

A VIEW ON AGRICULTURE OF NAUGACHIA SUB-DIVISION OF BHAGALPUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture has always been the backbone of the Indian economy and despite concerted industrialization in the last six decades, agriculture still occupies a place of pride. It provides employment to around 60 percent of total work force in the country. The significance of agriculture in the national economy can be better explained by considering the role of agriculture as national income, employment in the country, importance for industrial development and in the field of International trades. Soils and crops are intimately related in a flood prone area like Naugachia Sub-Division of Bhagalpur District. Each terrain segments like Diara, Chaur, Chharan, levee and flood plains has its own cropping pattern. Since most of the area included in the rainy season, Bhadai, Kharif and Rabi crops are important while the Aghani crop is less important. The important crops grown in this area are Maize, Wheat, Rice, Gram, Pulses, Potato, Banana and Summer vegetables.

Keywords : *Maize, Wheat, Rice, Gram, Pulses, Potato and Banana etc*

INTRODUCTION

India is pre-eminently an agricultural country. Agriculture has been practiced in India since time immemorial. It plays a vital role in the economy of India. India is a unique country from agricultural point of view. Its enormous expanse of level plains, rich soils, high percentage of cultural land, wide climate, variety with adequate aggregate rainfall combined with sufficient temperature, ample sunshine and long growing season provide solid base to agriculture. Agriculture includes raising of crops from the land, animal husbandry, agro-forestry and

pisciculture. From the above discussion, it can be concluded that agriculture furnishes the central sinew of Indian economy. A prosperous farmer means a prosperous nation.

STUDY AREA

The study area is Naugachia sub-division of Bhagalpur district. It is located in the eastern part of the Middle Ganga Plain in Eastern Bihar. It forms the northern part of the Bhagalpur district. The Ganga river has separated it from the southern part of the district. On the northern part of the sub-division the river Kosi flows which has separated it from Madhepura district. To the east lies Purnia and Katihar Districts of Purnia Division.

Naugachia sub-division is situated between the 25°15' N to 25°30'N latitudes and 86°50'-87°15'E longitudes and has an altitude of 61 m above the sea level. Its length is 36 km from east to west and width is 27 km from south to north. The total area of the Sub-Division is 891.40 sq.km which is 35.05% of the District of the Bhagalpur.

METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

The methodology of the study also involves data collection and field work. The data and statistics were to be collected from District and Block statistical office, village Karamchari and Agricultural College Sabour.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The character of soil and crop grown are intimately related to each other. Naugachia Sub Division of Bhagalpur District is a flood prone area ravaged by the flood of the Ganga in the south and Kosi in the north. Most of the area is constituted by Diaras, Chaurs (Depression), Chharan (ox bow lakes), flood plain and levee. Each one of the Terrain segments is characterised by distinctive crops. Unlike the other parts of middle Ganga plain the area is inundated by floods in the rainy season, so Bhadaï, Rabi and Garma crops are most important than Aghani.

The agricultural harvests are of four categories in Naugachia Sub-division as in other parts of Middle Ganga plain. They are Bhadaï, Aghani, Rabi and Garma.

The Bhadaï and Aghani harvests are taken together and are known as Kharif Crop. Since a large part of the study area is inundated during rain Aghani crops are grown on a very small area. Bhadaï is most important crop in the diaras. Bhadaï (Autumn) crops are grown

approximately in May mid June and harvested in August or mid September. Maize, Jute and vegetables are important crops of this season. After the flood water recedes the Rabi crops are grown. The cropping pattern shows that Maize is the most important crop in all the blocks of Naugachia Sub-Division. The next important crop is wheat which is also grown in all the blocks. Banana crop is important in Kharik while Urad is an important crop after Maize and Wheat in the eastern blocks of Gopalpur, Ismailpur and Rangra Chowk. Narayanpur anchals grows Barley in some areas where it is third crop after Maize and Wheat.

