

**CHAPTER VI**

**INCOME FROM SUBSIDIARY OCCUPATION AND OTHER FARM SOURCES**

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#### 6.1 Introduction

The present chapter is designed to make an estimate of the gross income from subsidiary occupation and other farm sources other than from the selling of crops produced during the period under study.

#### 6.2 The Importance of the Study

The study of this problem appears to be important because in determining the total income of the small farmers, it has been found that the income derived from other sources than farm one as well as from some other farm sources excepting the farm income from selling the crops of the small farmers produced and sold during the period under study, will have to be determined. From chapter <sup>VII</sup> IV, we know the farm income from selling the crops produced and sold during the period of the study. In this chapter then, an attempt has been made to make an estimate to know the income they supplement to the farm income from selling the crops produced during the period under study. This income we call as subsidiary income in the sense

that they help these farmers to supplement their income from the farm sources by selling the crops produced during the period under study. So, these two incomes taken together will give us their total income ( gross ) during the period of the study.

### 6.3 Methodology

In the first stage, the sources of subsidiary occupations and other farm sources ( whenever other farm sources will be stated it should be taken as the income from farm sources excluding the farm income derived from the selling of crops produced during the period under study ) have been clearly identified. The approach in identifying the sources is the following : firstly, direct interview method has been adopted to gather relevant information and data from the sample farmers ; secondly, the observation method has been supplemented in this regard ; thirdly, an integration between observation and interview method has been made ; and lastly, the village chowkidars and members of Anchal Panchayats as well as certain important local people who were identified knowing various information in their respective villages, have been consulted to arrive at a meaningful identification. In the second stage, following the same methodology as in the case of identification, data and information have been collected and arranged systematically

before writing. In the third stage, the sample families have been divided into two land-holding groups viz. from 0.01-2.5 and 2.6 to 5.0 acres. In the fourth stage, the average of the findings of both these groups has been presented.

#### 6.4 Identification

The following sources have been identified :

##### Other farm sources and or assets, wealth etc.

1. Sale of straw grass and bamboo
2. Sale of milk
3. Sale of egg, fish and fruits.

##### Subsidiary occupations

1. Wage Labour
2. Lending of Bullock-cart and plough
3. <sup>Pottery</sup> ~~Porizary~~, rope making out of Jute and Bidi making
4. Small trades from one 'hat to another hat'.

#### 6.5 Terms Explained

##### 6.5.1 Wage Labour

During the production of crops particularly Aman, Aus and Jute, the small cultivators were found to render labour on wage to other cultivators' land in the task of tilling, sowing, reaping, Nirani and washing and drying of Jute. The wage varied according to demand and supply of labour. At the time of tilling and sowing

and reaping of Aman and Jute the demand of labourers generally remained high and went down at the time of cultivation of other crops.

The small and marginal cultivators were found also to act in construction works and house repairing activities (Gharani) as wage labourers.

Some members of the family of small cultivator were observed to be engaged in agricultural activities at the house of Jotedars on a contract basis. Occasionally, it was found that small cultivators in a group undertook some land of Jotedars for cultivation on a contract basis.

#### 6.5.2 Lending of Bullock-Cart and Plough

The small cultivators sometimes found to lend their plough with bullock to other cultivators on rent. Some of the small cultivators were found to possess bullock-cart, the principal vehicle for carrying and transportation of goods in the village and earned by employing their bullock-cart for transportation of paddy, Jute and other agricultural produce. The owners of the bullock-cart generally attended local hats and carried goods on rent.

#### 6.5.3 <sup>Pottery</sup>~~Penalty~~, Rope making out of Jute and Bidi making

The small farmers were found to be engaged in subsidiary occupations like <sup>Pottery</sup>~~penalty~~, rope making and Bidi making

activities. They were found to participate in these activities at their leisure time or at the off season of agricultural operation. It was found that in most of the villages under study small cultivators had rope making and Bidi making as general subsidiary occupations. The cultivators generally made rope by hand out of Jute and sold it in local hat or adjacent market of the town. The cultivators were found to work on wage in the Bidi factories set up by other cultivators and some of them installed their own Bidi factory on a small scale and engaged other members of the family in the task.

The small cultivators had been found to be engaged in ~~manufacturing~~ <sup>pottery</sup> ~~pottery~~ only in two villages. The small farmers of the said villages manufactured earthen pots and sold these in the local hat or in adjacent market of the town.

#### 6.5.4 Small Trades

Some of the small farmers in the villages under study were found to be carrying small trades like purchasing of vegetables, bananas, eggs, from one hat and selling these in other hats or local markets and made profit through the above process.

