are organised to aggregate farmers for establishing scale in their production and marketing activities. Example is in the dairy sector - AMUL.



Major Challenges to Agriculture Marketing

A report of the 'Committee of State Ministers, in charge of Agriculture Marketing to Promote Reforms' was published in January 2013. This committee highlighted that agricultural marketing is posing challenges due to fragmented supply chain with inadequate marketing infrastructure and lack of accurate and timely market information/intelligence system. Various challenges are as follows :-

- * **Marketing licensing barriers** :- The compulsory requirement of owning a shop/godown for licensing of commission in the regulated markets has led to the monopoly of the licensed traders and it has proved as a barrier for new entries.
- * **Less farmer's price realisation** :- The share of farmer in consumer's price is very low particularly in perishable due to a number of intermediaries, lack of infrastructure and poor holding capacity.
- * **Inadequate transport facilities** :- Very few villages are joined by railways and pucca roads to mandies. Produce has to be carried on slow moving transport vehicles like bullock carts.

Subsistence Farming

-Anindita Adhikari

Subsistence farming is one of the initially used farming techniques. Subsistence farming, or subsistence agriculture is a mode of agriculture in which a plot of land produces only enough food to feed the family or small community working for it. All product grown is intended for consumption purpose as well as for market trade or sale. Subsistence farming is considered by many a backward lifestyle that should be transformed into industrialized communities and commercial farming throughout the world in order to overcome poverty and famine

It helps the economy overcome these problems. Although the poverty suffered by many of those who have never developed beyond subsistence level of production in farming is something that needs to be overcome, it does appear that the ideas inherent in much of subsistence farming – cooperation, ecologically appropriate – are positive attributes that must be preserved in our efforts to improve the lives of all people throughout the world.

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Subsistence farming, which today exist most commonly throughout areas of Africa, South-east Asia is an extension of primitive foraging practiced by early civilizations. Within early foraging communities, like hunter-gatherer societies and small communities used to consume what was hunted or gathered by members of the communities. The subsistence farming evolved with domestication of certain plants and animals and in which communities practices small-scale, low-intensity farming to produce an efficient amount of goods to meet the basic consumption needs of the community.

An increasing population density rose and intensive farming method developed, and moved towards commercial farming and industrialization became more prominent.

Different regions of India call subsistence farming by different names – Jhumming in the north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. Jhumming is the local name of shifting cultivative. It is a 'slash and burn agriculture'. Considering the special observation on the existing fertile soil and favourable climatic conditions in North-Eastern region the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has launched a central sector scheme named as mission organic value chain development for North-Eastern region.



Terrace Farming

-Madhusmita Baruah

Terrace farming is the process of cultivating crops on the sides of hills or mountains by planting on graduated terraces carved into the slope, or in other words, the practice of carving flat regions out of hilly or mountainous terrain to produce crops. This farming was invented by the Inca people who lived in the South American mountains. It is mainly practiced in Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland etc. in India.

Terrace farming is a variety of species that depends on productivity in mountain land. Mainly medicinal, grains, legumes, and culinary herbs, nuts, fruits, vegetables, berries etc, are examples of common crops grown by terrace farming. Along with this Apples, Rice, Saffron, Millets, Corn, Wheat and many more.

There are two forms of terrace farming: bench and ridge-type terraces.

1. Bench terraces are used to minimize the slope of the ground.
2. On slopes, ridge terraces remove or hold water. There are two types of ridge terraces: narrow-based and broad-based.

Benefits of terrace farming:

1. Increases sloping field farmability and production.
2. Improves rainwater gathering and contributes to water conservation by slowing and reducing water run-off.
3. Reduces rill forms, which prevents soil erosion.
4. Soil conservation is aided.
5. Sedimentation and water pollution are reduced.
6. Water remains in place for long enough for heavy particles to settle, preventing downstream sedimentation and contamination of water bodies, but not long enough to harm crops.
7. Adjusts hilly ground for cultivation to increase food output.



Dairy Farming in Assam

-Vishaka Paul, Debashree Mukherjee

First of all, what is dairy farming? Dairy farming is also known as dairying, branch of agriculture that encompasses the breeding, raising and utilization of dairy animals. Primarily cows, for the production of milk and the various dairy products processed from it. The basic objective of the sector is for procurement processing and distribution of milk aiming at economic upliftment of rural milk producers and to help urban consumers to get quality milk at a reasonable price.

Status of Dairy development sector In the state of Assam:

1.The milk production In the state of Assam has increased from 824.00 Million litre In 2016-17 to 835.00 million litre In the year 2020-21

2. Increased milk processing capacity In the state from 15000ltrs per day In 20016-17to 115500 ltrs per day In 2020-21.

Dairy production In Assam is mostly characterized by rural smallholder production using indigenous cattle and buffalo, with pockets of more specialised dairy production. While Increasing farm level production and productivity will require more Improved animals and feed technology and access to livestock services, access of smallholders constraint. Organised marketing of milk in Assam remains relatively insignificant despite past efforts to develop and promote collective market mechanisms. The traditional markets for fresh liquid milk and traditional dairy products such as sweets account foremost of the market opportunities for famers. Many women empowered themselves with this sector (Dairy farming). One example, Nayanmoti bharali of Assam's Hojai started her venture of animal husbandry with just one cow six years ago end now sells 8085 litres of milk daily, earning a revenue of RS 10 lakh per year. She is among 6800 women dairy farmers who have empowered themselves with animal farming and scripted success for West Assam Milk Producer cooperative Union Ltd (WAMUL), the largest in the state.

One location of dairy farm In Tinsukia is In Durgabari (Tinsukia Gaushala). Tinsukia Gaushala is located in Durgabari, Tinsukia. Based on Online reviews, this Dairy farm has a good rating. There are atleast 2 dairy farms in Durgabari, out of which this Dairy farm has an Overall rank of 1.



