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A study on socio-economic status of char (riverine) areas in Barpeta district of Assam

Ghana Kanta Sarma, AK Deka, RK Saud, M Neog and PK Pathak

Abstract
The socio-economic condition of people in char (riverine) area is different from the rest of the world. A study was conducted to know the socio-economic condition of the people of char areas of Barpeta district of Assam keeping in view the objectives like to know the demographic pattern in the char areas, to evaluate the cropping pattern in the char areas and to perceive the economic condition of the people. To carry out a comparative study, two development blocks dominated by char areas and two development blocks of non-char areas were selected. A total of 80 (eighty) farmers (40 from char areas and 40 from non-char areas) were selected for the study. The study revealed that the farmers of char areas were comparatively less educated than the non-char areas. The economy of the people in char area was mainly agrarian while that of non-char area was a mix of diverse sectors. The average gross return in agricultural sector of farmers of char area constituted 63.53 percent against 42.57 percent in non-char area. The farmers of char area grow more number of crops than the non-char area in a particular plot of land depicting a distinct crop diversity.

Keywords: Cropping pattern, demographic pattern, economy, net return, socio-economic

Introduction
The development status of a community or a locality is measured through the study on the socio-economic condition, demographic features etc. of the people. Socio-economic status is the primary issue in the present day situation. The socio-economic condition of people in Assam varies due to its varying land situations with glorious green hills, plains, depressions and rivers. It grows various crops, bears deep green forests, water resources with its harsh series of ripples and the sandy 'char's (riverine areas) and 'chapari's (land attached to riverine areas) which make the state of Assam a distinctive state in India. The term 'char' area is meant to hold both the island chars, bounded by water round the year, and the word 'chapari', means an area of land attached to char, and connected to the mainland under normal conditions of the river (Sultan, 2015) [1]. The char in this paper refers to those area created by the river mighty Brahmaputra in Barpeta district of Assam. The socio-economic status in 'char' areas is somewhat different from the rest of the world. It has been changing gradually over a period (Islam and Mustaquim, 2014) [2].

The Government has implemented several development programmes and policies to improve the socio-economic status of people in rural areas. But in truth, people, and the locality of char and chapari areas could not develop equally over the region. The socio-economic condition of people varies from location to location and thus, the socio-economic status of people is found to be dissimilar. Out of different demographic characters, one very important character is education which can create change and make progress in society. It helps in strengthening the economy both for the individuals as well as the nation and the society (Bringle and Hatcher, 1996; Mitra, 2011; Bandyopadhyay *et al*, 2021) [3, 14, 15]. Education plays a vital role in reduction of poverty and inequality of socio-economic conditions of people in the country like India. (Saravanamuthu, 2004; Ogunlade, 2005; Karlidag *et al*., 2020; Okoro, 2020) [6, 7, 8, 8, 9]. To know the socio-economic condition of people in char areas of Barpeta district of Assam, a study was conducted keeping in view the objectives to know the demographic pattern in the char areas, to evaluate the cropping pattern in the char areas and to know the economic condition of the people of char areas in Barpeta district of Assam.

Materials and Methods

There are all together 9 (nine) development blocks in Barpeta district of Assam. Out of these, two development blocks dominated by *char* areas and two development blocks from non-*char* areas were selected randomly for the study. From each development block, two villages were selected randomly and from each village, 10 (ten) number of farmers were selected. A total of 80 samples of farm families (40 from *char* area and 40 from non-*char* areas) were taken into consideration. A pre-tested structured interview schedule was prepared for collection of data. Personal interview method was followed for collection of data. Some simple statistical tools like mean, percentage, were used for analysis.

Classification of farmers: The farmers in the study area were classified based on the operational holdings. The farmers were categorized as marginal farmers having operational holding less than 1.0 ha, small farmers having operational holding 1.0 ha to less than 2.0 ha, semi-medium farmers having operational holding 2.0 ha to less than 4.0 ha, medium farmers having operational holding 4.0 ha to less than 10.0 ha and big farmers having operational holding 10.0 ha and more.

