

Chapter 1 : Agricultural development in Assam, (Book,) [calendrierdelascience.com]

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Davaka was later absorbed by Kamarupa, which grew into a large kingdom that spanned from Karatoya river to near present Sadiya and covered the entire Brahmaputra valley, North Bengal, parts of Bangladesh and, at times Purnea and parts of West Bengal. All three dynasties claimed descent from Narakasura. In the reign of the Varman king, Bhaskaravarman c. Later, after weakening and disintegration after the Kamarupa-Palas, the Kamarupa tradition was extended to c. The Ahoms, a Tai group, ruled Upper Assam [26] The Shans built their kingdom and consolidated their power in Eastern Assam with the modern town of Sibsagar as their capital. By, the whole tract down to the border of the modern district of Goalpara came permanently under their sway. Ahoms ruled for nearly years AD with major expansions in the early 16th century at the cost of Chutia and Dimasa Kachari kingdoms. It was at its zenith during the reign of Sukhrungphaa or Sworgodeu Rudra Sinha c. The Chutiya rulers AD, a Bodo-Kachari group by origin, held the regions on both the banks of Brahmaputra with its domain in the area eastwards from Vishwanath north bank and Buridihing south bank, in Upper Assam and in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. It was partially annexed in the early s by the Ahoms, finally getting absorbed in AD. The rivalry between the Chutiyas and Ahoms for the supremacy of eastern Assam led to a series of battles between them from the early 16th century until the start of the 17th century, which saw great loss of men and money. The Koch, another Bodo-Kachari dynasty, established sovereignty in c. It split into two in c. Later, in, Koch Hajo was entirely annexed by the Ahoms. The Ahom Kingdom, c. Kareng ghar, the palace of the Ahom kings. Chutia Royal Palace Bhismanagar ruins. With expansion of Ahom kingdom, by the early 17th century, the Chutiya areas were annexed and since c. The last Chutia queen Sadhani. The Statue of Koch king Jagadipendra Narayan. Despite numerous invasions, mostly by the Muslim rulers, no western power ruled Assam until the arrival of the British. Though the Mughals made seventeen attempts to invade, they were never successful. The most successful invader Mir Jumla, a governor of Aurangzeb, briefly occupied Garhgaon c. The decisive victory of the Assamese led by general Lachit Borphukan on the Mughals, then under command of Raja Ram Singha, at Saraighat in almost ended Mughal ambitions in this region. The British allowed companies to rent land from onwards. Thereafter tea plantations mushroomed in Eastern Assam, [27] where the soil and the climate were most suitable. Problems with the imported labourers from China and hostility from native Assamese resulted in the migration of forced labourers from central and eastern parts of India. After initial trial and error with planting the Chinese and the Assamese-Chinese hybrid varieties, the planters later accepted the local *Camellia assamica* as the most suitable variety for Assam. By the s, the industry started seeing some profits. The industry saw initial growth, when in, investors were allowed to own land in Assam and it saw substantial progress with invention of new technologies and machinery for preparing processed tea during the s. Despite the commercial success, tea labourers continued to be exploited,[clarification needed] working and living under poor conditions. The rebellion was suppressed but the kingdom was severely weakened by the civil war. Political rivalry between Prime Minister Purnananda Burhagohain and Badan Chandra Borphukan, the Ahom Viceroy of Western Assam, led to an invitation to the Burmese by the latter, [29] [30] [31] [32] in turn leading to three successive Burmese invasions of Assam. The reigning monarch Chandrakanta Singha tried to check the Burmese invaders but he was defeated after fierce resistance. The arrangement lasted till and thereafter the British gradually annexed the entire region. In, a legislative council and, in, the Assam Legislative Assembly, were formed in Shillong, the erstwhile capital of the region. The British tea planters imported labour from central India adding to the demographic canvas. It was incorporated into the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam in after the partition of Bengal AD and re-established in as Assam Province. Assam Province was one among major eight provinces of British India. The table below shows the major original provinces during British India covering the Assam Province under the Administrative Office of the Chief Commissioner. The

following table lists their areas and populations. It does not include those of the dependent Native States:

Agricultural Development In Assam 1st Edition Assam wikipedia, assam and adjoining regions have evidences of human settlements from all the periods of the stone age the hills at the height of.

Das During the course of the preparation of the Seventh Five-year Plan for the State of Assam in , this author 1 carried out considerable research with the objective of unraveling the basic facts regarding the development process in Assam during the preceding decades. This fact now appears obvious and is often quoted by economists, politicians and social activists. However, this initiative was never followed up and nothing at all was done to provide the level of investment required to increase the rate of economic development in the State, as postulated by the model. Meanwhile, insurgency and other problems of a political nature progressively complicated the scenario and governmental attention was consequently diverted to other aspects of the canvas. In the post phase, a re-working 4 of the time series of PCI at constant prices indicated that there were no basic changes in the trends witnessed earlier. In , for example, while Assam had a per capita income of Rs. The highest of all States was Delhi, at Rs. The value of HDI for India worked out to be 0. According to Planning Commission estimates, only This shows that poverty in Assam is worse than the average of all the States in India. The more unfortunate fact in this context is that there has not been any considerable improvement over the years, with the absolute number of people below the poverty line increasing consistently. No revised percentages for urban and combined BPL families were made in this estimate. Emaciated bodies and an anemic look, protruding bellies and thin limbs, worn out clothes and dilapidated shelters, are all common indicators of deprivation. Available figures indicate that the scenario has clearly deteriorated since Independence. Figures of infant and maternal mortality, life expectancy at birth, availability of safe drinking water and access to sanitation facilities, underweight children with stunted growth etc. The funds available for relief and rehabilitation are so meager that it becomes impossible to neutralize the losses. No official figures for Nagaland were available. These figures indicate that all States of the Northeastern region are placed below the national average in per capita income. Even in the context of the other indicators of economic and social well being, the seven States of the Northeastern region are worse off than most major States and in comparison with the national average. Only with respect to literacy is the situation different. In the other six States, literacy alone would push their HDI higher than that of Assam and probably marginally higher than the national average. We look at the Centre-State relationship also in this perspective. Balanced all-round development, irrespective of the resource capabilities of the units has been one of the major objectives of our plan. Furthermore, disparities have accentuated especially after economic reforms were initiated in the s and no compensatory steps appear to have been undertaken by the Central government thus far. It is also noteworthy that throughout the planning process, the per capita plan expenditure in Assam up to the sixth Five-Year Plan, was lower than the national average except for the odd years when it was marginally higher than the national average. It was only in the aftermath of the Seventh Plan that the expenditure increased marginally. The scenario was better in the context of the other States of the region. To quote the former Prime Minister Deve Gowda, "Assam was in the forefront of the economic development of the country years ago. It was a pioneering State and enterprising entrepreneurs invested in the development of tea-plantations, oil, coal mining, forestry, railways and inland waterways. However, in the recent years investors have shunned these areas, because some of these States turned inward looking, while others have been afflicted by militancy and terrorism. This has set in a vicious cycle of terrorism, discouraging investments and economic development, leading to growing unemployment, which in turn provided recruits to militancy. These projects were identified and State-wise lists were appended to the statement. The emotional involvement in the issues of development among all sections of the populace of these States was brought out very clearly by L C Jain in his report on clause seven of the Assam Accord. The report, in the very first paragraph, said: This magnitude of popular awareness and interest in development is a rare social force. Constructively used, it can be the most precious capital for the development of Assam. One principal study was that of the High Level Commission appointed by the Planning Commission in under the Chairmanship of

