

## **Contribution of Char Inhabitants of Sipajhar Development Block in The Agricultural Scenario of Darrang District, Assam**

<sup>1</sup>Chitra Rani Barua, <sup>2</sup>Dr. M. Gopal Singha

Research Scholar, Gauhati University

HOD, Department of Geography, Bikali College,2 Assam India

### **ABSTRACT**

The fabric of agricultural activities in India reflects the spectrum of socio-economic variation of different socio-cultural groups. In the other words the agricultural scenario reflects the intense physical heterogeneity across the socio- economic aspect. Agriculture is the main occupation of the majority of population in Darrang district. The farmers of the district rely heavily on agriculture for earning their livelihood. Basically the char areas of Darrang district are highly rich in the agricultural sector. Mainly winter crops are practiced in the char areas of Darrang district. The contribution of inhabitants of char areas is very high in the agricultural scenario of the region. The char areas of Sipajhar development block comprising the villages Dhalpur 1, dhalpur 2, Phuhuratali, kurua gaon, Bheheni chapari, etc. In this villages the farmers are very hardworking one. They contribute a large amount of agricultural products like maize, jute, vegetables etc and rising a fruitful economic scenario in Darrang district.

The present paper is attempt to establish a picture on the contribution of Char inhabitants of Sipajhar development block in the agricultural scenario of Darrang District, Assam.

Key words: Agriculture, Inhabitants,

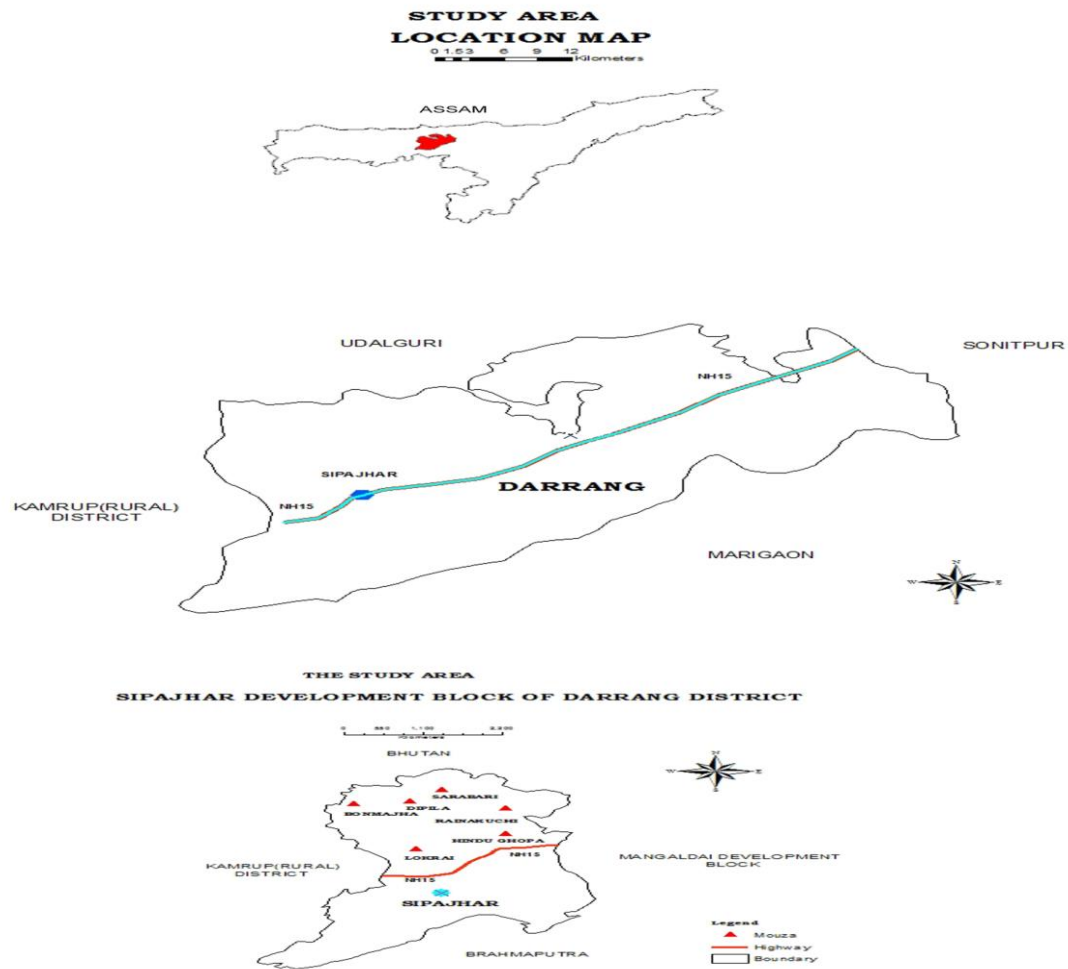
#### **I.Introduction :**

Agriculture is the key development in the human civilization. Cultivation of crops on arable land and the pastoral herding of livestock on rangeland remain at the foundation of agriculture. Agriculture has played a key role in the development of human civilization. Until the