#### 6.5.5 Sale of Straw, Grass, Bamboo and Jute stick

It was one of substantial items of subsidiary income of the small cultivators. The small cultivators after the thrashing operation of paddy heaped the straw and kept a part for the consumption of domestic cow or bullock and sold the rest in the market. They generally did not sell the straw in a lot rather brought it for sale in a small quantity (Bhar) in the local market and managed their daily family expenses by the money they got from the sale.

It was found that the small cultivators generally during the months of (March to May, and September to December) collected grass from the field and sold it in the market. The small cultivators generally kept most part of Jute sticks for their own house consumption and those who had a surplus sold it in the market.

The small cultivators had been found to be selling bamboos and earning from the sale of it. They sold it in a lot once in a year or sometimes found to be selling bamboos in small bundles twice or thrice in a year.

#### 6.5.6 Sale of Milk

Some of the small cultivators were found to be possessing milking cow. The cultivators sold most part of the milk in the local hat or market. It was found that native cows gave milk only in a small quantity and only during few months.

**6.5.7 Sale of Egg, Fish and Fruits like Arecanut or  
Coconut**

Small cultivators were found earning a little from the sale of eggs, fish and fruits like arecanut or coconut. Some of small farmers in the villages under study were found to be keeping poultry in a very small size. During the months September - November, the small cultivators generally caught fishes from the ponds and sold it in the local hat or market. Some of the small cultivators earned by selling arecanut and coconut which were produced in their own houses. They sold these fruits after keeping only a part for their home consumption.

**6.6 Tables 6.1 to 6.3**

Tables 6.1 to 6.3 are presented below :

Table 6.1

## Income from subsidiary occupations and other farm sources

Year : 1975-'76

Villages	Land holding (in acres)	Income from subsidiary occupation	Sale of straw (grass and bamboo, Jute sticks etc.)	Sale of milk	Sale of egg, fish and fruits	(in Rs.)
						Total
Majhabari	0.01-2.5	1150.00	180.00	50.00	60.00	1440.00
	2.6 -5.0	1035.00	220.00	60.00	65.00	1385.00
Morolpara	0.01-2.5	1179.00	225.00	81.00	73.00	1558.00
	2.6 -5.0	1064.00	270.00	85.00	80.00	1499.00
Purbakumar-para	0.01-2.5	1454.00	140.00	65.00	72.00	1731.00
	2.6 -5.0	1494.00	170.00	54.00	82.00	1800.00
Rahutnagar	0.01-2.5	1417.00	150.00	63.00	64.00	1694.00
	2.6 -5.0	1215.00	175.00	56.00	72.00	1584.00
Arajigural-bari	0.01-2.5	1242.00	180.00	45.00	62.00	1529.00
	2.6 -5.0	1072.00	230.00	70.00	84.00	1456.00
Baskunthia	0.01-2.5	1096.00	205.00	60.00	74.00	1435.00
	2.6 -5.0	960.00	220.00	67.00	78.00	1325.00

Table 6.2

## Income from subsidiary occupations and other farm sources

Year : 1976-'77

Villages	Land holding (in acres)	(in Rs.)				Total
		Income from subsidiary occupation	Sale of straw, bamboo, grass, Jute sticks etc.	Sale of milk	Sale of egg, fish, fruits	
Majhsbari	0.01-2.5	1218.00	190.00	58.00	64.00	1520.00
	2.6 -5.0	1086.00	232.00	68.00	69.00	1455.00
Morolpara	0.01-2.5	1343.00	230.00	85.00	78.00	1736.00
	2.6 -5.0	1101.00	275.00	90.00	84.00	1550.00
Purbakumar-Para	0.01-2.5	1595.00	150.00	70.00	80.00	1895.00
	2.6 -5.0	1625.00	210.00	60.00	85.00	1980.00
Rahutnagar	0.01-2.5	1460.00	160.00	66.00	72.00	1785.00
	2.6 -5.0	1653.00	205.00	62.00	76.00	1990.00
Arajiguralbari	0.01-2.5	1300.00	220.00	52.00	68.00	1640.00
	2.6 -5.0	1316.00	250.00	80.00	89.00	1635.00
Baskunthia	0.01-2.5	1325.00	215.00	68.00	82.00	1690.00
	2.6 -5.0	1138.00	250.00	72.00	85.00	1545.00