Results and Discussion

Demographic pattern of people in char areas

The demographic pattern of the people in the study area has been presented in Table 1. The table reveals that both in the char and non-char areas, the percentage of male population were more than the female population. The percentage of children (below 18 years) was found more than 20 percent in all the four development blocks. In char areas, the highest 25.00 percent children population was recorded at Gomaphulbari Development Block against 21.58 percent at Mandia Development Block. Out of the two development blocks of char areas, the sex ratio was found below the national average (943) in Gomaphulbari Development Block (941) and that in Mandia Development Block was found more (946) than the national average. In non-char areas, the sex ratio was calculated higher than the national average in Bajali Development Block (950) but, in Bhawanipur development block, it was less than the national average (933). In all the four development blocks, the sex ratio was found less than the average sex ratio in the state of Assam (958). The average number of persons per household was found more in char areas than the non-char areas. The highest number of persons per household was recorded as 7.0 in Mandia Development Block followed by Gomaphulbari Development Block (6.6) against the national and Assam state average of 4.44 and 4.87, respectively. The average number of persons per household was found more both at Bajali Development Block (5.1) and Bhawanipur development block (5.5) of non-char area.

In case of educational standard of the farmers, the farmers of char areas were comparatively less educated than the farmers of non-char areas. In Gomaphulbari Development block and Mandia Development block of char areas, 8.33 percent and 9.65 percent of the sample farmers, respectively were found illiterate; whereas in both the development blocks of non-char areas, there was no illiterate famers. The percentage of farmers qualifying Higher Secondary (Class 12) and above was found more in non-char areas than the char areas.

In case of occupational pattern of the farmers, the people of both char and non-char areas were engaged in their farming practices. The percentage of farmers at Gomaphulbari Development Block of char areas was comparatively more (81.37 percent) than the other three development blocks. The percentage of service holders in non-char area of both the development blocks were more than the farmers of char areas, i.e. 14.29 percent and 13.14 percent, respectively.

All the farmers of char areas belong to Islam religion and under general category of caste whereas, in non-char areas, the farmers under Bajali development block belonged to Hindu religion and in Bhawanipur development block, both Hindu and muslim farmers were found, In non-char areas both general and OBC category farmers were observed.

Table 1: Demographic pattern of people in char areas

Demography	Char area		Non-char areas	
	Gomaphulbari Development Block	Mandia Development Block	Bajali Development Block	Bhawanipur Development Block
I. Population pattern				
Male	51 (38.64)	56 (40.29)	40 (39.22)	45 (41.28)
Female	48 (36.36)	53 (38.13)	38 (37.25)	42 (38.53)
Children (below 18 years)	33 (25.00)	30 (21.58)	24 (23.53)	22 (20.18)
Total	132 (100.00)	139 (100.00)	102 (100.00)	109 (100.00)
Sex Ratio	941	946	950	933
Average no. of persons per household	6.6	7.0	5.1	5.5
II. Educational status				
Illiterate	9 (8.33)	11 (9.65)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
Lower Primary (LP) pass	19 (17.59)	24 (21.05)	21 (26.58)	12 (16.67)
Middle English (ME) pass	32 (29.63)	33 (28.95)	13 (16.46)	16 (22.22)
High school pass (Class 10 pass)	26 (24.07)	23 (20.18)	17 (21.52)	21 (29.17)
Higher Secondary pass (Class 12 pass)	17 (15.75)	21 (18.42)	23 (29.11)	19 (26.39)
Degree and above	5 (4.63)	2 (1.75)	5 (6.33)	4 (5.56)

