

villages. Dhekiabari village has only 3.5% of land for this purpose. In case of fallow land also, only the village Hahim has about 5% (five) of the total land as fallow land comprising both the old fallow land and current fallow land. The rest of the villages show negligible proportions. The land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves is minimum (less than 1%) in Darisatra and Kazigaon villages, while it is 4% (four) in Namtarabari, 6% (six) in Jalukbari and Nagopara and 12% (twelve) to 15% (fifteen)

in the rest of the villages.

In case of the net sown area 75% to 80% of the total land is covered in the villages Namtarabari and Kazigaon, 70% to 75%, in Darisatra and Jalukbari, 58%, in Hahim 48% in Uzanpara and Dhekiabari and less than 20%, in Nagopara village. However the net sown area was increased in the previous decade except the last two years, showing a negative trend.

The landholding sizes of the different communities in Boko circle are shown in the following table :

TABLE No.—2

Distribution of Average Landholding Sizes Among Different Communities Average Size in Areas

Sl. No.	Catagories of landholding sizes	S. C.	G. C	S. T.	H. T.	Total—
1	0—2.5 Marginal landholding	.56 (23)	.83 (6)	1.40 (8)	1.00 (20)	.68 (57)
2	2.5—5.0 Small landholding	2.97 (4)	3.93 (13)	2.99 (4)	3.8 (3)	3.59 (24)
3	5—7.50 Medium landholding	— (—)	6.1 (1)	6.33 (3)	5.4 (4)	5.83 (8)
4	7.50 and above large landholding	7.6 (1)	12.68 (5)	— (—)	14.08 (3)	12.57 (9)
		(28)	(25)	(15)	(30)	(98)

Table No. 2—Source : Sample Survey

N. B.—Figures in brackets represent Household.

We find that the scheduled caste community has the highest number of household in marginal landholding group. It is 82% with 0.56 acres of land per household. The net sown area is about 50% of the total land available. It is followed by miscellaneous tree crops and groves with about 30% of land under this category of landuse. Furthermore in the scheduled caste dominated villages the land put to non-agricultural purpose is only 9%, showing that the villages have a few transport roads and public premises. So also is the case with the cultivable waste land with only 3% for further expansion of agriculture in spatial dimension. The villages may not possess land for forest and grazing, thus depriving the people of their secondary source of income through raising livestock and firewood.

It is to be noted that about 54% of the scheduled tribe community of the study area have marginal landholdings of 1.40 acres and slightly more than 20% have small

landholding sizes of 3 acres, while 20% of the people have landholding of 6 acres for each household. There is no land for forest cover in the household of the people of general caste. About 64% of the total land is covered under the net sown area; while 25% of the area is used under miscellaneous tree crops and groves. Grazing land is very marginal. About 7% of the land is put to non-agricultural landuse. Barren and uncultivable land is almost absent in the area.

The hill tribe community is found along the foot-hill tract. About 67% of the household has marginal landholdings and almost equal proportions of the household share medium landholding (.5-7.5 acres) and large landholding (7.5 acres & above) and also small landholding (2.5 acres). About one-third of the total land has been brought under agriculture as the net sown area cover is less than 30% of the total area. The landuse in the hilly area is the highest in the miscellaneous tree crops and groves category

with a share of 47% of the total land coverage. There are no cultivable waste land and fallow land as per the information received.

About 64% of the land among the general caste community is under the net sown area, and 21% of the land is confined to the miscellaneous tree crops and groves. Grazing land is very marginal. About 4% of the entire area remains fallow in current and old fallow land. The barren and uncultivable land is found to occupy about 4% of the total operational area.

The overall economic condition of the people of general caste is poor. However they are relatively the best of the four communities. In this regard they are followed by the hill tribe and scheduled tribe communities. The poorest of the poor are the people belonging to the scheduled caste community. Paucity of facilities for their traditional craft and skill is one of the factors of their poverty. Further they are not apt to the agricultural pursuits for which they are compelled to be poor by the circumstances. Over and above, the marginal landholdings of the scheduled caste household play a detrimental role in their economy.

The landholding sizes of the households have positive relation

with their economic condition. However the relationship is very strong in case of the people of general caste and it is very feeble in case of the hill tribes. This relationship indicates that there are other causes of economic backwardness more effective rather than landholding sizes.

The growing population and the depleting soil condition under the effect of flash flood and the attack of wild animals have considerably influenced the landuse pattern. However the increase in land coverage in agriculture in no way hints the lack of people's involvement. Perchance it hints the lack of proper skill and aptitude in the static process of agriculture. The people have not come up with the modern methods of agriculture, and relevant processes. The stage of adoption of various programmes and schemes varies depending on the degree of motivation and the help offered to the people, which may change the pattern of agriculture. Lack of agricultural facilities amongst the tribal people as well as the people of general caste has hampered the improvement in agriculture. Again the relatively small size of operational landholdings of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities has given rise to their backwardness in comparison with that of the non-tribal people. □

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