গ্ৰাম্য মৎস্য ব্যৱসায়

-Chayanika Mahanta, Ankurita Dohutia

সাধাৰণতে ধনউপাৰ্জনৰ কাৰণেব্যক্তিয়ে কৰাযিকোনো ধাৰাবাহিকপেচা বাকাম কাজকেব্যৱসায় বুলিকোৱা হয়; যাৰদ্বাৰা ব্যক্তিয়েস্বাৰলক্ষী হবপাৰে। বিভিন্নধৰণৰ ব্যৱসায়ৰজৰিয়তে ব্যক্তিৰআৰ্থিক অৱস্থাস্বচ্ছল কৰিতোলা সম্ভৱপৰহয়। এইসমূহৰ ভিতৰতএটা অন্যতমব্যৱসায় হিচাপেপৰিগণিত হৈছে মৎস্য ব্যৱসায়।অসমৰ গাঁওবোৰতপুখুৰী, জলাশয়আদিৰ অভাৱনাই। সেয়েমৎস্য পালনৰব্যৱসায় একউৎকৃষ্ট নতুনব্যৱসায়ীক হবপাৰে। প্ৰাকৃতিকভাৱেনথুবা ঘৰতেকৃত্ৰিমভ মৎস্যপালনৰ ব্যৱসায়আৰম্ভ কৰিবপাৰে। সাম্প্ৰতিককালত এইখণ্ডটোত চৰকাৰীসুবিধাও যথেষ্টপৰিমাণে পৰিলক্ষিতহয়।

গাওঁত বসবাসকৰা লোকৰবাবে মৎস্যব্যৱসায় কৰাটোসহজ। কিয়নোগাওঁৰ লোকসকলেঘৰতে পুখুৰীখালি তাতবিভিন্ন প্ৰজাতিৰমাছৰ পোনামেলি দিবপাৰে। এইবিভিন্ন প্ৰজাতিৰমাছৰ পুনাকআহাৰ হিছাপেকলপাত, ঘাঁহআদি নীয়মিটভাবেপ্ৰদান ওৰে। এটা নিৰ্দিষ্টআকাৰ লৈমাছবোৰ ডাঙৰহোৱাৰ পিছতবজাৰলৈ বিক্ৰীৰবাবে লৈআহে। ইয়াৰোপৰিঅসমৰ বহুতোঠাইত কৃত্ৰিমপদ্ধতিৰে মৎস্যপালন কৰাদেখা যায়। ঠিক তেনেদৰেতিনিচুকীয়া জিলাৰপানীতোলা, বগুৰি, আদি ঠাইতআধুনিক মৎস্য উৎপাদন কেন্দ্ৰ (Biofloc Fish Farming)ৰ জৰিয়তেমৎস্য উৎপাদনকৰে। বিশেষকৈনিবনুৱাকসকলৰ বাবেই অধিকউপযোগী, কিয়নোকম ঠাইতমৎস্য উৎপাদনকৰি অধিকটকা উপাৰ্জনকৰিব পাৰে।



বিশেষকৈ তিনিচুকীয়াজিলাৰ বাৰেকুৰিঅঞ্চলৰ অন্তৰ্গতগৰীয়াতিং গাওঁৰলোকসকলৰ জীৱিকাৰমূল ভিত্তিহৈছে মৎস্যব্যৱসায়। এইগৰীয়াতিং গাওঁৰআশে পাশেপ্ৰচুৰ পৰিমাণেপুখুৰী আৰুবিলা অৱস্থিত।এই পুখুৰী, বিলা আদিতপ্ৰাকৃতিকভাৱে মাছসমূহ ডাঙৰহয়। পৰবৰ্তীসময়ত গাওঁৰলোকসকলে বিভিন্নপ্ৰকাৰে মাছসমূহ ধৰিবজাৰলৈ বিক্ৰীৰবাবে আনে, যাৰ দ্বাৰাতেওঁলোকে লভাস্বিতহব পাৰে।

সাম্প্ৰতিক কালতদেখা যায়যে, বহুতোযুৱক শিক্ষিতহোৱা সৈতেওনিবনুৱা হৈথাকিব লগাহৈছে। তেনেখেত্ৰেতমৎস্য ব্যৱসায়িকএক উৎকৃষ্টধাৰণা হিচাপেলবি পাৰে; যাৰ দ্বাৰাএই অনিচ্ছাকৃতনিবনুৱা কিছুপৰিমাণে হলেওহাস পাৰ।



Nabard Pig Farming Project (Baksa District)

-Reetika Choudhury

Agriculture in Assam is still predominantly practiced in the mono-cropping mode. Although many inroads have been made in focused areas to break this traditional mindset, allied activities such as dairy, piggery, goatery and fishery, have played an important role in the cultural, social and economic fabric of rural Assam. NABARD recognizing the importance of these allied activities, especially given the steady profitable income, has taken the initiative to facilitate formulation of Area Development Schemes in all the districts of Assam, from 2018-19 to 2022-23, under various sectors.

These Banking Plans would go a long way in increasing the Ground Level Credit to farmers and contribute immensely towards the achievement of "Doubling of Farmers' Income by 2022" mandate. NABARD understands the genuine apprehension of the bankers regarding loans going NPA. To mitigate this risk, NABARD has converged the Area Development Scheme with its Joint Liability Group programme in many districts. Joint Liability Groups nurtured through NGOs would be the beneficiaries under the Area Development Schemes, wherein the NGOs would help in maintaining the quality of the loan portfolio and facilitate good repayment ethics

The economy of Baksa district is predominantly agriculture based. The district has a net sown area of 69404 ha, constituting about 66% of the geographical area. 70% of the work force is engaged in agriculture, the most important crop of the district is paddy covering nearly 74% of the gross cropped area of 115497 ha. Other important crops are vegetables (9%), mustard (8%), and horticultural crops (6%). The crops cultivated in the district are Paddy, Wheat, Mustard, Lentil, Potato, Jute, Vegetables. Pig farming provides livelihood support to the poor, underprivileged, landless and marginal farm households. The pig production systems are mainly subsistence-oriented but in view of the rising demand for meat, there is a great scope for their commercialization in the district



Baksa district is inhabited by population of Bodo, Kochari, Sonowal and Rajbongshi tribes who traditionally prefer pig rearing. There is very good market for pork in the district. Piggery farm is a profitable business for them. There is a good potential for piggery farming in the district which would help in enhancing self-employment generation. The tribal population prefer pig breeding as a traditional activity and their economy contributes to the district's economy.



Most of the piggery farmers in the district are small and marginal farmers, undertaking piggery farming in an unorganized way with own land and some are tenant farmers. Some of the farmers have undertaken the activity individually in their backyard while some have been done under the Joint Liability Group mode.

Considering the importance of pig production in enhancing the rural livelihood and as a good solution to the unemployment/underemployment problems amongst the rural youth, the Area Development Scheme has been formulated.

