

Agricultural Production and Profit Earned by Different Farmers of Pub-Paneri, Udalguri, Assam

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Abstract: Agriculture in India is the backbone of the country and hence regarded as the largest sector of the country's economic activities. 70 percent people in India depend on agriculture which makes it very high. The contribution of agriculture in G.D.P. has declined from 18.5 percent in 2006-07 to 16.5 percent in 2010-11. At present agriculture provides livelihood to 60 percent of the country's people (Singh et al., 2015). Agriculture also helps in the industrial development of our nation as it provides raw material for many food-based production industries. In India food security depends on the production of cereal crops, as well as increasing production of fruits, vegetables and milk to meet the demands of a growing population with rising incomes. For this productive, competitive, diversified and sustainable agricultural sector will need to emerge at an accelerated pace (India: Issues and Priorities for Agriculture, 2012). India is one of the world's largest producers of milk, pulses, and spices and has the largest cattle herd as well as largest production of wheat, sugarcane, cotton, tea, fish etc. This study would be very helpful to see the land holding capacity of the farmers and different methods used by them, looking into the economic condition of those farmers. Variety of crops and income through its market selling price in the area including their margins of profitability. This study will give an analysis of the percentage of literate farmers. It aims to find out the different agricultural production by the main farmers of Pub Paneri. It is very helpful and highly important because first hand details gathered through it in a well-organized manner on a particular subject. This study would contribute to the statistics of agricultural productivity of Assam and thus of India. A comparative analysis would determine the risks, shortcomings and the advantages of the respective types of agricultural production. Along with these, the study would provide insights into the current trends and the future of agriculture and also help in analyzing the import-export data. Appropriate steps can be taken to educate the farmers (Ramsay).

Keywords: Agriculture, Education, Profit, Income.

1. Introduction

Agriculture in India is the backbone of the country and regarded the largest sector of the country's economic activities. Nearly 70 percent of the people in India depend on agriculture for their livelihood. It is the major sector of the State economy, as well in which the majority of people earn their livelihood. The contributory share of agriculture in G.D.P. has declined from 18.5 percent in 2006-07 to 16.5 percent in 2010-11. Agriculture of present, provides livelihood to 60 percentage of the total population. Agriculture also plays a very important

role in industrial development of our nation as it is the source of raw materials for many industries. We all know that India is an agricultural country. But on the other side, the picture is very dangerous. An agricultural labor commits suicide at every half an hour in India. Every day 47 agricultural labor is commit suicide in our country. 2,16,500 workers had died in last 13 years due to their poor economic condition.

A. Statement of the Study

The study is entitled as "Agricultural Production and profit earned by different farmers of Pub-Paneri, Udalguri, Assam".

B. Need of the Study

In this generation, every issue should be looked into and find out the loop holes in every aspect i.e., be it in the agricultural field, education, economic etc. Agricultural activities especially in the northeastern states are the main source of income. People here not just rely on food from agriculture, but also have the production of clothing for their livelihood. In order to find out information regarding the processes, land holding capacity, income generated from it, different crops which are found to this specific area, this study was done. It is very important to know the problems of the farmers and study how education can help building better farmers who have knowledge regarding the use of different fertilizers and pesticides.

C. Objectives of the Study

There are few main objectives for this paper. These are:

1. To study about the land holding capacity of the farmers and the methods used by them for agriculture-based production of the area.
2. To study about the economic condition of the farmers.
3. To study about the utilizable agricultural land of the area.
4. To study about the income of the farmers by agricultural production of the area.
5. To study about the different crops and vegetables cultivated in the area.
6. To study about the market selling price in the area including their margins of profitability.
7. To study how many literate farmers are there in the area who are contributing in the agricultural production of the area

D. Operational Definition of the Term

Agriculture: It the science, art, or practices of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock and in varying degrees the preparation and marketing of the resulting products (Merriam Webster Dictionary).

Profit Margin: A profit margin is the difference between the selling price of a product and the cost of producing and marketing it. (Collins Dictionary)

Income: For most people, income means their total earnings in the form of wages and salaries, the return on their investments, pension distributions, and other receipts.

E. Delimitation of the Study

Delimitation of the study refers to the boundaries of a study set by the investigator. The investigator delimited the study as follows:

1. The study was restricted to farmers of Pub Paneri village only.
2. The study was restricted to one area to study the issue.
3. The study was restricted to a sample of 14 farmers for an in-depth understanding.
4. The study has been done within 4 month of the duration.

