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SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF TWELVE VILLAGES IN TANGAIL DISTRICT

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SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF TWELVE VILLAGES IN TANGAIL DISTRICT

Summary

1. The Tangail Agricultural Development Project (TADP) has assigned the BSERT research team with the task of collecting area based benchmark data reflecting the project's ex-ante situation. The first step in this direction is the submission of an over view report on the socio-economic characteristics of twelve selected villages.
2. A rapid rural appraisal method was used to gather information on the general socioeconomic characteristics of these villages. Data were collected on a single visit basis from groups of villagers assembled at a pre-arranged meeting place in each village. Thus the statistics quoted in this report should be taken merely as a rough indication of the situation in the areas concerned and not as accurate data in the strict sense of the term.
3. The twelve villages in four Upazillas of the Tangail district selected by the TADP for the purpose of this study are the following:

Upazilla

Madhupur

Village

1. Pirojpur
2. Mohammadpur
3. Bolia Bari

Part of the village falls under Mirzapur Upazilla.

<u>Upazilla</u>	<u>Village</u>
Ghatail	4. Egarokahonia
	5. Bara Medha
	6. Beara
	7. Fulmali Chala
Bashail	8. Balina
	9. Habla Bilpara
Sakhipur	10. Bara Chowma
	11. Shapia Chala
Sakhipur/Mirzapur	12. Inat Kha Chala*

4. Six of these villages are located in relatively high lands and form a part of the Madhupur Garh while the other six have medium and low lands.

The number of households in the villages ranges from 100 in Mohammadpur to 750 in Shapia Chala with population ranging from 700 to 6000 respectively (Table 1). The distance of the villages from the Upazilla Headquarters ranges from 2 miles (Balina) to 18 miles (Fulmali Chala).

5. The literacy level varies widely and, generally speaking, there seems to be some positive correlation between rate of educated people in a village and its level of selfsufficiency in food production. The number of people engaged in different services vary from 1 to 10 persons per hundred households (Table 1).

*Part of the village falls under Mirzapur Upazilla.

Table 1 Population and Some Household Characteristics of the Villages

Name of the villages	Distance from Upazilla HQ (miles)	No. of household	Total population (No.)	No. of degree holders	No. of vice holders	% of landless household	% of farms having 4.0 acres or more cultivated land	% of Households self-sufficient in food-grain
1. Pirojpur	3	700	4000	-	4	20	14	20
2. Egarokahonia	10	475	3000	-	3	5	5	5
3. Shapia Chala	5	750	6000	1	30	23	50	25
4. Fulmali Chala	18	700	5500	-	10	12	28	8
5. Inat Kha Chala	15	500	3000	-	3	6	10	13
6. Habla Bilpara	3	117	900	-	10	40	17	17
7. Beara	5	300	2000	5	13	32	5	5
8. Mohammadpur	10	100	700	-	8	5	18	12
9. Balina	2	180	1200	2	12	27	15	30
10. Balia Bari	10	200	1200	1	2	7	6	6
11. Bara Medha	10	600	4000	4	100	47	20	20
12. Bara Chowna	7	600	5000	5	25	50	3	3

6. There is presence of inequitable distribution of land ownership. The percentage of households owning land over 4 acres varies from 3 percent in Bara Chowna to over 50 percent in Shapia Chala while the percentage of absolute landless varies from 6 to 43 percent of total village households (Table 1). Total cultivable acreage varies from 100 to 2000 acres while percentage of land under irrigation varies from zero to almost 100 percent (Table 2).

The cropping pattern in the area shows considerable diversity. However, where there are irrigation facilities Boro-Aman-Fallow is the most common pattern. In non-irrigated land, Aus/Jute-Aman-Fallow is the most common pattern (Table 3). Use of fertilizer and yield of crops also vary significantly (Table 4).

Share-cropping is widespread in all the villages studied. The most common form of share-cropping arrangement is the distribution of the crop on a fifty-fifty basis between the land owner and the tenant while the latter bears all costs of cultivation for non-irrigated crops and the land owner usually sharing cost of some inputs for irrigated crops. There are cases where the land owners share some costs for both irrigated and non-irrigated crops and the crops are divided equally. There are also cases where the tenants have to pay an additional fee for renting in land under share-cropping arrangements. These fees are often refundable and this system of share-

Table 2 Total Cultivable Acreage and Acreage under Irrigation

Name of the villages	Total cultivable acreage	Cultivable flood-free acreage	Irrigation facilities						% of cultivable land irrigated
			No. of DTWs	No. of STWs	No. of LLPs	No. of HTWs/Power pumps	Acrees under irrigation		
1. Pirojpur	1300	850	5	8	-	-	300-350	25	
2. Egarokahonia	700	700	3	-	-	-	270	39	
3. Shapia Chala	1600	1400	1	20	-	-	250	16	
4. Fulmali Chala	2000	2000	2	-	-	-	65	3	
5. Inat Kha Chala	450	450	1 ¹	-	-	-	-	-	
6. Habla Bilpara	200	200	-	6	-	2	70	35	
7. Beara	115 ²	115	-	4	-	-	60	52	
8. Mohammadpur	150	50	1	13	-	-	95	95	
9. Balina	156	156	-	5	1	-	90	58	
10. Balia Bari	100 ²	60	-	4	1	-	60	60	
11. Bara Medha	700	525	3	25	-	-	550	79	
12. Bara Chowna	750	750	13	-	-	-	260	35	

¹The DTN is not in working condition.

²Villagers' land only within the village boundary.

Table 3 Major Cropping Patterns in the Selected Villages

Village	With irrigation	Without irrigation
1. Pirojpur	Boro-Aman-Fallow Wheat-Aus-Fallow	Aus/Jute-Fallow-Mustard/Pulse
2. Egarokahonia	Boro-Aman Mustard-Wheat-Aus	Aus/Jute-Aman/Fallow-Mustard/Fallow
3. Shapia Chala	Boro-Fallow	Aus-Aman-Fallow Aus/Jute-Fallow-Mustard
4. Fulmali Chala	Wheat-Aus-Aman	Aus/Jute-Fallow-Mustard
5. Inat Kha Chala	Not applicable	Aus/Jute-Aman/Fallow-Mustard/Pulse/Fallow
6. Habla Bilpara	Boro-Aman-Mustard/Fallow	Wheat/Cheena-Aus/Jute-Fallow
7. Beara	Boro-Aman-Fallow Wheat-Aus/Jute-Fallow	Aus/Jute-Aman-Fallow
8. Mohammadpur	Boro-Aman-Fallow/Mustard Boro-Fallow-Fallow	Not applicable
9. Balina	Boro-Aman-Mustard	Wheat/Cheena-Aus/Jute-Fallow
10. Bolia Bari	Boro-Aman-Mustard Wheat-Aus/Jute-Aman/Fallow	Aus/Jute-Fallow-Mustard/Pulse
11. Bara Medha	Boro-Fallow-Fallow Boro-Aman-Fallow	Aus/Jute-Fallow-Mustard
12. Bara Chowna	Wheat-Aus-Aman/Fallow Wheat-Aus-Mustard/Pulse	Aus/Jute-Fallow-Mustard/Pulse

Table 4 Per Acre Use of Fertilizer in HW Boro and HW Wheat and Yield Rate of Major Crops

Name of the villages	Use of fertilizer per acre (in mds.)		HW Boro		HW Wheat		Per acre yield (in mds.)			
	HW Boro	HW Wheat	HW Boro	HW Wheat	HW Boro	HW Wheat	Local Aman	Local Aus	Local	Jute
1. Pirojpur	3.00	2.50	30	15	20	6	8			
2. Egarokahonia	2.00	2.00	40	20	25	9	12			
3. Shapia Chala	2.00	N.A.	50	N.A.	20	15	11			
4. Fulmali Chala	3.50	2.00	34	17	30	12	12			
5. Inat Kha Chala	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	22	8	10			
6. Habla Bilpara	2.50	1.75	55	35	25	10	18			
7. Beara	3.00	1.50	45	18	25	13	18			
8. Mohammadpur	3.00	N.A.	40	N.A.	25	N.A.	N.A.			
9. Balina	2.50	2.50	36	20	18	14	16			
10. Bolia Bari	2.00	2.00	35	18	15	10	12			
11. Bara Medha	above 4.00	above 4.00	50	40	22	22	15			
12. Bara Chowra	1.00	0.50	25	17	17	10	10			

N. A. = Not applicable.

cropping is locally known as Udhari Barga. Such cases were found in Inat Kha Chala, Balina, Habla Bilpara, and Shapia Chala where demand for land renting is relatively higher.