S P Shukla, Member, Planning Commission, to critically examine the backlog in respect of the basic minimum services and gaps in the infrastructural sectors essential for the development of the Northeastern States. In their report, the Commission observed that there was a "two way deficit of understanding with the rest of the country" and that "the development of the tranquility in the Northeast is also a national security interest and can offer regional solutions to national problems. It is right not to want to be swamped by Indians from outside the region, even less by an influx of foreigners. Violence, insurgency and easy money are no solution to any problem, real or imagined. These eruptions and the bandhs, extortion, kidnappings, leakage, and the sulking and cynical indifference they have engendered in sections of the populace, can only delay and could even deny the peace, progress and prosperity that everybody seeks. Funds also flowed to the States through regular schemes and programmes, particularly for rural development, in addition to the other funds under the annual plans. But in every State of the Northeastern region, a plethora of allegations and complaints have surfaced regarding the misuse of funds and rampant corruption. The ground level reality also does not indicate any significant and effectual developmental activity. One use of such diverted funds can be discerned in the exponential increase in the construction and luxury businesses, particularly in urban areas. According to a recent survey made by the Federation of Industries and Commerce of the Northeastern Region FINER, in Guwahati city alone multi-storied buildings, which house residential and commercial apartments, have emerged during the period. These involved an investment of Rs. The FINER survey also found that 40 new restaurants, besides the ones that are part of the larger hotels, had come up in Guwahati during the same period. The FINER survey also indicates that "sectors like transportation, hotels, tourism, greeting cards, health-care, courier services, travel agencies and computer education are growing at a phenomenal pace in Assam in the last three-four years. Although there are varying estimates, substantial amounts of funds have also been accruing to the insurgents during the past 15 years or so. The channels through which these funds flow are well known. In the past, many central leaders had warned the State governments of the region against such payments to insurgent organisations. On June 14, , the Union Rural Development Minister, Venkiah Naidu, consequent to a meeting of the Rural Development Ministers of the Northeastern States at Shillong, warned that "the Centre would stop disbursing rural development funds to those States, where a bulk of the funds go to the coffers of the extremist outfits. In fact, the individual level payments are also reckoned to be on the higher side. One tea company, for example, was found to have paid Rs. Another tea company had shown Rs. The insurgent outfits demand and extract smaller amounts from various small businessmen as also corrupt government personnel. Furthermore, increasing security-related expenditure has crucially constricted available levels of development finance with the various State governments of the Northeastern region. A recent report of a committee on Integrated Rural Development Programme IRDP in the Northeastern States also mentioned "an upsurge in insurgency in Assam" as responsible for "practically no developmental activities in rural areas" and a simultaneous "flight of capital from the rural areas to urban areas as the former were less secured than the latter. The general belief that insurgency is fuelled by economic backwardness, therefore, has some basis. But it would be totally inappropriate to assume that there is a direct linkage between insurgency and economic backwardness. Yet it constitutes a most important element in that task and an effective entry point for dealing with complex problems and historical neglect, rapid transition and social change. The extra ordinary ethno-geographic and bio-geographic diversity of the Region precludes uniform solutions as different communities are at varying stages of growth. More than 70 per cent of these are educated. These unemployed youth, to a large extent, also provide the reservoir of manpower from which the various insurgent outfits easily recruit their cadres. Furthermore, there also exists the added attraction of the employment and rehabilitation packages in the context of certain ill-considered surrender policies. The outfits later gained strength primarily through clandestine support networks of politicians and over-ground front organisations, as also with the ill-gotten monies acquired mainly through extortion. The former Assam Governor D D Thakur described it as "one of the classic examples of culpable inaction on the part of a State government. It needs to be noted that economic backwardness is one of the significant causes fuelling insurgency in the Northeastern region, although it is not the sole cause and nor can it be said that insurgency is the consequence of the lack of economic development. In the larger canvas of the attempts being made to

achieve material progress, it is also true that rampant corruption in the bureaucracy and the political class manning the delivery system stands as a stumbling block. In such a milieu, the only plausible option is to secure the efficacious participation of the populace at all levels and particularly through the Panchayati Raj and urban local government institutions and carry out all development work through these institutions. H N Das retired as Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam in February and is currently involved in research and writing on issues concerning the Northeast region. He has written extensively on issues of energy, the tea industry, and socio-economic development. He has published two books on disaster management and the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh. This research investigation was undertaken with the able assistance of his colleagues Dr. N K Barua and Mr. The author commenced re-work on the model on his retirement from service in National Institute of Rural Development, September The Road of Human Development, , Paris: Oxford University Press, Planning Commission Minutes, unpublished. Quoted while announcing the famous package for the Northeastern region after his seven-day tour of the seven States of the region in a press statement on October 27, Venkaiah", Sentinel, June 15, Operation Bajrang was conducted between September and April Terror by Another Name," Faultlines:

Chapter 3 : Agricultural Development In Assam - Mittal Publications

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See Article History Assam, state of India. It is located in the northeastern part of the country and is bounded to the north by the kingdom of Bhutan and the state of Arunachal Pradesh , to the east by the states of Nagaland and Manipur , to the south by the states of Mizoram and Tripura , and to the west by Bangladesh and the states of Meghalaya and West Bengal. The capital, formerly Shillong now the capital of Meghalaya , was shifted to Dispur , a suburb of Guwahati , in Area 30, square miles 78, square km. Land Relief and drainage Assam, which is shaped roughly like a Y laid on its side, is a land of plains and river valleys. The state has three principal physical regions: Of those regions, the Brahmaputra River valley is the largest. According to Hindu mythology, the Brahmaputra rises as the son of the god Brahma from a sacred pool known as the Brahmakund, in neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh. The river enters Assam near Sadiya in the extreme northeast and runs westward through the length of Assam for nearly miles km before turning south to enter the plains of Bangladesh. Studded with low, isolated hills and ridges that rise abruptly from the plain, the valley is rarely more than 50 miles 80 km wide and is surrounded on all sides, except on the west, by mountains. Numerous streams and rivulets that flow from the neighbouring hills empty into the Brahmaputra. Geologically, the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys lie on ancient alluvial sediments, which themselves cover a variety of deposits from the Neogene and Paleogene periods i. Among those deposits are hard sandstone , soft and loose sand, conglomerates, coal seams, shales , sandy clays , and limestone. Isolated from the main plateau by the embayments of the Kepili River, the upland there displays a rugged topography. It generally has a northerly slope, with average elevations ranging from about 1, feet metres to about 3, feet 1, metres. Roughly between the Brahmaputra valley and the south-central hill region are the northern ranges, which extend northeastward from Dabaka east of Dispur to Bokakhat in east-central Assam. The Rengma Hills to the south of the ridge average about 3, feet metres. Their most prominent peak is Chenghehishon 4, feet [1, metres]. Earthquakes are common in Assam. Among the most severe are those recorded in , with the Shillong Plateau as the epicentre; in , with Dhuburi as the epicentre; and in , with Zayu Rima in Tibet at the Arunachal Pradesh border as the epicentre. It created heavy landslides that blocked the courses of many hill streams. The floods that followed the bursting of those earthquake-generated dams caused more loss of life and property than the earthquake itself. The cool season generally lasts from October to February and is marked by fogs and brief showers. The state escapes the normal Indian hot, dry season. Although some rain occurs from March through May, the heaviest precipitation comes with the southwest monsoon , which arrives in June, stays through September, and often causes widespread and destructive flooding. Annual rainfall in Assam is not only the highest in the country but also ranks among the highest in the world; its annual average varies from about 70 inches 1, mm in the west to more than inches 3, mm in the east. In the early 21st century about one-third of Assam was covered with various types of woodlands, including tropical evergreen and deciduous forests, broad-leaved hill forests, pine forests, and swamp forests, as well as grasslands. Assam is home to some 75 species of trees, many of which have commercial value. Sal Shorea robusta and hollong Dipterocarpus rhetusus trees are among the most bountiful of the hardwoods. Bamboo, orchids, and ferns also are abundant. Both are refuges for the fast-disappearing Indian one-horned rhinoceros, and the sanctuary at Manas is known especially for its tigers and leopards. Common birds include cormorants, herons, ducks, and other water birds, as well as warblers, thrushes, owls, and peacocks. Hornbills are characteristic of Assam, although they are endangered in some areas. The state also has dozens of species of reptiles, including poisonous snakes, such as kraits, cobras, and vipers; an array of lizards, skinks, and geckos; and many types of turtles. People Population composition The people of the plains of the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys are mainly of Indo-Iranian ancestry. By the time of their arrival in the region, however, the local Aryan peoples had become intermixed with Asiatic peoples. The Ahom people, who arrived in the region from mainland Southeast Asia during the

13th century, ultimately stem from Yunnan province of southern China. A significant minority of the population consists of rural indigenous peoples who fall outside the Indian caste system; as such, they are officially designated as Scheduled Tribes. The Boro constitute the largest of these groups. Most of the Scheduled Tribes live in the south-central hill region and are of Asiatic descent. Assamese, an Indo-Aryan language, is the official and principal language of the state, and an unbroken record of Assamese literary history is traceable from the 14th century. Tibeto-Burman languages are spoken by most of the Scheduled Tribes, although the Khasi people speak an Austroasiatic tongue; some groups have adopted Assamese as their first language. The people in the Barak valley in southern Assam mostly speak Bengali also called Bangla, which, like Assamese, is an Indo-Aryan language. About two-thirds of the Assamese are Hindus, the majority of whom follow Vaishnavism, which venerates the deity Vishnu. Roughly one-fourth of the population practices Islam, most Muslims being settlers from Bangladesh or converts from the lower strata of Hindu society. Although many of the Scheduled Tribes have converted to Christianity, some continue to practice traditional local religions; the Mikir and Kachari peoples are mostly Hindus. Shaiva temple in Sibsagar, Assam, India. The distribution of population is uneven, however, reflecting the hilly terrain, the number of rivers, the forests, the small amount of cultivable land, and the lack of industrialization. The agricultural zone of the Barak River valley supports relatively dense settlement. Since the late 20th century, population growth has been unusually rapid, mostly due to immigration into Assam of tea garden labourers, herders from Nepal, Muslims from West Bengal, and refugees from Bangladesh. In the early 21st century Guwahati had the most significant urban population. Aerial view of Guwahati, Assam, India. Rice accounts for more than two-thirds of the sown area. Tea and jute, widely cultivated in the Brahmaputra valley, are important foreign-exchange earners. Other crops include oilseeds, pulses legumes, such as peas, beans, or lentils, corn maize, sugarcane, rape an oil-yielding plant, the leaves of which are used for fodder, mustard, potatoes, and fruits. Through improved cultivation methods, some farms yield more than one crop per year. Livestock and dairy farming have shown moderate growth since the late 20th century, largely promoted by the government. Sericulture raising of silk worms, on the other hand, is well established, and Assam is a major producer of silk. In the forestry sector, sal and other tropical hardwoods are highly valued. Aside from timber, important forest products include bamboo, firewood, and lac the source of shellac. Aquaculture has been a major focus of agricultural development since the mids, and yields have increased. Overall yield, however, has continued to fall short of domestic demand. Resources and power Minerals exploited commercially in the state include petroleum, coal, natural gas, and limestone. Since the late 19th century, extensive oil reserves have been discovered in northeastern Assam. A refinery, built in the region in at Digboi, was the first in South Asia. Later, another refinery was established in Guwahati in the west-central part of the state. Coal is used locally by the railways, tea estates, and steamships is also found in northeastern and south-central Assam. Liquefied natural gas is produced in the northeast, and limestone is quarried in the Mikir Hills. Small-scale industrial enterprises produce or process fertilizer, jute, paper, silk and textiles, sugar, chemicals, electronics, and cement. Sawmills and plywood and match factories make use of timber resources. Transportation Historically, geography has inhibited the growth of efficient transport systems, and underdeveloped transport and communication systems have in turn hindered economic development in Assam. The Brahmaputra, for example, long has been a major barrier to integrating the transportation networks lying north and south of the river. The situation improved, however, with the opening of several rail and road bridges since the late 20th century. Numerous passenger ferries operate between various points on the Brahmaputra, and freight service is offered between Guwahati and Kolkata, West Bengal. There is considerable air traffic between Assam and Kolkata. The Guwahati airport offers international service. Government and society Constitutional framework Like most other Indian states, Assam has a governmental structure that is defined by the national constitution of The governor, who is the head of state, is appointed by the president of India and is assisted by a popularly elected unicameral legislature and a Council of Ministers led by a chief minister, who is head of government. The state of Assam comprises about two dozen districts, each of which is administered by a deputy commissioner. Districts are subdivided at several levels, with the village as the smallest administrative unit. The high court at Guwahati has jurisdiction not only over the state of Assam but also over the states of

Nagaland , Meghalaya , Mizoram , Manipur , Tripura , and Arunachal Pradesh through outlying benches. Permanent judges serve until they are a maximum of 62 years old. Short-term judges are appointed to help with periodic backlogs. Education and welfare Education, which is free up to the secondary level, is compulsory for children between the ages of 6 and Assam also has specialized colleges in the arts, sciences, commerce, law, and medicine. Welfare-extension projects, operating through dozens of centres, provide recreational and cultural facilities for women and children. Simplydipu Hariprasanna Das Deryck O. Lodrick

Cultural life The cultural life of Assam is interwoven with the activities of a number of cultural institutions and religious centres, such as the satra seat of a religious head known as the satradhikar and namghar prayer hall. Satras in Assam have been looking after the religious and social well-being of the Hindu population since the 15th century. The Assamese people observe all the pan-Indian religious festivals, but their most important celebrations are the three Bihu festivals. Originally agricultural festivals, they are observed with great enthusiasm irrespective of caste , creed, and religious affinity. The Bohag Bihu, celebrated in the spring usually mid-April , marks the commencement of the new year first day of the Bohag or Baishakh month. Also known as Rangoli Bihu from rang, meaning merrymaking and fun , it is accompanied by much dancing and singing. The Magh Bihu, celebrated in mid-January in the month of Magh , is a harvest festival. Known also as Bhogali Bihu from bhog, meaning enjoyment and feasting , it is a time of community feasts and bonfires. The third Bihu festival, the Kati Bihu in mid-October or November , is also called the Kangali Bihu from kangali, meaning poor , because by this time of year the house of an ordinary family is without food grains, as the stock is usually consumed before the next harvest. Weaving is another important aspect of the cultural life of the people of Assam, particularly the women. Nearly every Assamese household, irrespective of caste, creed, and social status , has at least one loom, and most women are expected to be skilled in producing fine silk and cotton cloths. Assamese cuisine is based on rice , a variety of vegetables and fruits, and fish.

Chapter 4 : Assam - Wikipedia

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Its population of 39 million [Census]constitutes 3. Rural Population of It produces only 1. Against this background this paper reviews in brief the current scenario of agriculture, horticulture, irrigation, institutional infrastructure and suggests strategic action plan to accelerate the process of agricultural development during Twelfth Plan. Map of North East India. Agricultural land including fallow is Land is held almost by all. Share of marginal and small farmers is Land distribution is mostly egalitarian rooted in the principle of community way of living and sharing. The productivity of land as compared to its potential is low since NER, according to the latest available statistics, has only 29 soil testing laboratories, NPK consumption is low viz. Nearly five lakh families practice shifting cultivation [jhuming] covering about 2. NER manifests two types of land tenure systems viz. Only in Assam land records system is being computerized. Diverse agro-climatic conditions, varied soil types and abundant rainfall have endowed NER with promising horticulture and value added products that can be marketed within the country and abroad. It receives annual rainfall ranging from 2, mm to 6, mm. The annual water availability of 16, cubic meters per capita and 44, cubic meters per hectare is the highest in the country. Due to high rainfall, NER has inherent advantage to exploit rain-water harvesting. Under MI schemes,irrigation potential of 46, hectares has been created of which 34, hectares [Besides, irrigation potential of 2, 93, hectares under Bharat Nirmanis targeted comprising 1,09, hectares under major and medium irrigation and 1,83, hectares under MI schemes. North Eastern Council [NEC] cautions against intensive exploitation of underground water as hazardous elements have been found at several locations. Strategic planning and implementation is necessary to develop agriculture and make region marginally, if not significantly, surplus in food production by integrating research, extension and education duly supported by a time bound reforms in land tenure system in each State. Harnessing agricultural potential would generate surplus to support the secondary sector,create demand for goods in the rural areas, increase disposable income that could enhance purchasing power of some 33 million people and bring socio-economic development. Private sector participation can provide additional resources and create necessary environment to generate job opportunities, better utilization of resources and enhance credit flow impacting directly on farm sector development. With appropriately defined targets, clear outcomes, strategies and coordinated planning, the NER can become increasingly self-reliant in food output. Effective computer-based monitoring and management information system can facilitate timely implementation of programs with improved quality and service delivery that can avoid cost and time over runs and yield envisioned results. As the land use pattern in the plains and hills is different, significant resources need to be allocated for research and designing separate strategies to improve farm productivity to match requirements of hills and plains. The land productivity as compared to its potential is low except for few pockets in Manipur,Assam and Tripura. Land productivity and farm output can significantly be enhanced through initiating measures, among others, viz. Efforts need to address the social and human aspects of the problem of jhuming and offer alternatives acceptable to the farmers in consultation with the local farming communities. NEPED project raising cash crops and horticulture using forest as alternative to jhuming in Nagaland has proved to be a promising model demonstrating environmental soundness and profitability. This alternative promises success to minimize jhuming by involving farming communities and integrating with timely provision of quality planting material and production inputs, and efficient extension and marketing services. This would also need adequate financial resources to sustain field operations including maintenance for initial five years. Besides, tea, cardamom and rubber plantation can be tried successfully on a pilot basis. The agro-climatic and altitudinal advantage accompanied by the tradition of growing fruits and vegetables should help enhance the productivity and output by formulating a State-specific program on selected fruits and vegetables linking with, among others,supply of planting material, inputs,processing facilities and marketing network. On a priority basis, Small Farmers