Table 6.3

## Income from subsidiary occupations and other farm sources

Year : 1977-'78

Villages	Land holding (in acres)	Income from subsidiary occupation	(in Rs.)			Total
			Sale of straw, grass, bamboo and Jute sticks etc.	Sale of milk	Sale of egg, fish, fruits	
Majhabari	0.01-2.5	1384.00	205.00	64.00	72.00	1725.00
	2.6 -5.0	1242.00	246.00	72.00	75.00	1635.00
Morolpara	0.01-2.5	1432.00	242.00	90.00	86.00	1850.00
	2.6 -5.0	1253.00	234.00	95.00	83.00	1720.00
Purbakumarpara	0.01-2.5	1664.00	165.00	76.00	85.00	1990.00
	2.6 -5.0	1705.00	235.00	68.00	92.00	2100.00
Rahutnagar	0.01-2.5	1631.00	180.00	74.00	80.00	1965.00
	2.6 -5.0	1843.00	230.00	70.00	82.00	2225.00
Arajiguralbari	0.01-2.5	1560.00	245.00	56.00	74.00	1935.00
	2.6 -5.0	1392.00	275.00	83.00	95.00	1845.00
Baskunthia	0.01-2.5	1557.00	232.00	73.00	84.00	1946.00
	2.6 -5.0	1335.00	265.00	80.00	90.00	1820.00

## 6.7 Interpretations of Field Results

Field results have been interpreted from the Tables (6.1-6.3) showing income from subsidiary occupations during the three successive years (1975-78). The farm-families have been divided into two land-holding groups.

In the year 1975-76, total income of the farm-families belonging two land-holding groups, from subsidiary occupations and other sources as had been observed from the table was highest at Purbakumarpara Rs. 1731.00 and lowest at Baskunthia Rs. 1435.00 in the land-holding group (0.01-2.5 acres) and in the land-holding group (2.6-5.0 acres) income from subsidiary occupations per farm-family was highest at Purbakumarpara Rs. 1800.00 and lowest at Baskunthia Rs. 1325.00. It was observed from the Table that total income from other sources per farm-family was comparatively higher in two villages namely Purbakumarpara and Rahutnagar in the year (1975-76). These two villages were very adjacent to Jalpaiguri town than other villages. The members of the farm-families of these two villages were found to be enjoying extra facility of doing subsidiary jobs both in village and town areas. It was also observed that only in these two villages most of the farm-families besides doing similar jobs like earning wages as wage labourers, installing small Bidi factories, doing small trades, <sup>were</sup> engaged in manufacturing earthen pots, ~~were found to~~ undertake pottery as subsidiary occupations.

It was found from the table that in all the villages next to income from farm sources, income from subsidiary occupations was the major source of income. Income per farm-family from sub-item, i.e. subsidiary occupation was maximum at village Purbakumarpara (Rs. 1454.00) and (Rs. 1494.00) respectively in the land-holding groups and minimum at village Basunthia Rs. 1096.00 and Rs. 960.00 in the two land-holding groups. The cause of variation in income from subsidiary occupations per farm-family among villages occurred due to difference in the availability of subsidiary jobs, extra time and number of working members available for doing subsidiary jobs.

Among the other sources, income from the sale of straw, grass, bamboo and Jute sticks was comparatively higher in all the villages in both the land-holding groups. Income from this sub-item per farm-family was maximum at village Morolpara Rs. 225.00 and Rs. 270.00 in two land-holding groups and minimum at villages Purbakumarpara Rs. 140.00 and Rs. 170.00 in two land-holding groups. Income from this sub-item varied among villages according to the amount of production, collection and sale of bamboo, straw, Jute sticks and grass. Income from this sources was comparatively higher in the land-holding group (2.6-5.0 acres).

The yearly income from sub-items like sale of milk and sale of egg, fish and fruits was found to be insignificant among villages. Income from the sale of milk was maximum at

villages Morolpara Rs. 81.00 and Rs. 85.00 in two land-holding groups and minimum at villages Arajiguralbari Rs. 45.00 and Purbakumarpara Rs. 54.00 respectively in the two land-holding groups.

Income from the sale of milk was found to be higher per farm-family in the land-holding group (2.6-5.0 acres) in most of the villages except Purbakumarpara and Rahutnagar in which income from the sale of milk was found to be higher in the land-holding group (0.01-2.5 acres).

Income from the sale of egg, fish and fruits was maximum at villages Baskunthia Rs. 74.00 and Arajiguralbari Rs. 84.00 in the two land-holding groups and minimum at villages Majhabari Rs. 60.00 and Rs. 65.00 in two land-holding groups. Income per farm-family from this sub-item was found to be comparatively higher in the land-holding group (2.6-5.0 acres).