7. On the development of social infrastructure it may be said that all the villages except Bara Chowna are away from metal/brick roads but connected by mud road (fair weather road). In some villages, there is need to construct culverts to make these roads more serviceable. All the villages have access to rural markets but due to poor road condition, cost of transportation is high which creates disincentive for production of certain crops (e. g., Pineapple, Jackfruits) on a commercial scale and helps in exploitation by intermediaries. Poor road condition also raises prices of agricultural inputs. No village has electricity facilities. Godown facilities are absent except for Bara Medha and Bara Chowna. There are no hand tubewells for drinking water in Egarokahonia and Inat Kha Chala. Educational facilities in the selected villages are generally poor except in Bara Medha.

There are rice mills only in three villages viz., Bara Medha, Bara Chowna and Fulmali Chala. There is no other mill or factory in any of the villages.

8. Access to institutional credit is there for all the villages though the prevalence of non-institutional sources

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is also significant in all the villages. In three villages private money lending groups (Samity) have been organised which lend money at rates usually lower than individual money lenders' rates.

Cooperative Organizations are not adequately developed in any of the villages. Even where cooperatives have been organised, they are not operating effectively. The Grameen Bank has organised groups in five of the selected villages.

9. In six of the villages there has been some migration of people during the last five years. In high areas like Pirojpur and Shapia Chala there was net immigration while in medium-low lying areas like Mohammadpur there was emigration before irrigation facilities were introduced.

The trend of seasonal migration shows that there has been immigration where irrigation facilities have been extensively introduced and emigration (to other areas) where irrigation facilities have not developed significantly.

Regarding the condition of the poor and the landless in the study area during the last five years, it was reported that their general condition improved as a result of new employment opportunity or increased^{wage}/in areas where irrigated crops expanded significantly. In other areas, their condition has deteriorated.

10. The preliminary village survey showed that relatively greater potentials for development exist in Pirojpur, Egarokahonia, Shapia Chala, Fulmali Chala, Inat Kha Chala and Habla Bilpara. In Pirojpur and Egarokahonia, high lands are available for development of irrigation facilities and also for developing multiple cropping including agro-forestry. In Fulmali Chala and Inat Kha Chala prospects for developing irrigation facilities are quite high. Development of transport facilities mainly by construction of culverts/bridges would promote marketing especially that of fruits which are grown on large scale in the areas. In Shapia Chala, there is a combination of high and low land. In the low lying areas provision of a sluice gate would improve irrigation facilities and in the high lands fodder cultivation/^{may} make livestock rearing profitable.

Unlike the above five villages, Habla Bilpara is a relatively low lying area which has fairly good prospect for developing irrigation, godown, transport facilities, and electricity supply.

In the six other villages studied, development of irrigation facilities has already advanced to a high scale except in Bara Chowna where the problem is that of effectively utilizing the already existing irrigation facilities.

In Mohammadpur and Balia Bari there is scope for improving drainage facilities. Beara has prospects for developing cottage industries. In Bara Medha and Balina the prospects for further development appeared to be relatively low.

Thus on the basis of the above preliminary overview of the 12 villages it may be said that considering both the present stage of development and the future scope for development, the first five villages mentioned above may be considered for further studies and for initiating development activities by the TADP.

The village with a population of nearly 4000. The degree of backwardness of the village is manifested in the fact that the only Primary School in the village was established in 1973. In the village there are only 20 persons with Secondary and 4 with Higher Secondary level education, and no Graduate. Twenty five persons have taken up teaching or government service as profession. About 100 persons are involved in business, most of them in petty trading and brokerage. All the others are engaged in agriculture as farmers or laborers. Forty percent of the households are landless while only 14 percent have 4 acres or more cultivable land. About thirty percent of the farmers are part-tenants, i. e., they own some land and rent-in some land from others for cultivation.

About 20 percent households produce enough foodgrain for the whole year or more and about 60 percent households possess their entire foodgrain required.