Horticulture Estate SFHE can be established on an area of hectares by forming fruit grower-SHG, training them to upgrade their technical and managerial skill and providing credit support. A system has to be put in place that ensures post-harvest handling, assembly, storage, transport packing, processing, credit and modern marketing system for horticulture products in public-private-partnership mode. Floriculture potential available in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim can be exploited on commercial scale through preparing a feasibility studies and action plan. To ensure targeted growth in agriculture, the available water resources need to be fully harnessed to timely irrigate a variety of agricultural, horticultural and plantation crops. NER has significant amount of unexploited irrigation potential, particularly in the Imphal valley of Manipur and in Tripura. Irrigation potential in Tripura can cover 2. Surface irrigation potential in Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Sikkim needs to be exploited since topographical conditions do not favor exploitation of groundwater for irrigation. In view of high rainfall and fragile top soil, an integrated program for water development and soil management is considered necessary. The program should have appropriate institutional mechanism and should mobilize adequate funds to equitably spread the benefits of irrigation. The strategy should focus on [i] framing State-wise water policy [ii] formulating district-wise water management plans [iii] bringing all degraded, rain-fed and wasteland under watershed project [iv] promoting drip and sprinkler irrigation system AIBP: It is necessary to simplify and streamline administrative procedure to speed up land acquisition and timely release of adequate funds to successfully implement Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Program. Suggested flexibility by States include [i] Increasing per hectare project cost in NER and releasing funds in one installment before the working season commences [ii] Tripura, due to inadequate surface flow, is unable to access benefits under AIBP. Detailed evaluation is necessary to assess usefulness of ICAR and SAUs farm researches to farmers, identify deficiencies and reasons why farmers have yet not accepted and benefited and redesign research program involving farmers. ICAR should intensify research on designing small farm implements to meet needs of hills and small farmers. The KVK should act as a change agent to transfer technology, extension services, market- information, impart skill and management up-gradation training and agent for social mobilization. Their performance should be critically evaluated after two years and more KVKs be considered duly redesigned to match emerging local needs. Enabling product and area specific rural infrastructure should be created to add value to horticultural products, viz. While ADCs strive for preservation of tribal identity and heritage, Village Councils act as administrator, justice provider and custodian of land and other resources. Nagaland and Tripura have utilized these institutions to large extent. Participation of these institutions for decentralized development is *asine qua non*. The District Infrastructure Index of NE states issued on September 24, should help Autonomous District Councils responsible for development to optimally utilize the already created infrastructure and plan and place in time the required infrastructure for farm development in concerned districts. The status of women in NER is relatively better than in many other States. Despite women actively participate in economic activities, particularly in the hill areas their participation in decision-making process is low. Even in many tribal societies, social system and certain customary laws smack of gender discrimination. Provision of micro-credit would help SHGs develop micro-enterprises of women that would give even the poorer section among them economic strength. North Eastern Regional Agriculture Marketing Corporation needs to be strengthened financially, organizationally and professionally in consultation with the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing that can facilitate processing, marketing and establishing a network of common facility centers in each State. As on March , Commercial Banks had 1, branches. Since banks have a significant role as a catalyst to accelerate the process of agricultural development in NER they should be pro-active and make financial services available to farmers by establishing branches at strategic locations and through technology applications. In a time bound program, they can provide Kisan Credit Cards to all farmers and where necessary link with insurance companies to facilitate farmers access insurance products. They can design simple borrower-friendly lending policy, procedure, documentation and customized and flexible financial products that match needs of farmers in NER rather than one-fits-all for the country as a whole. The factors responsible for low performance as compared to targeted include, *inter alia*, difficult topography, sparse population settlements, inadequate infrastructure, discouraging land tenure system, lack of agricultural entrepreneurship, massive amount of grants

and subsidies under Government programs, and law and order conditions in some parts State Governments should create enabling environment that can improve credit absorption capacity of farmers and geographical areas, accelerate flow of credit and loan recovery simultaneously. Let the year be fully devoted to create awareness on farm technology that should motivate farmers to adopt technology and substantially raise farm productivity and output during the Twelfth Plan. Farmer-SHG's should become empowered group of farmers to exert pressure on elected representatives right from villages to parliament and Rajya Sabha for strategic planning and implementation of agricultural development projects to yield results envisioned in Vision during the Twelfth Plan.