5 years Banking plan has been prepared by NABARD, Assam Regional Office for implementation by banks starting from 2018-19. The project would be implemented on pilot basis Barama Block in Baksa district. Farmers, individual entrepreneurs, SHGs, JLGs, NGOs, companies and partnership firms are eligible for availing loan for establishing pig breeding unit, pig breeding-cum-fattening unit and retail outlets.



Pashudhan Bima Yagna of Assam

-Pratyasha Boruah, Priyanka Paul



Livestock or farm animals are one of the most valued possessions of the rural community. Farmers earn high profit from cattle rearing. Since the livelihood of farmers depend so much on them, it is essential to get cattle insurance (pashu bima) for comprehensive coverage against cattle loss in some disasters like flood etc .

The Pashudhan Bima Yagna is an online insurance policy which is highly designed to offer insurance cover to the cattle that are owned by farmers, co-operative societies, dairy farms, cattle rearers and others. This insurance policy covers to the cattle breeders at different premium rates for different animals. The Pashudhan Bima Yagna is used for protection of the rural people from incurring loss due to death of the cattle in flood or disease etc.

Cattle insurance (pashu bima) is another attempt of the Government of India to protect the agro-based economy of the country. This scheme is important to provide more effective measures for disease control and improvement of genetic quality of animals and to build a mechanism of assured protection to the farmers and cattle rearers against eventual loss of such animals.

The Government of India introduced a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Livestock Insurance on a pilot basis for promotion of the livestock sector during 2005-06 & 2006-07 at Jorhat & Barpeta district in Assam along with the 100 selected districts of the country. The full fledged extended scheme on Livestock Insurance, which was approved on 20.11.2008 for remaining period of Eleventh Five Year Plan, by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. Of India has been implemented in the districts of Kamrup, Nagaon, Barpeta, Jorhat, Morigaon & Sonitpur districts in Assam among the 300 selected districts of the country. This scheme has been implemented for attaining benefits to the people against the loss of their animals.

The Livestock Insurance Scheme has been formulated with the twin objective of providing protection mechanism to the farmers and cattle rearers against any eventual loss of their animals due to death in flood , disease etc and to demonstrate the benefit of the insurance of livestock to the people and popularize it with the ultimate goal of attaining qualitative improvement in livestock and their products. Cattle insurance protects Indian rural people from financial loss incurred due to the death of their cattle. The cost of cattle is high and their loss can force farmers to get into a debt cycle. With cattle insurance, farmers will get comprehensive protection against the cattle loss.

As like the Pashudhan Bima Yagna or cattle insurance, the District Agriculture Department, Tinsukia celebrated 'Crop Insurance Week' under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' campaign to mark the 75th anniversary of the independence of the country. On the occasion, the Tinsukia District Agriculture Department launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' among the farmers for this season.

HDFC ERGO and Tinsukia District Agriculture Department arranged awareness meets in seven different block offices of the district. It was attended by over 200 farmers within a span of seven days in Sadiya, Hapjan, Guijan, Saikhowa, Itakhuli, Kakopathar and Margherita. Officers from the department and executives from HDFC ERGO briefed the farmers about the importance and benefits of crop insurance, especially in a flood prone State like Assam. The farmers were told about the process of registration and claims, the premium to be paid per hectare and about the documents required to register.

Entrepreneurship Development in Rural Assam

-Chetna Siktia, Nafisa Khatoon

Entrepreneurship involves creation of values, process of starting or growing a new profit making business. The process of providing a new product or service and intentional creation of value through organisation by an individual or a small group of partners. Entrepreneurship requires dynamic decisions and motivated action. In context of rural Assam development of entrepreneurs thus become even more important as it will tackle the problems its economy facing namely- low income, low standard of living, unemployment, brain-drain, under utilisation of available resources.

Rural Assam is rich in resources mainly natural resources if used properly it could bring prosperity in rural areas. The following six reasons will underline why entrepreneurship is even more important in rural Assam. Firstly it creates new business entrepreneurs offers new goods and services at the pace of consumer. In today's modern world people are spending their income on consumption as never before and if they are provided something that can add value to them having an indegenious touch they would be happy to spend their income on it, so there is demand. Talking about the supply side, Assam is already rich in resources if some initiative is taken by Government to ensure a hike in entrepreneurial activity people would be greatly benefitted. Over the years Government have taken some steps to encourage and shape Entrepreneurial mindset among youth so that they become, "Job providers and not Job seekers". Some of them are, "Make in India", "Startup India", etc. Apart from them Assam government have taken some steps like Assam Startup Policy 2017, which mainly focuses on nurturing young companies and generating more human resources. But yet so much is to do in this respect, youth of rural Assam are not aware about them. Seminars , webinars , awareness programmes etc should be held. Apart from it government can provide training to young minds and further it can do the following to encourage entrepreneurship- lower interest rates, give tax incentives, friendly trade policies, making paper work more easier, providing contract work to private companies, grant loans and disbursement.



Some of the entrepreneurship development in rural assam have been immensely noticed in the field of Mugaculture, Beekeeping, Bamboo handicraft, Gamusa Making etc.

Mugaculture- Seiculture has been practised in Assam from time immemorial and the State is proud of traditionally producing Muga, Eri and mulberry silk. Muga culture is endemic erstwhile Assam and is the largestproducer of the famous golden Muga silk in the world. Muga culture is mainly distributed in the districts of Kamrup , Goalpara, Udalguri, Kokrajhar , Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat. Assam contributes 95% and 65% of country's total Muga production . this gives entrepreneurial experience to the Assam villagers.



Bee keeping- More than 100 households in the northern Assam hamlet of Xandohkhuwa have boosted their incomes from beekeeping. Evenfarmers who do not keep bees have benefitted as bee's activities have increased the fertility of the neighbourhood's crops and trees. Nitul Bhuyan, an apiarist has combined agriculture and bee keeping to enhance the livelihood of 128 erosion hit families in Sandakhawa village in Assam's Lakhimpur district.



Bamboo Handicraft- India is one of the richest countries in bamboo population, out of which the North- east region alone hosts about 90 species under 13 genera. Bamboo is cultivated widely in Assam and every household grows it. The making of bamboo products is mainly a rural industry catering the very high demand for various bamboo products such as mats, baskets, fishing contraptions, etc. This creates an opportunity for villagers to setup their own business.



