

## CHAPTER – III

### **LEVELS AND PATTERN OF INCOME OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS**

#### **3. Introduction**

The purpose of this chapter is to analyse income levels and sources and income of the near landless agricultural labourers and marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer in the rural areas of Barpeta district in Assam. More specifically the aim is :

1. To estimate the total and per capita income of near landless agricultural labourer households and marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer households.
2. To analyse the composition of income of different income groups and to compare the differences across the villages; and
3. To estimate the extent of poverty among the near landless agricultural labourers and marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer.

The analysis is divided into two sections.

**Section 3.1.1** deals with levels of per household income and per capita income earned by different income groups of the near landless agricultural labourers. It also contains an account of the relative shares of different components of income in the total income of each income category of the near landless agricultural labourers. In addition it gives an estimate of the extent of poverty prevailing among the near landless agricultural labourers.

**Section 3.1.2** examines the levels of per household income and per capita income earned by near landless agricultural labourers in twelve villages in Barpeta district of Assam. We have studied the inter-village differences in the composition of income earned by near landless agricultural labour households by taking into consideration the relative share of different components of income. This is done by an analysis of the extent of poverty prevailing among the agricultural labourers in the district.

**Section 3.2.1** deals with levels of per household income and per capita income earned by different income group of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers. It also contains an account of the relative shares of different components of income in the total income of each income category of the marginal group of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers. It also contains an account of the relative shares of different components of income in the total income of each income category of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers. In addition, it gives an estimate of the extent of poverty prevailing among the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers.

**Section 3.2.2** examines the levels of per household income and per capita income earned by marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers in twelve villages in Barpeta district of Assam. We have studied the inter-village differences in the composition of income earned by marginal farmer cum agricultural labour households by taking in to consideration the relative share of different components of income. This is done by an analysis of the extent of poverty prevailing among the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers in the district.

It may be noted that we have placed all Tables at the end of the chapter.

### **3.1.1 Levels of per Household Income and Per Capita Income Earned by Different Income Group of The Near Landless Agricultural Labourers.**

#### **3.1.1.1 Per Household Income**

Table 3.1 gives the mean values of income earned by near landless agricultural labourers in different income categories. The table shows that an average near landless agricultural labour household earns annually about Rs. 22,230.7 in the rural areas of Barpeta district. However, there are considerable variations in the income levels earned by different households. For example, 48 households in the lowest income category earned on an average, about Rs. 17,665 annually. The middle income category (36 household) recorded an average income of about Rs. 22,484.

Similarly, the highest income category (36 households) earned an average income of about Rs. 17,665 annually from all the sources. It may be observed from the table that in absolute terms the sources of income show a similar pattern across the income categories. But the analysis in absolute terms does not give a correct picture, because average income of three income categories are different. In such a situation the income pattern may better be studied by comparing the relative share of individual components of income in the total income of respective categories.

Table 3.2 contains an account of the relative shares of different components of the total income. A perusal of the table clearly depicts that the main source of income in the case of an average near landless agricultural labour household is hiring out labour, on permanent as well as casual basis in agriculture. On an average, about 66 percent of the total income is exclusively earned by working on other farms. However, there are clear cut differences in the relative shares of income so far as different income categories are concerned. For example, lowest income category earns 72 percent of its total income by hiring out labour in the agriculture sector. The middle and the highest income categories

earns 66 percent and 60 percent of their respective total incomes from hiring out labour in the agricultural sector. The second important source of income in the case of an average near landless agricultural labour household is income from non-farm product. About 16 percent of the total income consists of income from non-farm product. The highest percentage of income from this source is registered by the highest income category. Non-farm wage income means non-agricultural operations particularly in road construction, earth cutting, and house building under the rural development programme.

But the second important source of income for lower and middle-income category near landless agricultural labour household is sale of milk. The lowest source of income in the case of an average near landless agricultural labour household is income from sale of fruits. About 0.14 percent of the total income consists of income from sale of fruits. The highest percentage of income from this source is registered by the highest income category (0.15 percent), followed by middle income category (0.09 percent) and lower-income category (0.06 percent). The highest income category earns more from the sale of fruits because they sale more lemon product. The components of the income, such as income from sale of agricultural product, horticulture, sale of eggs and poultry, forest product, sale of livestock, sale of fish, craft items, remittance from relatives and others account for a meager share of the total income in all the three categories.

Something needs to be mentioned about the composition of income from hiring out labour in agricultural operations by near landless agricultural labour households. An average near landless agricultural labour household earns about 66 percent of the total income by getting its members employed as permanent and casual labourers. A different picture emerges when we look at the percentage share in different income categories. The two lower income categories earn relatively more by hiring out permanent as well as casual labour in agriculture. For example, about 72 percent and 66 percent of the total income from the agricultural sector in the lowest income category and the middle-income

category respectively is earned by hiring out permanent as well as casual labour.

Another way to look into the composition of income earned by near landless agricultural labour household is to examine the relative share of cash and kind receipt from hiring out labour in the agricultural sector. It may be observed from Table 3.2 that about 47 percent of the total income earned by way of agricultural wages is received in cash by an average household. A similar situation prevails in the income categories. For example, in the lowest income category 55 percent of the total wage income is earned in the form of cash. Likewise in the middle and the highest income categories 45.49 percent and 41.22 percent respectively of the total wage income consists of cash receipts. This is evident from the fact that the percentage share of cash receipts is consistently greater than that of the receipt in kind in each income category. Furthermore, the cash receipt of near landless agricultural labourer is greater than the receipts in kind. This leads us to conclude that there is no significant difference in the composition of income earned by near landless agricultural labour households.

The above analysis suggests that there is much similarity in the income pattern of near landless agricultural labourers in the different income categories. By virtue of being near landless agricultural labourers, the main source of their income is agricultural wages. Usually the major portion of income comes from the wage income earned during peak or slack period. The uniform rate of wages of the agricultural labourers are fixed by the landlords according to his necessities, providing little more chance to bargain with the prevailing rate of wages in the area. As a result, there is a very little difference in the wage of near landless agricultural labourers. They enhance their income by resorting to subsidiary occupations like horticulture, diary and very small trade. However, there is a qualitative difference in the form of income earned as wage workers in agriculture. The lowest income category makes more income by getting assured employment as near landless agricultural labourers. It has an important

implication. The household income of wage earners is essentially a function of the level of wages, the duration of employment and the number of earners. It appears that the income of the lowest income category of near landless agricultural labourers in Barpeta district is relatively high, because they are engaged whole year as permanent as well as casual agricultural labour. There are some nominal differences in the wage rates, which are not in any case unfavourable to the middle and highest income categories. The number of earners and earning dependents is comparatively large in the lowest income category. As a result, the total wage bill is being greatly affected by the duration of employment and the number of earners.

The incomes from money wage are not uniform because it varies significantly due to individual contracts, dissimilarities of rural operations, purpose of agricultural works in peak season, non-availability of work in the slack season etc.

### **3.1.1.2 Per Capita Income**

We have already analyzed the total income pattern of near landless agricultural labourers. The average family size of the sampled households is about 5. However, there are considerable variations in the family size across the categories. For example, the average family size in the highest income category is above 6. In the middle and the lowest income categories, it is about 5 to 6 respectively. Since the family size across the income categories varies considerably, it becomes essential to look into the per capita income levels and income pattern across the income categories.

Table 3.3 contains the average per capita income earned by the near landless agricultural labourers in Barpeta. Average per capita income of the near landless agricultural labourers works out to be about Rs.4213.35. However, there are variations in the per capita income levels of different income categories. For example, the highest income category earns Rs. 4506.39 per capita, whereas the

middle and lowest income categories earn Rs.4423.10 and Rs.3755.80 respectively. The data reveal that the different sources of income show a similar pattern across the income categories.

The pattern of per capita income across the income categories appears to be similar to the average household income pattern when looked at in absolute terms. However, there is a considerable difference in the range of average per capita income and the average household income of the various income categories. Although the increase in household income is accompanied by the increase in family size, the per capita income also reflects an increasing trend.

### **3.1.1.3 Poverty among Agricultural Labourers**

The term poverty is defined as inability of an individual to meet certain minimum desirable level of living. All those people who live below this minimum desirable level of living are said to be living below the poverty line. The poverty line worked out by Dandekar and Rath is Rs. 180 per capita, for year at the 1960-61 prices for rural areas. The poverty line for 1999-2000 is worked out by us using the general consumer price index for the agricultural labourer for the year 2001-02 (Source : Planning commission, Datta and Sundaram, Indian Economics, 2002). The poverty line comes to Rs. 3930.72 per capita, per year (Dutta & Sundaram, 2002).

