

CHAPTER II

INTRODUCING SAMPLE VILLAGES

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2.1 Introduction

Select background information have been given in this chapter to enable one to appreciate better the set-up (socio-economic) in which the sample cooperative credit societies have been working.

2.2 Sample Villages

2.2.1 Uttar Khalpara (V₁)

This village is 48 kilometers to the North of the Jalpaiguri district¹ town. There is no direct bus route from the village to the district headquarters. The total area of the village is 1349 acres or 546.11 square kilometers. The total population of the village is 1730, of which 880 are males and 850 are females. Caste Hindus, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, Muslims, Buddhists and Christians reside

¹ Background information of Jalpaiguri district have been given in Appendix I.

in the village. 482 males and 445 females of the population belong to scheduled castes, while 206 male persons and 200 female persons belong to scheduled tribe categories. Thus, more than 77 per cent of the total population belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribe community. Of the total land tracks, 442 acres are not available for cultivation. Cultivable waste land is 167 acres. Of the land under cultivation (740 acres), 100 per cent is unirrigated. There are 350 residential houses in the village, of which 22 are tin-roofed and the remaining are thatched houses. There is no pukka residential building here. In the village there are two primary schools set up by the State Government. There is also a secondary school in the village. But most of the villagers are illiterate. Only 151 persons are literates, of whom 120 are males and 31 are females. It means that less than 9 per cent of the total population are literates. A village market (Hat) sets up once in a week, and the villagers market there. There are three permanent grocery-shops in the village. There is no medical amenity in this village. The village is under MAL Block. The Police Station is also at MAL. This village has one Agricultural Co-operative Society.

The ^{number of} Total farm-families in this village are 114.

2.2.2 Gairkatta (V₂)

This village is 50 kilometers to the East of the district town. The total area of the village is 732 acres or 296.34 square kilometers. This village has a total population of 4,479, of which 2,538 are males, and 1,941 are females. The population consists of caste Hindus including Brahmins, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, Christians and Muslims. Of the total population, 468 male persons and 373 female persons belong to scheduled castes category and 453 males and 387 females are from scheduled tribe category. Thus, in this village, only 37.5 per cent of the total population belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribe class. This village mainly consists of caste Hindus including Brahmins. 1195 male and 1089 female persons of the village are coming from caste Hindu category. Of the total land area, 30 acres are not available for cultivation. Remaining 702 acres are cultivated. There is very little irrigation system here. There are 395 residential houses in the village, of which 311 are made of bamboos, mud and thatched roofed, there are 5 pukka buildings, others are made of wooden planks with tin roofs. In the village there are two primary schools and one secondary school. 1292 male and 692 female persons are literates, the percentage of literates on total population is about 42 per cent. National Highway (N.H.) 31 runs through the village. Bus services are available towards the district town and to

Gouhati of Assam and towards Bhutan. One cinema house, four saw mills, one plywood factory are found in the village. There are also one Telephone Exchange Office and one Commercial Bank in this village. 25 permanent shops including restaurant, grocery, stationeries, hardwares, cloth-dealers are found in the village. There is one Agricultural Co-operative Society in this village. In the village there is one physician appointed by the Public Works Department of the Government of West Bengal who gives medical aids to the villagers. The village market sets twice a week. This is a big market and people of all neighbouring villages attend this market. This village is under the jurisdiction of the Block and Police Station at Dhupguri.

Total numbers of farm-families are 90.

2.2.3 Uttar Jhar Alta (V3)

This village is 60 kilometers to the North East corner of the district town. It is a small village with 508 acres of land. In kilometers, the total area of the village is 205.48 square kilometers. The total population of the village is 602, consisting of 316 males and 286 females. There are five Christian families consisting of 34 members. Of the rest 242 male and 264 female persons belong to scheduled castes, and 32 male and 30 female persons belong to scheduled tribe. Thus, more than 94 per cent of the total population

come from scheduled castes and scheduled tribe community.

The rest are caste Hindus, Muslims etc. Of the total land,

45 acres are not available for cultivation. Remaining

463 acres are used fully in cultivation. There is very

little irrigation system in the village. There is no metaled

road here. Cart is the only method of transportation.

The village is very backward in education. There is no

school of any type. Only 72 males and 20 females can just

write their names and addresses. 15 per cent of the total

population is literate. Medical aid is largely absent in this

village. There is no co-operative society in this village.

A few cultivators are members of the agricultural co-operative

society of the neighbouring village Chantimukhi. There is only

one permanent shop in the village. There is no market in this

village. Villagers have to go to the weekly or by-weekly

markets of the neighbouring villages.

