

Report on

The Status of Tenant farmers/Sharecroppers (*Bataidars*) and Marginal Farmers in Bihar



Fourth Dimension

act:onaid
Patna Regional Office

Contents

List of Tables.....	4
Executive Summary	5
1. Background.....	7
Situation of Sharecroppers.....	7
Status of Tenancy Laws in Bihar under Land Reform Laws.....	7
Tenancy Reforms	8
Proposed Study on Sharecroppers, Agriculture Labourers and Marginal Farmers	10
2. Study Methodology.....	11
A. Preparatory Phase.....	11
B. Capacity Building Orientation.....	11
C. Social Networks Meet for Strengthening Agricultural Labours Collectives.....	11
D. Orientation of Community Volunteers for Agricultural Labour Collectives	12
E. Stakeholder Analysis.....	12
F. Documentation of Study/ Policy Research	12
G. Consultation with Stakeholders.....	12
H. Convention on the Issues of Agricultural Labourers.....	12
I. Press Conference	12
3. Snapshot of the Study	13
4. Overview of Bihar	14
5. Agriculture Profile of the State.....	18
6. Key Findings from the Study	23
Profile of Sample Villages Surveyed	23
Profile of Respondents in Sample Villages Surveyed	24
Caste Community Engaged with Agriculture	25
Sources of Irrigation	28
Forms of Sharecropping	29
Reverse Sharecropping.....	31
Access to Agriculture Schemes	36
7. Agriculture Wage labour.....	39
8. Non-Agriculture Work	43
9. Debt Analysis.....	44
Demand and Utilisation for Credit	44

Source of Loan.....	45
Problems with Accessing Loan	48
Collaterals for Taking Debt.....	49
Case Studies on Nature of Oppression:	49
 10. Problems faced by Sharecroppers	 52
Voices of Sharecroppers on the Nature of Exploitation	54
11. Response of Landowners.....	60
 12. Suggestions and Recommendations.....	 62
Annexure 1: Key Recommendations made by D Bandopadhyaya Committee	69
Annexure 2: State Consultation on Securing Rights of Sharecroppers.....	71
Annexure 4: Survey Formats	77
 Annexure 5: Status of Sharecropping in Samastipur district	 95
 Annexure 6: Status of Sharecropping in Banka district	 102
Annexure 7: Case Study - Collective Sharecropping in Nalanda district.....	113
Annexure 8: Status of Sharecropping in Patna district	118

List of Tables

Table 2-1: Break Up of respondents of Personal Interview of Sharecroppers	11
Table 2-2: Break Up of respondents of Personal Interview of Marginal Farmers.....	11
Table 4-1: Demographic Indicators	15
Table 4-2: Economic Overview	15
Table 4-3: Production of Agricultural crops in last three years.....	16
Table 4-4: Production of Major Fruits in last three years.....	16
Table 4-5: Production of Major Vegetables in last three years	16
Table 4-6: Total Livestock and Poultry Population	17
Table 4-7: Cold Storage Capacity in Bihar as on 2013:	17
Table 5-1: Name of the districts under each Agro-Climatic Zone	19
Table 5-2: Important Physiographic features of the Agro-climatic Zone	19
Table 5-3: Land Use Classification.....	20
Table 5-4: Cropping Intensity.....	20
Table 5-5: District wise/ Source wise/ Zone wise detail of Area under Assured Irrigation	21
Table 5-6: Cropping Sequence of Different Zones.....	22
Table 6-1: Holdings of Agricultural land in villages Surveyed	23
Table 6-2: Caste-wise breakup of Community Engaged with Agriculture	25
Table 6-3: Types of Land Holding Pattern	26
Table 6-4: Investment in paddy Cultivation in 01 <i>Kattha</i> land	32
Table 6-5: Monthly food Consumption with cost by a family member of a sharecropper ...	33
Table 6-6: Expenditure on paddy cultivation by a small Sharecropper in Banka	33
Table 6-7: Investment in Potato cultivation in 1 <i>Kattha</i>	35
Table 6-8: Investment in Gourd (Louki) cultivation in 1 <i>Kattha</i>	35
Table 6-9: Investment in Onion cultivation in 1 <i>Kattha</i>	35
Table 6-10: Schemes related to Agriculture	36
Table 7-1: Wage Rates for Different Agriculture Work:	40
Table 8-1: Gulo Das's monthly expense	44

Executive Summary

There have been half hearted attempts on Bihar land reform policy against the backdrop of agrarian unrest and expression of subjugation. The most common form of title-holding in Bihar is tenancy in which the poor landless and small middle peasants are engaged with division of the harvest being main form of tenancy. A tenant never gets more than 50 per cent of the net produce and they are not legally protected since all tenancy is oral and not written.

The Bihar Tenancy Act of 1885 does not define the term of *Bataidar* and nor does it mention the term *Bataidar* or any of its equivalents. The act does not recognize the vast mass of cultivators commonly known as *Bataidars* through whom 30 to 40 per cent of arable land of Bihar is getting cultivated. There is no law in Bihar, which mandate any person who obtains possession of any land by succession or transfer to report to the revenue officer for mutation for his/her name. In the absence of infrastructural facility many landowners have moved into urban setting and given up farming under their supervision. They find it proper to give their land for tenancy at rates higher than the expected rates. Sharecroppers also suffer severely with loss on the occurrences of the natural calamities (drought/flood) and in these cases generally, the land owners reap all the benefits of Govt.'s compensation over crop loss, subsidies on seed, diesel, Kisan Credit Cards, etc. due to absence of tenancy or share cropping laws.

In 2008, the D. Bandhopadhyay land reform commission submitted its report formulation of special policy with 19 recommendations in favour and for the benefit of the sharecropper. Its recommendations were not implemented by the state government since it could not muster courage due to political pressure from the dominant landowning community.

In this backdrop a study was conducted with support of Actionaid partners in 23 sample villages of 09 districts in Bihar between January to May 2016 to identify the ground issues and problems related to the sharecroppers, farm labourers and marginal farmers. The findings greatly helped to understand the ground realities on the relationship between real tillers and landowners in terms of investments in agricultural activities and profit sharing. The study attempted to identify the problems faced by the tillers related to irrigation, low productivity and bottlenecks in government schemes etc. The study also evaluated available policies schemes and policy requirements in the interest of agricultural labourers, sharecroppers and marginal farmers.

The study captures the real situation of share croppers in Bihar who are extremely vulnerable and insecure. They have to fully remain dependent on the mercy of landowners who can evict the sharecroppers without any prior notice since there is no written agreement and also corner all benefits/ subsidies. After the study, one day consultation workshop was organized on 28 May 2016 for opinion drive on building consensus for preparation of Charter for Ensuring Rights of Agricultural labourers / Sharecroppers on the issues of landless / marginal agricultural labourers in Bihar.

Both study and consultation workshop outcome endorses the recommendations of the chairmanship of D. Bandhopadhyay. The study findings acknowledges the immediate need to provide legal entity for sharecroppers to protect them on fixity of tenure, fairness of sharing of crop, prevention of illegal ejection and other economic oppressions from which they suffer.

Changes in old Bihar Land Tenancy Act cannot be incrementally made since it has too many flaws. It is not suitable for amending and therefore a new act is been proposed to protect the interest of the share-croppers. There is also need to revamp and revise down the registration charges and stamp duty of agriculture land to make registering feasible for the tenant farmer.

The best way to start will be to constitute a core committee with Actionaid, this Study team's representatives and other likeminded institutions and individuals to work together to evolve a new comprehensive Bihar Land Tenancy Act. Among the first tasks the committee needs to prioritise different clauses into long term and near term so that there is some political buy-in.

1. Background

Land Reform is one of the central issues in the real battle against Bihar's backwardness. About 90 per cent of the State's population is living in villages and 74 per cent workforce is employed in agriculture. Bihar is predominantly rural or agrarian, yet agriculture accounts for only 33 per cent of the State's domestic product and the land-holding pattern remains absolutely skewed. Marginal and small farmers constituting roughly 96.5 per cent of total landowners own about 66 per cent of the total land while medium and large farmers constituting only 3.5 per cent of the landowning community own roughly 33 per cent of the total land. Citing National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) figures, the LRC report points to a reverse trend of land concentration: between 1992 and 2003, the proportion of large landowners has gone down from 0.2 per cent to 0.1 per cent, yet land area has increased from 4.44 per cent to 4.63 per cent over the same period.

Over past 65 years state and civil society has attempted to bring change in agrarian relation. However, it has not yielded any significant result in pushing the marginalized communities. Further, towards margin of the society half hearted attempts of land reform could be seen as against agrarian relation and further expression of subjugation contributed into agrarian unrest.

Situation of Sharecroppers

In Bihar, lump sum 80 per cent informal sector workforce is residing in the villages. Among them approximately 68 per cent of workforce depends on agricultural or agro-based activities. Among them more than 55 per cent are marginal and landless labourers. They take agricultural lands on rent or some sort of mutual consideration with the land owners for the purpose of cultivations. About 33 per cent of cultivable lands in Bihar are cultivated by the sharecroppers. In this course, at many instances they have to suffer severely with loss on the occurrences of the natural calamities (drought/flood) and in these cases generally, the land owners reap all the benefits of Govt.'s Compensation over Crop loss, subsidies on seed, diesel, Kisan Credit Cards, etc. due to absence of tenancy or share cropping laws. Even, the Govt. Department purchase the produced grains at the minimum support price only from those who have entitle land ownership papers, hence, at these moments the middle man or landowners reap the overall benefits from the Govt. whereas the real tillers or cultivators have to suffer with massive loss and indebtedness. Beside it, the land-owners always crush the share-croppers if they disagree or disobey with their wishes.

Status of Tenancy Laws in Bihar under Land Reform Laws

Bihar Tenant's Holdings (Maintenance of Records) Act, 1973

For the mutation processes to continue on statutory basis a manual based on B.T.H. (M.O.R.) Act, 1973 and rules made there under should be immediately prepared. There is no law in Bihar, which mandate any person who obtains possession of any land by succession or transfer to report to the revenue officer for mutation for his/her name. Thus a provision in the nature of Section 34 of the U.P. Land Revenue Act, 1901 should be incorporated in the Bihar Tenant's Holdings (Maintenance of Records) Act, 1973 which requires title transfer to the successor in revenue records.

The Bihar Tenancy Act of 1885 does not define the term of *Bataidar* in section - 3 of the Act. It also does not mention the term *Bataidar* or any of its equivalents in section - 4, which deals with the 'CLASSES OF TENANTS'. Sub-section - 3 of the Section -3 of the Act defines tenant as follows "*tenant means a person who holds land under another person, and is, or but for a special contract would be liable to pay rent for that land to that person*". There was no formal procedure for creation of tenancy. It has been established by judicial pronouncements and actual practice that the tenancy can be created by acts indicating the establishment of relation of landlord and tenant. This may be expressed, implied or gathered from the conduct and circumstances of the parties. (Ragho Singh v. State of Bihar, 1957 BLJR 445-447).

Section - 5 of the B.T. Act deals with the meaning of 'tenure holder' and *Raiyat*. It defines a *Raiyat* as follows "*Raiyat means primarily a person who has acquired a right to hold land for the purpose of cultivating it by himself, or by members of his family or by hired servants, or with the aid of partners, and includes also the successors in interest of persons who have acquired such a right*". Thus according to strict legal meaning a *Bataidar*, who has not been treated as a separate class of tenant/*raiya*t would be treated as a *raiya*t because he has a right to hold land for the purpose of cultivating it by himself, or by members of his family. This is where lies the crux of the whole contentious issue of cultivation of land by *Bataidars* because under the existing law a *Bataidar* as an under *Raiyat* can have title to the land he cultivates.

The Bihar Tenancy Act did not recognize the vast mass of cultivators commonly known as *Bataidars* through whom 30 to 40 per cent of arable land of Bihar is getting cultivated. Hence, it is immediately necessary to recognize this category as a legal entity and give them protection regarding fixity of tenure, fairness of sharing of crop, prevention of illegal ejection and other economic oppressions from which they suffer.

Tenancy Reforms

As the third stage in land reforms the question of tenancy reforms came to the fore. The Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee which was known as Kumarappa Committee had suggested that those real tillers who are not themselves the owners of land but who had been cultivating the land hired by title over a period of more than six years, would get the ownership rights over such land. A clear condition for taking back the land for self-cultivation was that it should be cultivated with their own labour. Whenever there was a discussion on tenancy reforms and security of tenure in Bihar, there were evictions of title-holders in large numbers. From the first to the fourth Plan a lot of concern was expressed that in the name of self-cultivation reoccupation of the land by landowners was going on unchecked. The newly emerging landowners started changing the title-holders after every one or two years so that they would never get caught in legal problems. According to one NSS estimate, at least 10 per cent of cultivable land in Bihar is given out on title deeds (if south Bihar is left out where this system is not common, then this percentage is higher for the rest of Bihar).

The most common form of title-holding in Bihar is tenancy. Normally poor and small middle peasants are engaged in tenancy. In some parts prosperous peasants also hire land and till it, specially in irrigated areas. Division of the harvest is the main form of tenancy. Contrary to the

tenancy laws, a tenant never gets more than 50 per cent of the net produce. They are not legally protected because all tenancy is oral. There is no written record.

In the absence of infrastructural facility and the fact that many landowners have moved into urban setting and given up farming under their supervision - that is why they find it proper to give their land for tenancy at rates higher than the expected rates. The people involved in services and trade in cities or members of upper castes who look down upon labouring in the fields give even their small plots of land for tenancy. In the absence of security to title-holders and due to the changes in tenancy year after year, and finally, due to the exploitative system in the division of harvest, the tenants are not interested in increasing the quantity or quality of the produce. Probably the levels of food grains production are much less compared to states of western India and even West Bengal.

All laws made for security of tenancy have proved ineffective till date. The absence of any title deed document is the biggest legal impediment but basically this is a social problem. No government has expressed the political will to solve this problem. Karpoori Thakur, during his tenure as chief minister, had taken up the plan for updating of the land records and keeping tenancy records so as to protect the rights of the tenants. But after this plan went ahead for some time in Koshi division this was stopped saying that "this will become like a survey and tenants would record their names in large numbers leading to disruption of peace in this agricultural area". Even during the Janta Dal regime twice there was some talk of providing rights to tenants - tenants could not get their rights but on the other hand they were evicted in large numbers. Their problems remain the same even today.

Protection of Tenancy vs. Land to the Tiller

Abolition of rent on the basis of landownership, i.e., elimination of ground rent establishes the direct relation between the state and the peasantry while the landlord class is abolished. 'Land to the tiller' means abolition of ownership over land of those who do not cultivate the land themselves. But some authors like Tomasson Januzzi hold that we cannot advocate 'land to the tiller' kind of land reforms because in that case landless agrarian labourers will also have to be given land and land will be parcelled into so small pieces that cultivation will cease to be a viable activity. Therefore such authors advocate protecting the tenant's rights.

On June 16, 2006 a land reform commission, under the chairmanship of D. Bandhopadhyay, was commissioned by the Sri Nitish Kumar's government. In 2008, the commission submitted its report in three stages. The commission report mentions after the abolition of *Zamindari* practice and implementation of land-ceiling act (*Bhoohadbandi-kanoon*), the utility of tenancy lease started diminishing. The commission proposed formulation of special policy with 19 recommendations in favour and for the benefit of the sharecropper which is included in Annexure. Its recommendations were not implemented. In Bihar, the Land Reform Act is comprehensive and progressive but due to political pressure from the dominant landowning community, the state government appears not to have mustered courage to implement it.

This Land Reform act does not recognize sharecroppers who do farming on 30-40 per cent of the cultivated land. Despite launch of the Crop Insurance Scheme 2016 with much fan fare, the Sharecropper who does not have proof of tenancy cannot avail its benefits.

In the present conditions as the tenancy in Bihar is oral and unprotected any step towards protection of tenancy would definitely be a step forward. But to confine to the protection of tenancy often amounts to recognizing the system of intermediaries. In West Bengal even after 20 years of Operation Barga the tenants in general do not get more than 50 per cent of the produce. They get some benefit only if the land is sold, not when the tenancy arrangement continues.

Proposed Study on Sharecroppers, Agriculture Labourers and Marginal Farmers

In this context it was necessary to understand the ground realities in present context on the status of tenant farmers/sharecroppers (*Bataidars*) and marginal farmers in Bihar. A study was conducted with support of Actionaid partners in 23 sample villages of 09 districts to identify the ground issues related to the sharecroppers, farm labourers and marginal Farmers. For the study 09 districts from four Agro climatic zones and two blocks from each district were selected:

- Zone-I: North Alluvial Plain : Madhubani, Samastipur
- Zone-II: north East Alluvial Plain : Saharsa Araria
- Zone-III A: South East Alluvial Plain : Banka
- Zone-III B: South West Alluvial Plain : Buxer, Patna, Nawada, Gaya

The study helped to understand the relationship between real tillers and landowners in terms of investments in agricultural activities and profit sharing. It attempted to identify the problems related with irrigation and low productivity and bottlenecks in Govt. Schemes related to agriculture. The study also assessed policy level needs in favour of agricultural labourers, sharecroppers and marginal farmers along with available policies schemes.

Long term Objective of the Study

- Ensuring legal status of tenant farmers / sharecroppers in Bihar
- Ensuring Rights of the landless agricultural labourers and marginal farmers;
- Sensitizing the State Govt. for making Policy / Law for ensuring rights of the sharecroppers

Short term Objectives of the Study

- Analyse the situations and issues of sharecropper farmers in Bihar;
- Prepare the Demand Note and Policy Documents for ensuring Rights of Agricultural labourers;
- Processing Policy Advocacy works for ensuring rights of landless agricultural labourers and farmers;

2. Study Methodology

The study was initiated in January 2016 and the activities were carried out across five months in different phases with support of Actionaid Partners.

A. Preparatory Phase

The study supported in preparation of Study Formats, Case Study Formats, and Stakeholder Analysis Formats in consultation with Partners along with identifying and finalizing sample locations (District, / Blocks / Panchayats) on the basis of various geographical topology (flood affected / drought prone / irrigated or less irrigated / high fertile areas).

The study tools administered were:

- FGD: Total 745 persons participated among them 35 percent were women
- Total household surveyed of Share Croppers were 124
- Total household surveyed of Marginal Farmers were 85
- Case Studies

Table 2-1: Break Up of respondents of Personal Interview of Sharecroppers

SC	ST	OBC	General	N.A	Women
75	0	35	9	5	19

Table 2-2: Break Up of respondents of Personal Interview of Marginal Farmers

SC	ST	OBC	General	N.A	Women
36	0	31	12	6	9

B. Capacity Building Orientation

Prior to conducting the study capacity building orientation workshop was conducted for the selected Community Volunteers for processing at field level. They became part of the study team and were oriented, sensitized and mobilized on issues and rights of the sharecroppers prior to conducting field level study activities. The aim of this activity was to build a Collectives of Agricultural Labourers for Collective assertion and processing the Policy advocacy for ensuring their rights. Community volunteers were identified who belonged to various Social Networks working on the issues of marginalized community in Bihar.

C. Social Networks Meet for Strengthening Agricultural Labours Collectives

The study supported in facilitating orientation meeting with the Representatives / Leaders from various Social Networks / People Organization who are working on the marginalized groups or agricultural labourers or labour issues. The major aim of this activity was to build consensus of various networks on the issues of landless / marginalized agricultural labourers and to processing the policy advocacy works in Bihar.

D. Orientation of Community Volunteers for Agricultural Labour Collectives

The study supported in facilitating Capacity building Orientation to the selected Community Volunteers for The said Community Volunteers belonged to various Social Networks working on the issues of marginalized community in Bihar.

E. Stakeholder Analysis

The study was conducted to analyze the issues and problems of the agricultural labourers (marginal/landless). It included individual interviews Agricultural labourers / sharecroppers and landowners, Community Consultations through Focus Group Discussions, case study collections, stakeholder analysis with government institutions, bodies, and departments related with agriculture policy and schemes etc. The study was conducted in more than 2 villages of 2 Blocks in 06 Districts in Bihar. For selection of areas for the study agro climatic zones, topological, soil quality, regarding agricultural productivity were considered.

F. Documentation of Study/ Policy Research

Further, after completion of survey study, survey data was compiled and Analytical Report was prepared on the status of Agricultural labourers in Bihar along with status of Govt. Bodies, Govt. Schemes etc.

G. Consultation with Stakeholders

After the study one day consultation workshop was organized on 28 May 2016 with various likeminded Social Activists, Govt. Body Representatives, Govt. Officials, Media Persons, and Academician for opinion drive for preparation of Charter for Ensuring Rights of Agricultural labourers / Sharecroppers. It aimed to build consensus on the issues of landless / marginal agricultural labourers accelerating the policy advocacy in favour of Sharecroppers in Bihar.

H. Convention on the Issues of Agricultural Labourers

The outcome of study in some way will support the Collectives of Agricultural labourers / Sharecroppers for organizing the State level Convention on their issues. During this convention, the Collective' Representatives will share their basic problems / issues and also declare Charter of Demand for making Policy for ensuring the rights of Sharecroppers in Bihar. After, this Convention, the Delegates of the said collectives will meet to the State Govt. Representative for formulating special law / policy in accordance with their Demand note.

I. Press Conference

A Press Conference was organized to declare the Status Report of Sharecroppers in Bihar and also declaring the Charter of Demand in favour of Sharecroppers / Agricultural labours.

3. Snapshot of the Study

- Total sample villages surveyed: 23
- Total sample Panchayats covered: 23
- Total Blocks covered: 16
- Total District covered: 09
- Personal Interviews of share croppers: 124
- Break-up of respondents of Personal interview of Share croppers
 - Scheduled Caste: 75
 - Scheduled Tribe: 0
 - Other Backward Caste: 35
 - General: 9
 - Not Available: 5
 - Women: 19
- Personal interviews with Marginal Farmers: 85
- