Chapter IV

SOME IMPORTANT AGRO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE SELECTED FARMS

The use of various factors such as land, labour, capital and other resources accounts for the agro-economic character of farms. The important agro-economic characteristics of the sample farms selected for the present work are studied in this chapter.

4.1. Average Size and Distribution of Holding

Average size and distribution of operational holding of the selected farms over the four selected blocks of Cooch Behar district and in the district as a whole are presented in Table 4.1. From this table it is manifested that distribution of operational holding is more or less egalitarian over the four selected blocks except Linhata block I and in the district as a whole. Average size of holding corresponding to each size group is almost the same over the selected blocks. On an average in the district as a whole the average size of holding ranges from 6.15 bighas in the marginal size group to 25.66 bighas in the large size group.

4.2. Farm Inventory Account

Farming operation requires the use of livestock animal along with various kinds of implements. Farm inventory account means the monetary account of the livestock animal and farm implements. More specifically, this is constituted of the value of draught animals and milch animals, buffaloes, goats, poultry birds and agricultural implements like plough, hoe, sickle, bullock cart, power pumps and other minor implements. Table 4.2 presents this account over the selected blocks of Cooch Behar district and in the district as a whole. From this table it is observed that value of livestock, value of agricultural implements and total value of farm inventory are increasing with the increase of the size of holdings over the selected blocks and in the district as a whole.

4.3. Bullock Labour

A study about the bullock labour use, still important in the cultivation of land in Cooch Behar district is shown in Table 4.3. From this table it is observed that almost all the farms in different sizes of holding (in a few cases cent per cent of farms) over the selected blocks of Cooch Behar district except marginal size of holding in Dinhata block I and Tufanganj block II and in the district as a whole occupy bullock labours. The table also shows that the
number and value of bullock labour per farm is increasing with the increase in the size of holding, while those per bigha is decreasing with the increase of the size of holding in all the selected blocks of Cooch Behar district and in the district as a whole.

Again, Table 4.4 shows another additional information relating to draught animal ownership. This table shows that a unremarkable percentage of farms operate their lands with a single pair of bullocks in the selected blocks except Haldibari block and Cooch Behar block II, and in the district as a whole. Notable inter-block difference in the source of bullock labour utilised is also recorded in Table 4.4. Bullock hiring activity is noticed to be more prominent in Tufanganj block II and Dinhata block I and negligible in Cooch Behar block II.

Area commanded by a single pair of bullock labour is presented in Table 4.5. Though there remains no inter-block variation in the area commanded by a pair of bullock labour, inter-size variation is highly pronounced in all the selected blocks of Cooch Behar district and in the district as a whole. Moreover, in relation to the conventional command area per pair of bullock labour in this district i.e., ten bighas, the same table shows the under-utilisation and
over- or excessive utilisation of bullock labour resource in the case of marginal as well as small and large-size holdings respectively. This is true for all the selected blocks of Cooch Behar district, except small size of holding in Cooch Behar block II and in the district as a whole.

4.4. Attached Farm Servant

The role of attached farm servant in the farming operation is still in vogue in this district. Table 4.6 shows that the employment of attached farm servant is a common practice in this district. This table also shows that the number of attached farm servants per farm as well as per bigha is increasing with the increase of the size of holding in every case.

Table 4.7 shows the form of wages paid to the attached farm servants. These servants are paid wages both in cash and in kind but the value of wages in kind is relatively higher than the cash form of wages in the case of all sizes of holding everywhere.

4.5. Cropping Pattern

Season-wise acreage allocation in absolute and percentage term or in other words cropping pattern is dependent upon a number of factors like climate, soil suitability,
water availability and access to market etc. The cropping pattern followed by the selected cultivators under different sizes of holding over different blocks and in the district as a whole is displayed in Table 4.8. From this table it is noticed that there remains no size-wise variation in a particular season in a particular block. But there remains block-wise variation in the same in all the seasons except Khariff season.

4.6. **Cropping Intensity**

Land being a very scarce resource, multiple cropping is the major alternative to increasing the effective area under crop production. The extent of multiple cropping as reflected in the intensity of cropping is set out in Table 4.9 for the selected farms under different size groups over different blocks and in the district as a whole. This table manifests that there remains inter-block variation in the cropping intensity. It is also further evident from this table that cropping intensity is decreasing with the increase of the size of holding in all the selected blocks and in the district as a whole.

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2. Ibid., p. 31

3. Ibid., p. 31
4.7. Irrigation Facilities

The extent of irrigation facilities over different sizes of holding in the selected blocks of Cooch Behar district is manifested in Table 4.10. From this table it is observed that the irrigation facilities in terms of percentage of irrigated area to the total area under operation is very poor and varied over different blocks. The percentage of area under irrigation is the highest in Dinhata block I and lowest in Tufanganj block II.