From the tables it was observed that total income per farm-family from subsidiary occupations and other sources was higher in the land-holding group (0.01-2.5 acres) except in the village Purbakumarpara. This particular feature may be explained in the context of the fact that due to small land-holding the members of farm-families belonging in the land-holding group (0.01-2.5 acres) usually felt it necessary to engage themselves in subsidiary occupations and they had more time and surplus labour to render, for such occupations. Only in the village Purbakumarpara farmers in two land-holding groups were

found to be engaged and earning more from subsidiary occupations like Pottery, Bidi making, small trades.

In the year 1976-'77 (Table 6.2), income per family from subsidiary occupations and other sources was found to be increased among all the villages in the two land-holding groups. Income per family from subsidiary occupations and other sources was maximum at villages Purbakumarpara Rs. 1895.00 and Bahutnagor Rs. 1990.00 in the two land-holding groups and minimum at village Majhabari Rs. 1520.00 and Rs. 1455.00 in the two land-holding groups. Income from other sub-items also increased in all the villages. Income from sub-item subsidiary occupations was highest at Purbakumarpara Rs. 1595.00 and Bahutnagor Rs. 1625.00 and lowest at Majhabari Rs. 1213.00 and Rs. 1086.00 respectively in the two land-holding groups. Income from the sale of straw, bamboo, grass and Jute sticks was found to be maximum at village Morolpara Rs. 230.00 and Rs. 275.00 in two land-holding groups and minimum at villages Purbakumarpara Rs. 150.00 and village Bahutnagor Rs. 205.00 in the two land-holding groups.

Income from the sale of milk was maximum at village Morolpara Rs. 85.00 and Rs. 90.00 and minimum at villages Arajiguralbari Rs. 52.00 and Purbakumarpara Rs. 60.00 in the two land-holding groups.

Income from the sale of egg, fish and fruits was found to be maximum at Baskunthia Rs. 32.00 and at Arajiguralbari Rs. 39.00 in two land-holding groups and minimum at village

Majhabari Rs. 64.00 and Rs. 69.00 in two land-holding groups. From the table it had been observed that in this year also the income from subsidiary occupation was comparatively higher per farm-family in the land-holding group (0.01-2.5 acres) in most of the villages except Purbakumarpara and Rahutnagar. Income from other components was found to be higher per farm-family in the land-holding group (2.6-5.0 acres) in most of the villages.

In the year 1977-78, the increasing trend in income from subsidiary occupations and other sources was maintained. In all the villages income from subsidiary occupation and other sources per farm-family increased in both the land-holding groups. Total income from subsidiary occupations and other sources was maximum at village Purbakumarpara Rs. 1990.00 and Rahutnagar Rs. 2225.00 in the two land-holding groups and minimum at village Majhabari Rs. 1725.00 and Rs. 1695.00 in the two land-holding groups. In the year, income per farm-family from subsidiary occupations and other sources was found to be comparatively higher in the land-holding group (0.01-2.5 acres) except in villages Purbakumarpara and Rahutnagar where income per farm-family in the land-holding group (2.6-5.0 acres) was found to be higher.

During that year income from each component in each land-holding increased, especially the income from subsidiary occupations increased more than the income from other components.

Income from subsidiary occupations was maximum at villages, Purbakumarpara Rs. 1664.00 and Rahutnagar Rs. 1843.00 in the two land-holding groups respectively and minimum at villages Majhabari Rs. 1334.00 and Rs. 1242.00 in the two land-holding groups respectively. The rise in income from subsidiary occupations in the sample villages was mainly due to increase in the wage rate of the agricultural labourers.

Yearly income from the sale of straw, grass, bamboo and Jute sticks was maximum at villages Arajiguralbari Rs. 245.00 and Morolpara Rs. 234.00 in the two land-holding groups respectively and minimum at villages Purbakumarpara Rs. 165.00 and Rahutnagar Rs. 230.00 in the two land-holding groups. There had been an increase in the average sale price of bamboo, Jute sticks and straw in that year.

Income from the sale of milk was maximum at village, Morolpara, Rs. 90.00 and Rs. 95.00 in the two land-holding groups and minimum at Arajiguralbari Rs. 56.00 and Rahutnagar Rs. 70.00 in the two land-holding groups respectively.

Yearly income from the sale of egg, fish and fruits was found to be maximum at village, Morolpara, Rs. 86.00 and Arajiguralbari Rs. 95.00 in the two land-holding groups and minimum at village Majhabari Rs. 72.00 and Rs. 75.00 in the two land-holding groups respectively.

From the above study of the tables (6.1-6.3) it was obvious that in each year, income per farm-family from subsidiary

occupations was higher than income from other sources.

Small farmers in the villages under study were not found to keep any systematic and scientific diary on poultry farming or pissi culture or bamboo cultivation due to lack of adequate scientific knowledge of the utility of such a diary.