

## CHAPTER V

## COMPOSITION OF INCOME AND CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN BARPETA DISTRICT

**5. Composition of income and consumption expenditure of cultivators and agricultural labourers in the study villages:**

The relative share of the different sources in the income and consumption expenditure of the female cultivators as well as of the agricultural labourers is important in the present context. The average income, per capita income and percentage share of the different sources of income among the study groups is being analysed in this chapter. The average income and consumption expenditure of the female cultivators and agricultural labourers in respect of various groups and categories is also highlighted in this chapter to observe the differential earnings and the differential consumption expenditure among the cultivators and labourers. The primary data on income and consumption has been collected during last two weeks prior to the date of interview.

**5.01. Average Income from different sources:**

Table 5.01 depicts the average income earned from various sources by the female cultivators and agricultural labourers in the study region.

It has been observed from Table 5.01 that the farm income is the major source of earnings for female cultivators in all the groups of villages under study. The average income earned by the female cultivators for all the groups is Rs.259410.72 i.e. around 48 percent to their annual average income. In respect of groups, cultivators in group A earn the highest with around 49 percent to the average income and the lowest being earned by group C with about 47 percent, indicating a difference of only 2 percent. In the absence of landholding by agricultural labourers, there is no farm income for this section of the rural society.

***Income from permanent / family labour:***

The female cultivators along with their other family members perform the jobs on their own farms. Agricultural labourers are also engaged as permanent or casual labourers. As the cultivators have their own land, therefore, the percentage of income of the permanent labourers to the average income among female cultivators in all

groups has been calculated at around 29 percent as against 22 percent of the agricultural labourers indicating that the cultivators are earning approximately 6 percent more than labourers. In respect of groups, there is no major distinction of income earned by cultivators as permanent labourers and it is around 28-29 percent to their respective annual average income. Similar phenomenon has been observed for the groups of villages of agricultural labourers where the income earned as permanent labourers varies from 21-24 percent to their respective average income indicating that the labourers are earning almost 5-7 percent less than cultivators in various groups as they are basically landless and are compelled to cultivate on the land owned by cultivators on hired basis.

**Table 5.01**  
**Farm and Non-farm Income of Female Cultivators and Agricultural Labourers**  
**in group A, B & C of study villages**

(in Rs.)

Groups	Female Cultivators				Agricultural Labourers			
	A	B	C	Average	A	B	C	Average
<b>Income Source</b>								
<b>A. Farm Income</b>								
1. Net Farm Income	317817.24 (48.77)	234836.34 (47.27)	225578.60 (46.89)	259410.72 (47.76)	---	---	---	---
2. Income from Permanent/ Family Labour	188752.20 (28.96)	145359.18 (29.26)	137902.70 (28.66)	157338.02 (28.97)	110900.25 (22.18)	106003.80 (24.02)	78348.80 (21.31)	98417.61 (22.56)
3. Income from Casual Labour	15394.08 (2.36)	12604.04 (2.53)	12371.45 (2.57)	13456.52 (2.47)	304048.50 (60.81)	254706.20 (57.73)	216801.28 (58.98)	258518.66 (59.26)
4. Income from Crop Sharing	3752.58 (0.57)	3126.89 (0.62)	2683.85 (0.55)	3187.77 (0.58)	21487.98 (4.29)	23755.90 (5.38)	18671.36 (5.08)	21305.08 (4.88)
<b>5. Income from Subsidiary Occupations</b>								
(a) Dairy	33547.80 (5.14)	26456.96 (5.32)	30451.20 (6.33)	30151.98 (5.55)	17522.55 (3.50)	15755.60 (3.57)	4389.76 (1.19)	12555.97 (2.87)
(b) Poultry	26561.34 (4.07)	22300.28 (4.48)	24031.15 (4.99)	24297.59 (4.47)	11743.80 (2.34)	11886.00 (2.69)	14238.08 (3.87)	12622.62 (2.89)
(c) Sale of manures	4857.84 (0.74)	4107.77 (0.82)	4063.80 (0.84)	4343.13 (0.79)	2266.65 (0.45)	2102.80 (0.47)	10298.24 (2.80)	4889.23 (1.12)
(d) Miscellaneous	12278.76 (1.88)	8620.89 (1.73)	8905.65 (1.85)	9935.10 (1.82)	1817.46 (0.36)	1518.30 (0.34)	1560.32 (0.42)	1632.02 (0.37)
Sub-Total (5)	77245.74 (11.85)	61485.90 (12.37)	67451.80 (14.07)	68727.80 (12.67)	33350.46 (6.67)	31262.70 (7.08)	30486.40 (8.29)	31699.84 (7.26)
Sub-Total (A)	602961.84 (92.53)	457412.35 (92.09)	445988.40 (92.71)	502120.83 (92.45)	469787.19 (93.97)	415728.60 (94.23)	344307.84 (93.67)	409941.19 (93.97)
<b>B. Non-Farm Income</b>								
(a) Salaries	24197.16 (3.71)	20684.91 (4.16)	19536.40 (4.06)	21472.82 (3.95)	17453.55 (3.49)	15831.20 (3.58)	14165.76 (3.85)	15816.83 (3.62)
(b) Pensions	7638.54 (1.17)	6127.15 (1.23)	5918.90 (1.23)	6561.53 (1.20)	3416.19 (0.68)	2127.30 (0.48)	2496.00 (0.67)	2679.83 (0.61)
(c) Interest	3994.38 (0.61)	3262.23 (0.65)	3055.00 (0.63)	3437.20 (0.63)	3112.59 (0.62)	2066.40 (0.46)	1969.02 (0.53)	2382.97 (0.54)
(d) Miscellaneous	12809.16 (1.96)	9211.83 (1.85)	6507.15 (1.35)	9509.38 (1.75)	6154.80 (1.32)	5387.20 (1.22)	4602.88 (1.25)	5381.62 (1.23)
Total Income (B)	48639.24 (7.46)	39286.12 (7.90)	35017.45 (7.28)	40980.93 (7.54)	30137.13 (6.02)	25412.10 (5.76)	23234.56 (6.32)	26261.25 (6.02)
Total (A + B)	651601.08	496698.47	481005.85	543101.76	499924.32	441140.70	367542.40	436202.44

Source: Field survey

N.B.: Figures in brackets are percentages

Since only a few cultivators are performing casual labour, so they earn approximately 2 percent to the average earnings from this source in all groups. But most of the agricultural labourers are performing casual labour, so they are earning around 59 percent to the average earnings from this source in all groups. In respect of groups of cultivators, the income earned as casual labour is almost negligible i.e. only around 2-3 percent. In contrast to this, the labourers are earning almost 58- 61 percent to the average income from casual labour in group A,B and C indicating little variation of income earned from casual labour among the groups of villages of labourers as labour time use as casual labour was almost same. A few cultivators are also performing farm jobs on crop sharing basis and they are earning less than 1 percent in all groups from this source and among the groups also the difference is almost negligible. But the labourers are earning almost 5 percent to the average income in all groups from crop sharing. In respect of groups, it varies from 4-5 percent to their respective average income.

While looking at the Table 5.01, it becomes clear that farm income is the main source of income for the cultivators while labour in the casual form is the main source of income of the labourers. The income from the family / permanent labour of the cultivators is higher than the labourers because of the fact that the cultivators can get opportunity to engage in some job or the other on their own farm but the labourers cannot enjoy such opportunities. However, the labourers are also earning from permanent / family job as because they are taking advance from the employer cultivator to fulfill their major financial requirements, although income earned by the labourers is lower than cultivators from this source.

#### ***Income from subsidiary occupations:***

The income from subsidiary occupation is being contributed for both the cultivators as well as the labourers through different farm based activities. As the cultivators are having better resource base than labourers, they are earning around 13 percent to their average income from subsidiary sources in all groups as against only around 7 percent of labourers indicating that the labourers is earning almost half to that of the cultivators from subsidiary sources. In respect of groups of villages of cultivators, there is no major distinction between income earned from subsidiary sources and it varies from 12-14 percent. On the other hand, the agricultural labourers are earning only 7-8 percent from subsidiary sources in groups A, B and C.

Dairy farming is the major source of subsidiary occupation for both cultivators and labourers. As the cultivators are having certain facilities like their own land for fodder and space for the cattle shed, therefore they are earning almost 5 percent to the average income in all groups from dairy farming as against only 3 percent by labourers. In respect of groups, they are earning 5-6 percent from dairy farming indicating possibility of almost same livestock resources among group A, B and C. On the other hand, the group B labourers are earning maximum of around 4 percent to their total income from dairy farming as against the minimum of only 1 percent by group C labourers indicating a difference of around 3 percent between group B and group C labourers. The possible reason for such variation may be the lower livestock base of group C labourers than group B. It has been observed during survey that there is the practice of livestock sharing system in our study villages, just like crop sharing system. As income of the group B labourers is close to cultivators, therefore, group B labourers may share the livestock of their employer cultivators for dairy farming.

Poultry farming is the other source of earning. Poultry is generally reared in open grounds in the study villages. The cultivators are earning only around 4 percent to the average income from poultry farming as against 3 percent by labourers in all groups. In respect of groups of villages the earnings from poultry farming varies from 4-5 percent to their respective total earnings for cultivators as against 2-4 percent for labourers. The possible reason for lower earnings of labourers from poultry farming may be the lower poultry based resources and also lower financial resources than cultivators as they have no regular farm income due to their landlessness.

Sale of manure is another source of income of the cultivators where less than 1 percent of the average income is earned in all groups as against more than 1 percent for labourers indicating that the labourers are earning more than cultivators from this source as because cultivators use the manures mostly in their farm and the labourers mostly prefer to sale the manures as they have no land ownership. The highest income earned from sale of manure is found for group C cultivators with around 1 percent as against lowest in group A with less than one percent to their total income. But the labourers are earning maximum in group C with around 3 percent and minimum in group A with less than one percent i.e. only 0.45 percent. Income from miscellaneous sources like sale of straw, fruits, bamboo etc. is about 2 percent to the average income of cultivators as against less than 1 percent for labourers in all groups.

### *Non-farm income:*

In respect of non-farm income, salary, pension, interest earned, etc., are the primary sources of income. The income of the cultivators from non-farm sources is around 8 percent to the average income as against around 6 percent for labourers of all groups indicating that the cultivators is earning almost 2 percent more than labourers from non-farm sources as the cultivators have better resource base than labourers. In respect of groups, the highest income is earned from non-farm sources by cultivators in group B with almost 8 percent to the total income and lowest in group C with about 7 percent. But for labourers the highest income earned from non-farm sources has been found in group C with around 6 percent to the total income and lowest in group B with around 5 percent. It indicates that there is no major distinction among the groups of villages of cultivators and labourers regarding income earned from non-farm sources as farm activities are the predominant source of income in the study villages.