In the village, there are 111 houses, of which

17 are tin-roofed, and the others are thatched houses. The

village is under the Administrative Block and Police Station

of Dhupguri.

Total number of farm-families in this village

are 70.

2.2.4 Fataktari (V4)

The village is 50 kilometers to the North West corner

of the district headquarters. The total area of the village is 1225 acres or 495.59 square kilometers. The village has a total population of 1867, of which 1035 are males and 832 are females. Among the inhabitants, 533 male and 534 female persons are scheduled castes, and 353 males and 212 females belong to scheduled tribes. Thus, 87 per cent of the total population belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribe categories. The rest belong to caste Hindus and Muslims. There is no Christian. Of the total land, 141 acres are not available for cultivation. The remaining land of 1084 is fully utilised for cultivation. There is no irrigation system in the village. There is one primary school in this village, but there is no secondary school. There is no direct transportation system linking the village with the district headquarters. There is one metaled road in the village but there is no bus route here. Rickshaw and carts are the medium of transport. 272 males and 25 females are literates. Percentage of literacy on the total population is about 25. There are five permanent shops in the village. There is no market in this village, Medical aid also is absent here. There are 323 houses in this village, most of the houses are thatched huts. There are two pukka buildings, and 21 tin roofed houses in the village. There is one agricultural co-operative society in the village. This village is under the administrative block and Police Station of Dhupguri.

Total numbers of farm-families in this village are 82.

2.2.5 Bhatiapara (V₅)

This village is 57 kilometers to the East of the district town under the block and police station of Dhupguri. The total area of the village is 488 acres or 197.43 square kilometers. Of the total land, 110 acres are not available for cultivation. The rest of the land is fully used in cultivation. The total agricultural land is unirrigated. The village has a total population of 1736, of which 972 are males and 764 are females. In this village, there are caste Hindus, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, Muslims and Christians. Of 750 scheduled caste people, 401 are males and 349 are females. 45 male and 36 female persons belong to scheduled tribe. Scheduled castes and scheduled tribe people account for about 48 per cent of the total population. 240 males and 225 females belong to Muslim community. Of the total population, about 27 per cent are Muslims. 95 males and 91 females are Christians, accounting for about 10 per cent of the total population. The rest of 15 per cent of the population are caste Hindus. Surrounding the village there is a metaled road. Buses, rickshaws are the mode of transportation. The village is well communicated with the district town. There is one primary school and one high school

in the village. 491 males and 260 females are literates. The percentage of literates on the total population is about 44, thus showing that the village is a developed one.* There is one M.B.B.S. doctor, practising in the village. There is a saw mill here. There are five permanent shops in this village. There is one agricultural co-operative society in the village. There sets one by-weekly village market here. There are 335 residential houses here. There are two pukka buildings. 42 houses are made of timber and wooden planks with tin roofs, the rest of the houses are made of bamboos, mud, and they are all thatched houses.

Total numbers of farm-families in this village are 48.

2.2.6 Kumarpara (V₆)

The village is 26 kilometers to the East of the district town. The total area of the village is 1567 acres or 634.11 square kilometers. The total population of the village is 2,050 of which 1079 are males and 971 are females. Caste Hindus, Scheduled Castes, Muslims and Christians live in this village. Most of the people belong to scheduled castes. A total number of 1581 people of the village is of this category, of this 833 are males and 748 are females. The percentage of scheduled castes on the total population of this

* In relation to other sample villages.

village is about 77.12. Of the total land of 1567 acres, 522 acres are not available for cultivation. Cultivable waste land is 40 acres. Total land under cultivation is 1005 acres. There is very little irrigation system in the village. There are 303 residential houses. Houses are built of bamboos and mud with tin or thatched roofings. 31 houses are tin roofed, while others are thatched. There is one primary school in the village. The total number of literate people in the village is 320. Of this 287 are males and 33 are females. Thus, of the total population, about 15 per cent is literate. There is no direct bus route from the village to the district headquarters. In the village, there is no secondary school and there is very little medical aid. There are two shops selling groceries, stationeries, clothings and goods of daily necessities. There is no village market. Villagers go to the markets of the neighbouring villages or Mayanaguri where there is one daily market. There is one Agricultural Co-operative Society in the village. This village is under the Block and Police Station of Mayanaguri.

Total numbers of farm-families in this village are 93.

2.3 Concluding Remarks

Crops produced in these villages have not been mentioned because the same have been given in chapter X. The information do not, however, claim to be exhaustive.