All agricultural labourer having per capita income or per capita consumption below Rs. 3930.72 have been treated as poor households. On the basis of this definition of poverty line, as many as 45.83 percent near landless agricultural labour households in the rural areas of Barpeta district lived below the poverty line in the month of our field survey. However, there are variations in the percentage of households living below the poverty line in the income categories. It is 66.67 percent for the lowest income category and 30.56 for middle and 33.33 percent from highest income category of the households from the Table 3.4.

However, all the households below the poverty line are not equally poor. Since the percentage method is based on general head counting procedure, it does not take in consideration the shortfall in income by which the household fall below the poverty line. It is clear from the Table that the proportion of poor persons in the first income category is higher (66.67 percent) than that in the third income category ( 33.33 percent) and second income category (30.56 percent). But the average per capita income of the persons below the poverty line is higher in the second income category (3551.85) than 3<sup>rd</sup> income category (3458.40) and first income category (3424.89).

### **3.1.2 Levels of Per Household and Per Capita Income Earned by Near Landless Agricultural Labourers in Twelve Villages in Barpeta District, Assam.**

#### **3.1.2.1 Per Household Income**

It is clearly brought out in the previous section that there are many similarities in the pattern of income among the agricultural labour households . However, it has been found by some researchers that the level of development of an area is highly correlated with the level of living. The income level of farmers has been observed to be higher in the areas, which made an advance in technology from the initial years of HYV programme than those, which made efforts in this direction some what late. In such a situation it becomes relevant to examine the differences in the level and pattern of income earned by near landless agricultural labour households, our limited objective is to highlight the inter-village differences in the level and the composition of household income of near landless agricultural labour households in twelve villages of Barpeta district.

The mean values of income earned by the near landless agricultural labourers in Keotkushi, Balattari, Betbari Pathar, Khabler Bhitha Kalbari, Banglipara, Gahekhandra, Bennibari, Pub Khagrabari, Bhebla, Uppernai and Titkataze villages of Barpeta district of Assam are given in the Table 3.5. An

average near landless agricultural labour household earns annually Rs. 22260.54 in the rural areas of Barpeta district of Assam. However, there are considerable variations in the income levels of near landless agricultural labour households in the twelve villages. For example, 10 households in Keotkushi village earns, on an average Rs. 22333. In Ballattari village households have recorded an average income of about Rs. 22941 from different sources of livelihood. The average household income of 10 households each of Betbari Pathar, Khabler Bhitha, Kalbari, Banglipara, Gahekhanda, Bennibari, Pub Khagrabari, Bhebla Upparnai and Titkataze is only Rs. 21606.20, Rs. 22884, Rs. 22916.60, Rs. 22830, Rs. 26430, Rs. 19578, Rs. 20320, Rs. 27657, Rs. 18980 and Rs. 22190 respectively.

The relative share of individual components of income are given in Table 3.6. A perusal of the Table clearly depicts that the main source of income in the case of an average near landless agricultural labour household is hiring out labour, on permanent as well as casual basis in agriculture. As already observed, an average near landless agricultural labour households earn 65.48 percent of the total income from this source. However, there are some differences in the relative share of income across the villages.

For example, an average near landless agricultural labour household in Keotkushi Ballattari, Gahekhanda, Pub Khagrabari and Upparnai earns more than 70 percent of its total income from hiring out labour in agriculture. In Betbari Pathar, Titkataze Banglipara, Bhabla, Kalbari and Bennibari an average household earns within the 49.43 percent to 67.93 percent of total income by hiring out labour in agriculture. In Khabler Bhitha under Paka Betbari Block an average household earns about 33.78 percent of total income by hiring out labour in agriculture. The second important source of income in the case of an average near landless agricultural labour household is non-farm labour. About 16.10 percent of the total income is earned from non-farm wages. Village Khabler Bhitha has recorded the highest income (51.17) from this source followed by Bhebla, Betbari Pathar, Titkataze (15.68), Banglipara (12.47), Ballattari (12.42), Upparnai (11.66),

Keot kushi (10.34), Kalbari (9.09), Gahekhandra (8.70), Bennibari (10.11) and Pub Khagrabari (6.2). Income from sale of milk ranks third in the income pattern of the district. The highest percentage of income from this source is recorded in Titkazare, which comes to 9.79. This is followed by Kalbari (6.13), Bennibari (5.97), Gahekhandra (5.1), Madhyabetbari (3.86), Pub-Khagrabari (3.47), Ballattari (3.41), Upparnai (3.31), Keotkushi (3.02), Banglipara (2.57) and Bhebla (2.18) village. Income from agriculture production, horticulture, sale of eggs and poultry, sale of livestock, forest product, remittances from relatives, sale of fish, sale of craft items, sale of fruits and others accounts for about 14.36 percent of the total income in the district. It ranges between 4.99 percent and 29 percent across the villages. The labourers are employed generally on casual basis and there is a tendency of employing a small number of permanent labourers.

It is observed from the forgoing analysis that irrespective of differences in the level of agricultural development, the pattern of income earned by the near landless agricultural labourers is almost the same. The main source of income of the near landless agricultural labourers is agricultural wages. They supplement their income through non-farm labour wage. It is further supported by sale of milk. There are some qualitative differences in the form of income earned as wage workers in agricultural sector. The level of household income and agricultural development are not so closely related in the case of agricultural labour households.

### **3.1.2.2 Per Capita Income**

Table 3.7 contains average per capita income earned by near landless agricultural labourer households in the twelve revenue villages of Barpeta district of Assam. The table shows that an average near landless agricultural labour household earns annually per capita income of Rs. 4218.81. However, there are variations in the per capita income levels of near landless agricultural labour households in the different villages. For example, near landless agricultural labour households in Banglipara earn about Rs. 5581.28 per capita, followed by

Gahekhandha (4986.79), Battattari (4498.2), Kalbari (4493.40), Bhebla (4455.05), Pub Khagrabari (4233.33), Keotkushi (4136.27), Betbari Pathar (4076.59), Bennibari (3995.55), Upparnai (3877.55) and Tiakataze (3579.03).

Near landless agricultural labour households in Gahekhandha are earning the highest per capita income from hiring out labour in agriculture. It is about Rs. 3516.79 for Gahakhanda and in Khabler Bhitha earning the lowest per capita income from hiring out labour is agriculture (1171.51). It appears that owing to the variations in the family size in the different villages, Banglipara has taken a marginal lead over Gahekhandha in per capita income. The per capita income i.e., the per Capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) of Assam at constant (1993-94) prices has been worked out at Rs. 6157 in 2000-2001(Q) as against Rs. 5978 in 1999-2000(P) and Rs. 5664 in 1998-99. At current prices the same was Rs. 10198 in 2000-2001 (Q) as against Rs. 9720 in 1999-2000 (P) and Rs. 8826 in 1998-99. Thus, the per capita income at constant (1993-94) prices shows a declining trend of 2.99 per cent in 2000 – 2001 (Q) over 1999-2000, from a growth of 6.54 percent in 1999-2000 over 1998-99 and at current prices the same has decreased to 4.92 percent in 2000-2001 (Q) from 10.13 percent in 1999-2000 over 1998-99.

So far as per capita income is concerned it has been noticed that since long back Assam continued to lag behind the per capita income at national level (NNP). In fact, in the recent years, the gap of per capita income of Assam and India has widened further. The Table 3.8 shows the per capita income at national level and Assam. During 1999-2000, the per capita income for the country as a whole was Rs. 15562.1 at current prices and Rs. 10067.0 at constant (1993-94) prices while the same for Assam stood at a much lower level of Rs. 9720 and Rs. 5978 respectively.

### **3.1.2.3 Poverty Among Near Landless Agricultural Labourers**

We have worked out the poverty line as Rs. 3930.72 per capita, per year in section 3.1 in this chapter. On this criterion, as many as near 46 percent near landless agricultural labour households in the rural areas of the Barpeta district of Assam are living below the poverty line. However, there are considerable variations in the proportion of households below the poverty line across the villages. It is 80 percent for Khabler Bhitha and Titka taze, 60 percent for Bennibari, 50 percent for Betbari Pathar and Pubkhagrabari, 40 percent for Keotkushi, Kalbari, Upparnai, 30 percent for Ballattary, Banglipara, Bhebla, and 20 percent for Gahekhanda.