Among the non-farm sources, income from salaries is contributing the maximum. It is about 3- 4 percent of the total income for cultivators and labourers in all groups. In respect of groups of cultivators and labourers the variation of income earned from salaries is almost negligible. For cultivators the maximum is being earned in group B with about 4 percent to the total income and minimum in group A with about 3 percent. On the other hand, among the labourers the maximum is being earned in group C with around 4 percent to the total income and minimum in group A with 3 percent approximately. The difference between maximum and minimum among groups of villages of cultivators and labourers is almost 1 percent. Pension is the other source of non-farm income. It is more than 1 percent of the average income for cultivators and less than 1 percent for labourers in all groups. In respect of the three groups, the difference between highest and lowest income earned from pension is negligible for both cultivators and labourers. It indicates that the benefit of old-age pension (mostly) has been enjoyed equally by both the sections, although such benefit is very small. The contribution of interest is very small for both the sections of the society. It is less than 1 percent for the cultivators and labourers in all groups. In respect of groups of cultivators and labourers there is little variability of income earned from interest indicating lower saving capabilities of these two sections of society. The miscellaneous sources such as weaving, sericulture, food processing, etc., are also contributing some amount to the average income. It is around 2 percent for

cultivators in all groups as against only 1 percent of labourers. The cultivators are earning maximum in group A with around 2 percent and minimum in group C with almost 1 percent and the range value is approximately 1 percent. But the earnings of the labourers from miscellaneous sources in the three groups are almost the same.

### 5.02. Per Capita Income:

Table 5.02 depicts the per capita income of the female cultivators and agricultural labourers.

**Table 5.02**  
Per capita income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers  
in the study villages

(in Rs.)

Groups	Female Cultivators				Agricultural Labourers			
	A	B	C	Average	A	B	C	Average
<b>Income Source</b>								
<b>A. Farm Income</b>								
1. Net Farm Income	4074.58	3505.02	3470.44	3684.00	---	---	---	---
2. Income from Permanent Labour	2419.90	2169.54	2121.58	2237.00	1607.25	1514.34	1224.20	1448.59
3. Income from Casual Labour	197.36	188.12	190.33	191.93	4406.50	3638.66	3387.52	3810.89
4. Income from Crop Sharing	48.11	46.67	41.29	45.35	311.42	339.37	291.74	314.17
<b>5. Income from Sub Occupations</b>								
(a) Dairy	430.10	394.88	468.48	431.15	253.95	225.08	68.59	182.54
(b) Poultry	340.53	332.84	369.71	347.69	170.20	169.80	222.47	187.49
(c) Sale of manures	62.28	61.31	62.52	62.03	32.85	30.04	160.91	74.60
(d) Miscellaneous	157.42	128.67	137.01	141.03	26.34	21.69	24.38	24.13
Sub-Total (5)	990.33	917.70	1037.72	981.90	483.34	446.61	476.35	468.76
Sub-Total (A)	7730.28	6827.05	6861.36	7140.18	6808.51	5938.98	5379.81	6042.41
<b>B. Non-Farm Income</b>								
(a) Salaries	310.22	308.73	300.56	306.50	252.95	226.16	221.34	233.48
(b) Pensions	97.93	91.45	91.06	93.48	49.51	30.39	39.00	39.63
(c) Interest	51.21	48.69	47.00	48.96	45.11	29.52	30.78	35.13
(d) Miscellaneous	164.22	137.49	100.11	133.94	89.20	76.96	71.92	79.36
Total Income (B)	623.58	586.36	538.73	582.88	436.77	363.03	363.04	387.60
Total (A+B)	8353.86	7413.41	7400.09	7723.06	7245.28	6302.01	5742.85	6430.01

Source: Field survey

It has been observed from Table 5.02 that the average per capita income of female cultivators is around Rs.7723 whereas it is Rs.6430 for the labourers in all groups indicating that the per capita income of cultivators is about 9 percent more than labourers as they can earn regular income from farm activities. In respect of groups, the per capita income of cultivators is highest in group A with about Rs.8354 and lowest in group C with Rs.7400 and therefore, the per capita income of group A cultivator is almost 6 percent more than group C indicating that the resource base of group A cultivators is higher than group C. It also indicates possibility of lower family size of group A cultivators than group C. In case of labourers it is the maximum in group A with about Rs.7245 and minimum in group C with Rs.5743, and, therefore, the group A labourers is earning almost 11 percent more than group C indicating the possibility of a larger resource base and smaller family size of group A labourers than group C.

The average per capita net farm income of cultivators is Rs.3684. It is the maximum in group A with around Rs.4074 and minimum in group C with Rs.3470. In fact, group A cultivators is earning almost 6 percent more than group C. There is no farm income of agricultural labourers by being landless. The average per capita income of female cultivators by the family labour / permanent labour is around Rs.2237 in all groups and it is around Rs.1448 for the agricultural labourers indicating that the per head income of cultivators is almost 21 percent more than labourers as because labourers cannot enjoy adequate opportunity to engage themselves permanently on their farm due to their landlessness. In respect of groups, it is the maximum in group A with around Rs.2420 and minimum in group C with about Rs.2121 for the cultivators and therefore group A cultivator is earning almost 7 percent more than group C which may be due to their higher resource base. On the other hand, in case of labourers it is the maximum in group A with almost Rs.1607 and minimum in group C with Rs.1224 where the coefficient of range is only 0.13 or 13percent.

The average per capita income from subsidiary occupation is almost Rs.982 for the female cultivators and about Rs.469 for the labourers in all groups indicating that the per head income of cultivators is more than double which may be due to higher income earned by the cultivators than labourers from subsidiary sources like diary and poultry farming due to their larger livestock base. In respect of groups, it is the maximum for group C cultivators with around Rs.1038 and minimum in group B

with about Rs.918 where the coefficient of range between maximum and minimum per capita is about 0.06 or 6 percent. But for the labourers, it is the maximum in group A with about Rs.483 and minimum in group B with almost Rs.447 and therefore group A labourers is earning almost 4 percent more than group B from subsidiary sources. Among subsidiary occupations, the income from dairy is the major source of income. The average per capita income from this source is more than Rs.400 for the cultivators and less than Rs.200 for the labourers in all groups. It is highest in group C with around Rs.468 and lowest in group B with about Rs.395 for the cultivators. On the other hand, in the section of labourers it is highest in group A with almost Rs.254 and lowest in group C with only Rs.68 for the labourers. The range value between highest and lowest per capita income from dairy farming is around Rs.74 for cultivators as against Rs.185 for the labourers. Poultry farming is the other source where the average per capita income from this source for cultivators is around Rs.348 and for labourers it is almost Rs.187 in all groups indicating that per head income of cultivators from poultry farming is almost 30 percent more than labourers which may be due to their larger poultry based resources. In respect of groups, the per capita income from poultry farming is highest for group C cultivators with around Rs.370 and lowest in group A with almost Rs.340 indicating no major distinction of per capita income earned from poultry farming among the groups of villages of cultivators as they may have almost similar poultry based resources. But for the labourers it is highest in group C with almost Rs.222 and lowest in group B with about Rs.170 indicating that the group C labourers is earning approximately 13 percent more than group B from poultry farming. The possible reason for higher per capita income earned by group C labourers than group B may be due to their larger poultry based resources which may be collected from employer cultivators on 'livestock sharing' system.

The average per capita income from the sale of manures is only Rs.62 for the cultivators and it is almost Rs.75 for the labourers in all groups. In fact, the labourers are earning almost 9 percent more than cultivators from sale of manure as they have no own land to use manures obtained from their limited livestock. In respect of groups of villages of cultivators the per capita earning from sale of manure is almost same indicating almost similar livestock base. But the per head income for labourers is the maximum in group C with around Rs.161 and minimum in group B with only Rs.30 indicating that the group C labourers is earning almost 68 percent more than

group B from sale of manure which may be due to their larger livestock base obtained mainly from 'livestock sharing' system as mentioned earlier. The average per capita income from the miscellaneous source based on farm is around Rs.141 for the cultivators and it is only Rs.24 for the labourers in all groups indicating that per head income of cultivators is almost 71 percent more than labourers from this source due to their higher resource base. It is the maximum in group A with around Rs.157 and minimum in group B with approximate to Rs.129 for the cultivators and in case of labourers it is the maximum in group A with only Rs.26 and minimum in group B with about Rs.22.

The average per capita non-farm income of the cultivators is around Rs.583 and it is Rs.388 for the labourers in all groups indicating that the per head income of cultivators is almost 20 percent more than the labourers from this source as the farm income of the cultivators was higher than labourers and they can use their surplus farm income in non-farm sources (like interest). In respect of groups, it is highest in group A with Rs.623 and lowest in group C with Rs.539 and therefore group A cultivators is earning almost 7 percent more than group C indicating higher resource base of group A cultivators than group C. In case of labourers, it is highest in group A with around Rs 437 and lowest in group B with Rs 363 indicating that the per capita non-farm income of group A labourers is almost 9 percent more than group C.

The average per capita income from salary which is the major source of non-farm income contributes around Rs.306 for the cultivators and it is Rs.233 for the labourers in all groups and thus the per capita income of cultivators is almost 13 percent more than labourers from this source. It is the maximum for group A cultivators with around Rs.310 and minimum in group C with approximate to Rs.300. Similarly, it is the maximum for group A labourers with about Rs.253 and minimum in group C with Rs.221. The average per capita income from pension in all groups is Rs.93 and only Rs.40 for cultivators and labourers respectively. Income from source of interest is very small for both the sections of the society. It is being calculated around Rs.49 for the cultivators and only Rs.35 for the labourers on an average. In respect of groups, it varies from Rs.51 to Rs.47 for the cultivators and on the other hand it is the maximum in group A with almost Rs.45 for the labourers and minimum in group B with Rs.30. The average per capita income from miscellaneous sources is Rs.134 in all groups for the cultivators and Rs.73 for the labourers indicating that per head income of cultivators is almost 28percent more than labourers from this source.

Combining both farm income and farm based subsidiary occupations, it has been found that the average per capita income in all groups is around Rs.7140 for the cultivators and it is Rs.6042 for the labourers indicating that the per capita income of the cultivators from farm activities is almost 8 percent more than labourers. In respect of groups, it is highest in group A with around Rs.7730 and lowest in group B with Rs.6827 for the cultivators and in case of labourers it is the maximum in group A with around Rs.6808 and minimum in group C with Rs.5380. The average per capita non-farm income in all groups is Rs.583 for the cultivators and Rs.388 for the labourers and therefore, the per capita income of cultivators is almost 20 percent more than labourers from non-farm sources. It varies from Rs.539 to Rs.623 in groups for the cultivators and for the labourers it varies from Rs.363 to Rs.437.

Although the average per capita income of female cultivators in all groups is Rs.7723 as against Rs.6430 of agricultural labourers, the difference is very small and has been worked out at only 9 percent indicating that the standard of living of both the sections of the society is almost same even though per capita income is not considered as a proper index of living standard. Though land contributes a lot for the income of the cultivators but still they have to depend on their family labour so to earn their livelihood. On the other hand, the agricultural labourers are largely depending on their labour and casual labour is the main source of their income. Moreover, the female cultivators is also earning more non-farm income than labourers and the difference is about 20 percent as against only 8 percent difference of farm income between the two sections of rural society indicating that the cultivators is earning larger amount of both farm and non-income than labourers as land contributes a lot for their higher income.

### **5.03. Percentage share of various sources of income to the per capita income:**

Table 5.03 shows the contribution of various sources of income to the per capita income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers in the study villages.