F. Description of the Area

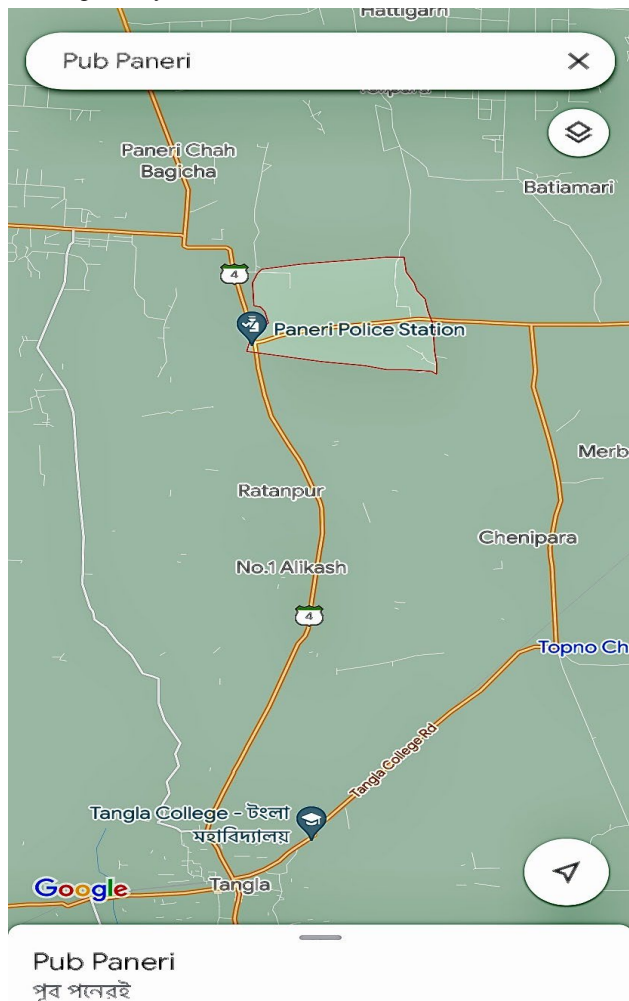


Fig. 1. Map showing Pub Paneri village (study area)

The village Paneri from where the investigator collected data for this present study is located under Udalguri district, Assam. Pub Paneri Village has a population of 1731, based in Harisinga sub district of the district, Udalguri in the state Assam in India. Total area of Pub Paneri village is 3 km². Density of population of the village is 629 persons per km². Tangla is the nearest town and distance is 10km from Pub Paneri village to Tangla.

In this village 1731 people live in, among which male are 901 (52%) and female are 830 (48%). 93% of the population belongs from general caste, 0% belong to schedule caste and schedule tribes are 7%. Children belonging from the age group under 6 years have a population of 11% in Pub Paneri village, among them boys are 52% and girls are 48%. The numbers of households are more than 200 in the village. An average of 5 persons lives in every family in this village.

2. Review of Related Literature

A comprehensive review of literature is an essential part of any scientific investigation. Therefore, an attempt has been made to review the research studies related to Agricultural Labor Income, Expenditures, Wages, Employment, and Economic Condition. The findings of the available research work have been presented below:

Mahua Bhattascharjee (Jan. - June) 2012 did a study on the changes in the Livelihoods of rural Assam. This paper is based upon an empirical research made in two districts of Assam which have the highest population in rural and urban areas respectively- Nagaon and Kamrup in order to understand the changes occurring in livelihoods of Assam. 40 households are taken from each of the five villages of both districts. The results show that the self-employed in village is found to be in better state and by information they are in highest percentage in rural Assam. Age is a determining factor influencing Livelihood activity. On the basis of religious back ground, status of women differs. Therefore, we can say that in rural Assam self-employed is gradually increasing.

Singh et al. (1999) did a study to inspect the educational status and the amount of participation of men and women in different farm and non-farm activities in three randomly selected clusters of villages in Hissar district of Haryana at two points of time, 1985-86 and 1997-98. The study revealed that 14 percent of the adult female members were engaged in wage earning activity and 86 percent were involved in their own farm. Women working in cultivation of crop were quite extreme extending from 33 percent of the total workforce in mini farms to 26 percent on large farms. Women labored for 11 hours a day in both the periods.