There remains positive relationship between percentage of area under irrigation and size of holding in Cooch Behar block II and Tufanganj block II and negative relationship in Dinhata block I while Haldibari block shows no such relation. However, the prospect in this regard relating to the district as a whole shows positive relationship between percentage of area under irrigation and size of holding.
### Tables of Chapter IV

**Table 4.1** Distribution of Holdings, Cultivated Area and Average Size of Selected Farms in Various Size Groups in the Selected Blocks of Cooch Behar District and in the District as a Whole for the Year 1992-93

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the block</th>
<th>Size of holding (bighas)</th>
<th>Farm group</th>
<th>No. of selected holdings</th>
<th>Cultivated area of the selected farms (bighas)</th>
<th>Average size of the selected farms (bighas)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Haldibari</strong></td>
<td>Upto 7.50</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>31 (51.67)</td>
<td>197.0 (27.73)</td>
<td>6.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 7.50 to 15.00</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>19 (31.67)</td>
<td>247.5 (34.83)</td>
<td>13.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 15.00</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>10 (16.66)</td>
<td>266.0 (37.44)</td>
<td>26.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>60 (100.00)</td>
<td>710.5 (100.00)</td>
<td>11.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cooch Behar II</strong></td>
<td>Upto 7.50</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>33 (55.00)</td>
<td>202.75 (30.92)</td>
<td>6.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 7.50 to 15.00</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>17 (28.33)</td>
<td>217.00 (33.09)</td>
<td>12.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 15.00</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>10 (16.67)</td>
<td>236.00 (35.99)</td>
<td>23.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>60 (100.00)</td>
<td>655.75 (100.00)</td>
<td>10.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linhata I</strong></td>
<td>Upto 7.50</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>31 (51.67)</td>
<td>178.00 (25.59)</td>
<td>5.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 7.50 to 15.00</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>18 (30.00)</td>
<td>226.50 (32.57)</td>
<td>12.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 15.00</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>11 (18.33)</td>
<td>291.00 (41.84)</td>
<td>26.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>60 (100.00)</td>
<td>695.50 (100.00)</td>
<td>11.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contd..
Table 4.1 (Contd..)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the block</th>
<th>Size of holding (bighas)</th>
<th>Farm group</th>
<th>No. of selected holdings</th>
<th>Cultivated area of the selected farms (bighas)</th>
<th>Average size of the selected farms (bighas)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufanganj II</td>
<td>Upto 7.50</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>37 (61.67)</td>
<td>233.50 (39.18)</td>
<td>6.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 7.50 to 15.00</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>17 (28.33)</td>
<td>198.50 (33.30)</td>
<td>11.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 15.00</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>6 (10.00)</td>
<td>164.00 (27.52)</td>
<td>27.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>60 (100.00)</td>
<td>596.00 (100.00)</td>
<td>9.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooch Behar district</td>
<td>Upto 7.50</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>132 (55.00)</td>
<td>811.25 (30.52)</td>
<td>6.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 7.50 to 15.00</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>71 (29.58)</td>
<td>889.50 (33.47)</td>
<td>12.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 15.00</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>37 (15.42)</td>
<td>957.00 (36.01)</td>
<td>25.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>240 (100.00)</td>
<td>2657.75 (100.00)</td>
<td>11.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate the percentages of the respective totals.
Table 4.2 Value of Farm Inventory under Different Sizes of Farms in the Selected Blocks of Cooch Behar District and in the District as a Whole during the Year 1992-93

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the block</th>
<th>Farm size</th>
<th>Value of live stock</th>
<th>Value of agricultural implements</th>
<th>Total value of farm inventory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haldibari</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>6949.19</td>
<td>1059.68</td>
<td>8008.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>13526.32</td>
<td>3759.47</td>
<td>17285.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>21160.00</td>
<td>9000.00</td>
<td>30160.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>11400.42</td>
<td>3238.00</td>
<td>14638.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooch Behar II</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>8754.85</td>
<td>1101.51</td>
<td>9856.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>13320.59</td>
<td>2259.41</td>
<td>15580.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>23035.00</td>
<td>18448.50</td>
<td>41483.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>12428.50</td>
<td>4320.75</td>
<td>16749.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinhata I</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>7364.52</td>
<td>780.65</td>
<td>8145.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>15684.44</td>
<td>2890.55</td>
<td>18574.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>27054.54</td>
<td>6979.54</td>
<td>34034.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>13470.33</td>
<td>2550.08</td>
<td>16020.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufanganj II</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>6178.38</td>
<td>547.30</td>
<td>6725.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>12488.23</td>
<td>1870.59</td>
<td>14358.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>21908.53</td>
<td>6358.33</td>
<td>28266.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>9539.17</td>
<td>1503.33</td>
<td>11042.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooch Behar district</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>7282.08</td>
<td>860.98</td>
<td>8143.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>13775.63</td>
<td>2727.75</td>
<td>16503.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>23540.54</td>
<td>10524.59</td>
<td>34065.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>11709.60</td>
<td>2903.04</td>
<td>14612.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4.3 Distribution of Number and Value of Bullocks per Holding and per Bigha in Various Size Groups of Farms Owning Bullocks in the Selected Blocks of Cooch Behar District and in the District as a Whole during the Year 1992-93