**Table 5.03**  
**Percentage share of income**

(in percent)

Groups	Cultivators				Labourers			
	A	B	C	Average	A	B	C	Average
<b>Income Source</b>								
<b>A. Farm Income</b>								
1. Net Farm Income	48.77	47.27	46.21	47.41	---	---	---	---
2. Income from Permanent Labour	28.96	29.26	29.05	29.26	22.18	24.02	21.49	22.56
3. Income from Casual Labour	2.36	2.53	2.60	2.49	60.81	57.73	59.48	59.34
4. Income from Crop Sharing	0.57	0.62	0.54	0.57	4.29	5.38	5.12	4.93
<b>5. Income from Subsidiary Occupations</b>								
(a) Dairy	5.14	5.32	6.41	5.62	3.50	3.57	3.90	3.65
(b) Poultry	4.07	4.48	5.06	4.53	2.34	2.69	2.82	2.61
(c) Sale of manures	0.74	0.82	0.83	0.79	0.45	0.47	0.42	0.44
(d) Miscellaneous	1.88	1.73	1.87	1.82	0.36	0.34	0.36	0.35
Sub-Total (5)	11.83	12.35	14.17	12.76	6.65	7.07	7.50	7.05
Sub-Total (A)	92.49	92.03	92.57	92.32	93.93	94.2	93.59	93.88
<b>B. Non-Farm Income</b>								
(a) Salaries	3.71	4.16	4.11	3.99	3.49	3.58	3.88	3.65
(b) Pensions	1.17	1.23	1.24	1.21	0.68	0.48	0.68	0.61
(c) Interest	0.61	0.65	0.64	0.63	0.62	0.46	0.54	0.54
(d) Miscellaneous	1.96	1.85	1.37	1.72	1.23	1.22	1.26	1.23
Sub-Total	7.45	7.89	7.36	7.55	6.02	5.74	6.36	6.03
Total (A+B)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Field survey

It has been observed from Table 5.03 that the female cultivators and agricultural labourers are deriving major share of their income from farm activities and a small percent of their income from non-farm sources. As shown by the Table it is being observed that the cultivators and labourers are deriving 92-94 percent of income to the average per capita income in all groups from farm activities as

agriculture and agro-based activities are the major economic activities in the study villages. Income derived from non-farm activities is very small. It varies only 6-8 percent to the average per capita income of cultivators and labourers from non-farm sources. It indicates that there is limited occupational diversification of female cultivators and labourers and primary activity is their main occupation.

The farm and farm based activities has been divided into five parts on the basis of the sources of contribution. In case of cultivators the maximum income is contributed by the farm income i.e. around 47 percent in all groups. On the other hand, in case of labourers, there is no question of farm income, and they are dependent on the income from their labour, subsidiary activities and from the non-farm income earned through salaries, pension, interest etc. The income from performing of their labour on their own farms is calculated about 29 percent of the average per capita income of cultivators in all groups as against around 23 percent of labourers indicating that the per capita income of cultivators is almost 6 percent more than labourers from this source as the cultivators have their own land in relation to landlessness of labourers.

The main source of income of labourers is casual labour from which about 59 percent of average per capita is earned in all groups as against approximately 3 percent of cultivators. Being landless, labourers can enjoy limited choice and opportunity and are thus compelled to engage as casual labourers. Some of the cultivators are also engaged in crop sharing and its contribution is almost negligible in all groups in comparison to around 5 percent of labourers. In fact, labourers are deriving almost eight times more than cultivators from crop sharing. In other farm activities the maximum is contributed by the subsidiary occupations based on agriculture which is around 13 percent for the cultivators in all groups and in case of labourers it is only 7 percent indicating that the cultivators are deriving almost 6 percent more than labourers from this source in all groups as cultivators have more resource base than labourers. In respect of subsidiary occupations, dairy farming is the main contributor, where it is contributing around 6 percent of the average per capita income of cultivators in all groups as against 4 percent of labourers indicating that the cultivators is earning 2 percent more than the labourers. The possible reason may be the higher livestock base of cultivators than labourers. Almost the same reason may be attributed to the higher percentage of average per capita income of cultivators than labourers from poultry farming where the cultivators is deriving around 5 percent in

all groups and the labourers is deriving almost 3 percent from this source. The miscellaneous activities based on farm like the bee-keeping, piggery, sheep rearing, processing of vegetables etc. contributes almost 2 percent to the average per capita income for cultivators in all groups as against less than 1 percent of labourers. In fact, cultivators are deriving almost five times more than labourers from miscellaneous sources in all groups which may be due to higher resource base of cultivators as mentioned earlier.

In respect of groups of villages of cultivators the share of net farm income is around 46-49 percent to the average per capita indicating that there is no major distinction regarding per capita net farm income which may be due to almost similar level of resource base of group A, B and C cultivators. Similarly the income derived from permanent / family labour is almost same in the three groups i.e. around 29 percent to the average per capita of cultivators as they have their own land. In case of labourers the maximum earning from permanent / family labour has been found in group B with around 24 percent and minimum in group C with almost 21 percent indicating that the use of labourers by their employer cultivators may be different among the group of villages of labourers, although such differences is marginal. Some of the female cultivators are performing casual labour also. But this source is contributing negligible percent to the average per capita i.e. only 2-3 percent in group A, B and C. On the other hand the labourers are deriving around 60 percent to the average per capita from casual labour as they have no land of their own and compel to depend upon cultivators for providing employment at least in casual form for their livelihood. Crop sharing is also an important source of per capita income for the labourers, although the contribution from this source for the cultivators is very low. It is less than one percent for group of villages of cultivators as against around 4- 5 percent of labourers as it has been observed that the cultivators prefer to allow the labourers to cultivate their land on crop sharing system particularly in dry agricultural season when rainfall is scanty or deficient.

The cultivators as well as agricultural labourers both are having certain subsidiary occupations like dairy, poultry farming etc., so that they can earn a supplementary income. Among these occupations, dairy is contributing the maximum to the per capita income for both the cultivators and agricultural labourers. As the cultivators are having better facilities like availability of paddy straw and space for

the cattle shed, and with higher per capita earnings to invest in livestock, they are earning 5-6 percent from dairy as against 3-4 percent of labourers in the three groups.

Poultry farming is another source of subsidiary income from where the cultivators are deriving 4-5 percent to their per capita income as against only 2-3 percent of labourers in group A, B and C. Some of the cultivators as well as labourers are selling their manures and they are earning some income from this source, though it is very small. The contribution of selling manures to the per capita income of cultivator is around 1 percent in group A, B and C and less than one percent for labourers in the same group. Some of the income is being earned by miscellaneous activities based on farming which is around 2 percent for group of villages of cultivators as against negligible percentage for group of villages of labourers.

Among the non-farm income, the sources are salary, pension, interest and miscellaneous income. In respect of the non-farm income the major contribution is that of the salaries. Among the groups this share is almost same for cultivators and labourers i.e. around 4 percent to their respective per capita income. Pension is the other source of non-farm income. In respect of groups the contribution of pension to the per capita income is around 1 percent for cultivators whereas its contribution is less than one percent for labourers indicating no major distinction in enjoying social security benefits by cultivators and labourers in the three groups. A small amount of income is also being earned because of interest on the deposits both of the female cultivators as well as of the labourers. However, its share to the total per capita income is almost negligible for both the sections of the society indicating minimum amount savings. The share of the miscellaneous sources is highest in group A with around 2 percent and lowest in group C with around 1 percent for cultivators whereas it is approximate to just one percent for group of villages of labourers.

Combining all the non-farm sources of income, it has been found that the share of non-farm income to the per capita income of cultivators is around 7-8 percent in group A, B and C as against approximate to 6 percent for labourers in the same group indicating no major distinction among the group of villages of cultivators and labourers indicating limited diversification of occupation for both the sections of the society.

It is obvious that the farm income is the main contributor to the average income of the female cultivators and farm labour is the main source of income for the labourers. The permanent labour is the second important source of income for the

labourers whereas it is the family labour performed by the family members of female cultivators that is also an important source of income for the female cultivators. The cultivators having a better source base are earning more from the subsidiary occupations than that of the agricultural labourers. Income from the non-farm sources are also the significant source of income both for the cultivators as well as for the agricultural labourers.

#### 5.04. Group-wise Differences in income of Female cultivators and Agricultural Labourers:

The difference in the income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers in various groups is calculated in Table 5.04

Table 5.04

#### Income of Female Cultivators and Agricultural Labourers in the study Villages

(in Rs.)

Income	A	B	C	Average
Income of Cultivators	651601.08	496698.47	481005.85	543101.76
Income of Labourers	499924.32	441140.70	367542.40	436202.44
Difference	151676.76	55557.77	113463.45	106899.32
Percentage difference	13.17	5.92	13.37	10.91

The difference in the average income of female cultivators and agricultural labourer is around 11 percent indicating that the cultivators are earning more than labourers as the cultivators have their own land. Similarly, in the three groups, the cultivator is having higher income than the labourers and the percentage of difference is almost 13 percent in group A and C as against around 6 percent in group B. It indicates that income difference of group A and C cultivators and labourers is almost the same and the percentage of difference in group B is the minimum. The possible reason may be that the group B villages (Khairabari, Kalpani and Nichuka) are situated in proximity to the urban commercial centre i.e., Barpeta Road, and therefore the labourers may be better paid by the cultivator employer as the cultivators can sell their agricultural produce at reasonable prices at the nearest commercial centre without any difficulty.

### 5.05. Group-wise variation of income of cultivators and labourers:

Group-wise variation of income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers is studied and it is given in Table 5.05

**Table 5.05**  
**Variation in income between cultivators and labourers in study villages**

<b>Cultivators</b>			
Group	Annual Average Income (Rs.)	S.D.	C.V.
A	651601.08	1386.36	2.55
B	496698.47	1181.05	2.85
C	481005.85	1148.27	2.86
<b>Average</b>	<b>543101.76</b>	<b>1238.56</b>	<b>2.75</b>
<b>Labourers</b>			
Group	Annual Average Income (Rs.)	S.D.	C.V.
A	499924.32	1353.85	3.17
B	441140.70	1219.78	3.24
C	367542.40	1118.10	3.44
<b>Average</b>	<b>436202.44</b>	<b>1230.57</b>	<b>3.28</b>

To compare the variation in income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers, the co-efficient of variation is computed which is found to be around 3 percent for cultivators and labourers indicating that the income of the cultivator and labourers provides no evidence of difference, as labour time use of cultivators and labourers was statistically insignificant. It indicates possible relationship between labour time use and income of the cultivators and labourers. In respect of groups of cultivators, the coefficient of variation of group A, B and C is almost same i.e. around 3 percent indicating absence of inter village differences in income among female cultivators, as there is no significant difference in labour force participation among the groups of villages of cultivators. Similar phenomenon has been observed for groups of villages of labourers where the coefficient of variation is close to 3 percent in group A, B and C indicating absence of inter village differences of income of labourers too.

### 5.06. Analysis of variance of Income of Cultivators and labourers among study groups:

Group-wise analysis of variance of average income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers has been analysed using ANOVA (One-way classification model) and the results are given in Table 5.06.

**Table 5.06**  
ANOVA (One-way classification model)

<b>Cultivators</b>					
Source of Variation	Degree of Freedom	Sum of Squares	Mean Sum of Squares	Variance Ratio	Critical Value at 5% level of significance
Between Groups	2	1481780748	740890374	F = 0.11	F <sub>0.5</sub> = 3.3158
Within Groups	33	214921117828	6512761146.30		
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>216402898576</b>	<b>7253651520.30</b>		
<b>Agricultural Labourers</b>					
Between Groups	2	3283095531	164154765.50	F = 0.0013	F <sub>0.5</sub> = 3.3158
Within Groups	30	376590018337	125530006112		
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>376918327868</b>	<b>125694160877</b>		

It has been observed from Table 5.06 that the variance ratio (F) for female cultivators is 0.11 and it is 0.0013 for agricultural labourers. The variance ratio (F) of cultivators and labourers are less than critical value at 5% level of significance (3.3158). Therefore, the income difference of cultivators and labourers among various study groups is not significant.

### 5.07. Analysis of variance of income of cultivators and labourers within study groups:

The variance of annual average income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers within the study groups has been analysed using z-test.

Let the annual average income of female cultivators and labourers be  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$ . Let the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) be  $\mu_1 = \mu_2$  against the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) be  $\mu_1 > \mu_2$ .

The test statistic is

$$Z = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{SE(\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2)}$$

$$\text{Where } SE(\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2) = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}{n_1 + n_2}}$$

The results of the z-test are represented in Table 5.07.

Table 5.07: Results of z-test

Group	Annual Average Income		Z-Value	Critical value at 1% level of significance	Critical value at 5% level of significance
	Cultivators	Labourers			
A	651601.08	499924.32	0.152	1.96	2.58
B	496698.47	441140.70	0.312	1.96	2.58
C	481005.85	367542.40	0.237	1.96	2.58

It has been observed from Table: 5.07 that the calculated value of z for average income of cultivators and labourers in group A (0.152), group B (0.312) and group C (0.237) is lower than critical value at 1% level of significance (1.96) and 5% level of significance (2.58). Hence, we may accept the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) and reject the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) i.e. annual average income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers provides no evidence of difference within study groups as the differences of labour time involvement of cultivators and labourers were statistically insignificant.

Thus, there is no inter-village and intra-village difference of income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers.

### 5.08. Consumption Expenditure:

The relative share of consumption expenditure is indicative of the level of development of a society. Literature suggests that the relative share of expenditure on food items is the minimum in the developed countries whereas it is the maximum on the items of comforts and luxuries. Contrary to this, in the underdeveloped countries and in the social groups of the lower section, the maximum expenditure is being made on the food items and very less on the non-food items. A very small amount is being spent on comforts and luxuries.

The average consumption expenditure of female cultivators and agricultural labourers in our study villages is shown in Table 5.08.

It has been observed from Table 5.08 that the annual average consumption expenditure of female cultivators is higher (Rs.523848.35) than agricultural labourers (Rs.414983.09) indicating that the cultivators is spending almost 12 percent more than labourers as earnings of the cultivators from farm and non-farm sources was higher than labourers. In respect of groups, it is the maximum for group A cultivators with around Rs 6 lakhs as their average income was highest among the study groups and minimum in group C by almost 16 percent less than group A as their average income was lowest. Similar trend has been observed for the agricultural labourers where the maximum consumption expenditure has been found in group A with close to Rs 5 lakhs as their average income was highest and minimum in group C with around Rs 4 lakhs indicating that the group A labourers is spending almost 12 percent more than group C as their average income was lowest.

It has also been observed that both female cultivators and agricultural labourers are spending more on food items and a very small amount on non-food items indicating underdevelopment of the society. The female cultivators are spending almost 76 percent to the total consumption expenditure in all groups on food items and around 24 percent on non-food items. But the labourers are spending around 85 percent on food items in all groups and only about 15 percent of total consumption expenditure on non-food items. In fact, the labourers are spending more on food items than cultivators and cultivators are spending more on non-food items than labourers indicating that the cultivators are relatively well off than labourers, although both the sections of the rural society are living on subsistence.

**Table 5.08**  
**Group-wise Average Consumption Expenditure of Female Cultivators and the Agricultural Labourers (in Rs.)**

2	Female Cultivators				Labourers			
	A	B	C	Average	A	B	C	Average
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Food Items</b>								
Coffee	122771.22 (19.67)	104553.50 (21.42)	107385.85 (23.36)	111570.19 (21.29)	105376.80 (22.76)	105208.60 (25.02)	79630.08 (22.02)	96738.49 (23.31)
Wheat	21471.06(3.44)	18136.23(3.71)	19637.80(4.27)	19748.36(3.76)	14678.37(3.17)	15170.40(3.60)	26211.84(7.24)	18686.87(4.50)
Maize	4214.34(0.67)	3610.63(0.73)	2898.35(0.63)	3574.44(0.68)	2727.57(0.58)	2950.50(0.70)	2773.12(0.76)	2817.06(0.67)
Milk Products	59241.00 (9.49)	49801.10 (10.2)	51055.55 (11.07)	53365.88 (10.18)	43950.24 (9.49)	42716.10 (10.16)	41391.36 (11.44)	42685.90 (10.28)
Pulses	18740.28(3.00)	16004.96(3.27)	15982.20(3.47)	16909.14(3.22)	17180.31(3.71)	17740.80(4.21)	16229.76(4.48)	17050.29(4.10)
Oil	27675.96(4.43)	26011.41(5.33)	25642.50(5.57)	26443.29(5.04)	29240.13(6.31)	29414.00(6.99)	27386.88(7.57)	28680.33(6.91)
Sugar	31048.68(4.97)	29306.47(6.00)	26370.50(5.73)	28908.55(5.51)	29186.31(6.30)	29486.10(7.01)	25866.88(7.15)	28179.76(6.79)
Aggery	8179.86(1.31)	5060.51(1.03)	4862.00(1.05)	6034.12(1.15)	5149.47(1.11)	5217.80(1.24)	4575.36(1.26)	4980.87(1.20)
Meat/Fish/Eggs	81478.02(13.05)	68379.53 (14.01)	57255.25 (12.45)	69037.60 (13.17)	60395.01 (13.04)	59542.70 (14.16)	47318.40 (13.08)	55752.03 (13.43)
Vegetables	18879.90(3.02)	14432.47(2.95)	14712.75(3.20)	16008.37(3.05)	16119.78(3.48)	14767.20(3.51)	14845.44(4.10)	15244.14(3.67)
Fruits	2571.66(0.41)	2362.42(0.48)	2213.25(0.48)	2382.44(0.45)	2844.18(0.61)	2988.30(0.77)	2714.88(0.75)	2849.12(0.68)
Cond. Species	10092.42(1.61)	8553.22(1.75)	8650.85(1.88)	9098.83(1.73)	8205.48(1.77)	8479.10(2.01)	8037.76(2.22)	8240.78(1.98)
Tea Leaves	20826.00(3.33)	17131.23(3.51)	17352.40(3.77)	18436.54(3.51)	18304.32(3.95)	17078.60(4.06)	16816.64(4.65)	17399.85(4.19)
Pickles	7711.86(1.23)	6661.14(1.36)	6712.55(1.46)	7028.51(1.34)	7198.77(1.55)	6985.30(1.66)	5893.76(1.63)	6692.61(1.61)
Biscuits/Sweets Ice Cake	8828.04 (1.41)	6365.00 (1.30)	7679.10 (1.67)	7624.04 (1.45)	8697.45 (1.87)	8666.70 (2.06)	7185.28 (1.98)	8183.14 (1.97)
<b>Total (A)</b>	<b>443730.30 (71.11)</b>	<b>376369.82 (77.12)</b>	<b>368410.90 (80.14)</b>	<b>396170.34 (75.62)</b>	<b>369254.19 (79.75)</b>	<b>366412.20 (87.15)</b>	<b>326879.36 (90.40)</b>	<b>354181.91 (85.34)</b>
<b>- Food Items</b>								
(a) Tobacco	489.06(0.078)	376.54(0.17)	355.55(0.077)	407.05(0.077)	333.96(0.078)	256.20(0.06)	197.76(0.05)	262.60(0.06)
(b) Liquor	7877.22(1.26)	3439.11(0.70)	4716.25(1.02)	5344.24(1.02)	3387.90(0.73)	2359.00(0.56)	1913.60(0.52)	2553.50(0.61)
(c) Opium	603.72(0.096)	504.51(0.10)	471.25(0.10)	526.49(0.10)	667.23(0.14)	466.20(0.11)	353.92(0.09)	495.78(0.11)
Fuel	11800.62(1.89)	11168.23(2.28)	6222.45(1.35)	9730.43(1.85)	6433.56(1.38)	4272.80(1.01)	1992.96(0.55)	4233.10(1.02)
Cloth	23850.06(3.82)	14817.05(3.03)	11997.70(2.61)	16888.27(3.22)	13152.78(2.84)	8666.70(2.06)	6069.76(1.67)	9296.41(2.24)
House	19453.98(3.11)	11386.65(2.33)	9155.90(1.99)	13332.17(2.54)	9443.34(2.03)	1624.40(0.38)	2888.32(0.79)	4318.68(1.04)
Lighting	15007.98(2.40)	9073.81(1.85)	8708.05(1.89)	10929.94(2.08)	8185.47(1.76)	5218.50(1.24)	3474.56(0.96)	5625.17(1.35)
Medicine	12129.78(1.94)	8262.44(1.69)	7868.90(1.71)	9420.37(1.79)	7380.97(1.59)	4678.80(1.11)	2147.20(0.59)	4735.65(1.14)
Traveling	7139.34(1.14)	4379.12(0.89)	3883.10(0.84)	5133.85(0.98)	3864.69(0.83)	1988.00(0.47)	1062.40(0.29)	2305.03(0.55)
Education	11910.60(1.90)	10068.09(2.06)	8158.75(1.77)	10045.83(1.91)	8493.90(1.83)	4566.80(1.08)	2303.36(0.63)	5121.35(1.23)
Religion	5754.06(0.92)	3982.48(0.81)	3366.35(0.73)	4367.63(0.83)	3594.21(0.77)	1943.20(0.46)	1021.44(0.28)	2186.28(0.52)
Social	22006.92 (3.52)	9064.43 (1.85)	8680.75 (1.88)	13250.70 (2.52)	7798.38 (1.68)	5049.10 (1.20)	2819.84 (0.77)	5222.44 (1.25)
Shoes	5810.22(0.93)	2968.10(0.60)	2042.30(0.44)	3606.87(0.68)	2722.05(0.58)	2146.90(0.51)	1795.84(0.49)	2221.59(0.53)
Footwears	1392.30(0.22)	564.81(0.11)	492.05(0.10)	816.38(0.15)	517.50(0.11)	339.50(0.08)	235.52(0.06)	364.17(0.08)
Radio/ T.V. etc	1252.68(0.20)	876.36(0.17)	629.20(0.13)	919.41(0.17)	663.09(0.14)	443.10(0.10)	218.24(0.06)	441.49(0.10)
Watch	1182.48(0.18)	807.35(0.16)	731.25(0.15)	907.02(0.17)	687.93(0.14)	466.20(0.11)	213.76(0.05)	455.96(0.10)
Electric Fan	1354.86(0.21)	765.14(0.15)	688.35(0.14)	936.11(0.17)	591.33(0.12)	382.20(0.09)	236.16(0.06)	403.23(0.09)
Sewing Machine	726.18 (0.11)	578.88 (0.11)	432.25 (0.09)	579.10 (0.11)	455.40 (0.09)	254.80 (0.06)	178.56 (0.04)	296.25 (0.07)
Fruits/ Bedding	4027.92(0.64)	2085.71(0.42)	1920.75(0.41)	2678.12(0.51)	1947.18(0.42)	1145.90(0.27)	828.80(0.22)	1307.29(0.31)
Utensils	2592.72(0.41)	1887.39(0.38)	1665.30(0.36)	2048.47(0.39)	1609.08(0.34)	1225.00(0.29)	743.04(0.20)	1192.37(0.28)
Cycle/ Mobile	14183.52(2.27)	9482.51(1.94)	6906.25(1.50)	10190.75(1.94)	7712.13(1.66)	5233.90(1.24)	2338.56(0.64)	5094.86(1.22)
Entertainment	9636.90(1.54)	4462.87(0.91)	2153.45(0.46)	5417.74(1.03)	4084.80(0.88)	2274.30(0.54)	1641.60(0.45)	2666.90(0.64)
<b>Total (B)</b>	<b>180183.12 (28.87)</b>	<b>111604.58 (22.8)</b>	<b>91246.35 (19.85)</b>	<b>127678.01 (24.37)</b>	<b>93726.84 (20.24)</b>	<b>54001.50 (12.84)</b>	<b>34675.20 (9.59)</b>	<b>60801.18 (14.65)</b>
<b>A + B</b>	<b>623913.42</b>	<b>487974.40</b>	<b>459657.25</b>	<b>523848.35</b>	<b>462981.03</b>	<b>420413.70</b>	<b>361554.56</b>	<b>414983.09</b>