Gamusa making- It is made manually in the villages of Assam. In a village near Lakhimpur, almost half of the villagers mostly women, can be seen weaving Gamusa. It is mostly woven out of white threads with colourful and intricate inlays in red. This gives business opportunities to village women of Assam.





Handloom Industry in Rural Assam

-Fiza Fatima, Brulina Sonowal

Assam is beautiful and prominent place which is famous for its handloom weaving. Handloom is one of the oldest cottage industries of Assam. In rural areas, it is regarded as one of the important economic activities and most of the rural folks get engaged in weaving activities.

Handloom industry is a rural based industry while spinning, weaving and other processes done only by hand is one of the largest generators, after agriculture. It plays an important role in socio-economic life of people which helps them in major ways of earning livelihood. This industry helps to the lower economic strata of the people in the society. Assam holds a unique position in the handloom with the highest number of looms. Nearly 23.77 lakh handlooms provide direct and indirect employment to 43.32 lakh weavers of which 36.38 lakh workers are from rural areas. Passed down from generation to generation, silk weaving skill has become a way of life for the Assamese people. Handloom weavers commonly used three types of looms pit looms, stand looms and frame looms. Silk fabrics have earned immense recognition from all over the world

The state is home to several type of silks, the most prominent is Muga Silk (Golden silk), Paat (Mulberry silk) and Eri silk etc. Muga Silk is one of the finest silk which is golden colour silk from a silkworm feed on leaves which need a thousand of cocoons for weaving a single mekhela. Sualkuchi considered as 'silk town' of Kamrup district which is the largest silk producing centre. Latter Paat and Eri silk is used in the manufacture of warm clothes. Also Paat and Eri silk is used to make complex design in GAMOSA i.e. (something to wipe the body with) which is an article of significance of indigenous people of Assam. Although cotton yarn (wool) is most common material for weaving gamosas. It symbolizes the respect and honour to welcome the guest on any occasion. The traditional handloom silks still hold their own in world market. They score our factory – made silks in richness of their texture and designs in their individuality. It is important to every young Assamese girl to acquire the skill to weave. When Gandhiji visit to Assam on 1921 he once said that, "Assamese women are born weavers, they can weave fairy- tales in their cloth".

Almost 72% of women engaged in this activity. Weaving is a major source of livelihood for rural tribal women in industrially backward states. In Assam almost 10.9 lakhs households are into weaving but after the outbreak of novel corona virus since March 25, 2020 the Assam handloom industry has also been pushed back. The rural people faced various problems – unavailability of raw materials like yarn. The program director of North- East Network Arunita Pathak Hazarika also said that "Earlier, we used to display and sell in exhibitions and melas, but now that option is also not there". COVID -19 for the se weavers is not just a health crisis anymore- it is a livelihood hazard and socio-cultural calamity, since for many of them weaving is a form of livelihood, an art, and a part of their culture and identity.

The handloom weavers are the lifeline of the handloom industry, they are keeping it alive in this modern century. From the above analysis we have found that nearly 2.57 lakh handloom workers (including women) preferred alternative livelihood. We have also found t weavers are losing interest from the handloom industry. As this activity is descended down from generation to generation, therefore the newer generation losing interest in this activity. Hence, the government as well as the promotional and development organization should make proper plan, schemes, policies to protect this rural industry of Assam. Only long term vision, strong policies and schemes can protect this old age custodians.

EVERY WEAVER HAS HER OWN DREAMS TO WEAVE...

Assam's all Women Market

-Baby Konwar, Rinki Sonowal

The first of its kind in Assam's Dibrugarh district, a group of women running a weekly market, an all women market, is out there setting as an epitome of women empowerment.

The group of 22 women who are running the market, are not only contributing to the income of their family but are becoming self-sufficient and independent. This all-women rural market set across the middle of Dibrugarh town is providing to be a windfall for rural women who come from different villages to sell their home-grown local products like vegetables, fruits, and fish from their fisheries.

Women who are running the market are from different Self Help Group(SHG's). The market remains open twice a week, on Saturday and Wednesday. This initiative is acting as a torchbearer for these rural women as it is not only making them self sufficient but at the same time, they are living a dignified life.

The prime objective of this women centric market is of economic empowerment of impoverished rural women and directing a path for women to become self-reliant and is directly benefiting their families. The market serves as a great option for the locals who are able to directly purchase homegrown produce, that too at a reasonable price. A customer who visits the market said how welcoming the behaviour of the market runners are and also the price that is reasonable.

To support organic and local varieties of goods produced by small farmers and self help groups in and around Dibrugarh serves as the main objective of the market.



Tourism Prospect in Assam (Specially Tinsukia District)

-Mometa Biswas, Riya Bhowmick, Alpana Bawri

Tourism is one of the fastest growing sustainable and smokeless industry in the world. Assam is the most prominent state of North Eastern Region (NER) of India with tremendous natural beauty, rich tourism products, ethnic diversity and uncharted mysteries. Despite of abundance natural resources, Assam is industrially backward state due to some physical and political reasons comparing to the rest of the developed states of the country and 86 percent population lives in rural Assam. The state has different classes of ethnic groups, cultural heritage and customs to develop of rural tourism in the state. With the motto of "Back to the Nature" Government of Assam has initiated various plans and policies to develop rural tourism. Rural tourism benefits the local community through entrepreneurial opportunities and thus increases income and creates employment. It also acts as a deterrent for the migration of rural youth to the cities for searching employment. It has been observed from the different studies that the trend of rural tourism is increasing in developed countries providing a positive impetus to the rural economy by developing rural entrepreneurship. Therefore rural entrepreneurship development can play a vital role to development the rural economy as well as the state economy of Assam. The Government of Assam adopted 'Assam Tourism Policy 2008' for the first time to boost the tourism scenario in the state with special focus on promoting partnership between private and public sectors.

Tourism in Tinsukia District means endless enjoyment and pleasure. This region offers a number of places of tourist interest. All these tourism options of Tinsukia District give the travelers an enriching and fulfilling experience.



There is no dearth of tourist attractions in this district of Assam. Here, the tourists can experience complete peace and tranquility. It is said that the lush green valleys and scenic splendor of this area covering the geographical areas of Tinsukia District cast spell on visitors. Dehing Patkai festival has been one of the biggest attractions for the tourists. This festival is organized with the aim to highlight the tourist potentialities of the catchments areas of the river Dehing and the foothills of Patkai Hills Or Purvanchal Ranges. Tinsukia is the ideal stopover for tourist visiting Dehing Patkai region.



