

PREFACE

There is a plethora of evidences that consumption, cultivation and processing of tobacco constitutes a major health hazard. Tobacco has been identified as one of the main cause for the incidence of certain types of cancer and bronchial diseases. With the increasing anti-tobacco movement, government's less support to tobacco cultivation, prohibition of smoking in the public places, banning and awareness of risks associated with smokeless tobacco, the tobacco cultivation and consumption is expected to decrease in the long run. Moreover WHO-FCTC introduces a new environment for policy makers to control supply of tobacco and they assist technically and financially to ease the transition for tobacco producers to economically viable alternatives. It is considered that supply side actions are tamed to demand-side measures to control tobacco consumption. Supply-side action refers mainly to crop transition, trade restrictions and even banning of the product. Therefore, it is keen need to study this matter.

The present study entitled, **STRATEGIES FOR REPLACEMENT OF TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN DINHATA SUBDIVISION OF KOCH BEHAR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL, INDIA**, makes a part of the study in Agricultural Geography, in which I have tried to explain physico-cultural environmental of the study area, present status of tobacco cultivation, existing laws and regulations regarding tobacco cultivation and consumption, land suitability, economics of alternative crops to tobacco, perceptions of tobacco and non-tobacco farmers and policy implications for replacement of tobacco. The present study shows that a farmer earns more per hectare by growing tobacco than from other crops. The employment generation is also higher. As the study bring out, the substitution of tobacco by other crops without loss of income to the grower does not appear to be easy; whether owing to growing popularity of maize in the study area since

recent past, it becomes more viable, profitable and promising alternative crop than tobacco. It is obvious that tobacco consumption cannot be brought down without an integrated strategy, in which diversion of tobacco growing lands to other crops is a component. Careful thought has to be given in the coming years to the execution of such a strategy.

After outlining the objectives and the major theoretical concern and problems of the research, it may be useful to mention the contents of the chapters and how these have been arranged in this thesis. The present study has been organized into eight chapters.

The chapter one, “**Introduction**” starts with the cultivation of tobacco which is facing challenging problem in view of the growing anti-tobacco campaigns world over against health hazards and finally deals with the objectives, hypothesis, review of literatures and methodologies.

The second chapter, “**Physical and Cultural background of the study area**” provides an understanding of the physical and cultural and agronomic characteristics of Dinhatia Subdivision, concentrating primarily on the physical setting such as geology, topography, river, climate, vegetation cover, groundwater and cultural characteristics such as population distribution, density, occupational structure, transport network, cropping pattern, cropping intensity and irrigation status of the study area in necessary details.

The third chapter, “**Basic aspect of tobacco cultivation**” incorporates origin, types, species and cultural practice of tobacco; export and trade scenario of manufacturing tobacco; trend of tobacco cultivation, and negative impact of tobacco farming on environment and social impact briefly analyzed.

The fourth chapter, “**Present issues regarding tobacco cultivation in National perspective**” highlights the constitution of agreement on tobacco control by WHO, the COTPA- 2003 Core arrangements, tobacco cultivation for livelihood in India, responsibility of tobacco industry, the financial aspects of tobacco development, the financial adversities because of the tobacco business, links between tobacco sectors and farmers; main issues in tobacco cultivating and exchange crops, challenges confronted by agriculturists in tobacco cultivation and steps taken by Government.

The fifth chapter, “**Land Evaluation for alternative crops of tobacco**” attempts to evaluate climate and soil site suitability for five alternatives crops to tobacco such as maize, potato, mustard, wheat and boro paddy, with the help of parametric and analytical hierarchy process using GIS.

The Sixth chapter, “**Cost and Benefit analysis of some selected crops cultivated in the study area**” deals with an analytic study of cost and profitability of jati tobacco, motihari tobacco, maize, potato, mustard, wheat and boro paddy, with the help of statistical tools.

The Chapter Seventh, “**Identification of suitable crops for replacement in the study area**” attempts to analyze perception of tobacco and non-tobacco farmers towards the alternative crops of tobacco, reasons for cultivating tobacco and substitute crops and identifying suitable alternative crops to replace tobacco cultivation.

The eighth and last chapter has been presented with “**Summary and Policy Implication**”.

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