Source: Field survey

N.B.: Figures in brackets are percentages

In respect of groups, the consumption expenditure on food items is highest for female cultivators in group C with around 80 percent and lowest in group A with around 71 percent to the total consumption expenditure. Similarly, the agricultural labourers are also spending highest on food items in group C with about 90 percent and lowest in group A with almost 80 percent to their total consumption expenditure. On the other hand, the expenditure on non-food items is lower for group C cultivators and labourers with about 20 and 9 percent respectively and higher for group A cultivators and labourers with around 29 and 20 percent respectively. As group C cultivators and labourers are spending more on food items than non-food items, it can be said that group C cultivators and labourers are relatively poorer than group A and B. However, group C labourers are spending almost 10 percent more than group A on food items indicating that group C labourers are relatively poorer than group A, although both the sections are living on subsistence.

***Consumption expenditure on food items:***

Among the food items, the maximum is being spent on rice which is the staple food. The cultivators are spending almost 21 percent on rice in all groups as against 23 percent of labourers. In fact, labourers are spending almost 2 percent more on rice than cultivators as it was observed during the field survey that the average size of family of labourers is marginally higher than cultivators. In respect of groups, the expenditure made on rice is the maximum for group C cultivators with around 23 percent to the total consumption expenditure and minimum in group A with about 20 percent indicating that the group C cultivators is spending almost 4 percent more than group A as they (group C) earn more income from farm and non-farm sources reflecting the Keynesian income consumption relationship. But the labourers are spending the maximum in group B with around 25 percent to their total consumption expenditure on rice and minimum in group C with about 22 percent indicating that the group B labourers are spending almost 3 percent more than group C on rice, although average size of family of group C labourers may be higher than group B as mentioned earlier. This possible reason may be that the consumption of individuals is not only governed by income, it is also influenced by psychological factors like consumers' preferences, habits and tastes etc as suggested by literature. The milk and milk products is the other main food items. The cultivators and labourers are spending almost same percent of their consumption expenditure i.e. around 10 percent on milk and milk products in all groups. In respect of groups, the maximum consumption

expenditure on milk and milk products is made by the group C cultivators with around 11 percent and minimum by the group A cultivators with about 9 percent to their total consumption expenditure. Similarly labourers are also spending maximum expenditure on milk and milk products in group C with around 11 percent and minimum in group A with about 9 percent. Thus maximum and minimum consumption expenditure by the groups of villages of cultivators and labourers on milk and milk products are almost same as income of the cultivators and labourers provided no evidence of difference. Oil is a favorite item and so about 5 percent of the total consumption expenditure is spent by the cultivators on edible oil in all groups as against around 7 percent by the labourers. Although the labourers are spending about 2 percent more on edible oil than cultivators, yet the difference is almost negligible. In respect of groups, it varies from 4-6 percent for cultivators in comparison to 6-7 percent for labourers. Similarly labourers are spending almost 7 percent to their total consumption expenditure on sugar in all groups as against around 5 percent by the cultivators. In respect of groups, the expenditure made on sugar varies from 5-6 percent for cultivators as against 6-7 percent for labourers indicating almost same percent of expenditure on sugar by the group of villages of cultivators and labourers. Another favourite item is meat / fish, eggs and so around 13 percent of the total consumption expenditure is spent by the cultivators and labourers on this item in all groups as fish and eggs are easily available in our study villages. In respect of groups, there is no major distinction of expenditure made by cultivators and labourers on this item which ranges between 12-14 percent of total consumption expenditure of cultivators and labourers. It indicates that the group of villages of cultivators and labourers spend a significant percent on consumption of non-vegetarian items. The expenditure made on wheat is much less than the expenditure made on rice. The cultivators and labourers are spending around 4 percent of their total consumption on wheat in all groups. In respect of groups of villages of cultivators, the percentage of consumption expenditure made on wheat ranges between 3-4 percent to their respective total consumption indicating almost negligible variability of consumption expenditure on wheat. On the other hand the labourers are spending maximum expenditure on wheat in group C with around 7 percent to their total consumption expenditure and minimum in group A with only 3 percent. Thus group C labourers are spending almost 4 percent more on wheat than group A. It has been observed during field survey that group C labourers prefer 'Roti' in their breakfast than rice cake

which may be the possible reason for spending higher percent of their total consumption expenditure on wheat than group A. Further, the expenditure made on vegetables is also almost same for both cultivators and labourers in all groups i.e. around 3-4 percent to their total consumption expenditure indicating that the cultivators and labourers are spending little amount on vegetables. In respect of groups of villages of cultivators and labourers the percentage of expenditure to the total consumption expenditure made on vegetables are almost same. Although tea is an item of physical and social necessity, yet only 3-4 percent of total consumption expenditure is spent on this item by the cultivators and labourers in all groups. Almost same picture has been observed in groups of villages of cultivators and labourers where the cultivators are spending 3-4 percent of their respective total consumption expenditure as against marginally higher percent of labourers i.e. around 4-5 percent. The expenditure made on biscuits /sweets /rice cake is around 1 percent for cultivators in all groups as against 2 percent of labourers. However there are no differences among the group of cultivators and labourers regarding expenditure made on this item.

***Consumption expenditure on non-food items:***

Though less of the income is being spent on non-food items still there are certain items on which much of the amount is being spent. Clothing being the necessity of life and so about 3 percent of the total consumption expenditure is spent by the cultivators on this item in all groups as against lower percentage by the labourers i.e. only 2 percent. Although the resource base of the cultivators is higher than labourers, yet they are spending only 1 percent more than labourers on clothing. In respect of groups, the cultivators are spending around 3-4 percent to their respective total consumption expenditure on clothing as against 2-3 percent of labourers indicating subsistence levels of living of both the sections of the rural society as they are spending meager amount on a necessary item like clothing. The expenditure made on social ceremonies is another important item involving lot of expenditure. The cultivators are spending more than double on social ceremonies in comparison to labourers. It is around 2 percent to the total consumption expenditure for cultivators in all groups as against only 1 percent of labourers. In groups, it varies from about 2-4 percent for cultivators and approximately 1-2 percent for labourers indicating almost same amount of expenditure by cultivators and labourers on

clothing. Entertainment is another item where the percentage of expenditure to the total consumption of cultivators and labourers is almost negligible in all groups i.e. around 1 percent. In respect of groups of cultivators and labourers the expenditure made on entertainment varies from 1-2 percent to their respective total consumption expenditure. The money spent on house construction is also a significant item. The cultivators are spending around 3 percent to the total consumption expenditure on house construction in all groups as against only 1 percent by the labourers. It indicates deplorable housing conditions for both the sections of the society as it has been observed during field survey that most of the houses of cultivators and labourers are 'kucha' houses and they are not maintained well. In respect of groups the expenditure made on house construction varies from 2-3 percent for cultivators. But for labourers, although maximum expenditure on house construction is made in group A with around 2 percent, the group B labourers are spending negligible percent on house construction to their total consumption expenditure.

The money spent on education which is most important for improvement in the quality of life is very small for both the sections of the rural society. However, the cultivators are spending marginally higher than labourers on education. It is almost 2 percent to the total consumption expenditure for cultivators in all groups as against only 1 percent of labourers. In respect of groups, the cultivators and labourers are spending only 1-2 percent to their total consumption expenditure on education indicating lower literacy rate and poor level of educational attainment. The expenditure made on religious function is about 1 percent for cultivators and labourers in all groups. In respect of groups also the percentage of variation regarding expenditure made on religious function is almost negligible for both cultivators and labourers. The expenditure made on medicine is around 2 percent for cultivators in all groups as against marginally lower percentage of labourers i.e. about 1 percent. In respect of groups, the expenditure made on medicine varies from 1-2 percent to their total consumption expenditure for both cultivators and labourers. It has been observed during field survey that majority of cultivators and labourers mostly rely on rural bej / kabiraj for their medical treatment due to their poverty and ignorance and it may be the possible reason for spending meager amount on medicine. The amount spent on liquor is the main item of intoxicants. The cultivators is spending around 1 percent to the total consumption expenditure on three important intoxicants i.e. tobacco, liquor and opium, in all groups as against lower percentage by the labourers i.e. less than 1

percent. In respect of groups of cultivators and labourers the expenditure made on intoxicants is similar.

It can be concluded that there is a little difference in the amount spent by the cultivators and labourers in the groups of villages. Similarly, there are also negligible differences of the percentage of expenditure made on different items of consumption. The difference between the consumption expenditure of cultivators and labourers is not significant. Both these sections are not very well off and they are spending much on the food items and less on their necessities like clothing, house, health care etc. A small amount is being spent for comforts and luxuries by both the sections.

#### **5.09. Per-capita Consumption Expenditure:**

The per capita expenditure on consumption is calculated to be more familiar about the money spent by a person on the various food and non-food items. Just like the total amount of expenditure spent by the cultivators and labourers, the per capita expenditure is also having the similar pattern. It is because of the fact that there is small variation in the size of the families among the cultivators and labourers.