The Lord Shiva Dham and Marut Nandan Kanan Park are some of the added points of attraction for visitors. One popular pilgrimage tourism option of this district is 'Bell Temple'. This temple of Lord Shiva, symbolized by a huge banyan tree. It is believed that people may get their wishes fulfilled by offering a bell at this temple. Believers hang the bells to the branches of the banyan tree and this is how the temple got its unique name.



lord shiva dham



Marut Nandan Kanan Park

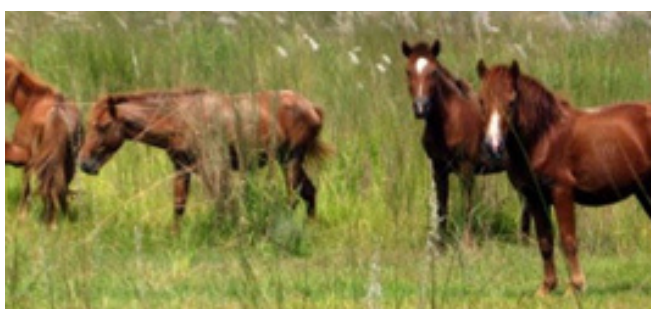


Bell temple

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is a part of one of the prominent biodiversity hotspots of the world, located almost 13 km away from Tinsukia. This national park is famous for the presence of feral horses. It is partly wetland, partly grassland and dense forests. It is the home of the globally endangered Gangetic Dolphin, Water Buffalo, Elephant, etc.



Maguri Beel



Bherjan-Borjans Padumoni wildlife sanctuary is famous for different species of primates including rare Hoolock Gibbon which is located 6km from Tinsukia.



Bheran- Borjans Padumoni wildlife sanctuary

Rukmini island is a safe place for many indigenous and migratory birds. The best attractions of this beach island are the long sandy beaches, sand banks for sunbathes and parasailing.



Rukmini Island



Dhola-Sadiya Bridge

Another tourism attracted place is Kali temple of Borhapjan, a village of Tinsukia district. Doomdooma is famous for its lush green tea plantations, is one of the most attracting tourist place. The plantations are owned by Hindustan Unilever

Sadiya is a famous tourist attraction in Assam. It is a village located in Tinsukia district. Sadiya was developed by the legendary Chutiya (Sutiya) King Bhishma K. The palace of the Sutiya clan was constructed on a hillock that overlooked the entire district of Tinsukia. Sadiya is also known for its extraordinary scenic beauty. This beautiful city surrounded by rivers on three sides. The attraction of rivers serves to ride this place. Sadiya is the place where the famous river Brahmaputra of India meets the great Himalayas. This place has cultural importance. Tameshwari temple of Sadiya is also one of the best tourism spot. The longest bridge over water in India is also situated in Sadiya .



Kali Temple, Barhapjan

Plastic Park, Tinsukia

-Aditi Chowdhury

Government took initiative to set an Industrial Estate for Plastic production from petro products of BCPL. A centrally sponsored project being constructed by Assam Industrial Development Corporation Limited (AIDC). The location of the Plastic Park is in Gelapukhuri, Tinsukia. The status of the project is under implementation. The area of the project is 173 acres. The approximate project cost is INR 250 crores (USD 38.46 millions). The focus sector is plastics. There is a direct employment of approximately 1000 candidates. This project is approved by the State Government.

Project contours

The park is situated approximately 50 kms away from Brahmaputra Crackers and Polymers limited (BCPL, the source of raw material (HDPE/LLDPE-220000 MT and Polypropylene 60000 MT). It is expected to provide integrated infrastructure for making value added projects like woven sacks, plastic pipes, injection moulded components, films, pouches, packaging products and other consumer plastic products. This project site will also include supporting infrastructures such as training institutes, research facilities and testing centres.

Investment opportunities include investment in injection moulding, blow and roto moulding and extrusion moulding facilities.

Connectivity

The site is 2 kms from NH-37. Nearest railway station is at Tinsukia, 5 kms away from the site. Nearest airport is located 40 kms away at Dibrugarh .

Proposed Infrastructure

Developed Plots- 250000 sq. meters (Area range 2000 sq. meters to 20000 sq. meters).

Proposed Infrastructure Industrial Plots- 10 Nos. (1800 sq. ft, with open space-3000 sq. ft each).

Internal Roads- 3.5 km, Warehouses- 2 Nos. (3000 sq. ft each).

Water supply system, Electrical Sub-Station 10 MVA with provision to expand up to 20 MVA internal Drainage System, Truck Parking Yard, Street Lightning facilities and Internal distribution network, Proposed Common Facility Centre- (Office, Tool room, Quality Control Lab, Training Hall, Business Centre, Conference Hall), Proposed Service Apartment and Solid Waste Management, Commitment of required water from Water Resources Department, Assam.

re

Developed Plots- 250000 sq. meters (Area range 2000 sq. meters to 20000 sq. meters).



Citrus Research Station, Tinsukia

-Ankita Chakraborty, Sneha Roy, Sraboni Nath

Citrus Research Station was established in 1976. Citrus Research Station has made a name for itself in the list of top service providers of India. Citrus Research Station is listed in Trade. India's list of verified companies offering wide arrays of fruits etc. There are various types of citrus fruits, i.e, orange, lemon, grape fruit, lime etc. Pomelo is the scientific name of grape fruit and lemon are the most important grape fruit in whole over India. Citrus fruits contains a considerable amount of vitamin C. The Citrus Research Station of Tinsukia was established in 1976 and is one of the oldest Research Station in Assam.

Research components include :

- Crop improvement
- Crop production
- Crop protection

Citrus has become a commercial crop and all of these fruits can also be used in making oil. Citrus has become a major contribution to the Assam's economy and is gaining momentum in the last 30-40 years. The Tinsukia Citrus Research Station Farming mainly used two types of pesticides – Insecticide and Fungicide. There are almost 150+ varieties of citrus fruits in this research station. The Tinsukia Citrus Research Station Farming is not dealing in marketing sector right now, but may deal with it in the future. They also introduced the use of vermicompost fertilizers for the cultivation of the citrus fruits.