A V. Jose February (1973) conducted a study on wage rates of Agricultural laborers in Kerala. The aim of this article study is to go in detail into the level fluctuations and trend of wage rates for agricultural laborers in Kerala to see to what extent the Phenomenon observed in the two IDSP districts obtained in the other districts of the state. He concluded with the findings that came out from this study are that the increase in the real wage rate believed to have taken place in Kerala between 1960-61 and 1967-68 appears to have been far less in magnitude than in presented by earlier studies. Secondary there are substantial

variations among different villages in the long-term movement of real wage rates.

3. Method of the Study

Research methodology is the specific procedure or techniques used to identify, select, process and analyze information about a topic. The methodology section allows the reader to critically evaluate a study’s overall reliability and validity.

In this study, Descriptive Survey Method was used to collect detailed data of existing phenomena. Its aim is to find out the different agricultural production by the main farmers of Pub-Paneri. And among them how many are literate farmers to choose agriculture as their source for income.

4. Population of the Study

A research population is also known as a well-defined collection of individuals or objects known to have similar characteristics. All individuals or objects within a certain population usually have a common, binding characteristics or traits. In this study, few farmers of Pub-Paneri village have been taken as the population of the study.

5. Sample of the Study

In research terms a sample is a group of people, objects, or items that are taken from a larger population for measurement. The sample should be representative of the population to ensure that we can generalize the findings from the research sample to the population as a whole. In this study, 14 farmers are regarded as the sample of the study.

6. Tools of the Study

There are large number of tools and techniques available for the collection of data in research work. Tools are used for collecting the evidence or data of the study, tools are very necessary instrument. In this study, following tools have been used:

QUESTIONNAIRE: Questionnaire is a popular means of collecting all kinds of data in research. Questionnaire refers to a device for securing responses to a series of questions by using a form which the investigator notes down. It is a systematic complication of questions that are administered to a sample of population from which information is desired. Questionnaire to be used must be prepared very carefully so that it may prove to be effective in selecting the relevant information. In this study a self- structured questionnaire was prepared to find out the objectives with 11 statements. There is no right or wrong answer for these questions.

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE: Interview Schedule is the name usually applied to a set of questions which are asked and filled in by an interviewer in a face-to-face situation with another person. In the collection of data, survey was conducted using ‘Interview Schedule’ because it has the flexibility of gaining information through facial expressions, verbal expression of the respondent unlike the questionnaire which does not provide such flexibility and there is possibility on the part of the

respondent not to respond.

7. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Data analysis is important in research because it makes studying data a lot simpler and more accurate. It helps the researchers straightforwardly interpret the data so that researchers don't leave anything out that could help them derive insights from it. Data may be available in the form of information or numerical figures or both. After data collection, the ratings of respondents were scored keeping in mind the negative and positive statements in the questionnaire. The following are the main findings of the study as discussed under separate headings.

{Question 1 to 11 (Q1 to Q11) can be referred to the sample questionnaire given in 2 tables in appendix:

No. of Question	Farmer 1	Farmer 2	Farmer 3	Farmer 4	Farmer 5	Farmer 6	Farmer 7
Q1.	Hari kalita	Ratan Bhuyan	Hitesh Das	Bishnu Rabha	Motihur Rahman	Liladhar Kalita	Binoy Das
Q2.	42yrs	38yrs	54yrs	59yrs	28yrs	44yrs	48yrs
Q3.	8 th passed	10 th passed	4 th passed	10 th passed	12 th passed	10 th passed	2 nd passed
Q4.	5	3	6	4	3	5	3
Q5.	3 acres	3.5 acres	2 acres	5 acres	4 acres	6 acres	5 acres
Q6.	Rs 15k	Rs 20k	Rs 15k	Rs 25k	Rs 10k	Rs 20k	Rs 15k
Q7.	Tomato, Potato etc	Wheat, paddy rice, corn	Paddy rice, Potato, Cabbage etc	Bean, Ginger, Tomato etc	Potato, Cabbage etc	Pumpkin, Cabbage etc	Cauliflower, Beans etc
Q8.	8-10	15-12	5-10	10-15	5-8	10-20	5-10
Q9.	Indigenous Plough	Indigenous Plough	Indigenous Plough	Indigenous Plough	Indigenous Plough	Tractor Plough	Indigenous Plough
Q10.	Rs 45k-50k	Rs 30k-35k	Rs 40k-50k	Rs 35k-40k	Rs 45k-50k	Rs 50k-60k	Rs 35k-40k
Q11.	4 months	5 months	4months	3 months	4 months	4months	4 months