As shown in the Table 5.09, the average per capita expenditure of the cultivators is around Rs.7498 whereas it is about Rs.6121 for the labourers indicating that the per capita income of cultivators is greater than labourers by almost 10 percent. Among the groups, it is maximum for group A cultivators and labourers with around Rs.8000 and about Rs.6700 respectively as against minimum in group C with approximately Rs.7000 and Rs.5600 respectively. However, the difference in the per capita expenditure between group A and group C cultivators is almost 6 percent as against approximately 8 percent between group A and group C labourers. The per capita expenditure for both the sections is higher in food items than non-food items. The average per capita expenditures on food items for cultivators is around Rs.5700 for the cultivators as against approximately Rs.1790 on non-food items. In fact, cultivators are spending almost 52 percent more on food items than non-food items. On the other hand, the per capita expenditures on food items for labourers is around Rs.5200 as against only Rs.890 on non-food items in all groups indicating that the labourers are spending almost 71 percent more on food items than non-food items. In respect of groups, the per capita expenditure on food items is the maximum for group A cultivators and minimum for group B. But for labourers the maximum per capita expenditure on food item has been found in group A and minimum in group C.

**Table 5.09**  
**Group-wise Per -Capita Consumption of Female Cultivators and**  
**Agricultural Labourers**

(in Rs.)

		Cultivators				Labourers			
		A	B	C	Average	A	B	C	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>(A) Food Items</b>									
1	Rice	1573.99	1560.50	1652.09	1595.52	1527.20	1502.98	1244.22	1424.80
2	Maize	275.27	270.69	302.12	282.69	212.73	216.72	409.56	279.67
3	Milk Products	54.03	53.89	44.59	50.83	39.53	42.15	43.33	41.67
4	Oil / Ghee	759.50	743.30	785.47	762.75	636.96	610.23	646.74	631.31
5	Sugar	240.26	238.88	245.88	241.67	248.99	253.44	253.59	252.00
6	Jaggery	354.82	388.23	394.50	379.18	423.77	420.20	427.92	423.96
7	Wheat	398.06	437.41	405.70	413.72	422.99	421.23	404.17	416.13
8	Meat/ Eggs	104.87	75.53	74.80	85.06	74.63	74.54	71.49	73.55
9	Pulses	1044.59	1020.59	880.85	982.01	875.29	850.61	739.38	821.76
10	Vegetables	242.05	215.41	226.35	227.93	233.62	210.96	231.96	225.51
11	Fruit	32.97	35.26	34.05	34.09	41.22	42.69	42.42	42.11
12	Cond. Species	129.39	127.66	133.09	130.04	118.92	121.13	125.59	121.88
13	Tea Leaves	267.00	255.69	266.96	263.21	265.28	243.98	262.76	257.34
14	Pickles	98.87	99.42	103.27	100.52	104.33	99.79	92.09	98.73
15	Biscuits/ Sweets/ Rice Cakes	113.18	95.00	118.14	108.77	126.05	123.81	112.27	120.71
<b>Sub-Total (A)</b>		<b>5688.85</b>	<b>5617.46</b>	<b>5667.86</b>	<b>5707.99</b>	<b>5351.51</b>	<b>5234.46</b>	<b>5107.49</b>	<b>5231.13</b>
<b>(B) Non- Food Items</b>									
1	(a) Tobacco	6.27	5.62	5.47	5.78	4.84	3.66	3.09	3.86
	(b) Liquor	100.99	51.33	72.56	74.96	49.10	33.70	29.90	37.56
	(c) Opium	7.74	7.53	7.25	7.50	9.67	6.66	5.53	7.28
2	Fuel	151.29	166.69	95.73	137.90	93.24	61.04	31.14	61.88
3	Cloth	305.77	221.15	184.58	237.16	190.62	123.81	94.84	136.42
4	House	249.41	169.95	140.86	186.74	136.86	8.92	45.13	63.63
5	Lighting	192.41	135.43	133.97	153.93	118.63	74.55	54.29	82.49
6	Medicine	155.51	123.32	121.06	133.29	106.97	66.84	33.55	68.78
7	Traveling	91.53	65.36	59.74	72.21	56.01	28.40	16.60	33.67
8	Education	152.70	150.27	125.52	142.83	123.10	65.24	35.99	74.77
9	Religion	73.77	59.44	51.79	61.66	52.09	27.76	15.96	31.93
10	Social Ceremonies	282.14	135.29	133.55	183.66	113.02	72.13	44.06	76.40
11	Soaps	74.49	44.30	31.42	50.07	39.45	30.67	28.06	32.72
12	Foot-wears	17.85	8.43	7.57	11.28	7.50	4085	3.68	5.34
13	Radio/ T.V. etc	16.06	12.08	9.68	12.60	9.61	6.33	3.41	6.45
14	Watch	15.16	12.05	11.25	12.82	9.97	6.66	3.34	6.65
15	Electric Fan	17.37	11.42	10.59	13.12	8.57	5.46	3.69	5.90
16	Sewing Machine	9.31	8.64	6.65	8.20	6.60	3.64	2.79	4.34
17	Quits/ Bedding	51.64	31.13	29.55	37.44	28.22	16.37	12.95	19.18
18	Utensils	33.24	28.17	25.62	29.01	23.22	17.50	11.61	17.47
19	Cycle	181.84	141.53	106.25	143.20	111.77	74.77	36.54	74.36
20	Entertainment	123.55	66.61	33.13	74.43	59.20	32.49	25.65	39.11
<b>Sub-Total (B)</b>		<b>2310.04</b>	<b>1665.74</b>	<b>1403.79</b>	<b>1789.79</b>	<b>1358.36</b>	<b>771.45</b>	<b>541.80</b>	<b>890.19</b>
<b>Total (A + B)</b>		<b>7998.89</b>	<b>7283.20</b>	<b>7071.66</b>	<b>7497.78</b>	<b>6709.87</b>	<b>6005.91</b>	<b>5649.29</b>	<b>6121.32</b>

Source: Field survey

However, the difference in the per capita food expenditure between maximum and minimum amount of cultivators (between group A and group B) is less than 1 percent as against 2 percent (between group A and group C) of labourers. The per capita expenditure on non-food item varies from Rs 1400-2300 in the group of villages of cultivators as against Rs 500-1400 approximately for the labourers.

Rice is the staple food for both the sections where the per capita expenditure in all groups is around Rs.1600 for cultivators and approximately Rs.1400 for labourers indicating that the per capita expenditure on rice for cultivators is almost 7 percent than labourers. In respect of groups, there is no major distinction in per capita expenditure on rice among the groups of villages of cultivators. But for labourers, the maximum per capita expenditure on rice is found in group A and minimum in group C. The per capita expenditure on milk products is around Rs.51 for the cultivators and Rs.42 for the labourers in all groups. In the section of cultivators it is highest in group A with around Rs.54 and lowest in group C with about Rs.44 indicating a difference of around 10 percent. On the other hand, in case of labourers it varies from Rs.39-43 in the groups indicating a difference of only 5 percent. The per capita expenditure on sugar is around Rs.242 for cultivators and Rs.252 for the labourers in all groups indicating that the labourers are spending almost 2 percent more on sugar than cultivators. In respect of groups of villages of cultivators and labourers it varies approximately from Rs239-253 indicating no major distinction regarding per capita expenditure on sugar. The per capita expenditure on wheat is almost the same for cultivators and labourers in all groups i.e. around Rs.416. In respect of groups, the per capita expenditure on wheat is highest in group B with about Rs.437 and lowest in group A with Rs.398 for cultivators and for labourers it is highest in group A with almost Rs.423 and lowest in group C with Rs.404.

The per capita expenditure on vegetables is around Rs 225-228 for cultivators and labourers in all groups indicating that both the sections of the rural society spending almost same amount on vegetables. In case of fruits the per capita amount is very small. It is about Rs.34 for the cultivators and Rs.42 for the labourers in all groups. In fact, the per capita expenditure on fruits is almost 10 percent higher for labourers than cultivators in all groups. In respect of groups, the per capita expenditure on fruits is almost similar for cultivators i.e. around Rs 33-34. Similarly, for the groups of villages of labourers also it varies from Rs 41-43 indicating that the per capita expenditure on fruits for labourers is almost same in group A,B and C.

The per capita expenditure on tea leaves is around Rs.263 for the cultivators and it is Rs.257 for the labourers in all groups indicating that the cultivators is spending almost 1 percent more than labourers on tea leaves. It varies from Rs.255-267 among different groups for the cultivators and in case of labourers it varies from Rs.244-265.

Among the non-food items the per capita expenditure on clothing is around Rs.237 for the cultivators and it is Rs.136 for the labourers in all groups indicating that the per capita expenditure on clothing for cultivators is higher than labourers almost by 27 percent. The per capita expenditure made on house repair / construction is around Rs.187 for the cultivators and Rs.63 for the labourers in all groups. The per capita expenditure on house repair and construction is very small for both the sections of the society indicating rural poverty in the group of study villages. However, the per capita expenditure on house repair and house construction for labourers is less than cultivators by almost 50 percent indicating mass poverty among labourers than cultivators. In respect of groups of villages of cultivators, it is highest in group A with around Rs.249 and lowest in group C with about Rs.141 and for labourers it varies approximately from Rs.54 to Rs.119 in the groups. In fact, per capita expenditure on house repair / construction of group A cultivators and labourers is almost double in comparison to group C indicating poverty among group C villages of cultivators and labourers than group A. The per capita expenditure on traveling is only Rs.72 for the cultivators and around Rs.34 for the labourers in all groups indicating that the labourers are spending less than cultivators on traveling as they have lower mobility which may be due to their illiteracy, ignorance and lack of adequate skill development. The per capita expenditure on liquor is around Rs.75 for the cultivators and Rs.37 for the labourers in all groups. In respect of groups, it is highest in group A with around Rs.101 and lowest in group B with about Rs.51 for cultivators and the labourers are spending less in group C with Rs.30 as against Rs.49 in group A. In fact, group A cultivators and labourers are spending more on liquor than group C. The possible reason may be the higher concentration of tribal population in group A villages than group C who mainly prefer to use rice beer as a part of their traditional culture. The per capita expenditure on social ceremonies is around Rs.184 for the cultivators and Rs.76 for the labourers in all groups. Similarly, the per capita expenditure on education which is very important is just Rs.143 for the cultivators and Rs.75 for the labourers in all groups. Although, both the sections of the society is spending less on education, yet cultivators are spending almost 31 percent more on

education indicating more illiteracy and school drop out rates among labourers than cultivators. In respect of groups, the per capita expenditure on education is highest for group A cultivators with around Rs.153 and lowest in group C. Similarly for labourers, the per capita expenditure on education is highest in group A and lowest in group C even though there is higher concentration of tribal population in group A. The per capita expenditure on entertainment is around Rs.74 for the cultivators and it is just Rs.39 for the labourers in all groups. It is the maximum in group A with around Rs.123 for cultivators and minimum in group C with only Rs.31. Similarly, the labourers are spending highest on entertainment in group A and lowest in group C.

#### **5.10. Percentage share of per capita consumption expenditure:**

The percentage share of per capita consumption expenditure of female cultivators and agricultural labourers is given in Table 5.10

It has been observed from Table 5.10 that the percentage of expenditure to the total per capita consumption expenditure of agricultural labourers on food items is marginally higher than cultivators in all groups. It is around 85 percent of labourers as against 76 percent of cultivators on food items indicating that the propensity to consume of labourers is higher than cultivators which may be due to their poverty, although, per capita expenditure of cultivators is around Rs.7500 as against Rs.6100 of the labourers in all groups. Among the groups, the percentage expenditure on food items is highest for group C cultivators (around 80 percent) and lowest in group A (around 71 percent). Similar trend has been observed for agricultural labourers where it is the maximum in group C with around 90 percent as against minimum of about 80 percent in group A. It indicates mass poverty among group C cultivators and labourers than group A, although, both the sections of the society are not well-off. The percentage expenditure on the rice is the highest for both the sections of the society and it is around 21 percent for the cultivators and labourers in all groups indicating that the percentage to the per capita expenditure on rice by both the cultivators and labourers is almost same as rice is the main staple food in our study villages. However, group C cultivators are spending around 23 percent to the per capita expenditure on rice as against about 20 percent in group A.

