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## **Golden Research Thoughts**





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#### ABSTRACT

Economy is the fundamental source of a nation or a state or a district or a town with which production based work is related. In case of a developing country like India agriculture based production are the mainly key sources such as rice, tea, jute, fruits etc.

In case of fruits production India is not lack behind. Here various frutes are cultivated. Among them banana is the 2nd most important fruit crop next to mango. Its various usability specially in Hindu religious purpose, nutritive and medicinal value makes the favorite fruits among all classes of people.

In this paper an attempt has been made to highlight the production region of banana and its economic importance. For this purpose a field survey is conducted at the Daranggiri banana market under Ranjuli revenue circle Goalpara, Assam which is one of the Asia's largest banana markets in terms of transaction. (Report of NEDFI)

**KEYWORDS** : Economy, Developing country, Nutritive and Medicinal value, Transaction and report of NEDFI.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Banana is one of the important fruit crop. Its year round availability, affordability, varietal range, taste, nutritive and medicinal value makes it the favorite fruit among all classes of people. Banana and plantains are grown in about 120 countries.

The total annual world production is estimated at 86 million tones. India leads the world production with an annual output of about 14.2 million tones.

In India banana production is highest in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Assam.

Dudhnoi revenue circle is located in the south-eastern part of Goalpara district, Assam. The dominant sector of economy of this area is agriculture. Most of the people depend on the agriculture as the area lacks in industrial houses and firms.

A very negligible part of the population is engaged in the tertiary sector of the economy. Fortunately the nature offers various opportunities to the people of this area to grow various agricultural products like varieties of rice, oil seeds and other horticultural and forest products. Among all these banana production is playing a pivotal role in the economy of the people.

#### **1.1STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The Dudhnoi area to some extent has been whitening some kind of socio-economic problem in some part of the interior areas. If we speak about the level of development of Dudhnoi area, compared to past, at present Dudhnoi areas has made some kind of development in education, agriculture and other infrastructure facilities. But the level of development is not satisfactory in compared to other parts of the Assam. It may be due to lack of proper interest of the local people to bringing all around development in the area.

In case of agriculture Dudhnoi is lack behind. It is because of its improper knowledge of the farmer and lack of scientifically using modern technique. Again industrial base is another problem of the region of its backwardness.

Keeping these views in mind an attempt has been made to analyze what kind of agriculture activity has influenced the area. Therefore I have selected the topic entitled "Banana production, an economic boon to Dudhnoi with special reference to Daranggiri banana market of Goalpara district, Assam.

#### **1.20BJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The increasing population without the corresponding increase of agricultural potentialities in the state particularly in the lower Assam has been responsible for shaping socio-economic structure of the people. Moreover lake of industrial base in the state has been major drawback for leveling up the disparate economic standard of the people at par with the rest of India. The above problems are the background for taking up a work as such with the following objectives:-

I. To increase the economic patterns of the people which are considered a large numbers of tribes in the surrounding areas.

ii. To identify the banana production areas of the region.

iii. To identify the economic importance of the banana cultivation.

iv. To assess the industrial potentiality of area in the light of its agricultural sources.

v. To assess the total production and marketing of the product.

#### **1.3 METHOD OF STUDY**

The description methods will be employed with a view to achieving meaningful results. The interpretation of geographical and socio-economic and cultural constraints will be made through the descriptive methods. The present study is primarily based on the data available from the census report, government publication and internet. A sample has also been conducted with the survey schedules of



questionnaires from the Daranggiri banana market. The relevant data thus collected are represented explanation, interpretation and analysis.

#### **1.4 STUDY AREA**

Geographically, Dudhnoi revenue circle extends between 90° 52´E to 91° 05´E longitude and 25° 52´N to 26° 10´N latitude with an area about 118 sq km of area with 67 revenue village and Dudhnoi is the gateway to Garo hills of Meghalaya and Bangladesh through N.H.62

The circle is the home of large number of different communities. There are Rabhas, Bodos, Garos, Indigenous Muslims and immigrant population and many others.

The area extends from the foot of Garo hills in the south to the flood plains of the Brahmaputra river in the north. The area is well drained by the river Dudhnoi and its tributaries which originates in the garo hills and enrich the area for agriculture.

#### 2. GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1AGRO- CLIMATIC REGION

Banana basically a tropical crop, grows well in a temperature range of 15°C to 35C with relative humidity of 75% to 85%. It prefers tropical humid lowlands and is grown from the sea level to an elevation of 2000m above msl. Chilling injury occur at temperature below 12°C. High velocity of wind which exceeds 80 km/hr damage the crop. Four month of monsoon (June to September) with an average 650-750 mm. rainfall are most important for vigorous growth of banana.

#### **2.2 PRODUCTION AREA**

Most of the foot hills region which is the extension of the Meghalaya plateau produces the lion share. All the plain of the region also produce the crop to some extent. The cultivation is done by farmers individually. There is no community cultivation of the crop. Cultivation is generally done in a traditional way, 99 percent of it uses organic manure. Scientific method of cultivation is yet to reach to people of this area in general banana cultivation in particular.