It may be observed from the Table 3.9 the proportion of the near landless agricultural labourers below the poverty line is much higher (80 percent) in Khabler Bhitha and Titkataze as compared to Bennibare (.60 percent), Betbari Pathar, Pubkhagrabari, Keotkushi, Kalbari, Upparnai, Ballattari, Banglipara, Bhebla and Gahekhanda. Furthermore, the average per capita income of the near landless agricultural labourers below the poverty line is relatively high in Banglipara (3805.33) than the lowest in Khabler Bhitha (3279.16).

**3.2** Section is devoted to the analysis of income level and sources of income of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers in Barpeta district of Assam. This section is divided into two subsections.

#### **3.2.1 Levels of Per Household Income and Per Capita Income Earned by Different Income Groups of the Marginal Farmer-cum-Agricultural Labourers.**

##### **3.2.1.1 Per Household Income**

This section deals with the levels of per household income and per capita income earned by the different income categories of marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers. It contains an account of the relative shares of different components of income in the total income of individual income categories. An

attempt has also been made to estimate the extent of poverty prevailing among the marginal farmers.

The first sub section examines the level of per household income and per capita income earned by the marginal farmer cum agricultural labourer in the selected twelve villages of Barpeta district of Assam. We have studied the inter-village differences in the composition of income earned by marginal farmer households by taking into consideration the relative shares of different components of income. In addition, it contains an estimate of poverty prevailing among the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers in the twelve villages.

Table 3.10 contains an account of the mean values of income earned by the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers in different income categories. The Table shows that an average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer household annually about Rs. 24,753.32 in the rural areas of Barpeta district of Assam. The highest income category earns the highest household income of about Rs. 30017.4 annually. The middle income category has recorded an average income of Rs. 22,390.26, followed by the lowest income category which earns only Rs. 18,127.05.

The Table clearly shows that in absolute terms the sources show a similar pattern across the income categories. The income from almost all the sources rises as we move up from the lowest income category to the highest. Income from sale of milk, sale of eggs and poultry, remittances from relatives and sale of craft items and others shows a somewhat different pattern. An average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer household earns Rs. 979.97 from sale of milk. The highest income category has registered the highest income (Rs. 1292.63) from this source, followed by the lowest income category (Rs. 1075.5) and the middle income category (Rs. 654.61). On an average, a marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour households earn an income of Rs. 381.50 from sale of eggs and poultry. It is highest for the middle income category, followed by the highest and lowest income categories. On an average a marginal farmer-cum-agricultural

labour household earns an income of Rs. 557.5 from remittances. It is highest for the highest income category followed by the lower and middle income categories Rs. 425 and Rs. 373.08 respectively.

The relative shares of different components of the total income are given in Table 3.11. It is clear from the Table that the main source of income in the case of an average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer household is the income from hiring agricultural labourer and income from own farm. On an average, about 58 percent of the total income consists of this source of income. However, there are considerable variations in the relative share of income across the income categories. For example, marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer households in the lower income category earn about 64 percent of the total household income by working on their own farm and hiring out the agricultural labour. The relative share of farm business income in the total household is about 62 percent and 56 percent for the middle and highest income categories respectively. The second important source of income in the case of an average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour household is non-farm wage income. About 15 percent of the total income consists of income from this source. The relative share from this source of income is 15 percent for an average household. It is 19.54 percent for the highest income category followed by the middle (10.94) and lowest (6.83) income categories. Income from agricultural production ranks third in the case of an average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer household. The relative share for this source of income is 14.59 percent for an average households. It is 7 percent for the lower income category, followed by middle (6.29) and the highest (5.68) income categories. The fourth place in the income pattern of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers goes to income from sale of fish. An average household earns 4.31 percent of its total income from sale of fish. The middle income category earns 5.15 percent from this source of income. The relative share of the highest and lowest income categories are 3.84 and 3.42 respectively. Components of income, such as Horticulture,

remittances from relatives, sale of eggs and poultry, sale of livestock, forest product. Craft items, sale of fruits and others account for a meager share of the total income in all the three categories.

The above analysis suggests that the major source of income of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer is own farm and hiring out agricultural labourer. The marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer supplement their income by adopting non farm wage as a subsidiary occupation.

### 3.2.1.2 Per Capita Income

We have already analysed the total income levels and income pattern of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers. The average family size of the sampled marginal farmers is about six. However, there are variations in the family size across the income categories. For example, the average family size in the highest income category is about (7) seven. In the middle and the lowest income category the family size is about six and five respectively. Since the family size across the income categories varies considerably, it becomes essential to look in to the per capita income levels and income pattern through the income categories.

An account of the average per capita earned by different income categories of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers is given in Table 3.12. An average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer household earns per capita income of Rs. 4381.56 annually. However, there are distinct differences in the per capita income levels of different income categories. For example, the highest income category earns about Rs. 9039 per capita, followed by the middle income category and lowest income category. This middle income category has registered an income of Rs. 4247.62 per capita and it is only Rs. 3889.73 for the lowest income category.

The Table shows that the different sources of income almost a similar pattern across the income categories except in the case of income from forest product, sale of fish and craft items.

### **3.2.1.3 Poverty Among Marginal Farmers-cum-Agricultural Labourers**

We have worked out the poverty line to Rs. 3930.72 per capita income or per capita consumption per year. On the basis of this criterion as many as 35 percent of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer household in the Barpeta district of Assam are living below the poverty line. However, the percentage of households below the poverty line is different across the income categories.

It is 65 percent for the lowest income category and 30.77 percent for the middle income category. In the highest income category 27.08 percent household is living below the poverty line. On the other hand, the proportion of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers below the poverty line is much higher (65 percent) in the lowest income category than in the middle and the higher income categories. But the average per capita income of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers below the poverty line is positively correlated with the income levels across the income categories. The average per capita income of the persons below the poverty line is higher in the 1<sup>st</sup> income category (3548.85) than second income category (3388.11) and highest income category (3228.44).

### **3.2.2 : Levels of Per Household and Per Capita Income by Marginal Farmer-cum-Agricultural Labourers in Twelve Villages in Barpeta District, Assam.**

#### **3.2.2.1 Per Household Income**

It has been observed by some researchers that the level of development of an area is highly correlated with the level of living. The income level of farmers has been observed to be higher in the areas which made an advance in technology from the initial years of HYV programme than those which made efforts in this direction somewhat late. In such a situation, it becomes relevant to examine the differences in the level and the pattern of income in the differentially developed villages. Our limited objective is to highlight the inter villages in the level and the composition of household income earned by the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers in twelve villages in Barpeta district of Assam.

Table 3.14 gives the mean values of income earned by marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer households in Keotkushi, Ballattari, Betbari Pathar, Khablerbhitha, Kalbari, Banglipara, Gahekhand, Bennibari, Pub Khagrabari, Bhebla, Upparnai and Tikktage. An average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour household earns Rs. 24903.55 annually in the rural areas of Barpeta district of Assam. However, there are distinct differences in the income levels of the households in the twelve different villages. For example 10 households in the Keotkushi village earns Rs. 2607 on an average. In Ballattary village 10 households have recorded an average income of Rs. 25284 from different sources of income. The average household income of 10 households of each village i.e., Betbari Pathar is Rs. 24606, Khablerbhitha Rs. 28886, Kalbari is Rs. 24567.50, Banglipara is Rs. 22668.8, Gahekhand is Rs. 252985, Bennibari 22485.5, Pubkhagrabari Rs. 2667, Bhebla 24618.8, Upparnai is Rs. 2796, Titkaze is Rs. 23598. As the average income levels of the twelve villages are different, the income pattern may better be studied by comparing the relative shares of individual components of income in the total of income of each village.

