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EMPLOYMENT PATTERN OF HUMAN LABOUR IN THE FLOOD PRONE AREA OF SIVASAGAR DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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Abstract:

The rural mass of Sivasagar district are primarily dependent on Agriculture. Farming has been the mainstay of the large majority of the people. Settled cultivation is the general characteristics and rice has been the most dominant crop activity in the area. Of course, mustard, sugarcane, pulses and various types of vegetables are also grown to a limited extent. In addition dairy, poultry, piggery, sericulture, weaving and fishery are some of the subsidiary occupation of the inhabitants of the area. However, the entire area under this sector are lagging behind due to lack of proper policies on utilization of farm land, lack of extension services, poor purchasing capacity of majority of the people, negligible investment in farm production and lack of technologies along with the inertia of remaining in the traditional set up of the farming community of the area.

KEYWORDS:

Employment , Labour , flood prone area , sericulture .

INTRODUCTION

To keep the minimum standard of living the growing through agricultural production and income, new technology has been evolved from time to time. The increase in farm income could be achieved in two directions. One is vertical and the other is horizontal use of the limited land resources. Another important aspect of farm production is technology which can shift the production process from the existing level to higher level. As farm land is extremely scarce the way for enhancing farm production is vertical or intensive use of land input using modern technology of farm production. In any farm, this can be derived through adoption of improved / optimal/ efficient farm production planning. The farm plan developed in this way ensures rational use of available farm resources- maximizing output and minimizing slack inputs. The farming system approach, which implies that a farm should be considered as one production unit where importance would be given not only to crops activities but also to all other subsidiary activities like dairy, poultry, duckery, piggery, goatery, sericulture, weaving, fishery, tea (raw leaf production) raised in the farm contributing each to the total farm income. This farming system approach generates not only better farm income but also creates additional employment opportunity including smooth distribution of employment over the months of the year.

OBJECTIVE:

The study is designed to assess the employment pattern of human labour in the flood prone area of

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the Sivasagar district of Assam.

METHODOLOGY:

The study was carried out in the flood prone areas of Sivasagar district of Assam as there is a sizeable area in the district. The sample for the investigation was taken using purposive and multistage random sampling technique. From the ADO (Agricultural Development Officer) centres a sample of 5 per cent centres, 20 per cent villages from each of selected ADO centres and 20 per cent farm holdings were selected from each selected villages at random along with their operational holdings. The households are arranged in descending order of their holding sizes and the holding sizes are distributed to get classes of small, medium and large holding based on optimum classification technique. After this a sample of about 20 per cent farm holdings are selected randomly from each of small, medium, large and entire farm under each selected village. These are the ultimate sample for the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

The results of the employment pattern of human labour in the flood prone areas of Sivasagar district are discussed into two groups. One is the cropwise employment of human labour under different farm sizes and the other is the activities other than cropwise employment of human labour under different farm categories. The entire results are placed in Table no. 1 and Table no. 2 and are discussed below.

Table 1. Cropwise employment of human labour in flood prone area of Sivasagar district

Crops	Small farm		Medium farm		Large Farm		Entire farm	
	Per farm	per hecter	Per farm	Per hecter	Per farm	Per hecter	Per farm	Per hecter
local Sali rice	22.08 (9.62)	129.91	33.86 (7.33)	130.22	47.78 (6.40)	129.13	35.00 (7.26)	129.62
Improved Sali Rice	37.52 (16.35)	150.08	64.44 (13.96)	149.86	88.82 (11.89)	150.54	63.10 (13.10)	150.24
Local Ahu rice	18.20 (7.93)	130.04	32.44 (7.02)	129.78	49.16 (6.58)	129.38	35.04 (7.27)	129.78
Bao Rice	84.20 (36.96)	121.14	136.29 (29.52)	121.69	225.37 (30.18)	120.52	148.90 (30.91)	121.06
Ahu Bao Rice	6.17 (2.96)	205.62	15.88 (3.44)	198.54	49.55 (6.63)	198.19	24.08 (5.00)	200.72
Bao Rice + Pulses	3.50 (1.52)	175.28	8.17 (1.77)	163.40	23.83 (3.19)	170.25	13.57 (2.82)	169.59
Summer vegetables	13.93 (6.07)	278.60	22.62 (4.90)	282.75	56.69 (7.59)	298.37	31.61 (6.56)	287.36
Oilseeds	15.92 (6.94)	72.35	28.76 (6.21)	71.68	43.59 (5.84)	70.31	29.32 (6.09)	71.51
Pulses	4.09 (1.78)	81.76	9.63 (2.08)	80.23	22.36 (2.99)	79.85	11.36 (2.36)	80.47
Potato	8.11 (3.53)	135.27	10.81 (2.34)	135.02	12.10 (1.62)	134.43	10.81 (2.24)	135.11
Rabi vegetables	15.08 (6.57)	188.50	98.89 (21.42)	197.78	127.45 (17.07)	199.14	78.91 (16.38)	197.27
Total	229.40 (100.00)	---	461.70 (100.00)	--	746.70 (100.00)	--	481.70 (100.00)	--