#### **3. PRODUCTION AND MARKETING**

#### **3.1 ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE**

Banana is very popular fruit due to its low price and high nutritive value. Banana is a rich source of carbohydrate and is rich in vitamin B. it is also a good source of potassium, phosphorus, calcium and magnesium. The fruit is easy to digest, free from fat and cholesterol. Banana powder is used as the first baby food. Banana leaves are used as healthy hygienic eating plates. Banana hearts are used as a vegetable.

Processed products such as chips, banana puree, jam, jelly, wine and halwa can be made from the fruit. Banana fiber is used to make items like bags, pots and wall hangers. Rope and good quality paper can be prepared from banana waste.

#### **3.2 MARKETING OF THE PRODUCTION**

The banana marketed in the market is taken from neighboring hilly areas of Assam as well as Meghalaya. The growers are in the clutches of middle-men. The middle men collect the product from villagers and sell them in the markets at a higher price and earns considerable amount of profit. They sell the product in the market of Dudhnoi, Damra, Amjonga and Daranggiri. Mostly these are carried on bicycle, as in most of the places there is no proper road. Average 8 bunches of banana per bicycle are



carried to the market.

The main market of banana is Daranggiri. The big businessmen parches, the banana from the middle –men at a negotiable price and export them to other states Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and some time to Nepal also. Within the state it supplies banana to Guwahati, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Nagaon district. A small amount goes to Bangladesh through the Garo hills, on the Indo-Bangladesh border.

#### **3.3DARANGGIRI BANANA MARKET**

Daranggiri banana market is located along National Highway 37 in this region. According to a study by NEDFI Daranggiri banana market is one of the Asia's largest banana markets in terms of transactions. The annual transaction of the noted banana market is around Rs.20 crores. Nearly 1500-1800 trucks of banana go out every week to Meghalaya, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and west Bengal. In monetary terms, each truck loaded is worth between Rs. 20,000 and 30,000 depending on the season and demand. Though marketing of banana continues round the year, barring Sundays and Tuesdays, the peak period begins in September to November. The cheni banana of Daranggiri, is an excellent product.

In the process from cultivation to export, thousands of people are engaged either directly or indirectly thus making it an important economic pursuits. Banana is used by the food-processing industries. At a large scale it also sold as fruits. Demand for the product is increasing day by day and also the price.

### EXPORTED REPORT OF DARANGGIRI BANANA MARKET YEAR WISE FOR LAST THREE YEARS EXPORT REPORT (2012-2015) TABLE 1 EXPORT OF BANANA FROM 2012-2013

2012-2013	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	YEARLY	TOTAL
Malbhog Banana	23 Trucks	92 Trucks	1104 Trucks	1104 Trucks
Cheni Champa Banana	30 Trucks	120 Trucks	1440 Trucks	1440 Trucks
Saba Banana	3 Trucks	12 Trucks	144 Trucks	144 Trucks
				2688 Trucks

#### **BANANA EXPORT, 2012-2013**



#### TABLE 2 EXPORT OF BANANA FROM 2013-2014

2013-2014	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	YEARLY	TOTAL
Malbhog Banana	24 Trucks	96 Trucks	1152 Trucks	1152 Trucks
Cheni Champa Banana	32 Trucks	128 Trucks	1536 Trucks	1536 Trucks
Saba Banana	3 Trucks	12 Trucks	144 Trucks	144 Trucks
				2832 Trucks

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#### TABLE 3 EXPORT OF BANANA FROM 2014-2015

2014-2015	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	YEARLY	TOTAL
Malbhog Banana	26 Trucks	104 Trucks	1248 Trucks	1248 Trucks
Cheni Champa Banana	36 Trucks	144 Trucks	1728 Trucks	1728 Trucks
Saba Banana	5Trucks	20Trucks	240 Trucks	240Trucks
				3216 Trucks



### 4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

### 4.1FUTURE OF THE PRODUCT

Cultivation of the crop has not yet been done scientifically using modern techniques in this area in particular and in the state in general. Though there is a department of the Govt. of Assam which is responsible for development of horticulture, but no positive step has yet been adopted to introduce modern technique in production.

The only positive sign is that educated youths have started taking interest in the trade and are opting for banana farming as a means of livelihood.

The Daranggiri Anchalik Development Samiti, an NGO has been trying to keep the market going despite the lack of Government support.

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#### **4.2 PROTECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

Banana may be designated as a protector of environment. Roots of banana are very much capable to check soil erosion. Particularly in the hill slopes it play a major role. If the cultivation not done in a scientific way there will be more soil erosion problem particularly in the hill region which will stimulate other problem like large scale situation in the agriculture fields.

#### **4.3 SUGGESTION FOR IMPROVING/CONCLUSION**

The following points may be suggested for improving the condition of the crop.

1. Identification of suitable area where banana can be cultivated.

2. Cultivation should be done on individual as well as community basis.

3. Priority should be given to unemployed youth for scientific cultivation of the crop.

4. Financial assistance should be given with reasonable subsidy to encourage their cultivation.

5. Government should collect the product directly from the grower at reasonable price to reduce the role of middle man in the marketing system.

6. The agriculture marketing department, of the government of Assam should come forward to help the cultivators so that they can sell their product at a comfortable price.

7. The Indian council of agricultural research (ICAR) can also play a vital role to boost the production with a superior quality.

8. A banana research station was proposed to set up earlier but not further progress is observed, it should be stream lined as earlier possible.

In this respect, the government may constitute marketing division under the horticulture department.

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