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Haldibari</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Cooch Behar II</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>All farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of farms owning bullock labour</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>(90.32)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
<td>(95.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of bullock labour per farm</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>3.20</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of bullock labour per bigha (Rs)</td>
<td>4177.42</td>
<td>7563.16</td>
<td>10850.00</td>
<td>6361.67</td>
<td>5127.27</td>
<td>6841.18</td>
<td>9100.00</td>
<td>6275.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses are the percentages of total number of selected farms under each category.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dinhata I</th>
<th></th>
<th>Tufanganj II</th>
<th></th>
<th>Cooch Behar district</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 (70.97)</td>
<td>17 (94.44)</td>
<td>11 (100.00)</td>
<td>59 (83.33)</td>
<td>29 (78.38)</td>
<td>17 (100.00)</td>
<td>6 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>4.82</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3572.58</td>
<td>7777.78</td>
<td>13936.36</td>
<td>6734.17</td>
<td>3356.76</td>
<td>6058.82</td>
<td>10716.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>622.19</td>
<td>618.10</td>
<td>526.80</td>
<td>580.95</td>
<td>531.91</td>
<td>518.89</td>
<td>392.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4.4 Frequency Distribution of Holding with Reference to Number of Bullocks Owned in the Selected Blocks of Cooch Behar District and in the District as a Whole for the Year 1992-93

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of bullocks</th>
<th>Number of holding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Haldibari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (5.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5 (8.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>37 (61.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 (3.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9 (15.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1 (1.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1 (1.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 6</td>
<td>2 (3.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60 (100.00)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate the percentages of the respective totals.
Table 4.5  Area Commanded by a pair of Bullock Under Different Sizes of Holding in the Selected Blocks of Cooch Behar District and in the District as a Whole during the Year 1992-93

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size group</th>
<th>Haldibari</th>
<th>Cooch Behar II</th>
<th>Dinhata I</th>
<th>Tufanganj II</th>
<th>Cooch Behar district</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>7.58</td>
<td>6.76</td>
<td>8.09</td>
<td>9.34</td>
<td>7.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>10.09</td>
<td>8.39</td>
<td>9.93</td>
<td>9.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>12.67</td>
<td>14.75</td>
<td>10.98</td>
<td>13.12</td>
<td>12.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>9.54</td>
<td>9.71</td>
<td>9.21</td>
<td>10.37</td>
<td>9.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size group</td>
<td>Number of attached farm servants in crop production</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Haldibari</td>
<td>Cooch Behar II</td>
<td>Dinhata I</td>
<td>Tufanganj II</td>
<td>Cooch Behear district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Per farm</td>
<td>Per bigha</td>
<td>Per farm</td>
<td>Per bigha</td>
<td>Per farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>1.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4.7 Annual Cash and Kind Wages Paid to Attached Farm Servants Engaged in Crop Production by Various Size Groups of Farms in the Selected Blocks of Cooch Behar District and in the District as a Whole during the Year 1992-93 (in Rs.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the block</th>
<th>Size group</th>
<th>Cash wages paid</th>
<th>kind wages paid</th>
<th>Total wages paid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haldibari</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>3075.00</td>
<td>3800.00</td>
<td>6875.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>2520.00</td>
<td>3920.00</td>
<td>6440.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>2092.00</td>
<td>4098.00</td>
<td>6190.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>2333.53</td>
<td>4010.59</td>
<td>6344.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooch Behar II</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>2233.33</td>
<td>3900.00</td>
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Table 4.8 Seasonwise Allocation of Area under Different Crops in Various Size Groups of Selected Farms over the Selected Bocks of Cooch Behar District and in the District as a Whole during the Year 1992-93 (in bighas)

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Table 4.8 (Contd..)

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Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate the percentages of respective totals.
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Table 4.9 Size-wise Cropping Intensity in the Selected Blocks of Cooch Behar District and in the District as a Whole during the Year 1992-93

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<th>Net cropped area (in bighas)</th>
<th>Grossed cropped area (in bighas)</th>
<th>Intensity of cropping</th>
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Table 4.10  Extent of Irrigated Areas under Different Sizes of Holding in the Selected Blocks of Cooch Behar District and in the District as a Whole for the Year 1992-93

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<th>Name of the block</th>
<th>Farm size</th>
<th>Irrigated area under operational holding (in bighas)</th>
<th>Percentage of irrigated area to the total area under operation</th>
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