Total	108 (100.00)	114 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	72 (100.00)
III. Occupational pattern				
Farmer	78 (74.29)	83 (81.37)	50 (71.43)	62 (75.61)
Service	7 (6.67)	3 (2.94)	10 (14.29)	11 (13.14)
Business	5 (4.76)	2 (1.96)	5 (7.14)	3 (3.66)
Contractor	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (1.43)	0 (0.00)
Wage paid worker	15 (14.29)	14 (13.73)	4 (5.71)	6 (7.32)
Total	105 (100.00)	102 (100.00)	70 (100.00)	82 (100.00)
IV. Religion	Islam	Islam	Hindu	Both Hindu and Islam
V. Caste	General	General	General and OBC	General and OBC
VI. Average Annual Net Income (in Rs.)	16,67,266	12,68,773	22,42,577	16,23,539

Figures in the bracket indicate percentage to total

Number of dependent people in the study area

The number of dependent and income earner sample farmers in the study area has been given in Table 2. From the table, it is observed that in all the development blocks, more than 20.00 percent people were dependent. They were mostly the children (below 16 years) and old age people (above 60 years). Similarly, Das, B.R (2020) [10] reported that there were 27.23 percent dependent people in the villages of Kamrup Metropolitan district of Assam. The highest percentage of dependent people (31.37 percent) was recorded at Bajali development block under non-char area. The lowest percent was observed at Gomafulbari development block (20.45 percent) under char area. On an average, the percentage of dependent people was more in non-char area than the char area.

Table 2: Number of dependents in the study area

Parameters	Char area		Non-char areas	
	Gomaphulbari Development Block	Mandia Development Block	Bajali Development Block	Bhawanipur Development Block
Total Population	132	139	102	109
Total number of income earner	105 (79.55)	102 (73.38)	70 (68.63)	82 (75.23)
Total number of dependent	27 (20.45)	37 (26.62)	32 (31.37)	27 (24.77)

Figures in the brackets indicate percentage to the total

Classification of farmers based on operational land holding

In the study area, it was observed that farmers were not having enough land for their farm operations (Table 3). Most of the farmers, both in char and non-char areas, belonged to marginal and small farmers' category. In case of non-char areas the total percentage of marginal and small farmers were calculated as 95.00 percent and 90.00 percent at Bajali Development block and Bhawanipur Development block, respectively; whereas in char areas, 80.00 percent was recorded at Gomaphulbari Development block and 85.00 percent was recorded at Mandia development block. Only a few semi-medium and medium farmers were observed. No big farmer was observed in the study area.

Table 3: Classification of farmers based on operational land holding

Farmers' category	Char area				Non-char areas			
	Gomaphulbari Development Block		Mandia Development Block		Bajali Development Block		Bhawanipur Development Block	
	No. of farmers	Av. Land holding (ha)	No. of farmers	Av. Land holding (ha)	No. of farmers	Av. Land holding (ha)	No. of farmers	Av. Land holding (ha)
Marginal farmers (< 1.0 ha)	6 (30.00)	0.86	11 (55.00)	0.91	13 (65.00)	0.76	10 (50.00)	0.83
Small farmers (1.0 ha - < 2.0 ha)	10 (50.00)	1.43	6 (30.00)	1.51	6 (30.00)	1.23	8 (40.00)	1.37
Semi medium farmers (2.0 ha- <4.0 ha)	2 (10.00)	2.64	2 (10.00)	2.28	1 (5.00)	2.49	1 (5.00)	2.10
Medium farmers (4.0 ha- <10.0 ha)	2 (10.00)	4.10	1 (5.00)	4.05	0 (0.00)	0	1 (5.00)	4.17
Big farmers (>10.0 ha)	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0	0 (0.00)	0
Total	20 (100.00)	9.03	20 (100.00)	8.75	20 (100.00)	4.48	20 (100.00)	8.47

Figures in the bracket indicate percentage to total

Major Cropping Pattern followed

Cropping pattern is considered as a crucial parameter very important for agricultural development. More is the crop grown, better income may be gained and more profit may be derived. A number of cropping pattern was followed by the farmers in the study area (Table 4). It was observed that more number of crops were grown in a particular plot of land by the farmers of Gomaphulbari Development block and Mandia development block of char area than the farmers of non-char area. It indicated that the farmers in char area worked hard than the farmers of non-char area. Growing of more numbers of crop in a particular plot of land indicated more cropping intensity.