Baghjan Blowout: An Ecological Nightmare

-Meghali Kol, Susmita chanda, Nitu Gupta

Baghjan Gaon is a village of Tinsukia district, Assam with nearly 12,000 population. The inhabitants depend upon the bio-sources for their livelihood. The people are largely small farmers, paddy being main crop and betelnut, paan, vegetables, tea plants in their homestead land.

However on 27th May of 2020 and Oil India Limited's Baghjan oil field witnessed a blow out of gas and oil leak which subsequently caught fire on 9th June. The incident took 3 employees death and environmental disaster. The accident site was less than a kilometre away from the Dibru-Saikhowa National park and 500 meter from Maguri Motapung Beel which is a home to many migratory bird. A boost attempt to extract gas from a new level led to an uncontrollable flow of gas from well number 5.

During the blowout a deadly oil that contained particles of black inflammable petroleum also spread out. The blackish oily layer stuck to the plants, bamboo, vegetation, crops, it got into the water and soil and synched everything it fell on. And when the fire caught it burnt down everything like a line of fire.

The Maguri Motapung Beel, a wetland was highly impacted upto 70% of earthworms in the grassland and condensate affected areas were dead. It is a home to many flora and fauna including the wild buffalo and the barking deer. The death of the Gangetic river dolphin was confirmed with chemicals and underwater sound pollution. The population on the banks of Maguri Beel subsist on fishing.

The Dibru- Saikhowa is a hotspot to many mammals, species, vegetation and insects including Hoolock Gibbon. The sound effect during the blowout have affected the species of this park. The sound of the blowout was 55 decibel within 5 km radius and 75 decibel within 700 m. 64,000 kg of hydrocarbon in the condensate oil have affected the plant community, especially agricultural lands. The crop grown on this condensate land may look healthy and fruitful but it may contain cancer producing chemicals.

OIL said that they suffered production losses of 638 tonnes of crude oil and 0.46 million standard cubic meters per day of natural gas. It had losses of 148 crores revenue due to the well closure. According to OIL, the cost of extinguishing the fire including the relief and covid camps to the affected accounted to 450 crores. The report by the Assam Government said that ecological damage estimated as Rs. 25000 crores and estimated carbon earnings were valued at Rs. 18234 crores (during restoration) and this resulted in the liability of 6800 crores over a period of 10 years. The revenue loss during the burning could not be ascertained as no measurement was possible due to fire and extreme heat.

Although the blowout was doused on 15th November by a team of Canada through a technique of snubbing the effect of the oil will remain for years.

An inverting committee appointed by National Green Tribunal revealed that OIL failed to obtain legally required environmental laws and clearances to operate the oil field at Baghjan even before drilling.

Even now the biodiversity have not recovered. The fishes have reduced and dolphins are occasionally seen once or twice. The pollutants are still contaminated deep in the water. According to some ecologists, the biodiversity may take upto 10 years to recover. Luckily the people of the village is trying to bring back the rural economy.

Tea Gardens in Assam Leased Out for Different Developmental Projects

-Meghali Kol, Susmita Chanda, Nitu Gupta

Out of 7 million population of Assam, 4.5 million Adivassi communities of Assam depend upon the 800 tea estates of Assam for their livelihood. Assam produces 1/6th of the world's tea.

We have often heard of the increasing demand of Assam's Black tea in the international market. It produces 653 million kg of tea which is 53% of national production making it India's largest tea producing state. Manohari Gold has been sold for 75,000 per kg, breaking the record. It contribute to national exchange every year in the shape of foreign exchange through it exports.

But it is rarely heard that the tea production leading to losses. The Assam Government has decided to lease out 12 tea estates under Assam Tea Corporation Limited (ATCL). The ATCL said that they have been making losses for a long time. The liabilities of these tea gardens, including Provident Fund (PF) and gratuity of the labours have piled over the years and now stand at several crores. Attempts to revive the fortunes of the tea gardens did not yield the desired results.

So, finally the Government has decided to lease out 12 out of 15 tea estates for 30 years. The lease tender has been floated and the private parties fulfil the criteria mentioned in the tender and make the highest bid will win the tender. The Government will retain ownership rights of the tea estates, only the management will be leased out.



The 12 tea estates to be leased out are Amluckie, Deeju valley, Loongssong, Sycotta, Naginijan, Messamara, Rungamatty, Negheriting, Rajabarie, Deepling, Longai and Ishabeel tea gardens. The other three are Bholaguri in Biswanath Chariali and Cinamara in Jorhat will be developed as heritage parks and Bidyanagar tea garden in Barak Valley will continue functioning.



Such an example of leasing out was seen in Doloo tea estate of Cachar District. On 12th May, 2022 over 100 excavators and bull dozers began uprooting three million tea plants to make a way for a Greenfield airport to be constructed in the area. This move was followed by several weeks of tense opposition by nearly 2,000 workers of the tea garden who were worried about losing their livelihood and the plants. The uproot was carried out in the presence of several hundred security personnel and imposition of section 144. The livelihood of all the 2000 workers families who only learned to pluck leaves in the tea garden were losing their only source.

The Government tried to convince the families of the workers by giving Rs. 1 lakh as a good will gesture and PF of Rs. 1.57 crores also gratuity of Rs. 80 lakhs. But the people argued that the PF and the gratuity is their right that has been cut from their wages, this cannot be exchanged for the tea plants destruction.

Notably the proposed green field airport in Cachar Doloo tea estate found no mention in the list of 21 greenfield airport that have received "in principle" approval from Union Government so far. The Civil Aviation of Ministry said, it did not receive a proposal for Cachar airport.

It's been 3 months to the eviction and the area now is locked out and no establishment of airport has been seen so far. Then why did the Assam Government declared the tea estates leaving behind the 2000 permanent workers jobless. Is this a move of capitalisation or giving the lands in the hand of riches. Is the Government not responsible for giving them jobs. It's a matter of time that will answer these questions.

Covid-19 Effect in Rural Assam

-Ankita Das, Roshni Roy, Hema Deb



The first wave of the pandemic, rural Assam was not as affected as the urban areas. However the second wave brought unprecedented positively rates in the rural areas. The second wave of covid-19 is rippling through Assam. With April 2021 seeing an exponential rise in cases. On March 31st there were 49 cases. A month later, on April the number of cases had risen 80 times. And this continuous to increase with cases on May. This can largely be attributed to the fact that Assam and the others north eastern states missed the pandemic almost entirely during the first wave. Assam reported 2,18,470 cases between April 2020 to march 2021. Covid-19, which was regarded as an urban disease until sometime ago has begun to tenetrate rural zone of Assam, making the remotest areas vulnerable to the second wave. Especially in case of Tinsukia the district it was badly effected by first and second wave of covid-19.

Mostly, the vulnerable people of rural communities suffered the most. As the number of COVID-19 positive cases has crossed 100 in Tinsukia district, the district administration has ordered closure of classes up to Class-V in both government and private educational institutions with immediate effect till May 8 under relevant provisions of Disaster Management Act -2005. According to Dr. Sunil Kaul, founder of the Ant, a nonprofit that works with communities in Assam, if one extrapolates this curve, we are likely to see cases grow by a factor of 69 times from the current numbers. As a result, panic has begun to set in, mainly in Guwahati, but also in other towns in the state to an extent. The government has tightened curfew hours in an attempt to restrict mobility. Starting May 5th, shops were shut down at 2PM and curfew was extended from 6 PM to 5 AM. So, therefore we should be protective and conservative for our health and to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Assam.





Flood Affect on the Rural Economy of Assam Each Year

-Reetika Choudhury

Flood is the major recurrent natural disaster of Assam. The economy of Assam mainly is based on agriculture, and all agricultural activities depends on climate. Flood cause sudden disruption to the normal life of a society and cause enormous damage of property to a great extent. The two main rivers of the state- Brahmaputra and Barak along with their tributaries are the causes of flood in every successive waves of monsoon. There have been various references to disastrous floods in the past, caused by Brahmaputra and Barak. Thus, it is not a new chapter for Assam and for its citizen.

There are several natural factors coupled with various unscientific human activities are responsible for recurrent flood in Assam.

·One of the most influential factors of flood in the state is that excessive rainfall in the time of monsoon.

·Inadequate drainage capacity and drainage congestion due to roads and bridges, railway tracts and buildings, construction of sluices have restricted the natural flows of waters, forcing to break the embankments in vulnerable areas.

·Deforestation is another important man made cause of flood in Assam.

·Accelerated rate of basin erosion, seismic activity, high population growth especially in flood prone belt are also the responsible factors which causes flood in Assam.

Floods in Assam causes huge destruction and irreparable loss of infrastructure facilities, roads, transports, electricity, drainage, schools, health centers, community centers, public drinking water sources and the agriculture sector. In current flood of 2022 more than 31 lakh people were affected , 2,675 villages under 79 revenue circles have been affected across the state . Among the worst affected districts were Cachar with a total population of 14.30 lakh followed by Barpeta with 5.49 lakh and Nagaon with 5.19 lakh. Five embankments were breached with four in Biswanath and one in Lakhimpur while 177 roads and five bridges have been damaged. According to the bulletin, 548 houses were fully damaged while 1,034 have been partially damaged due to floods.



Huge amounts of agricultural plot coupled with different seasonal and non seasonal crops are also affected by flood every year. During this year, the current flood has damaged a total crop area of 0.34 million hectares. Over 59,000 livestock have also died during this time.

In Assam the incidence of unemployment is more pronounced in the rural areas at the time of flood disaster. Agriculture is a principal occupation in the rural areas of the state of the country is seasonal in nature. They cannot work in their fields for few months after the flood, which creates a situation like unemployment.

Due to flood disaster there is increased landless labours in the rural areas and farmers suffer from indebtedness due to destruction of their agricultural crops and lands, which creates poverty in the state's economy also creates hinder of capital formation in the flood affected areas, because capital cannot form due to lack of production, which turns lack of income due to their indebtedness the farmer does not make capital formation which leads to lack of funds.

Recurring flood in Assam serves as the major cause of disturbance in socio-economic set up of the state. The flood combined with river erosion has significant impacts each year which destroys human life, crop and other livelihood. For the development of the flood affected regions it is important to address the issues relating to proper management of natural resources and minimizing loss of infrastructure and property both public and private. Thus, a systematic integrated framework is urgently needed for constructing the economy of Assam. If proper actions are not taken against flood then it may affect the future generation of the state.

Ongoing Challenges of Rural Development in Assam

-Antarikhya G. Mahanta, Neelam Singh

“The World Bank defines rural development as “Rural development is a strategy to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people, the rural poor, including small and marginal farmers, tenants and the landless”.

Rural development is a dynamic procedure of development of the rural people through different aims and schemes. Usually, it requires an overall development of the rural zones which contains the development of agriculture allied activities, the level of living standard comprising employment, education, health, nourishment, drinking water, housing, hygiene, village and small scale industries and variety of community services

Without the rural development it is quite impossible to think of development of a country as well as of a state. Laying stress on the importance of rural areas, Mahatma Gandhi said, “India lives in villages, if villages perish, India will perish.”

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

01. Vicious circle of poverty -Vicious circle of poverty is regarded as one of the crucial constraints in the path of rural development in Assam. According to 2021 census 32.67% of the total population are living below poverty line (BPL) in the state. In the rural areas 33.89% people are living below poverty line as against 20.49% in urban areas. There is vast gap between the BPL rate of rural and urban areas. This is because of low productivity backwardness arises. Low productivity results in low level of income and low rate of savings leading to low rate of investment, which is again responsible for low rate of productivity.

02. Infrastructure-Poor infrastructural facilities is one of the serious problems which obstructs the process of rural development. In respect of transportation, communication, loan facilities, power supply, clean water facilities, security etc the rural areas of the state are very much backward than the urban areas. Number of households using electricity for domestic lighting seems to be unsatisfactory. Moreover the average availability of electricity per day is about 14 to 16 hours. The rural people are not acquiring safe drinking water. Moreover they are not conscious of the dangerous effects of polluted water for which water borne diseases like diarrhea, typhoid, cholera, amoebiasis, conjunctivitis, scabies etc affect mostly the rural people.

03 Education - Rural families live relatively far from the public schools which make it difficult for the students to go to schools. Moreover percentage of girl students in schools is very disappointing. The parents do not send their girls to schools, rather engage them in domestic work.

Even today they consider that their only responsibility is to get their girls married. Moreover the quality teachers are not enthusiastic to do job in rural areas. Another problem in this sector is that the books are not supplied by the govt to the schools in right time.

According to 2021 census, the literacy rate of India & North- East India is as follows-

India-	77.7%
Assam	85.9%
Manipur	79.85%
Meghalaya	75.48%
Mizoram	91.58%
Nagaland	80.11%
Tripura	87.75%
Arunachal Pradesh	66.95%

04. Agricultural backwardness – More than 70% of the total population in Assam depend on agriculture for their livelihood. But the contribution in percentage of agricultural sector to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has been declined from 32.24% in 1999-2000 to 25.74% in 2021-2022. Poor technology and reduced skills are responsible for inefficient and inadequate production in rural areas which causes poverty of mass. Moreover computer literacy, internet facilities, resources are poor in rural areas which delays the path of development.

05. Less awareness -Rural people are not fully aware of projects about job opportunities, family planning, provided by the central government and the state government. Though the govt has adopted various family planning measures yet the rural birth rate is 23.6 against 15.5 urban birthrates. On the other hand rural death rate is 7.6 against 5.3 urban death rate. Moreover they lack the knowledge about economic circumstances and price of goods and good marketing system for which most of the rural farmers have to offer their products at very low prices.



06. Indebtedness of Rural Households

Though considerable efforts are made to provide institutional credit, the rural household, the indebtedness emerged at higher extent due to rising expectation of rural households towards loan waving policy of state and central govts. Due to long procedures in the institutional sources of credit, the rural people are interested to take loans from non-institutional sources like mahajans, merchants and commission agents and rich zamindars even at higher rate of interest rate. The rural poor farmers have to purchase modern inputs like chemical fertilizers, HYV seeds etc. Sometimes they fall in financial crisis for their children's education, marriage and other ceremonies. For these reasons the rural people have to take loans from moneylenders at higher interest rates. The Royal Commission on Agriculture made this observation-"the agriculturists are born in debt, live in debt and die in debt passing on their burden to those who follow."

Strategies for Rural Development in Assam

-Anamika Bhattacharjee



Assam is situated in the middle of the North eastern region. About 80% people are in rural areas. People are mainly depended on agriculture but chronic flood and using of low level of technology led poor production of agriculture and other activities further led rural people scarcity of food, cloth and shelter which effect in economics social and education and health of the rural area. Now the central government and the state government has jointly implemented various plans and programmes aiming Rural development. Minimum needs programme, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act(NREGA), etc are notable. Now this paper attempt to study the challenges and strategies of Rural development in Assam as well as to find out the way of rural development.

WHAT DO THE GOVERNMENT DO TO DEVELOP THE RURAL CONDITIONS?

The panchayat and Rural development department largely works to enhance livelihood opportunities, address chronic poverty, provides social security and works for economic inclusion of rural poor families. The panchayat and RDP has been implementing a number of programmes in the rural area of the state by empowering rural poor through power of rights fused law, aiming to transform the geography of poverty in the state. The main objective of various poverty alleviation and employment generation programme are as follows-

- Reduction of rural poverty.
- Employment generation in rural areas.
- Development of rural infrastructure.
- Removal of regional imbalance.
- Housing for rural poor
- Community participation.

AIM-

The department has taken the responsibility of enhancing rural livelihoods through a variety of programmes and projects. The emphasis is on building up local resources through increasing the capability of the rural poor through self employment programmes and through building up of critical infrastructure in the rural areas of Assam.



10 Amazing Facts About Assam

-Ruchika Dasgupta

- **Assam's Gondi Silk, Golden Muga, Pat and warm eri are world famous.**
- **Assam is India's 15th most populous state with a population of 31.2 million.**
- **Assam can be called as Gateway to Northeast India; as it is the only State that is connected to Siliguri Corridor via NH31.**
- **World's largest tea growing state – Assam is considered the largest tea producing state in the whole world. Assam contributes more than 52 percent of the country's total tea production.**
- **The world's second oldest and Asia's oldest oil field is situated at Digboi, Assam. In fact, one 4th of India's oil reserves are located in the Assam–Arakan basin.**
- **India has the most wild buffalo in Assam. Apart from this, most species of birds are also in this state. About 820 types of birds are found in Assam and about 190 species are of mammals.**
- **The Brahmaputra river is said to be the lifeline of Assam. It passes through the middle of the state and the Brahmaputra river valley is about 100 kilometers wide and 1000 kilometers long.**
- **A sleepy town named "Mayong," located in the Morigaon District is famous for witchcraft and black magic. Astonishingly, the word "Mayong" is derived from a Sanskrit word "Maya," which means illusion.**
- **Asia's largest dry fish market is situated in Jagiroad, a place close to Guwahati. The market operates for three days a week and exports to countries like Malaysia, Bhutan, and few other South Eastern countries.**
- **Jatinga, a small village in the Borai hills of Assam, is famous for the phenomenon of "Bird Suicide." For over 100 years, every winter, thousands of birds have committed suicide; the reason for which is still a mystery. Truly bizarre!**

Recent Departmental Activities



Inauguration of Wall Magazine-Ecozine



Workshop and Training on Pickle Making Process and Showing Ecstatic Varieties of Assam tea



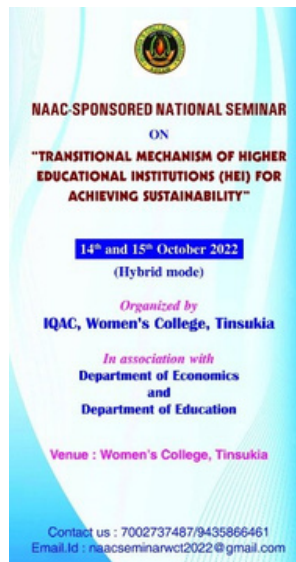
Field Trip in Tinsukia Citrus Research Centre



Field Trip to College of Horticulture and Forestry, Pasighat



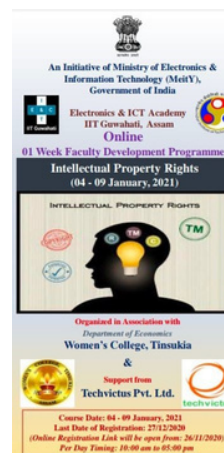
Workshop on SPSS Software



NAAC Sponsored National Seminar



Workshop on Employment Enhancement Skills



Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights



Survey Conducted by the Students of 5th Semester for EDSSI Project