Table 5.10  
Percentage Expenditure to the Per Capita income

(in Percent)

		Cultivators				Labourers			
		A	B	C	Average	A	B	C	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>(A) Food Items</b>									
1	Rice	19.67	21.42	23.36	21.48	22.76	20.17	22.02	21.83
2	Maize	3.44	3.71	4.27	3.80	3.17	6.81	7.24	5.74
3	Milk Products	0.67	0.73	0.63	0.67	0.58	0.72	0.76	0.68
4	Oil / Ghee	9.49	10.20	11.10	10.26	9.49	10.76	11.44	10.56
5	Sugar	3.00	3.27	3.47	3.24	3.71	4.22	4.48	4.13
6	Jaggery	4.43	5.33	5.57	5.11	6.31	7.12	7.57	7.00
7	Wheat	4.97	6.00	5.73	5.56	6.30	6.72	7.15	6.72
8	Meat/ Eggs	1.84	1.34	1.31	1.49	1.39	1.42	1.39	1.40
9	Pulses	13.05	14.01	12.45	13.17	13.04	12.31	14.47	12.81
10	Vegetables	4.25	3.83	3.99	4.02	4.46	4.03	4.46	4.31
11	Fruit	0.41	0.48	0.48	0.45	0.61	0.70	4.10	0.68
12	Cond. Species	1.61	1.75	1.88	1.74	1.77	2.09	2.45	2.10
13	Tea Leaves	3.33	3.51	3.77	3.53	3.95	4.37	2.22	4.32
14	Pickles	1.23	1.36	1.46	1.35	1.55	1.53	4.65	1.57
15	Biscuits/ Sweets/ Rice Cakes	1.41	1.30	1.67	1.46	1.87	1.86	1.63	1.90
<b>Sub-Total (A)</b>		<b>70.84</b>	<b>77.05</b>	<b>80.08</b>	<b>76.00</b>	<b>79.75</b>	<b>87.15</b>	<b>90.40</b>	<b>85.45</b>
<b>(B) Non- Food Items</b>									
1	(a) Tobacco	0.07	0.07	0.007	0.049	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.06
	(b) Liquor	1.26	0.70	1.026	0.995	0.73	0.56	0.52	0.60
	(c) Opium	0.09	0.10	0.010	0.066	0.14	0.11	0.09	0.11
2	Fuel	1.89	2.28	1.350	1.840	1.38	1.01	0.55	0.98
3	Cloth	3.82	3.03	2.61	3.153	2.84	2.06	1.67	2.19
4	House	3.11	2.33	1.99	2.476	2.03	0.14	0.79	0.98
5	Lighting	2.40	1.85	1.89	2.046	1.76	1.24	0.96	1.32
6	Medicine	1.94	1.69	1.71	1.78	1.59	1.11	0.59	1.09
7	Traveling	1.14	0.89	0.84	0.95	0.83	0.47	0.29	0.53
8	Education	1.90	2.06	1.77	1.91	1.83	1.08	0.63	1.18
9	Religion	0.92	0.81	0.73	0.82	0.77	0.46	0.28	0.50
10	Social Ceremonies	3.52	1.85	1.88	2.41	1.68	1.20	0.77	1.21
11	Soaps	0.93	0.60	0.44	0.65	0.58	0.51	0.49	0.52
12	Foot-wears	0.22	0.11	0.10	0.14	0.11	0.80	0.06	0.32
13	Radio/ T.V. etc	0.20	0.16	0.13	0.16	0.14	0.10	0.06	0.10
14	Watch	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.11	0.05	0.10
15	Electric Fan	0.21	0.15	0.14	0.16	0.12	0.09	0.06	0.09
16	Sewing Machine	0.11	0.11	0.90	0.37	0.09	0.06	0.04	0.06
17	Quits/ Bedding	0.64	0.42	0.41	0.49	0.42	0.27	0.22	0.30
18	Utensils	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.34	0.29	0.20	0.27
19	Cycle	2.27	1.94	1.50	1.90	1.66	1.24	0.64	1.18
20	Entertainment	1.54	0.91	0.46	0.97	0.88	0.54	0.45	0.62
<b>Sub-Total (B)</b>		<b>29.16</b>	<b>22.95</b>	<b>19.92</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>20.25</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>9.60</b>	<b>14.81</b>
<b>Total (A + B)</b>		<b>100.00</b>							

Source: Field survey

But, the labourers are spending maximum percentage in group A with around 23 percent and minimum in group B with about 20 percent. The percentage to the per capita consumption expenditure on milk product is almost negligible for cultivators and labourers which is less than 1 percent in all groups indicating that the cultivators

and labourers are spending little amount on nutritional diet like milk and milk products. The same phenomenon has been observed in the groups of villages of cultivators and labourers where a negligible percent of per capita expenditure are spent by the cultivators and labourers in group A, B and C. Taking of tea being a habit in Assamese society, the expenditure made by female cultivators on tea leaves is around 3 percent whereas this percentage is about 4 for the labourers in all groups indicating that the labourers are spending almost 1 percent more on tea leaves. In groups, it is highest in group C and lowest in group B for cultivators. But for labourers percentage expenditure on tea leaves is highest in group B and lowest in group C. The other main item is that of pulses where about 13 percent of per capita expenditure is made by the cultivators and labourers in all groups. In respect of groups also there is little variation in the percentage expenditure spent on these items. For cultivators and labourers it varies from about 12 -14 percent in group A, B and C indicating that the percentage expenditure on pulses is almost same among various groups as pulses are one of the major food items next to rice. The percentage of per capita expenditure made on meat / fish / eggs etc. is almost similar for both the sections of the society. It is little over 1 percent for cultivators and labourers in all groups. In respect of groups also there is little variation. It is the maximum for cultivators in group A with around 2 percent and minimum in group C with almost 1 percent. However, such percentages for labourers are almost similar like the group C cultivators i.e. around 1 percent in group A, B and C. Similar is the case for oil / ghee where percentage of per capita consumption expenditure is almost same for cultivators and labourers in all groups which has been work out at around 10 percent. In respect of groups of cultivators and labourers, maximum expenditure is made in group C with around 11 percent and minimum in group A with almost 9 percent to their per capita consumption expenditure. But the percentage expenditure made on sugar is approximately 1 percent higher for labourers than cultivators in all groups. It is around 4 percent for labourers and 3 percent for cultivators. It is highest in group C and lowest in group A both for cultivators and labourers. Similarly, the percentage expenditure made on jaggery is around 2 percent more for labourers than cultivators in all groups. It is 7 percent for labourers as against 5 percent for cultivators in all groups. Both the cultivators and labourers made higher percent of expenditure on jaggery in group C as against lower in group A. Vegetables are the items of daily use in every household. They are easily available in the group of study villages. The

percentage of per capita consumption expenditure on vegetables is almost same for both cultivators and labourers in all groups i.e. around 4 percent. In respect of groups of cultivators and labourers almost 4 percent to the per capita consumption expenditure is spent on vegetables.

Regarding non-food items, the cultivators are spending around 24 percent as against almost 16 percent of the labourers to the total per capita consumption expenditure in all groups. In fact, the cultivators are spending about 8 percent more than labourers on non-food items as they have more resource base than labourers. In respect of groups, it is the maximum for group A cultivators with around 29 percent and minimum in group C with about 20 percent. In fact, group A cultivators are spending almost 9 percent more on non-food items than group C indicating that the economic well-being of group A cultivators are better than group C. But the labourers are spending around 21 percent of per capita consumption expenditure on non-food items in group A which is maximum and about 10 percent in group C where the difference between the maximum and minimum expenditure is around 11 percent indicating that there is greater variation of the percentage of per capita consumption expenditure on non-food items in various groups of labourers than cultivators. It also indicates that the economic well-being of group A labourers are better than group C as percentage of per capita consumption expenditure on non-food items for group A labourers is more than group C, although, such percentages are lower than the groups of cultivators. The main non-food item of consumption in both the sections is that of clothing where the share of the cultivator's expenditure is worked out around 3 percent and it is almost 2 percent for the labourers in all groups. The cultivator is spending highest in group A (around 4 percent) and lowest in group C (around 3 percent) and the difference is about 1 percent between highest and lowest. Similarly, labourers are also spending maximum in group A with around 3 percent to their per capita consumption expenditure and minimum in group C with around 2 percent. In fact, the groups of villages of cultivators and labourers are spending almost same percent to their per capita consumption expenditure on clothing even though resource base of cultivators are higher than labourers. As the labour time use of cultivators in handloom weaving was more than labourers, therefore there is possibility of using more of home made cloths by the cultivators than labourers. Among the expenditure on intoxicants the expenditure on liquor shares about 1 percent to the per capita consumption expenditure of the cultivators and less than one percent of labourers' per

capita consumption expenditure in all groups. The percentage of per capita consumption expenditure on liquor is highest in group A with little over 1 percent for cultivators and lowest in group B with less than 1 percent. But the labourers are spending almost negligible percent to their per capita consumption expenditure on liquor in group A, B and C. The expenditure on health care or on medicines is also significant but it shares only 2 percent approximately to the per capita consumption expenditure for the cultivators and around 1 percent for the labourers in all groups indicating that both the sections depend more on rural bej / kabiraj for their health care. It also indicates inadequate growth of public and private health care facilities in our study villages. In respect of groups of cultivators the percentage of per capita consumption expenditure on health care is around 2 percent in group A, B and C. But the labourers are spending less in group C with less than 1 percent and high in group A with more than 1 percent. Thus the groups of villages of cultivators and labourers are spending meager amount on health care indicating lower levels of living for both the sections of the rural society. The per capita consumption expenditure on social ceremonies is also a most important non-food item both for the cultivators as well as for the labourers. It is around 2 percent for cultivators and almost 1 percent for labourers in all groups. In fact, cultivators are spending one percent more than labourers on social ceremonies. In respect of groups of cultivators it is the maximum with around 3 percent to the per capita consumption expenditure in group A and minimum in group B with around 2 percent. But for labourers, the maximum percent of expenditure on social ceremonies has been found in group A with around 2 percent to the per capita consumption expenditure as against negligible percent in group C. The percentage of per capita consumption expenditure made on housing is around 2 percent for cultivators and 1 percent for labourers in all groups. In respect of groups, it varies from 2-3 percent for cultivators and 0.14- 2 percent for labourers. The expenditure made on entertainment is again very important non-food item. It is about 1 percent to the per capita consumption expenditure for cultivators and labourers in all groups. In respect of groups this percentage of expenditure on this item is highest in group A and lowest in group C for both cultivators and labourers, although group C labourers are spending negligible percent on entertainment.