Table 4: Major cropping pattern followed

Char area		Non-char areas	
Gomaphulbari Development Block	**Mandia Development Block**	**Bajali Development Block**	**Bhawanipur Development Block**
Winter rice – toria/Coriender/ Buckwheat/Lentil	Winter rice – toria/Coriender/ Buckwheat/Lentil	Winter rice – toria/ Buckwheat / Lentil	Winter rice – toria/ Buckwheat / Lentil
Summer Rice – fallow- toria/Coriender/ Buckwheat/Lentil	Summer Rice – fallow- toria/Coriender/ Buckwheat/Lentil	Summer Rice – fallow- toria	Summer Rice – fallow- toria
Jute – Toria/ Potato/Maize/ Groundnut	Jute – Toria/ Potato/Maize/ Groundnut	Jute – Toria/ Potato	Jute – Toria/ Potato/ Maize
Winter Rice –Khesari (relay)/ Potato	Winter Rice –Khesari (relay)/ Potato	Winter Rice – Khesari (relay)/ Potato	Winter Rice – Khesari (relay)/ Potato
Winter Rice – Potato	Winter Rice – Potato	Winter Rice – Potato	Winter Rice – Potato
Winter Rice – Winter vegetables	Winter Rice – Winter vegetables	Winter Rice – Winter vegetables	Winter Rice – Winter vegetables

Area under different crops/ enterprises (in ha)

Table 5 explains the area under different crops/ enterprises (in ha) in the study area. From the table it was observed that the number of crops grown by the farmers of char area was more than the number of crops grown by the farmers of non-char areas. The major crops grown in char area were winter paddy, summer paddy, maize, rapeseed and mustard, potato, winter vegetables and kharif vegetables. On the other hand, the major crops grown in non-char areas were winter paddy, rapeseed and mustard, potato, lentil and maize. The area (ha) under winter paddy in Gomaphulbari Development block and Mandia Development block was computed as 43.90 percent and 46.24 percent, respectively; whereas, in Bajali Development Block and Bhawanipur Development Block, it was calculated as 91.14 percent and 87.74 percent, respectively. It happened due to low lying nature of farm land where farmers cannot grow winter paddy in char areas. The farmers of non-char area did not grow the crops like summer paddy, oats, ground nut, blackgram, jute, sugarcane, and chilli. In char area the summer paddy was recognized as major crop covering an area of 83.49 percent and 89.60 percent at Gomaphulbari Development block and Mandia Development block, respectively. No fish farming was observed in char area due to occurrence of flood chronically.

Table 5: Area under different crops/ enterprises (in ha)

Crops grown	Char areas				Non-char areas			
	Gomaphulbari Development Block		Mandia Development Block		Bajali Development Block		Bhawanipur Development Block	
	Area (ha)	% of area covered	Area (ha)	% of area covered	Area (ha)	% of area covered	Area (ha)	% of area covered
Winter paddy	14.46	43.90	12.8	46.24	18.00	91.14	22.4	87.74
Summer paddy	27.5	83.49	24.8	89.60	0	0.00	0	0.00
Maize	4.3	13.05	5.65	20.41	1.2	6.08	1.0	3.92
Wheat	0.26	0.79	4.23	15.28	0.26	1.32	0.26	1.02
Buckwheat	0.13	0.39	1.4	5.06	0.13	0.66	0.8	3.13
Oats	0.4	1.21	2.52	9.10	0	0.00	0	0.00
Rapeseed and Mustard	6.29	19.10	5.6	20.23	4.4	22.28	5.65	22.13
Groundnut	0.52	1.58	0.39	1.41	0	0.00	0	0.00
Blackgram	1.4	4.25	1	3.61	0	0.00	0	0.00
Lentil	2.52	7.65	2.65	9.57	1.26	6.38	0	0.00
Jute	3.87	11.75	2.52	9.10	0	0.00	0	0.00
Sugarcane	0	0.00	1.65	5.96	0	0.00	0	0.00
Potato	4.65	14.12	9.65	34.86	1.50	7.59	0.65	2.55
Chilli	2.52	7.65	2.65	9.57	0	0.00	0	0.00
Rabi vegetables	2.75	8.35	0.8	2.89	0.26	1.32	0.13	0.51
Kharif vegetables	1.68	5.10	0.5	1.81	0.26	1.32	0.1	0.39
Fishery	0	0.00	0	0.00	1.26	6.46	1.90	7.44
Total area (in ha)	32.94	(100.00)	27.68	(100.00)	19.75	(100.00)	25.53	(100.00)

Economics of the crops (Rs./ha) in study area during 2021-22

In case of summer paddy, Table 6 represents the economics of the crops grown in char area and Table 7 represents the economics of the crops grown in non-char area. Table 6 reveals that yield of winter paddy was recorded as 38.56 q/ha at Gomaphulbari Development block with Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) 1.82 and that at Mandia Development block was recorded as 37.20 q/ha with Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) 1.78. On the other hand, Table 7 reveals that the yield of winter paddy was recorded as 35.35 q/ha at Bajali Development block with Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) 1.74 and that at

Bhawanipur Development block was recorded as 36.60 q/ha with Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) 1.72. In case of summer paddy, the yield was recorded as 64.54 q/ha at Gomaphulbari Development block with Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) 2.32 and that at Mandia Development block was recorded as 62.56 q/ha with Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) 2.28. Out of different crops grown in Gomaphulbari Development block in char area, the highest BCR was recorded for oats crop (3.53) followed by chilli (3.21), rabi vegetables (2.89) and kharif vegetables (2.77). The lowest BCR was recorded for the crop buckwheat (1.57). Similarly, in char areas of Mandia Development block, the highest BCR was recorded for sugarcane (3.45), followed by oats (3.22) chilli (3.00), rabi vegetables (2.90), and kharif vegetables (2.72). The lowest BCR was recorded for the crop buckwheat (1.58). In Bajali development block of non-char area, the highest BCR was recorded for the crop rabi vegetables (2.75) followed by kharif vegetables (2.68) potato (2.41) and maize (2.12). The lowest BCR was computed for the crop buckwheat (1.60). In case of Bhawanipur development block of non-char area, the highest BCR was recorded for the crop rabi vegetables (2.86) followed by kharif vegetables (2.68) potato (2.65), maize (2.31) and rapeseed and mustard (2.02). The lowest BCR was computed for the crop buckwheat (1.65).

Out of the different crops grown in char area, more net return was received by the farmers from both rabi and kharif vegetables, chilli, maize, summer paddy, groundnut, sugarcane in both the development blocks; whereas, in non-char area, more net return was received by the farmers from both rabi and kharif vegetables, and potato only in both the development blocks. This indicated that the farmers of non-char areas were not aware about the more income generating crops. Some other reasons may be that the farmers had less idea about the improved cultivation practices of the crops, non-availability of improved varieties of crop, poor economic condition, poor soil health and so on.

Table 6: Economics of the crops (Rs./ha) in study area during 2021-22

Crops	Char Areas											
	Gomaphulbari Development Block						Mandia Development Block					
	Area (ha)	Yield (q/ha)	Gross cost (Rs./ha)	Gross return (Rs./ha)	Net return (Rs./ha)	BC*R	Area (ha)	Yield (q/ha)	Gross cost (Rs./ha)	Gross return (Rs./ha)	Net return (Rs./ha)	BCR*
Winter paddy	14.46	38.56	38136	69408	31272	1.82	12.8	37.20	37618	66960	29342	1.78
Summer paddy	27.5	64.54	50074	116172	66098	2.32	24.8	62.56	49389	112608	63219	2.28
Maize	4.3	15.00	71987	161250	89263	2.24	5.65	16.40	17904	41000	23096	2.29
Wheat	0.26	8.90	7500	13350	5850	1.78	4.23	9.68	8022	14520	6498	1.81
Buckwheat	0.13	5.50	5255	8250	2995	1.57	1.4	5.32	5051	7980	2929	1.58
Oats	0.4	As fodder	6572	23200	16628	3.53	2.52	As fodder	6957	22400	15443	3.22
Rapeseed and Mustard	6.29	8.00	25178	49600	24422	1.97	5.6	8.40	26040	52080	26040	2.00
Groundnut	0.52	12.00	39184	96000	56816	2.45	0.39	14.2	45259	113600	68341	2.51
Blackgram	1.4	7.20	38919	72000	33081	1.85	1	6.90	38764	69000	30236	1.78
Lentil	2.52	7.00	41667	70000	28333	1.68	2.65	6.77	26038	67700	41662	2.60
Jute	3.87	29.50	25142	44250	19108	1.76	2.52	28.85	25307	43275	17968	1.71
Sugarcane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.65	For sewing purpose	64493	222500	158007	3.45
Potato	4.65	97.00	41453	97000	55547	2.34	9.65	103.00	40234	103000	62766	2.56
Chilli	2.52	145.00	108411	348000	239589	3.21	2.65	167.00	133600	400800	267200	3.00
Rabi vegetables	2.75	200.00	138408	400000	261592	2.89	0.8	205.00	141379	410000	268621	2.90
Kharif vegetables	1.68	186.00	134296	372000	237704	2.77	0.5	177.00	130147	354000	223853	2.72

*BCR = Benefit cost ratio

Table 7: Economics of the crops (Rs./ha) in study area during 2021-22

Crops	Non-Char Areas											
	Bajali Development Block						Bhawanipur Development Block					
	Area (ha)	Yield (q/ha)	Gross cost (Rs./ha)	Gross return (Rs./ha)	Net return (Rs./ha)	BC R*	Area (ha)	Yield (q/ha)	Gross cost (Rs./ha)	Gross return (Rs./ha)	Net return (Rs./ha)	BC R*
Winter paddy	18	35.34	36559	63612	27053	1.74	22.4	36.60	38302	65880	27578	1.72
Maize	1.2	14.2	20094	42600	22506	2.12	1	17.20	18615	43000	24385	2.31
Wheat	0.26	9.4	7663	14100	6437	1.84	0.26	10.33	8421	15495	7075	1.84
Buckwheat	0.13	5.8	5438	8700	3263	1.60	0.8	6.00	5455	9000	3545	1.65
Rapeseed and Mustard	4.4	8.3	25859	51460	25601	1.99	5.65	8.50	26089	52700	26610	2.02
Lentil	1.26	6.8	40000	68000	28000	1.70	-	-	-	-	-	-
Potato	1.5	105	43568	105000	61432	2.41	0.65	110.00	41509	110000	68490	2.65
Rabi vegetables	0.26	178	129455	356000	226545	2.75	0.13	198.00	138462	396000	257538	2.86
Kharif vegetables	0.26	167	124627	334000	209373	2.68	0.1	170.00	126865	340000	213134	2.68

*BCR = Benefit cost ratio

Gross Income (Rs.) from different sources during 2021-22

The gross income received by the farmers in the study area has been presented in Table 8. The table reveals that in both char area and non-char area, the maximum gross income was received from the crop enterprises. It was observed that out of the total gross income of the farmers, on an average, the farmers of char area received 63.53 percent from farm enterprises and the remaining from the non-farm activities; whereas, the average gross income received by farmers of non-char area was 42.57 percent from the farm enterprises and the rests from the non-farm activities. The non-farm activities covered salary of service holder, business, contractor, wage paid worker. From the above discussion, it was clear that the primary source of income for the people of char area was agricultural sectors and that for the non-char area was non-farm activities.

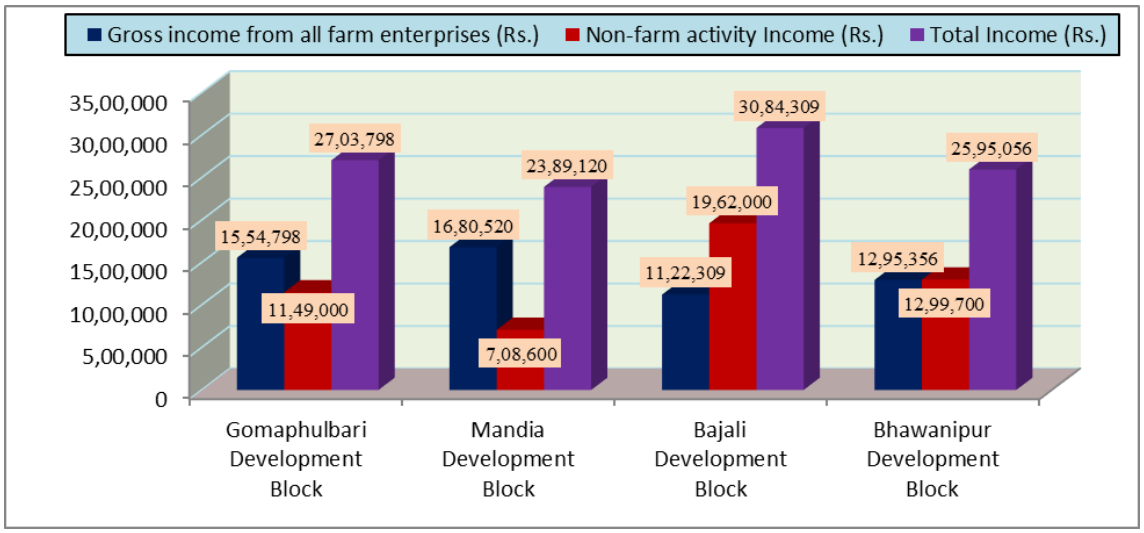

Fig 1: Income of farmers in the study area

Table 8: Income (Rs.) from different sources during 2021-22

Enterprises	Annual GrossIncome received (Rs.)					
	Char area			Non-char areas		
	Gomaphulbari Development Block	Mandia Development Block	Average	Bajali Development Block	Bhawanipur Development Block	Average
Crop	11,68,298	13,05,220	12,36,759	6,10,209	6,28,356	619283
Animal Husbandry	2,60,000	2,31,600	2,45,800	1,51,800	1,69,200	160500
Fishery	0	0	0	1,50,000	2,55,000	202500
Others (Homestead garden)	1,26,500	1,43,700	1,35,100	2,10,300	2,42,800	226550
Gross income from all farm enterprises (Rs.) (A)	15,54,798 (57.50)	16,80,520 (70.34)	16,17,659 (63.53)	11,22,309 (36.39)	12,95,356 (49.92)	1208833 (42.57)
Service	3,52,000	1,48,700	2,50,350	5,21,000	5,46,200	533600
Business	3,45,000	2,32,000	2,88,500	4,78,000	6,23,000	550500
Contractor	0	0		8,40,000	0	
Wage paid worker	4,52,000	3,27,900	3,89,950	1,23,000	1,30,500	126750
Non-farm activity Income (Rs.) (B)	11,49,000 (42.50)	7,08,600 (29.66)	9,28,800 (36.47)	19,62,000 (63.61)	12,99,700 (50.08)	1630850 (57.43)
Total Income (Rs.)	27,03,798 (100.00)	23,89,120 (100.00)	25,46,459 (100.00)	30,84,309 (100.00)	25,95,056 (100.00)	2839683 (100.00)

Figures in bracket indicate percentage to the total

Conclusion

The economy of Assam is primarily based on the agricultural sector. It is observed that almost all the farmers of char area irrespective of sex are engaged in agricultural sector. They usually practice double/ triple cropping for which the cropping intensity is found to be more in char area than the non-char areas. They prefer growing high value crops like vegetables, groundnut, chilli to field crops. Some of their products are supplied to different parts of the country and even, some vegetables are exported to some neigh bouring countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bhutan. Their agricultural practices help in boosting up the economy of the state of Assam in particular and India as a whole.

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