Chapter 5 : Insurgency and Development: The Assam Experience - H. N. Das

Agricultural development problems and economic development problems go hand-in-hand in Assam. Thus, while most of the development problems discussed below are agriculture-related, some of these are also related to the economic development problems in Assam.

Other Scheduled Commercial Banks Business Business in Assam is mainly related to the silk and tea that are produced here in large quantity. There is a large amount of revenue and investment involved in the business related to packaging and production of these two items. Assam is very famous for its tea. A large quantity of Assam Tea is exported abroad. This business in turn earns a lot of revenue for the state. Assamese tea is famous world wide for its wonderful flavor and taste. This wing of the state government wants to promote the idea of commercially producing fish in almost all the water bodies in the state. The mission of the fisheries department in Assam is to ensure a stable income from the fish market. They also want to restore indigenous species of fish in the state. They are planning to produce fish of such quality so that the state production can compete with the imported ones. In such cases they will have to consider the cost of production as well.

Forestry Forestry in Assam is one of the most important economic activities of the state. This has been possible due to the vast stretch of forests in Assam. A total area of 26, As a result about Thus a variety of flora and fauna are available in the state. The State Forest Department is also considering social forestry in Assam very seriously. Their main objective is to enhance afforestation in the residential areas of the Indian state of Assam. The number of seedlings planted in order to promote this scheme was Industries The tea Industry in Assam is one of the internationally renowned sectors. However, apart from this there are many different industrial activities too going on in the state. The state government is looking forward to more development in this sector as a result of the implementation of certain schemes that were recently designed. Since the state is blessed with natural resources so their proper exploitation is now the main aim of the state government. The Industries and Commerce Department of the state is trying to overcome all the hurdles and promote a right industrial climate in the state. There are about 12 industrial estates under this department in Assam. Mineral and Energies Minerals and Energy Assam play an important role in the industrial development of the state. The mineral resource of Assam is very rich. The diversity in the flora of the state has made it possible. Due to this richness of resource the state is expected to flourish very well in the industrial field. The energy sources of Assam are mainly the rivers and lakes. This is also one of the basic facts behind the expected industrial boom in the state. The tenth five-year plan has been designed to productively exploit the wealth that is present in the state. Last Updated on 10 January

Chapter 6 : Agriculture in North East India - Article

2 Report of the Task Force on Agricultural Development in Assam Agriculture in Assam The economy of Assam is mainly agrarian with agriculture and allied activities.

The renewed interest in land issues stems from the perceived impact of liberalization and opening up the economy. Tenancy, land ceiling and land administration are being revisited with a new perspective. Among the issues under renewed focus, legalizing tenancy, revising the ceiling limits, quality of land, meeting the challenge of miniscule holdings that are a consequence of marginalization and land administration are dominating the debate. This paper looks at these issues. It sets a background to the emergence of land policy in India from pre-Independence and, after tracing it through various phases, maps out the impacts and emerging challenges. After an analysis of the development of land policy over various planning periods, the issues at stake during the s are reviewed. Finally a case is made for a new land-policy framework that includes reforms to the maintenance of land records, deals with concealed tenancy and non-viable land holdings, and the problem of land quality. These issues have assumed greater importance in the current economic transition in rural areas. The peasants of the country strongly backed the independence movement and the "Land to the Tiller" policy of the Congress Party because of the prevailing agrarian conditions. The agrarian structure during British administration emerged with a strong historical background Baden Powel, ; Dutt, ; Appu, This method incorporated measurement, classification and fixation of rent as its main components. Under the various pre- British regimes, land revenues collected by the state confirmed its right to land produce, and that it was the sole owner of the land. British rulers took a cue from this system and allowed the existence of noncultivating intermediaries. The existence of these parasitic intermediaries served as an economic instrument to extract high revenues Dutt, as well as sustaining the political hold on the country. Thus at the time of Independence the agrarian structure was characterized by parasitic, rent-seeking intermediaries, different land revenue and ownership systems across regions, small numbers of land holders holding a large share of the land, a high density of tenant cultivators, many of whom had insecure tenancy, and exploitative production relations Appu, Kumarappa a senior Congress leader , was appointed to look into the problem of land. A substantial volume of legislation was adopted, much of it flawed and little of it seriously implemented. Several important issues confronted the policy-makers. Land was concentrated in the hands of a few and there was a proliferation of intermediaries who had no vested interest in self-cultivation. Leasing out land was a common practice. The tenancy contracts were expropriative in nature and tenant exploitation was ubiquitous. Land records were in extremely bad shape giving rise to a mass of litigation. It is ironic that the Supreme Court of India in commented that the revenue records are not legal documents of title Wadhwa, This is a sad commentary on the land records of the country. It is against this background that land policy has been shaped in India. While land-reform legislation remained active, land policies in more recent decades have focused less on land reform and more on land development and administration. Land policy in India has undergone broadly four phases since Independence. The first and longest phase - 72 consisted of land reforms that included three major efforts: The abolition of intermediaries was relatively successful, but tenancy reform and land ceilings met with less success. The second phase - 85 shifted attention to bringing uncultivated land under cultivation. A central government Waste land Development Agency was established to focus on wasteland and degraded land. Some of the land policy from this phase continued beyond its final year. The fourth and current phase of policy onwards centres on debates about the necessity to continue with land legislation and efforts to improve land revenue administration and, in particular, clarity in land records. This paper is an attempt to discuss the critical issues pertaining to land policy in India beginning with the emergence of a post-Independence policy in a historical context, and from a viewpoint of differential provincial policies. Naturally, land reforms predominate the discussion here. Land reforms have been one of the important land policy initiatives in India that have brought a fundamental change in the entire approach towards development. The paper discusses the impact of land reforms and the changing phases of land administration. It also addresses the political and economic aspects of the policy initiatives, beginning with the various land-reform efforts and finally analysing

the recent land development and administration policies. The paper incorporates a discussion on the closely related goals of land policy, i. In the final analysis, the paper highlights current issues pertaining to the relationships among land policy, poverty and the development initiatives. Throughout much of the country, the rulers appointed Zamindars, or tax collectors, who were contracted to collect land revenue for a given large territory and pay fixed sums to the government but often extracted as much as they could from the landholders and pocketed the difference. Though tenorial conditions varied significantly from region to region, the numerous tenures could be classified under two broad categories - the Zamindari and Rayatwari systems. The Zamindari system was characterized by one or more layers of proprietary rights between the state and the actual landholder. In the Rayatwari or peasant proprietorship system, no intermediaries existed in design but emerged in the process. The British rulers continued with existing land-revenue policies and procedures with a few but significant modifications. Perhaps most importantly, the British made the tax-collecting Zamindars into proprietors of the estates over which they had tax collection duties. This change was aimed at accomplishing two objectives: Unfortunately, it converted the erstwhile landowners into insecure tenants. Over time, many Zamindars assigned their land-revenue collection duties to one or more layers of intermediaries who were also given interests in the land. The historical emergence and perpetuation of intermediaries served the purpose of land revenue administration and political control of the successive rulers, but their numbers swelled. The large patches of land held by them were let to tenants at exorbitantly high rents. That created a disincentive among the tenant cultivators to develop the land, and consequently impacted upon production. Thus, the Colonial Government, out of its interest to administer the country effectively, did not make any substantial changes in the land-revenue system but promoted the class of non-cultivating intermediaries. At the time of Independence, India faced a major challenge of setting right the agrarian structure as promised during the independence struggle. Thorner and Thorner, in an analysis of the agrarian structure of India, vividly describe the pre-Independence structure as a complex of legal, economic and social relations - a multilayered structure that pulled down the production efficiency in the agricultural sector. A brief review of the literature also reveals a myriad of agrarian relations in India, varying from peasant proprietorship to a pure landlord - serf relationship Joshi, ; Ladejinsky, The first task placed before the first Indian parliament was to address land policy. Because India has a densely populated agrarian economy, almost all other developmental initiatives also involved land as a central and a complex issue, as it clearly represented social status and not just the means of production. While recognizing the need to bring about land reforms in the country, the Constitution of India provided under Article 39 that: The Constitution of India also made land a state provincial subject. So, only state provincial legislatures have the power to enact and implement land-reform laws. However, the central government played a significant advisory and financial role in land policy based on its constitutional role in social and economic planning a role held concurrently with the states. The Government of India established a National Planning Commission immediately after Independence to fulfil this role of social and economic planning. Land policy has been one of the important components incorporated in all the plans. The policy statements are sometimes quite explicit in the plan documents, but are more often implicitly stated. An overview of changes in the land policy as reflected through the various plan documents is given in Table 1. Land reform policy was spelt out in the First Five-Year Plan. The plan aimed to reduce disparities in income and wealth, to eliminate exploitation and to provide security to tenants, as well as to achieve social transformation through equality of status and an opportunity for different sections of the population to participate in development initiatives. Community development CD networks to take care of the village commons. Vast uncultivated lands locked under large sizes of holdings. Land reforms to bring in the fallow under cultivation and increase land use efficiency. Tenant to be given the rights to cultivate land. Second Plan - 61 Concern about vast rainfed agriculture, low land productivity and thrust on irrigated agriculture. Soil conservation as an important programme. First phase of land reform implementation. Irrigation development for the rainfed areas. Training and extension work for the technology through CD. Third Plan - 66 Food security concern dominated. Cultivable waste land to be brought under cultivation. Bringing the lagging regions under mainstream growth. Area development as an approach. Intensive area development programme adopted for selected districts. An integrated land policy approach was inherent. Soil

surveys were taken up. Fourth Plan - 74 Emphasis on food security continued as minimum dietary requirements to be met. Incentives were created for diversion of land towards food crops and enhancing the capacity of such land. Domination of large holding sizes and low allocation and technical efficiency. Increased emphasis on irrigation and soil conservation in dryland regions and technological change introduced. Higher cropping intensity the main concern. Second phase of land reforms with land ceiling acts and consolidation of holding. Institutional changes brought in. Fifth Plan - 79 Problems of degradation land management in irrigated command areas surfaced. Drought-prone areas attracted attention. Desert area development programmes, and soil conservation started and further enhanced. New impetus to dry farming. Sixth Plan - 85 Underutilization of land resources. Drought-prone areas continued to attract attention. Attention lagging areas on the background of green revolution required cultivation. Land and water management programme under drought-prone area programme in selected areas.