Industrial revolution, the vast majority of the human population labored in agriculture. Agriculture is the principal source of livelihood or a majority of the people in largely agrarian state of Assam. Despite having a number of multiple benefits of agriculture to society, there is a diversity of views when it comes to actual policy implication. This can be explained by differences in agricultural and rural economic structures, different positions in agricultural trade and the different stages of societal and socio-economic development.

## **II. Study Area :**

The word "Sipajhar" is derived from two terms the 'Sipha' referring to an ancient river passing through this area and the 'Jhar' to the woods grown on the bank of the river and eventually which come to known as Sipajhar. The area is extend latitudinally from 26°12'42" to 26°32'25" and longitudinally from 91°44'49" to 91°57'18". It is located in the middle part of the Brahmaputra valley of and is surrounded by river Saktola in the east, Barnadi in the west, Mangaldai-Majikushi Road in the north and the mighty Brahmaputra river in the south. The study area of this paper is focused on char areas of sipjhar development block comprising the villages Dhalpur-1, Dhalpur-2, Dhalpur-3, Fuhuratali, kurua gaon, Bheni chapari and kirakata Chapari. These villages are predominantly inhabited by non indigenous people muslims and by some hindu refugees, while the built up region lying to the north of char areas is largely inhabited by the indigenous non tribal group who are the non tribal hindu and muslims.



**III. Objectives of the study:**

The objective of the study are outlined as follows:

1. To study about the agricultural scenario of the area.

2. To find out the contribution of char dwellers to developed the through agriculture.

**IV. Methodology of the study:**

The data for the present study have been collected through intensive field work which were carried out in the study area in several ways. The data for proposed study includes both primary and secondary data. Undertaking field work, library work was undertaken primarily in departmental library of the Gauhati University. The secondary source materials were also collected from census records, Char development office of Darrang District, land revenue reports, settlement group reports and other documents. The field data are collected through the questionnaire.

**V. Result and Discussion:**

Agriculture is the main occupation of 90% of the total population in the district. Out of total geographical area, 52.72% is devoted to agricultural activities. The kinds of crops cultivated and the amount of land used for agriculture is not uniform in all parts of the district. Darrang district like its counterparts in Assam produces a variety of crops such as food crops, fibre crops, oil seeds, pulses, fruits, vegetables, sugarcane, tobacco, tea, and spices. The Sipajhar development block is popularly known as 'rice bowl' of the district where 95% of the total population is engaged in farming activities.

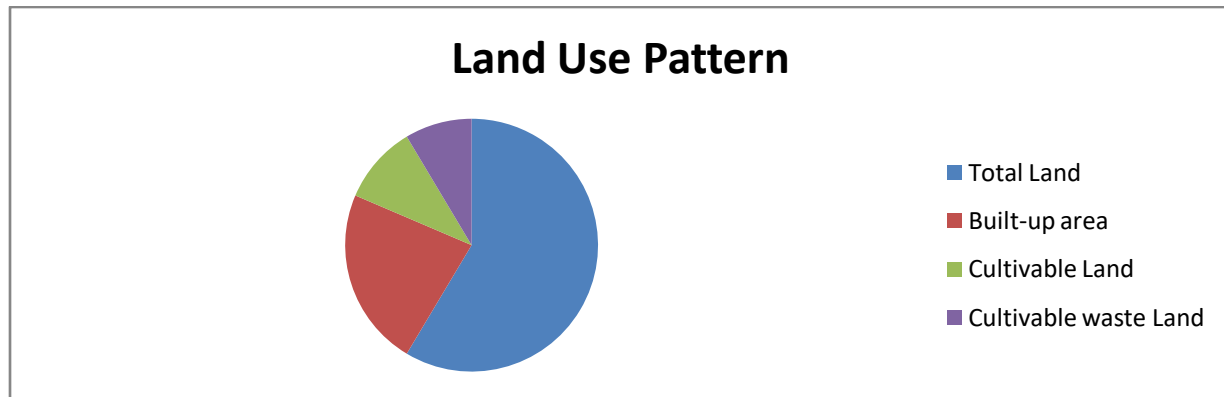
The char is a sandy island of small size located along river bank of with in a stream course. Major portion of char chapari residents are East Bengal rooted those were brought to Assam during the British era for cultivate the wetland by direct patronizing the Government. There are six char village under the Sipajhar development block named Dhalpur-1, Dhalpur-2, Dhalpur-3, Bheni chapari,, phuhuratali and kirakata. In this study three village are selected to study about the contribution of people of char village to the agriculture, namely Dhalpur-1, Dhalpur-2 and Dhalpur-3. Basically in Darrang district, the agricultural system is different in region wise because of various types of races. It is seen in char areas agriculture. They used some different methods in agricultural practices. The char areas of Sipajhar development block are not suitable for summer cultivation like rice crops because of flood. Some of the people are practices the Bodo rice in summer season. Basically the people char areas are cultivate the winter crops like different types of vegetables like, cabbage, brinjal, potato, chili, lentil, blackgram and Ahu rice, jute, Maize etc. In this study, it is found that the farmers of Char areas in Sipajhar development block are want to practice the maize cultivation instead of jute. Because they found that the maize cultivation is more fruitful instead of jute. And also they are interested to practices the Bodo paddy instead of Ahu paddy. Mainly the surveyed char village are inhabited by the Muslim immigrant origin. Agriculture is the main occupation of these

people. For the economic development of the district the char area of Sipajhar development block are play an important role. They are very hard working people in agricultural sector and now they are engaged in different sectors of activities. The surveyed village people are engaged mainly cultivate the maize cultivation, jute cultivation and different types of vegetables. Some people of this village are cultivate the crops only for their ownself. And some are practice it is a commercial purpose. From the following table give a scenery of the production of agriculture in villages.

Village List	Maize (in metric tons)	Jute(in bell)	Boro rice(in tons)	Vegetables(in tons)
Dhalpur No.1	2	0.03	4	15
Dhalpur No. 2	0.4	0.12	3.5	14.6
Dhalpur No. 3	1.6	0.08	6	10

Efficiency of agricultural operation depends to a large extent on the possession and size of landholding of the peasants. The size of landholding and the size of farm decide the degree of risk that a farm operator may bear. According to the census of 2011 the total char village are 134, total land area is 28368 hectre and the agricultural land 20350 hectre which is the 10% of the total agricultural land of the district. About the 10% of land are covered by the different types of agriculture. The villegers of char areas are play an important role to developed the economic condition of the district. They contribute a huge amount to practices the agricultural activities. In this study 70 selected households are surveyed distributed in 3 villages. The total landholding area covered by each village are Dhalpur-1 (780 hectre), Dhalpur-2 (342 hectre), Dhalpur-3 (1783.3 hectre) according to 2011 census. The people of these village are very hardworking people. They practices different types of agriculture in their land. Namely, Seeds crops, fibre crops, oil seeds, different types of vegetables are practices in these village. Basically in the char villages of Sipajhar development block are cultivate the maize, jute, mastered oil seeds, vegetables. In this study, it is found that, now a days, the people of the area are cultivate the maize instead of jute because of benefits of maize is very high. From the surveyed villages of the block we found the following pattern of land use.

	Total Land(Hectre)	Built-up(hectre)	Cultivated Land(Hectre)	Cultivable waste land(Hectre)
Dhalpur No. 1	9.33	1.3	7.33	0.66
Dhalpur No. 2	2.66	0.6	1.6	0.4
Dhalpur No. 3	10.03	1.6	5.6	0.8



The fruitfulness of the char areas technical system of agriculture is the well utilization of the land. In the period of rainfall the char areas lands are not suitable for the any kind of crops because the flood problem in this area. On the other time it is full of any kind of crops are practice in the area. The farmers of the area is very much conscious to used the land in a proper way. They use the modern techniques to get more production. The farmer of the char areas are very much interest to use the land under area shown more than one crop. They sold out their agricultural production into the near weekly market to Rupohi chowk, Bardoulguri and to the Sipajhar.

**vi) Conclusion:**

Agriculture is the main occupation of these people but some of the people of these village primarily depend on the age old agriculture in an uncertain climate which forces majority of the people to live below the poverty line. Many of them are now engaged in other works instead of agriculture like rickshaw or thela pulling and daily wage labour in construction of building and road making in the urban areas. And also these area are severely affected by the flood every year and there is also lack of communication and transportation facilities. For this they used country boats and steamers, carts drawn by bullocks are the main means of transportation. Although the contribution of these three village of Sipjhar development block in to the economic condition of Darrang district is very high. Because they are main source to managed the agricultural side of the district. They are very hardworking people in agricultural field. So that we are very lucky to say that the Darrang district is world famous for the different types of vegetables.

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