No. of Question	Farmer 8	Farmer 9	Farmer 10	Farmer 11	Farmer 12	Farmer 13	Farmer 14
Q.1	Hari Brahman	Binod Talukdar	Ram Kalita	Jatin Boro	Krishna Rabha	Mahesh Deka	Govinda Boro
Q.2	32 yrs	46yrs	52 yrs	38 yrs	26 yrs	42 yrs	56 yrs
Q.3	10 th passed	11 th passed	5 th passed	3 rd passed	12 th passed	10 th passed	12 th passed
Q.4	5	4	4	5	2	4	6
Q.5	3 acres	4 acres	4.5 acres	3.5 acres	3 acres	6 acres	7 acres
Q.6	Rs 18k	Rs 12k	Rs 15k	Rs 20k	Rs 20k	Rs 30k	Rs 30k
Q.7	Wheat, paddy rice, corn etc	Tomato, paddy rice, potato etc,	Wheat, paddy rice, Dhania, Pumpkin etc	Pumpkin, brinjal etc	Bean, carrot, pumpkin etc	Carrot, brinjal, Joha harvesting etc etc	Carrot, tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, etc
Q.8	9-10	10-15	5-10	4-5	8-10	10-15	10-12
Q.9	Indigenous Plough	Indigenous Plough	Indigenous Plough	Tractor Plough	Indigenous Plough	Tractor Plough	Tractor and Indigenous Plough
Q.10	Rs 55k-60k	Rs 45k-50k	Rs 45k-60k	Rs 60k	Rs 50k-60k	Rs 55k-70k	Rs 65k-70k
Q.11	3 months	4 months	3 months	4month	4 months	3months	5 months

8. Findings of the Study

- From the above mentioned data, we can observe that most of the farmers are above age of 30. Only 2 farmers are below 30 years. We can also see the no. of family members in a

family of a farmer. Each one of them has 3 or more than 3 members.

- It can also be observed that from question no 3, a high number of farmer's educational qualification is below average. They were not fortunate enough to even complete their education due to poor socio-economic background and later chose farming to earn their daily bread.
- From question no 6 and 10, we can know how much a farmer invest for its agricultural production and how much profit they earn from it in Pub- Paneri.
- From interviewing question 8, we have come to know how many labourer works under a big farmer in the area. It is mostly more than 10 members.
- From question 9, we can see that 90% of the farmers in the area still uses traditional method of sowing and ploughing. They are still not familiar with the modern techniques of agricultural use.
- And lastly, from question no 11 we can see how much time farming needs in harvesting crops and vegetables in this area.

9. Suggestions and Conclusion

The overall result found in the study shows the production of varieties of vegetables and the amount of investment on farming and the profit earned by them. Even though, the result is not up to expectation but these farmers have been harvesting these crops for decades now and have a quite a lot of experiences. But due to lack of proper education, they have very less knowledge about the use of modern fertilizers and pesticides. Some of the measures which can be taken are:

1. Farmers should be given basic education on farming. Schemes on imparting the same should be introduced by the government.
2. Local NGO's should also promote education and the proper use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
3. Better employment opportunities should be provided and planning for flow of income would be of great help in improving the financial status of the rural poor and

hence developing their favorable attitude and interest in education of their children.

4. The farmers should be encouraged to use modern techniques of farming rather than the traditional once, as the process will take less time in using the modern techniques and the supply of the production can meet the demand of today's population.

A. Conclusion

In pub-paneri, most of the farmers are ploughing, sowing, harvesting by indigenous plough and manual labour. Due to the use of traditional methods, the requirements of manual labourer and time consumption for the production is much more. The price of the products varies according to the availability of the product in the market and also according to the necessity of the consumers.

Also, we can conclude that, most of the farmers are below average pass when asked about their educational qualification and the reason for the same; they stated that due to family financial issues, they were unable to proceed for further studies. In pub-paneri, the farmers harvest different crops such as Paddy rice, Wheat, Corn, Potato, Cabbages, Carrot, Pumpkin, Bean etc. Thus, in order to gain a favorable amount of good quality production, education plays an important role in making it a success in the field of Agriculture of a country.

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