Less of expenditure is made by both the sections on education. It has been found that around 2 percent of per capita expenditure is spent by the cultivators on this item as against 1 percent by the labourers in all groups. In respect of groups of

cultivators almost 2 percent of the per capita expenditure is spent on education. But for labourers, the maximum expenditure has been found in group A with around 2 percent and minimum in group C with less than 1 percent on education. Although the cultivators are spending almost 1 percent more than labourers on education, yet such percentages are very small in comparison to expenditures on food items.

So, it can be concluded that the percentage expenditure spent on food items by the cultivators as well as by labourers is much higher as compared to the non-food items. It shows that both the sections are living on subsistence. They are having very small amount to spend on non-food items. The expenditure spent on various items is having less of variation among the groups of cultivators as well as for the labourers. They have to ignore education and health care because they are to fulfill their food requirement first. So, very small percentage is being spent on education, social ceremonies, entertainment, etc. by both the sections of the society.

#### 5.11. Difference in consumption expenditure:

Table 5.11  
Difference of consumption expenditure

(in Rs.)

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Average
Cultivators' consumption expenditure	623913.42	487974.40	459657.25	523848.35
Labourers' consumption expenditure	462981.03	420413.70	361554.56	414983.09
Difference	160932.39	67560.70	98102.69	108865.26
Percentage of the difference	14.80	7.43	11.94	11.39

It has been observed from Table 5.11 that the consumption expenditure of labourers is less than cultivators in all groups by around 11 percent as the main source of income of labourers are casual jobs with irregular income and therefore they compel to curtail their consumption on food and non-food items. In respect of groups, the difference of the consumption expenditure among group A and C cultivators and labourers is around 12-15 percent as their income difference was around 13 percent. On the other hand, the income difference of group B cultivators and labourers was around 6 percent which may be the possible reason for minimum difference of consumption expenditure among group B cultivators and labourers by around 7

percent. In fact, the percentage of difference of consumption expenditure between group B cultivators and labourers is almost half compared to the group A and C.

### 5.12. Average propensity to consume of female cultivators and agricultural labourers:

The average propensity to consume of the female cultivators and agricultural labourers is given in Table 5.12.

**Table 5.12**  
**Average propensity to consume**

(in Rs.)

	Cultivators				Labourers			
	A	B	C	Average	A	B	C	Average
Consumption (c)	623913.42	487974.40	459657.25	523848.35	462981.03	420413.70	361554.56	414983.09
Income (y)	651601.08	496698.47	481005.85	543101.76	499924.32	441140.70	367542.40	436202.44
A.P.C. (c/y)	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.96	0.92	0.95	0.98	0.95
A.P.S. (1-APC)	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.08	0.05	0.02	0.05

It has been observed from table 5.12 that the average propensity to consume of cultivators and labourers in all groups is almost same. It is around 95-96 percent for cultivators and labourers in all groups. It has also been observed that the average propensity to consume is very high for both the sections of the society as they spend major portion of their limited income on consumption and little has been left for savings i.e. only 4-5 percent. It indicates poverty and underdevelopment of both the sections of the society. The same phenomenon has been observed in the groups of villages of cultivators and labourers where the average propensity to consume is around 95-98 percent leading to lower propensity to save which is about 2-5 percent. It indicates that that the groups of cultivators and labourers in our study villages are giving more importance to present consumption than future consumption which may be due to their low income from farm and non-farm sources and poverty.

### 5.13. Group-wise variation in consumption expenditure:

Group-wise variation of consumption expenditure of female cultivators and agricultural labourers is studied and the result is given in Table 5.13.

**Table 5.13**  
**Group-wise Variation in Consumption of the Female Cultivators**  
**and Agricultural Labourers**

<b>Cultivators</b>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>Annual Average Consumption (Rs.)</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>C.V.</b>
A	623913.42	1120	6.64
B	487974.40	1081	8.19
C	459657.25	699.71	5.62
<b>Average</b>	<b>523848.35</b>	<b>866.90</b>	<b>6.81</b>
<b>Labourers</b>			
A	462981.03	1247	9.96
B	420413.70	1145	10.07
C	361554.56	1007	10.38
<b>Average</b>	<b>414983.09</b>	<b>1133</b>	<b>10.13</b>

To compare the variation of consumption expenditure of female cultivators and agricultural labourers, the coefficient of variation is computed which is found to be around 7 percent for cultivators as against around 10 percent for labourers indicating that the consumption expenditure of cultivators is more consistent than labourers as C.V. of the cultivators is less than labourers. The possible reason may be that the cultivators have their own land and larger livestock resources. Therefore they can earn more income than labourers from farm and non-farm sources. In respect of groups, C.V. of the group B cultivators is highest (around 8 percent) followed by group A (around 7 percent) and group C (around 6 percent) indicating that the consumption expenditure of group C and group A cultivators is more consistent than

group B. The possible reason may be the lower family size of group C and A villages for cultivators than group B. But the C.V. of the group A, B and C labourers are almost same (around 10 percent) indicating that there is absence of intra village differences of consumption expenditure of group A, B and C labourers.

#### 5.14. Analysis of variance of consumption expenditure of cultivators and labourers among study villages:

Group-wise analysis of variance in average consumption expenditure of female cultivators and agricultural labourers has been analysed by using ANOVA (one-way classification model) and the results are given in Table 5.14.

Table: 5.14.  
ANNOVA (One-way Classification Model)

Cultivators					
Source of Variation	Degree of freedom	Sum of Squares	Mean sum of Squares	Variance Ratio	Critical Value at 5% level of significance
Between Groups	2	200133	100066	F = 0.00025	F <sub>0.5</sub> = 3.09
Within Groups	108	42539079945	393880370		
Labourers					
Between Groups	2	106782	53391	F = 0.00011	F <sub>0.5</sub> = 3.09
Within Groups	108	49436699684	457747219		

It has been observed from Table 5.14 that the variance ratio (F) is less than critical value at 5% level of significance (F<sub>0.5</sub>) of female cultivators and agricultural labourers and therefore, the difference of the consumption expenditure among various groups is insignificant, although consumption expenditure of group A and C cultivators was found to be more consistent as per calculation of C.V,

#### 5.15. Analysis of variance of consumption expenditure of cultivators and labourers within study groups:

The variance of consumption expenditure of female cultivators and agricultural labourers within the study groups has been analysed by using z-test.

Let the annual average consumption expenditure of female cultivators and labourers are  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$ . Let the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) be  $\mu_1 = \mu_2$  against the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) be  $\mu_1 > \mu_2$ .

The test statistic is

$$Z = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{SE(\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2)}$$

$$\text{Where, } SE(\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2) = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}{n_1 + n_2}}$$

The result of the z-test is represented in Table 5.15.

Table 5.15: Results of z-test

Group	Annual Average Consumption		Z Value	Critical value	
	Cultivators	Labourers		1% level of significance	5% level of significance
A	623913.42	462981.03	22.33	1.96	2.58
B	487974.40	420413.70	9.97	1.96	2.58
C	459657.25	361554.56	18.59	1.96	2.58

It has been observed from Table 5.15 that the calculated value of z for consumption expenditure of cultivators and labourers in group A (22.33), group B (9.97) and group C (18.59) is higher than critical value at 1% and 5% level of significance. Therefore, we may reject the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) and accept the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) i.e. annual average consumption expenditure of female cultivators is greater than the labourers within the study groups, even though annual average income of cultivators and labourers provides no evidence of difference within study groups. This may be possible as consumption function is a psychological concept and it is influenced by subjective factors, like consumer's preferences, habits etc. Although variance of consumption expenditure among various groups is not significant, it is significant within the groups. Thus there are no inter-village differences of average consumption expenditure of cultivators and labourers. However, there are intra-village differences of average consumption expenditure between the two sections of rural society.

**Conclusion:** It is obvious that the farm income is the main source of income of female cultivators as against farm labour of agricultural labourers as the labourers have no land of their own. The permanent labour is the second important source of income for the labourers whereas it is the family labour performed by the family members of female cultivators that is also an important source of income for the female cultivators. The cultivators having a better resource base are earning more from the subsidiary occupations than that of the agricultural labourers. Income from the non-farm sources are also the significant sources of income for both the cultivators as well as for the labourers. However, the variation of income of the cultivators and labourers has been calculated by using coefficient of variation which is found to be around 3 percent for cultivators and labourers indicating that there is no difference in the income of the cultivators and labourers, as labour time use of cultivators and labourers were statistically insignificant indicating possible relationship between labour time use and income of the cultivators and labourers. In respect of groups of cultivators, the coefficient of variation of group A, B and C is almost the same indicating absence of inter village differences in income among female cultivators, as labour time use among groups of villages of cultivators was almost uniform. Similar phenomenon has been observed for groups of villages of labourers where the coefficient variation is close to 3 percent in groups A, B and C. Group-wise analysis of variance of average income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers has been analysed using ANOVA. It has been found that the variance ratio (F) of cultivators and labourers are less than the critical value at 5 percent level of significance and, therefore, the income difference of cultivators and labourers among various study groups is not significant. Further, the variance of income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers within the study groups has been analysed using Z-test. It has been found that the average income of cultivators and labourers in groups A, B and C is lower than the critical value at 1 percent and 5 percent level of significance and therefore it can be concluded that the annual average income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers provides no evidence of difference within study groups. Thus there is no inter-village and intra-village difference in income of female cultivators and agricultural labourers.

As income difference of female cultivators and agricultural labourers is statistically insignificant, therefore, it is obvious that there is little difference in the amount spent by the cultivators and labourers in the groups of villages. Similarly,

there is negligible difference in the percentage of expenditure made on different items of consumption. However, both these sections have very high spending on food items and less on their necessities like clothing, house, education, health care etc., indicating their living under poverty with very high marginal propensity to consume. To compare the variation in consumption expenditure of female cultivators and agricultural labourers, the C. V. is computed which is found to be around 7 percent for cultivators as against around 10 percent for labourers indicating that the consumption expenditure of cultivators is more consistent than labourers as C.V. of the cultivators is less than labourers. In respect of groups, C.V. of the group B cultivators is highest followed by group A and group C indicating that the consumption expenditure of group C and group A cultivators is more consistent than group B. But the C.V. of the groups A, B and C labourers are almost uniform (around 10 percent) indicating that there is absence of intra village differences in consumption expenditure between groups of A, B and C labourers. Group-wise analysis of variance of average consumption expenditure of cultivators and labourers has been analysed by using ANOVA and it has been observed that the variance ratio (F) is less than critical value at 5 percent level of significance and therefore, it can be calculated that the difference in consumption expenditure among various groups is insignificant, although consumption expenditure of group A and C cultivators was found to be more consistent as per result of the C.V. The variance of consumption expenditure of female cultivators and agricultural labourers within the study groups has been analysed using Z-test. It has been found that the calculated value of Z for consumption expenditure of cultivators and labourers in group A, B and C is higher than critical value at 1 percent and 5 percent level of significance. It can therefore be concluded that the annual average consumption expenditure of female cultivators is greater than the labourers within the study groups, even though income difference of cultivators and labourers was statistically insignificant which may be possible due to psychological nature of consumption function. Thus there is no inter-village differences in average consumption expenditure of cultivators and labourers as against intra village differences between the two sections of the rural society.