Small farm = up to 2 hectares
 Medium farm = from 2 to 3.5 hectares
 Large farm = above 3.5 hectares
 Entire farm = average farm as a whole of the area.

The total employment of human labour per farm in different farm categories is positively related

with the sizes of holdings ranging from 229.40 mandays in small farm to 746.70 mandays in large farms. The total employment of human labour (per farm) under entire farm (average farm) is 481.70 mandays. In the entire farm the highest employment of human labour per hectare is found 287.36 mandays under summer vegetables followed by Ahu+ bao rice with the employment per hectare of 200.72 mandays. The least number of employments per hectare is found under oilseeds which is 71.51 mandays.

The cropwise employment of human labour showed that the summer Bao rice was the most important crop in all the farm groups using 36.96 per cent of total employment in small farm and 30.18 per cent in the large farm. The next important crop was Rabi vegetables with 21.42 per cent employment in medium farm, 17.07 per cent in large farm and 6.57 per cent in small farm. The least important crop regarding employment of human labour was found Bao rice + pulses with 1.52 per cent of total employment under small group. The per hectare employment of human labour was inversely related to the size of farms. The per hectare employment of labour was higher in small farm size than the large farms.

Table 2 Annual Employment of human labour in farm enterprises other than crops per farm in flood prone area of Sivasagar district.

Farm Sizes	Employment of human labour in other enterprises (other than crops)						
	Local cow	Local goat	Local poultry	Duck	Fishery	Total	Monthly
Small farm	62.81 (42.72)	4071 (27.69)	21.75 (14.79)	21.75 (14.79)	--	147.02 (10000)	12.25
Medium Farm	71.13 (48.77)	41.12 (25.30)	25.12 (15.46)	25.12 (15.46)	--	162.49 (10000)	13.54
Large Farm	73.65 (42.54)	44.57 (25.74)	27.46 (15.86)	27.46 (15.86)	--	173.14 (10000)	14.43
Entire Farm	69.26 (48.07)	4208 (26.17)	24.73 (15.38)	24.73 (15.38)	--	160.80 (10000)	13.40

The annual employment of human labour in other activities (other than crops) is positively related with the sizes of holdings ranging from 147.02 mandays in small farm to 173.49 mandays in large farms. The Activitywise distribution of employment showed that local cow was the most important activity in all farm categories using the highest percentage of labour 42.72 per cent of total labour in small farm, 48.77 per cent in medium farm and 42.54 per cent in large farm. The next important activity was local goat in all farm groups. The least important position was occupied by both local poultry and duckery with same percentages of employment of human labour under all farm categories.

The month wise employment of human resources also shows a positive trend with farm sizes. The highest employment was found in large farm size and the least number of employments was found in small farm size. The employment pattern of human labour in entire farm also showed a positive trend with farm sizes.

The overall analysis of employment pattern of human labour brought out that employment of human labour is higher under farm activity than the crops activities. The employment under crop activities is mainly seasonal in character but the other activities are not seasonal, the labours get employment not only for one year but also for the year to year.

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