Chapter 7 : A Selected Bibliography on Assam and the Assamese

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The Agricultural Sector in Assam: Introduction While most other states in India are gradually moving away from their traditional agriculture-based economy toward industry or service-oriented economy, Assam is still heavily dependent on the agricultural sector. Compared to most other states in India, Assam is considered a less developed state, which depicts a gloomy picture the economic condition of the state given that India is considered a less developed country LDC. While the socio-political problems afflicting the state since the last few decades are partly to blame for a lack of conducive environment for economic development of the state, particularly in industry or service-oriented areas, there are various economic reasons e. In terms of the state domestic product SDP , the agriculture sector contributed over 38 percent of the state income in Agricultural Census data Economic Survey of Assam, shows that total land under cultivation was 2. The average size of land holding including non-cultivable land per household was only 1. Such fragmentation occurred due to two principal factors: Numerous studies have shown that small and fragmented land holdings are one of the principal causes of low productivity because such land holdings do not facilitate economic and efficient use of modern technology e. Assam is far behind in the use of modern agricultural technology to improve its agricultural productivity compared to the rest of the country. For example, the agricultural productivity index for Assam was in compared to for India. Another problem of land fragmentation is the hidden unemployment or underemployment which understates the true unemployment level in the state. Assam produces both food and cash crops. The principal food crops produced in the state are rice paddy , maize corn , pulses, potato, wheat, etc. Although rice is the most important and staple crop of Assam, its productivity over the years has not increased while other crops have seen a slight rise in both productivity and land acreage. For example, while rice yield per hectare in was 1, kgs compared to 1, kgs in , wheat yield jumped almost three-fold from kgs per hectare in to 1, kgs in A similar increase was observed in jute, sugarcane, potato, and rape and mustard. Tea is the most important cash crop in Assam and the state is well known world-wide for its tea. The total land area under tea cultivation gardens was estimated at over , hectares in , employing an average of over half-a-million people per day. However, the exploitation of both precious land and laborers employees by the tea companies, most of which are either foreign-owned non-Indian or owned by Indian conglomerates e. Continuing to rely on the seasonal monsoon for the necessary water for cultivation is another characteristic of farming in Assam. As a result, potential exists for severe crop failure and consequent economic disaster. To avert such possible catastrophe, it will be necessary to equip the state with irrigation facilities, perhaps in selected areas first, due to the cost factor. Main Problems of Agricultural Development in Assam Agricultural development problems and economic development problems go hand-in-hand in Assam. Thus, while most of the development problems discussed below are agriculture-related, some of these are also related to the economic development problems in Assam. In addition to some of the major problems already discussed in Section I above thus will not be repeated here , such as land fragmentation, lack of modern technology, or continued reliance on rain for irrigation, there are several other problems that hinder the development of agricultural sector in Assam. Identification of such problems should facilitate finding their remedial measures. Floods and dry spells are the principal natural disasters faced by farmers in Assam every year. The principal source of floods is the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries. Although it has been decades since the proposal to dredge the Brahmaputra came out, its progress and impacts are unknown. The loss of crop, livestock, house, cultivable land, and human lives are common during the yearly flood, which also takes a toll on human spirit. It is estimated that such yearly losses amount to millions of rupees. Although current estimates of losses from these annual floods are not available, it cost over Rs. At that rate, such losses for the floods would be a conservative Rs. The question, then, is whether dredging in selected areas is beneficial, i. If the answer is yes, then it is time to put the dredging plan into action. As a result, borrowing from unscrupulous lenders, who are not regulated by the state, at an extremely high interest rate is common in the state. Tragically, In many

instances some borrowers lose their livelihood, i. Although the amount of commercial loan for agricultural purposes was over Rs. In , commercial banks spent only 40 percent of their agricultural-loan budget. Their main reasons for refusing agricultural loans was a lack of necessary collateral, mostly in the form of land. A lack of proper land inheritance documentation and a lack of adequate amount of land due to land fragmentation were two of the main reason for lack of collateral among many farmers in Assam. To fill the void left by commercial banks, the Integrated Rural Development Program IRDP was designed to assist rural farming families with loans to expand and improve their agricultural production as well as to explore alternative avenues to increase income used over Rs. However, the need for agricultural loan remains largely unfulfilled in Assam. Agricultural markets in Assam are under-developed. Geographical isolation, weak transportation and communication systems, poor marketing facilities, poor or non-existent market intelligence e. In terms of the role of government, earlier studies have shown that government efforts are more focused on collecting revenue in the form of tax in the daily or weekly markets or through check-gates than facilitating the marketing of agricultural products in Assam Bhuyan, ; Bhuyan, et al. The Assam government started allocating funds specifically for research and development only since the sixth five-year plan , with an amount equal to 0. It is encouraging to note that such outlays were increased to 0. Although the intent of land reform may have been to distribute land to all eligible landless citizens of the state, it resulted in increased land fragmentation, discouraged use of modern and efficient production technology, and increased bureaucracy and corruption. It is perhaps timely to examine the real impact of land reform in last few decades in terms of its effects on the growth and development of the agricultural sector in the state. Lack of education, ignorance about the changing economic conditions, out-dated thinking, prejudiced cultural values, disturbed law and order situation, and lack of scrupulous legislative and administrative machinery are some of the principal non-economic factors that hinder agricultural development in Assam. While the first four factors are mostly socio-cultural, which may take time to change for the better, the later two factors are mostly political. All these factors adversely affect agricultural as well as economic development of the state. Political and administrative instabilities not only create an unstable economic environment which scare away entrepreneurial skills, capital necessary for growth, and induce brain-drain, they also adversely affect socio-economic infrastructure, such as education, intellectual thinking, social and family structure. Obviously, the on-going political unrest in Assam since the late s is not helping the agricultural sector or the economy of Assam. Concluding Remarks Reflecting the characteristics of a typical, less-developed economy, the economy of Assam is acutely dependent on the agricultural sector. Various economic as well as socio-political factors are responsible for the continued lack of growth and development of this sector. Amidst continued problems, there is hope for the future. There is potential for agri-food industries that use primary agricultural products as their raw materials, e. Such growth in the secondary and related tertiary sectors e. In a market economy, private entrepreneurs generally would take the initiative to establish such secondary and tertiary industries, supported by commercial credit sources. However, a lack of entrepreneurial and managerial talent, a lack of adequate capital, poor economic infrastructures, government bureaucracy, and continued political-administrative unrest would discourage any would-be investor. It can be argued that the state should step in to fill the gap which is left unfulfilled by the private sector. However, given the poor performance of state-owned enterprises, the strategy of government involvement in business must be changed. For instance, instead of ownership and management of businesses using state-run corporations, joint ventures with private, including foreign, investors may be economically beneficial. It is beyond the scope of this article to discuss the impact of government intervention in and management of price and quantity. Any text book in intermediate microeconomics should provide a glimpse of the problem. For more detail, see Knutson, Penn, and Flinchbaugh Although this book is about government intervention in the U. AState intervention in agricultural marketing: Agricultural Marketing, 33, 1 April An efficiency test of traditional and regulated markets based on evidence from Assam, India. Axomor arthanitir ruprekha The Economy of Assam. Penn, and Barry L. Agricultural and Food Policy. Upper Saddle River, NJ, Axomor arthaniti, The Economy of Assam,

The Assam economy and development depend on the production of the state. The economy is prevalently agrarian in nature. The government makes continuous efforts to develop the already existing.

Chapter 9 : Rashtria Krishi Vikash Yojana, Assam. Department of Agriculture, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati

This research brought out, for the first time, that (1) during the entire period of planned development, the PCI of Assam grew at a much slower rate compared to the average per capita income of India, and, (2) at constant prices, Assam's PCI was Rs. higher in than the average per capita income of India.