The relative shares of individual components of income are given in Table 3.15. The Table clearly shows that the main source of income in the case of a average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer household is hiring out agricultural labour and own farm. As already observed, an average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer household earns about 59 percent of its total income from farm and hiring out labour. However, there are variations in the relative share of income from this source across the villages. Keotkushi village has recorded the highest share of income earned as own farm and hiring agricultural labour income (86.9 percent) followed by Ballattari (75.04 percent) Kalbari (71.31), Titkataze (71.15), Upparnai (70.45 percent), Banglipara (63.86 percent), Pubkhagrabari (56.36), Bennibari (55.35 percent), Bhabla (54.79 percent), Gahekhand (51.74 percent), Khabler Bhitha (40.53 percent), and Betbari Pathan (31.73 percent). As observed in the previous section, the second

important sources of income in the case of an average household is non farm wage income. An average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour household earns about 15 percent of the total income from non-farm wage Bhabla has recorded 27 percent income from non farm wage followed by Bennibari, Khabler Bhitha, Pub Khagrabari, Keothkushi, Upparnai, Gahekhandha, Betbari Pathar, Titkataze, Banglipara, Ballattari and Kalbari where the relative share comes to 24.28, 20.84, 19.49, 17.98, 15.05, 14.40, 13.77 9.07, 8.20, 7.55 and 3.45 respectively. An average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour household earns 6.01 percent of its total income from agricultural production. The relative share from this source is highest in Gahekhandha (16.42 percent), followed by Banglipara (11.47 percent), Keotkuishi (8.49), Betbari Pathar (6.84 percent), Pubkhagrabari (4.97 percent), Khabler Bhitha (4.33 percent), Bennibari (3.34 percent), Ballattari (3.93 percent), Bhebla (2.05 percent) and Titkataze (1.69). It is clear from the Table that components of income, such as, forest product, sale of craft items, sale of fruits and others account for a very low proportion of the total income in all the villages. The only exception is village Betbari Pathar where an adverse marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour household earns relatively more, from sale of fish than from non farm wage income and agricultural production.

### 3.2.2.2 Per capita Income

There are considerable variations in the family size across the villages. The average family size of the sampled marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer is about six. The average family size in Khabler Bhitha and Bethbari Pathar are about seven. In Ballattari, Kalbari, Khagrabari, and Keotkushi the average family size is about six and in Banglipara, Gahakhanda, Bennibari Bhebla Upparnai and Titkataze the average family size is about five. Since size of the family varies across the villages. Since, size of the family varies across the villages, it becomes essential to took into the per capita income levels and income pattern across the villages.

Table 3.16 gives an account of the per capita income of marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer households in the twelve villages in Barpeta district of Assam. An average household earns about Rs. 4421 per capita from various sources of income in the rural areas in Barpeta district of Assam. An average household earns about Rs. 4421 per capita from various sources of income in the rural areas of Barpeta district of Assam. However, there are variations in the per capita income levels of marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer households across the villages. For example, village Gahekhanda has recorded the highest per capita income (Rs. 6685.22), followed by Pub Khagrabari (6623.69), Banglipara (6488.56), Bhebla (5411.03), Keotkushi (4730.36), Titktaze (4369.85), Kalbari (4347.79), Bennibari (4324.10), Uparnai (4358.81), Ballattari (4213.98), Khabler Bhitha (3903.48) and Betbari Pathar (3533.86).

A perusal of the Table further reveals that the per capita own farm income rises as we move up from the low productivity villages to the high productivity villages. A different pattern is seen in the case of per capita income from non farm income sources. The second important source of income in the case of the marginal farmers is also non-farm income. An average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour household in the rural area of Barpeta district of Assam earns about Rs. 645 per capita from this source. Income from this source is highest for Bhebla followed by Bennibari, Gahekhanda, Pub Khagrabari, Khabler Bhitha, Uparnai, Keotkushi, Betbari Pathar, Titkataze, Banglipara, Ballattari, and Kalbari. On an average, a marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour household in Barpeta of Assam earns an income of only Rs. 265.90 per capita from agricultural production. Pub Khagrabari has recorded the highest per capita income from this source, followed by Gahekhanda, Banglipara, Kalbari, Keotkushi, Betbari Pathar, Khabler Bhitha, Ballabari, Bannibari, Bhebla and Titkataze. But in this source there is inception in case of village Upparnai, Uparnai village has no income from agricultural production.

It appears that there is much similarity in the per capita income pattern across the villages. The per capita income levels are closely related to the agricultural development in the villages in Barpeta district. It has also been observed that the average household and the average per capita income levels of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers are marginally higher than those of the near landless agricultural labourers in Barpeta district of Assam.

### **3.2.2.3 Poverty Among Marginal Farmers cum Agricultural Labourers**

Proportion of persons and per capita income of persons below poverty line – village wise are given in Table 3.17. On the basis of the poverty criterion used by us, as many as 35 percent of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour households are living below the poverty line in the rural areas of Barpeta district of Assam. However, the percentage of households below the poverty line varies across the villages. The proportion of persons below the poverty line is highest in the village Betbari Pathar (60 percent) and in Gahekhanda village the proportion of persons below the poverty line is zero. It is lowest 20 percent for Banglipara . The average per capita income of the marginal farmer cum agricultural labourers below the poverty line is highest in Bhebla, followed by Keotkushi, Banglipara , Bennibari, Pub Khagrabari, Upparnai, Titktaze, Kalbari, Khabler Bhitha, Ballattari, Betbari Pathar. However, it ranges between Rs. 3880.33 and Rs. 3082.17 across the twelve villages in the district Barpeta. It comes to 3388.52 percent for the district.

## SUMMARY

In this chapter we have analysed income levels and sources of income of the near landless agricultural labourers and marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers in the rural areas of Barpeta district in Assam. The analysis has been made in two sections. In the first section, we have included the analysis of levels of per household income and per capita income in different income categories and village wise of near landless agricultural labourers. Secondly, we have examined the levels of per household income and per capita income earned by different income categories of marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers and also examine the levels of per households income and per capita income earned by marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers in twelve villages in Barpeta district of Assam.

There is much similarity in the income pattern of the near landless agricultural labourers across the income categories and village wise. From our study, we can say that the main source of income in the case of an average near landless agricultural labour household is hiring out labour, on permanent as well as casual basis in agriculture. After all, the main source of their income is agricultural wages. We can mention that the lowest income category earns more money by hiring out labour in the agricultural sector than the middle and highest income category. Another major source of income for lower and middle income category near landless agricultural labour household is sale of milk. As a result, there is a very little difference across the income categories in the wage of near landless agricultural labourers.

The above findings have an important implication. The household income of wage earner is essentially a function of the level of wages, the duration of the employment and the number of earners. It appears that the income of lowest income category of near landless agricultural labourers in Barpeta district is relatively high, because they are engaged whole year as permanent as well as

casual agricultural labour. There are some nominal differences in the wage rates, of lower income category with middle and highest income categories which are not in any case unfavourable to the middle and highest income categories.

The pattern of per capita income across the income categories appears to be similar to the average household income pattern when looked at in absolute terms. However, there is a considerable difference in the range of average per capita income and the average household income of the various income categories. Although the increase in household income is accompanied by the increase in family size, the per capita income also reflects an increasing trend. From our studies, and on the basis of the definition of poverty line as many as 45.83 percent near landless agricultural labour households in the rural areas of Barpeta district lived below the poverty line.

In the village wise analysis of study the main source of income of near landless agricultural labourers of studied villages are hiring out labour in agriculture and second important source of income is non-farm labour. According to village wise analysis the income from sale of milk ranks third in the income pattern of the district. Among the twelve villages Banglipara village earns highest per capita income and lowest per capita income earned by Khabler Bhitha. It appears that owing to the variations in the family size in the different villages, Banglipara has taken marginal lead over the other villages in per capita income.

From the analysis of per household income of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers the major source of income of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourer is own farm and hiring out agricultural labour. The marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers supplement their income by adopting non-farm employment as a subsidiary occupation.

The analysis of per capita income of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers suggests that although the increase in household income is accompanied

by the increase in family size, the per capita income also shows an increasing trend.

In the village wise analysis, marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour households in Keotkushi village has recorded the highest share of income earned as own farm and hiring agricultural labour than other eleven villages. Among the twelve villages in our study the income pattern are same in ten villages. But the Betbari Pathar village is exception where an average marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour household earns relatively more, from sale of fish than non-farm wage income and agricultural production.

To conclude, there is much similarity in the per capita income pattern across the villages. The per capita income levels are closely related to the agricultural development in the villages in Barpeta district. It has also been observed that the average household and average per capita income levels of the marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labourers are marginally higher than those of the near landless agricultural labourers in Barpeta district of Assam.