Area under different harvest in the blocks of Naugachia Sub-Division. Garma crops are most important in all the blocks of the study area. It covers almost fifty percent area of the study area. The next to Garma crops are Bhadai crops. Aghani stands at third place after Garma and Bhadai. Aghani crops are mostly grown in the eastern blocks of Gopalpur, Ismailpur and Rangra Chowk. In western sector of Naugachia, Kharik, Bihpur and Narayanpur Aghani crops cover a very small portions of their N.S.A.

Cropping Pattern

The important crops grown in this study area are Maize, Wheat, Rice, Gram, Pulses, Potato, Banana and Summer vegetables.

Rice

In the diara and Tal areas this crop is not at all important. However on levee and other uplands above flood level paddy is grown on less than one percent of total cultivated area (N.S.A.). All the blocks grow rice but their area seldom exceeds one percent of the cultivated area except in Kharik block where 2.75 percent cultivated area is under paddy crop. Maximum hectare of Paddy is grown in Bihpur block followed by Naugachia and Gopalpur. In all other blocks the area under paddy is less than 100 hectares.

Wheat

It is the second important crop after Maize. It covers about 29 percent of the total cultivated area. Kharik block has 43% of its total cultivated area (N.S.A.) under Wheat. In Naugachia, Bihpur, Rangra Chowk and Narayanpur blocks 30-40 percent cultivated area is under Wheat cultivation. Gopalpur and Ismailpur have 20-30 percent of their total cultivated

area under Wheat. These two blocks have more diara lands and hence maize occupies larger area than wheat. When we consider the hectarage under wheat the largest area is occupied by Naugachia block while Rangra Chowk and Narayanpur have smaller areas under wheat. Maximum concentration of wheat cultivation can be seen in western part of the study area. Naugachia, Kharik and Bihpur blocks have greater areas under wheat. Gopalpur, Ismailpur, Rangra Chowk and Naryanpur have smaller area under wheat.

Maize

Maize is the most important crop of the diara areas which covers a great chunk of territory (41%) in Naugachia Subdivision. Naugachia block has more than 50 percent of its cultivated area under Maize. Most of the blocks of the area have 30-40 percent of N.S.A. under maize. Areawise picture of Maize that Naugachia block has 8398 hectares under this crop. Gopalpur and Ismailpur blocks have about 5000 hectares area under maize in each of them. Other blocks have 2000 3000 hectares under maize. All over the study area maize is important crop occupying 2500 5000 hectares of land in blocks like Naugachia, Kharik, Bihpur, Gopalpur and Ismailpur. The western block of Naryanpur has comparatively lesser area under this crop.

Gram

Gram covers 1.03 percent of the cultivated area of the study region. Gopalpur and Rangra Chowk, both eastern blocks of Naugachia Sub-Division have over 2 percent of their N.S.A. under Gram. Kharik block does not produce gram while Ismailpur produces very small quantity of gram. Naugachia, Gopalpur and Bihpur blocks have 300-600 hectares under gram crop. Ismailpur, Kharik and Naryanpur have less than 100 hectares of their cultivated area under gram. The importance of gram decreases from east to west. The central tract with greater extent of diara soils grow less than eastern and western segment of the study area

Pulses

Pulses cover 6.98 percent of the total cultivated area in Naugachia Sub-Division. Naugachia and Bihpur blocks have more than 10 percent of their cultivated area under different pulses. The other anchals have 3 9 percent area under pulses. The important pulses are Khesari, Masoor, Arhar, Moong and Urad. Masoor is important in Bihpur while Kulthi is grown in all the blocks. Arhar is important in Naugachia and Bihpur anchals. Urad is important crops in all the blocks of the area. Its importance decreases from Gopalpur block in the east to Narayanpur in the west.

Potato

Potato is grown in all the blocks of the area. It covers 3.70 percent of the total cultivated area in Naugachia Sub-Division. Potato covers more than 5 percent of N.S.A. in Naugachia and Narayanpur blocks. The concentration of potato decreases from Naugachia block in the east to Bihpur, Kharik and Narayanpur blocks in the west. The eastern segment of the study area has the largest extent of potato cultivation.

Besides these important crops fruits and vegetables are also important. In the sandy soil of diara summer vegetables are important. On the lands with higher surface which has clay loam orchards of Mango, Jackfruit and Lichi are important.

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