In our study, the proportion of persons below the poverty line is highest in the village Betbari Pathar and on the other hand in Gahekhandha village the proportion of persons below the poverty line is nil. But as a whole, in the Barpeta district of Assam 35 percent marginal farmer-cum-agricultural labour households are living below the poverty line.

**Table : 3.1 - Level of Income of Near Landless Agricultural Labourers - Category-wise,****Mean values, in Rs.**

Sl.No. Sources of Income	1st income category below Rs.20000	2nd income category (Rs.20000-25000)	3rd income category (above Rs.25000)	All catetories
1 Income from hiring agricultural labourers				
Cash -	9732.29	10226.38	9732.29	10428.33
Kind -	2912.71	4634.61	2912.71	4140.47
Sub - Total -	12645	14860.99	12645	14568.8
2 Non farm wage income				
Cash	2121.88	3382.22	2121.88	3588.75
3 Income from Agr.Prodn.	368.75	923.88	368.75	703
4 Income from sale of milk	574.25	911.06	574.25	902.85
5 Income from Horticulture	431.98	702.78	431.98	534.28
6 Income from sale of grass and poultry.	368.79	221.61	368.79	304.27
7 Sale of livestock	329.17	322.22	329.17	294.17
8 Income from forest product	100	265.28	100	147.92
9 Remitances from relatives	145.83	277.78	145.83	395.83
10 Sale of fish	208.33	483.33	208.33	495
11 Sale of craft items	368.75	55.56	368.75	247.50
12 Sale of fruits	1.04	55.56	1.04	33.33
13 Others	1.04	22.22	1.04	15.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>17664.81</b>	<b>22484.49</b>	<b>17664.81</b>	<b>22230.70</b>

Source : Field Survey

**Table : 3.2 - Level of Income of Near Landless Agricultural Labourers - Category-wise**

<b>(percentage of total income in Rs.)</b>					
Sl.No.	Sources of Income	1st income category below Rs.20000	2nd income category (Rs.20000-25000)	3rd income category (above Rs.25000)	All catetories
1	Income from hiring agricultural labourers				
	Cash -	55.04	45.49	41.22	46.31
	Kind -	16.47	20.62	18.84	18.63
	Sub - Total -	71.51	66.11	60.06	65.54
2	Non farm wage income				
	Cash-	11.99	15.05	20.51	16.14
3	Income from Agr.Prodn.	2.09	4.11	3.31	3.16
4	Income from sale of milk	3.25	4.05	4.75	4.06
5	Income from Horticulture	2.44	3.13	1.79	2.4
6	Income from sale of grass and poultry.	2.09	0.98	1.07	1.37
7	Sale of livestock	1.86	2.15	0.78	1.32
8	Income from forest product	0.57	1.18	0.34	0.67
9	Remitances from relatives	0.82	1.23	3.02	1.78
10	Sale of fish	1.18	1.42	3.17	2.23
11	Sale of craft items	2.08	0.24	0.99	1.11
12	Sale of fruits	0.06	0.09	0.15	0.14
13	Others	0.06	0.25	0.05	0.08
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source : Field Survey

**Table : 3.3 - Level of Income of Near Landless Agricultural Labourers - Category-wise****(per capita income in Rs.)**

Sl.No: Sources of Income	1st income category below Rs.20000	2nd income category (Rs.20000-25000)	3rd income category (above Rs.25000)	All catetories
1 Income from hiring agricultural labourers				
Cash -	2067.04	2011.74	1857.59	1976.94
Kind -	618.63	911.72	849.11	784.92
Sub - Total -	2685.67	2923.46	2706.7	2760.86
2 Non farm wage income				
Cash-	450.66	665.35	924.29	680.33
3 Income from Agr.Prodn.	78.32	181.74	149.11	133.27
4 Income from sale of milk	121.96	179.22	214.19	171.16
5 Income from Horticulture	91.75	138.25	80.7	101.28
6 Income from sale of grass and poultry.	78.33	43.59	48.36	57.68
7 Sale of livestock	69.91	63.38	35.27	55.77
8 Income from forest product	21.24	52.18	15.18	28.04
9 Remittances from relatives	30.97	54.64	136.16	75.04
10 Sale of fish	44.25	95.08	142.86	93.84
11 Sale of craft items	78.32	10.92	44.64	46.92
12 Sale of fruits	2.21	10.92	6.7	6.32
13 Others	2.21	4.37	2.23	2.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>3755.80</b>	<b>4423.10</b>	<b>4506.39</b>	<b>4213.35</b>

Source : Field Survey

**Table 3.4 : Proportion and per capita income of persons below the poverty line – Category-wise.**

Description	1 <sup>st</sup> income category (below Rs.20000)	2 <sup>nd</sup> income category (Rs.20000-25000)	3 <sup>rd</sup> income category (above Rs.25000)	All categories
Proportion of persons below the poverty line.	66.67	30.56	33.33	45.83
Per capita income of persons below the poverty line.	3424.89	3551.85	3458.40	3457.53

Source : Field Survey

Table - 3.5 Levels of Income of Near Landless Agricultural Labourers - village wise (mean values in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Sources of Income	Keotkushi	Ballattari	Betbari	Khabler	Kalbari	Banglipara	Gahekhanda	Bennibari	Pub- Khagrabari	Bhebla	Upparnai	Titkataze	Barpeta district
1	Income from hiring													
	Agr. Labourers, Cash	14640	14160	8070	5560	7930	9660	10278	9560	12682	11480	10700	10440	10435.28
	Kind	3600	3435	2611	2172	7214.6	4820	8361	3739	2678	3975	4150	2930	4140.47
	<b>Sub - Total</b>	<b>182.40</b>	<b>17595</b>	<b>10681</b>	<b>7732</b>	<b>15144.6</b>	<b>14480</b>	<b>18639</b>	<b>13299</b>	<b>15360</b>	<b>15455</b>	<b>14850</b>	<b>13370</b>	<b>14575.75</b>
2	Non farm wage income													
	Cash	2310	2850	3800	11710	2100	2820	2300	1980	1260	6170	2215	3480	3582.92
3	Income from agr. Prod.	200	216	500	300	2200	1320	1590	30	1590	90		400	703
4	Income from sale of milk	674	784	834		1416	580	1348.8	1168	705	524	628	2172	902.82
5	Income from horticulture	204	78	350	170	536	540	1313	577	900	1098	245	460	539.53
6	Income from sale of eggs and poultry	125	708	391.2	532	20	130	30	559	215	170	352	398	304.27
7	Sale of Livestock	-	290	530	200	870	-	300	450	-	4000	- 90	670	316.67
8	Forest products	30	420	120	30	-	20	260	135	30	-	100	630	147.92
9	Remitances from relatives	200	-	1000	850	-	1800	-	600	100	-	-	200	395.83
10	Sale of fish	230	-	3400	1360	-	-	400	-	-	-	500	50	496
11	Sale of craft items	120	-	-	-	600	570	250	780	160	150	-	310	235
12	Sale of fruits	-	-	-	-	30	220	-	-	-	-	-	50	33.33
13	Others	-	-	-	-	-	350	-	-	-	-	-	-	27.5
14	<b>Total</b>	<b>22333</b>	<b>22941</b>	<b>21606.2</b>	<b>22884</b>	<b>22916.6</b>	<b>22830</b>	<b>26430.8</b>	<b>19578</b>	<b>20320</b>	<b>27657</b>	<b>18980</b>	<b>22190</b>	<b>22260.54</b>

Source : Field Survey

Table - 3.6 Levels of Income of Near Landless Agricultural Labourers - village wise, percentage of total income

Sl.No.	Sources of Income	Keotkushi	Ballattari	Betbari Pathar	Khabler Bhitha	Kalbari	Banglipara	Gahekhandra	Bennibari	Pub- Khagrabari	Bhebla	Upparnai	Titkataze	Barpeta district
1	Income from hiring Agr. Labourers													
	Cash	65.54	61.72	37.35	24.29	34.33	42.72	38.89	48.83	62.41	47.72	56.32	47.05	46.87
	Kind	16.11	14.97	12.08	9.49	31.24	21.32	31.63	19.1	13.18	16.52	21.84	13.2	18.61
	<b>Sub Total :</b>	<b>81.65</b>	<b>76.69</b>	<b>49.43</b>	<b>33.78</b>	<b>65.57</b>	<b>64.04</b>	<b>70.52</b>	<b>67.93</b>	<b>75.59</b>	<b>64.24</b>	<b>78.16</b>	<b>60.25</b>	<b>65.48</b>
2	Non farm wage income													
	Cash	1034	12.42	17.58	51.17	9.09	12.47	8.7	10.11	6.2	25.65	11.66	15.68	16.1
3	Income from agr. Prod.	0.9	0.94	2.31	1.31	9.53	5.84	6.02	0.15	7.82	0.37	-	1.8	3.16
4	Income from sale of milk	3.02	3.41	3.86	-	6.13	2.57	5.1	5.97	3.47	2.18	3.31	9.79	4.06
5	Income from horticulture	0.93	0.34	1.61	0.74	2.32	2.39	4.97	2.95	4.43	4.57	1.28	2.07	2.42
6	Income from sale of eggs and poultry	0.56	3.08	1.81	2.32	0.09	0.57	0.11	2.86	1.06	0.71	1.96	1.79	1.37
7	Sale of Livestock	-	1.26	2.45	0.87	3.77	-	1.13	2.3	-	1.66	0.47	3.02	1.42
8	Forest products	0.13	1.83	0.55	0.13	-	0.09	0.98	0.69	0.15	-	0.53	2.84	0.66
9	Remittances from relatives	0.9	-	4.62	3.71	-	7.96	-	3.06	0.49	-	-	0.9	1.78
10	Sale of fish	1.03	-	15.73	5.94	-	-	1.51	-	-	-	2.63	0.23	2.22
11	Sale of craft items	0.54	-	-	-	2.6	2.52	0.95	3.98	0.79	0.62	-	1.4	1.06
12	Sale of fruits	-	-	-	-	0.77	0.97	-	-	-	-	-	0.23	0.15
13	Others	-	-	-	-	0.13	0.57	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.12
14	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey

Table - 3.7 : Levels of Income of Near Landless Agricultural Labourers - village wise, Per Capita Income

Sl.No.	Sources of Income	Keotkushi	Ballattari	Betbari Pathar	Khabler Bhitha	Kalbari	Banglipara	Gahekhanda	Bennibari	Pub- Khagrabari	Bhebla	Upparnai	Titkataze	Barpeta district
1	Income from hiring Agr. Labourers													
	Cash	2711.11	2776.47	1522.64	842.42	1554.9	2246.51	1939.24	1951.02	2642.08	2125.92	2183.67	1683.87	1977.25
	Kind	666.67	673.52	492.64	329.09	1414.62	1120.93	1577.55	763.06	557.91	736.11	846.93	472.58	784.92
	<b>Sub Total :</b>	<b>3377.78</b>	<b>3449.99</b>	<b>2015.28</b>	<b>1171.51</b>	<b>2969.52</b>	<b>3367.44</b>	<b>3516.79</b>	<b>2714.08</b>	<b>3199.99</b>	<b>2862.03</b>	<b>3030.6</b>	<b>2156.45</b>	<b>2762.17</b>
2	Non farm wage income													
	Cash	427.78	558.82	716.98	1774.24	411.76	655.81	433.96	404.08	262.5	1142.59	452.04	561.29	679.22
3	Income from Agr. Prod.	37.04	42.35	94.33	45.45	431.37	306.98	300	6.12	331.25	16.67	-	64.52	133.27
4	Income from sale of milk	124.8	153.72	157.35	-	277.64	134.88	254.49	230.36	146.78	97.03	128.16	350.32	171.15
5	Income from horticulture	38.33	15.29	66.03	25.75	105.09	125.58	247.73	117.75	1875	203.38	50	7.42	102.28
6	Income from sale of eggs and poultry	23.15	138.82	73.81	80.72	3.92	302.23	5.66	114.12	44.79	31.48	75.91	64.19	57.68
7	Sale of Livestock	-	56.86	100	30.3	170.58	-	56.6	91.83	-	74.07	18.36	108.06	60.03
8	Forest products	5.55	82.35	22.64	4.54	-	4.65	49.05	27.55	6.25	-	20.4	101.61	28.04
9	Remittances from relatives	37.03	-	188.67	128.78	-	418.6	-	122.44	20.83	-	-	32.26	75.04
10	Sale of fish	42.59	-	641.5	206.06	-	-	75.47	-	-	-	102.04	8.06	93.84
11	Sale of craft items	22.22	-	-	-	117.64	132.56	47.16	158.18	33.33	27.78	-	50	44.55
12	Sale of fruits	-	-	-	-	5.88	51.16	-	-	-	-	-	8.06	6.32
13	Others	-	-	-	-	-	81.39	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.21
14	<b>Total</b>	<b>4136.27</b>	<b>4498.2</b>	<b>4076.59</b>	<b>3467.35</b>	<b>4493.4</b>	<b>5581.28</b>	<b>4986.79</b>	<b>3995.55</b>	<b>4233.33</b>	<b>4455.05</b>	<b>3877.55</b>	<b>3579.03</b>	<b>4218.81</b>

Source : Field Survey

**Table 3.8 : Per Capita Income of Assam and India ( in Rs.)**

Year	<u>At current prices</u>		<u>A constant prices (1993-94)</u>	
	Assam	India	Assam	India
1	2	3	4	5
1993-94	5715	7698.2	5715	7698.2
1994-95	6493	8876.4	573	8087.6
1995-96	7001	10160.3	5760	8498.5
1996-97	7394	11600.9	5793	9035.9
1997-98	7966	12771.5	5796	9287.9
1998-99	8826	14712.4	5664	9733.1
1999-'00	9720	15562.0	5978	10067.0
2000-01(Q)	10198	16487.0	6157	10254.0

(Q) - Quick estimate

Source : (1) Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Assam

(2) Central Statistical Organisation, Govt. of India

Table - 3.9 : Proportion of Persons and per Capita Income of Persons Below the Poverty Line - Village wise.

Description	Keotkushi	Ballattari	Betbari Pathar	Khabler Bhitha	Kalbari	Banglipara	Gahekhanda	Bennibari	Pub- Khagrabari	Bhebla	Upparnai	Titkataze	Barpeta district
Proportion of Persons below the poverty line	40	30	50	80	40	30	20	60	50	30	40	80	45.83
Per Capita Income of Persons below the Poverty line	3576.44	3520.98	3445.26	3279.16	3462.1	3805.33	3544.75	3455.83	3669	3582.82	3504.1	3280	3457.58

Source : Field Survey

**3.10 Levels of Income of Marginal Farmer-cum-Agricultural Labourers - Category wise (Mean values in Rs.)**

Sl.No.	Sources of Income	1st Income Category (below Rs. 20,000)	2nd income category (Rs.20,000-25,000)	3rd income category (above Rs. 25,000)	All categories
1	Income from hiring Agr. Labourers				
	Cash	5312.5	7731.88	9680.2	8108.17
	Kind	6282.0	6003.17	7158.23	6685
	<b>Sub Total :</b>	<b>11594.5</b>	<b>13734.95</b>	<b>16838.43</b>	<b>14793.17</b>
2	Non farm wage income				
	Cash	1237.5	2492.3	5865.83	3632.58
3	Income from Agr. Prod.	1270	1432.69	1705.2	1514.58
4	Income from sale of milk	1075.5	654.61	1292.63	979.97
5	Income from horticulture	886.55	1100.52	931.35	997.19
6	Income from sale of eggs and poultry	293	449.23	345	381.5
7	Sale of Livestock	255	346.15	385.42	346.67
8	Forest products	65	237.5	273.13	223
9	Remittances from relatives	425	373.08	812.5	557.5
10	Sale of fish	620	1175	1152.08	1073.33
11	Sale of craft items	270	244.23	279.17	111.67
12	Sale of fruits	100	123.08	64.58	95.83
13	Others	35	26.92	72.08	46.33
14	<b>Total</b>	<b>18127.05</b>	<b>22390.26</b>	<b>30017.4</b>	<b>24753.33</b>

Source : Field Survey

**3.11 Levels of Income of Marginal Farmer-cum-Agricultural Labourers - Category wise ( percentage of total income in Rs.)**

Sl.No.	Sources of Income	1st Income Category (below Rs. 20,000)	2nd income category (Rs.20,000-25,000)	3rd income category (above Rs. 25,000)	All categories
1	Income from hiring Agr. Labourers				
	Cash	29.31	33.93	32.25	32.56
	Kind	34.66	28.09	23.85	26.84
	<b>Sub Total :</b>	<b>63.97</b>	<b>62.02</b>	<b>56.10</b>	<b>58.40</b>
2	Non farm wage income				
	Cash	6.83	10.94	19.54	14.59
3	Income from Agr. Prod.	7.00	6.29	5.68	6.08
4	Income from sale of milk	5.93	2.87	4.31	3.93
5	Income from horticulture	4.89	4.83	3.10	4.00
6	Income from sale of eggs and poultry	1.62	1.97	1.15	1.53
7	Sale of Livestock	1.41	1.52	1.28	1.39
8	Income from forest prodn.	0.36	1.04	0.91	0.9
9	Remittances from relatives	2.34	1.64	2.71	2.24
10	Sale of fish	3.42	5.15	3.84	4.31
11	Sale of craft items	1.49	1.07	0.93	1.05
12	Sale of fruits	0.55	0.54	0.21	0.38
13	Others	0.19	0.12	0.24	0.19
14	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey

**3.12 Levels of Income of Marginal Farmer-cum-Agricultural Labourers - Category wise (Per Capita Income in Rs.)**

Sl.No.	Sources of Income	1st Income Category (below Rs. 20,000)	2nd income category (Rs.20,000-25,000)	3rd income category (above Rs. 25,000)	All categories
1	Income from hiring Agr. Labourers				
	Cash	1130.31	1441.06	1533.5	1439.29
	Kind	1336.59	1193.42	1133.98	1186.68
	<b>Sub Total :</b>	<b>2466.90</b>	<b>2634.48</b>	<b>2667.48</b>	<b>2625.97</b>
2	Non farm wage income				
	Cash	263.3	464.52	929.24	644.84
3	Income from Agr. Prod.	270.21	267.02	270.13	268.86
4	Income from sale of milk	228.83	122	204.77	173.96
5	Income from horticulture	188.62	205.11	147.54	177.02
6	Income from sale of eggs and poultry	62.34	83.72	54.65	67.72
7	Sale of Livestock	54.25	64.51	61.06	61.54
8	Income from forest prodn.	13.82	44.26	43.27	0.33
9	Remittances from relatives	90.42	69.53	128.71	98.96
10	Sale of fish	54.25	218.99	182.51	190.53
11	Sale of craft items	131.91	45.52	44.22	46.6
12	Sale of fruits	57.44	22.94	44.22	46.6
13	Others	7.44	5.02	11.42	8.22
14	<b>Total</b>	<b>3889.73</b>	<b>4247.62</b>	<b>9038.96</b>	<b>4381.56</b>

Source : Field Survey

**Table 3.13 : Proportion of Persons and Per Capita Income of Persons below the Poverty line - category wise .**

Description	1 <sup>st</sup> Income Category below Rs20,000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Income Category Rs.20000-25000	3 <sup>rd</sup> Income Category Above Rs 25000	All categories
Proportion of forms below the Poverty line	65	30.77	27.08	35
Per Capita Income of persons below the poverty line.	3548.85	3388.11	3228.44	3388.44

Source : Field Survey

Table - 3.14 Levels of Income of Marginal farmer cum Agricultural Labourers - village wise (mean values in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Sources of Income	Keotkushi	Ballattari	Madhya- Betbari	Khabler Bhitha	Kalbari	Banglipara	Gahekhandra	Bennibari	Pub- Khagrabari	Bhebla	Upparnai	Titkataze	Barpeta district
1	Income from hiring													
	Agr. Labourers, Cash	10650	12770	3550	10020	9250	7404.8	3830	6361	6060	7610	9390	10600	8107.98
	Kind	6088	6207	4402	4576	8113	7072	11045.5	6085.5	8690	5781	5965	6189	6684.5
	<b>Sub Total :</b>	<b>16738</b>	<b>18977</b>	<b>7952</b>	<b>14596</b>	<b>17363</b>	<b>14476.8</b>	<b>14875.5</b>	<b>12446.5</b>	<b>14750</b>	<b>13391</b>	<b>15355</b>	<b>16789</b>	<b>14792.48</b>
2	Non farm wage income													
	Cash	2880	1911	3360	6020	840	1880	4140	5460	5100	6600	3280	2140	3652
3	Income from agr. Prod.	1360	995	1670	1250	2430	2600	4720	750	1300	500	-	400	1797.92
4	Income from sale of milk	1600	1100	620	720	1042	1086	1794	1801	1323	684	216	272	971.55
5	Income from horticulture	869	477	980	600	872.5	880	1965	860	1665	1377.8	875	745	1013.86
6	Income from sale of													
	eggs and poultry	185	312	1284	600	140	86	222	378	389	216	475	392	390
7	Sale of Livestock	400	260	550	500	150	220	200	-	-	300	390	1190	346.67
8	Forest products	410	411	610	200	-	280	260	-	70	50	145	240	223
9	Remittances from relatives	1450	250	1100	2200	-	-	-	500	240	750	-	200	557.5
10	Sale of fish	-	300	6480	2200	890	100	570	550	240	-	700	850	1073.33
11	Sale of craft items	-	-	-	-	130	600	-	240	770	750	360	180	237.5
12	Sale of fruits	20	60	-	-	490	480	-	100	320	-	-	200	120.83
13	Others	105	231	-	-	220	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46.33
14	<b>Total</b>	<b>26017</b>	<b>25284</b>	<b>24606</b>	<b>28886</b>	<b>24563.5</b>	<b>22648.8</b>	<b>25299.5</b>	<b>22485.5</b>	<b>26167</b>	<b>24618.8</b>	<b>21796</b>	<b>23598</b>	<b>24903.5</b>

Source : Field Survey

Table 3.15 : Levels of Income of Marginal farmer cum Agricultural Labourers - villagewise (percentage of total income in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Sources of Income	Keotkushi	Ballattari	Betbari	Khabler	Kalbari	Banglipara	Gahekhanda	Bennibari	Pub- Khagrabari	Bhebla	Upparnai	Titkataze	Barpeta district
1	Income from hiring													
	Agr. Labourers, Cash	48.9	50.5	13.72	34.69	37.99	32.67	13.32	28.29	23.16	31.13	43.08	44.92	32.56
	Kind	38	24.54	18.03	15.84	33.32	31.19	38.42	27.06	33.2	23.66	27.37	26.23	26.84
	<b>Sub Total :</b>	<b>86.9</b>	<b>75.04</b>	<b>31.75</b>	<b>50.53</b>	<b>71.31</b>	<b>63.86</b>	<b>51.74</b>	<b>55.35</b>	<b>56.36</b>	<b>54.79</b>	<b>70.45</b>	<b>71.15</b>	<b>59.4</b>
2	Non farm wage income													
	Cash	17.98	7.55	13.77	20.84	3.45	8.2	14.4	24.28	19.49	27.00	15.05	9.07	14.59
3	Income from agr. Prod.	8.49	3.93	6.84	4.33	9.98	11.47	16.42	3.34	4.97	2.05		1.69	6.01
4	Income from sale of milk	9.98	4.35	2.54	2.49	4.28	4.79	6.24	5.34	5.06	2.8	0.99	2.25	3.9
5	Income from horticulture	5.42	1.88	4.82	2.08	3.58	3.88	6.84	3.82	6.36	5.64	4.01	3.16	4.07
6	Income from sale of													
	eggs and poultry	1.15	1.23	5.26	2.08	0.58	0.38	0.77	1.68	1.49	0.88	2.18	1.66	1.57
7	Sale of Livestock	2.49	1.02	2.25	1.73	0.62	0.97	0.7		0.27	1.23	1.79	5.04	1.39
8	Forest products	2.55	1.62	2.5	0.69		1.24	0.9		0.92	0.2	0.67	2.02	0.9
9	Remittances from relatives	9.05	0.98	4.5	7.62	-	-	-	2.22	0.92	3.07	-	0.85	2.24
10	Sale of fish	-	1.18	26.55	7.62	3.66	0.44	1.98	2.45	2.94	-	3.21	3.6	4.31
11	Sale of craft items	-	-	-	-	0.53	2.65	-	1.07	1.22	2.33	1.65	0.76	0.95
12	Sale of fruits	0.08	0.24	-	-	1.11	2.12	-	0.44	-	-	-	0.85	0.48
13	Others	0.4	0.91	-	-	0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.19
14	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Field Survey

**Table 3.16 : Levels of Income of Marginal Farmer -cum -Agricultural Labourers – villagewise,  
Per Capita Income (in Rs.)**

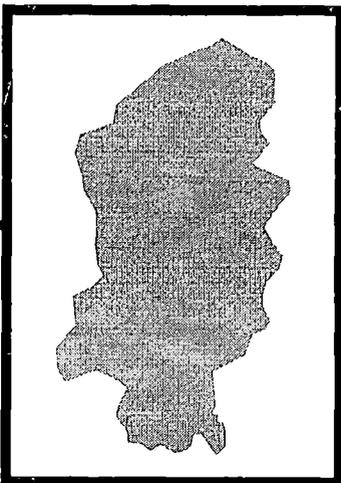
Sl.No.	Sources of Income	Keotkushi	Ballattari	Betbari Pathar	Khabler Bhitha	Kalbari	Banglipara	Gahekhandra	Bennibari	Pub- Khagrabari	Bhebla	Upparnai	Titkataze	Barpeta district
1	Income from hiring													
	Agr. Labourers, Cash	1936.36	2128.33	485.5	1354.05	1651.99	1480.96	890.7	1223.26	1063.15	1435.84	1771.69	1962.96	1439.29
	Kind	1106.9	1034.5	637.7	618.37	1448.75	1414.4	2568.72	1170.29	1524.56	1890.75	1125.47	1146.11	1186.39
	<b>Sub Total :</b>	<b>3043.26</b>	<b>3162.83</b>	<b>1123.47</b>	<b>1972.42</b>	<b>3100.54</b>	<b>2895.36</b>	<b>3459.42</b>	<b>2393.55</b>	<b>2587.71</b>	<b>3326.59</b>	<b>2897.16</b>	<b>3109.07</b>	<b>2625.68</b>
2	Non farm wage income													
	Cash	523.63	318.5	486.95	813.51	150	372	962.79	1050	894.73	1245.28	618.85	396.29	644.84
3	Income from agr. Prod.	247.27	165.83	242.02	168.91	433.93	520	1097.67	144.23	2280	94.33	-	74.07	266.9
4	Income from sale of milk	290.95	183.33	89.85	97.29	186.07	2172	417.2	230.96	232.21	129.05	40.75	5037	172.46
5	Income from horticulture	158	79.5	142.83	81.08	155.8	176	456.98	165.38		259.96	165.09	137.96	179.97
6	Income from sale of									292.1				
	eggs and poultry	33.63	52	186.08	81.08	25	17.2	51.62	72.69	68.24	40.75	89.81	72.59	69.23
7	Sale of Livestock	72.72	43.33	79.71	67.57	26.79	44	46.51	-	-	56.6	73.58	220.3	61.54
8	Forest products	74.54	68.5	88.4	27.02	-	56	60.46	-	12.28	9.43	273.58	44.44	39.59
9	Remittances from relatives	263.63	41.66	159.42	297.3	-	-	-	96.15	42.1	141.5		37.03	98.96
10	Sale of fish	-	50	739.13	297.3	158.95	20	132.55	105.76	42.1		132.07	157.4	190.53
11	Sale of craft items		-	-	-	23.21	120	-	46.15	135.08	107.54	67.92	33.33	42.16
12	Sale of fruits	3.64	10	-	-	48.21	96	-	19.23	56.14	-	-	37	21.45
13	Others	19.09	38.5	-	-	33.29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.22
14	<b>Total</b>	<b>4730.36</b>	<b>4213.98</b>	<b>3537.86</b>	<b>3903.48</b>	<b>4347.79</b>	<b>6488.56</b>	<b>6685.22</b>	<b>4324.1</b>	<b>6623.69</b>	<b>5411.03</b>	<b>4358.81</b>	<b>4369.85</b>	<b>4420.53</b>

Table 3.17 : Proportion of Persons and Per Capita Income of Persons below the poverty line - village wise

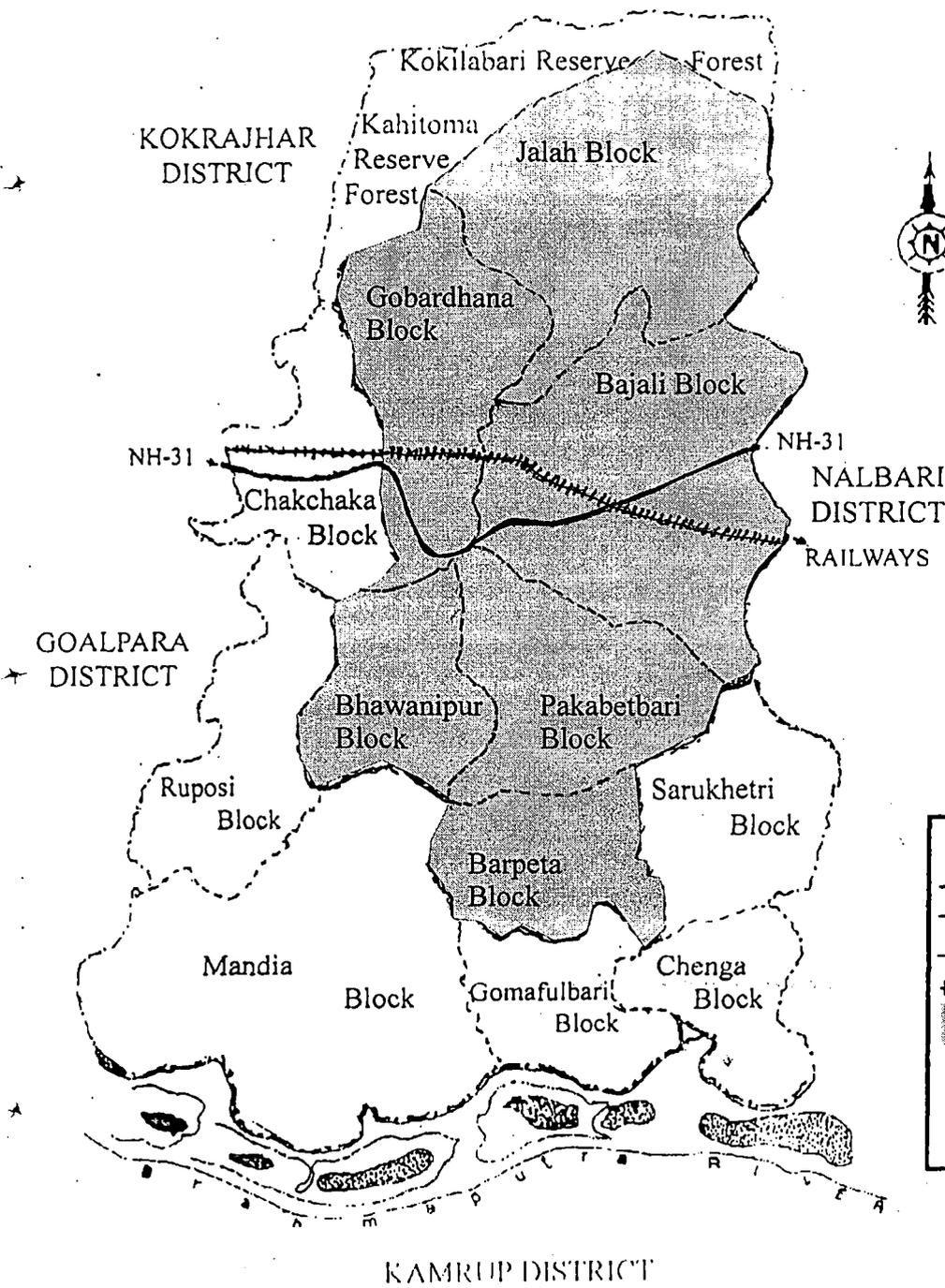
Sl.No.	Description	Keotkushi	Ballattari	Betbari Pathar	Khabler Bhitha	Kalbari	Banglipara	Gahekhanda	Bennibari	Pub- Khagrabari	Bhebla	Upparnai	Titkataze	Barpeta district
	Proportion of persons below the poverty line	30	40	60	50	40	20	-	50	40	30	30	30	35
	Per Capita income of persons below poverty line	3720.73	3221.5	3082.17	3275.26	3298.06	3567.15	-	3523.92	3415.97	3880.33	3403.15	3313.44	3388.52

Source : Field Survey

# MAP SHOWING THE STUDY AREA IN BARPETA DISTRICT OF ASSAM



BHUTAN



## INDEX

	District Boundary
	Block Boundary
	NH-31
	Railways
	Survey Blocks
	Unsurvey Blocks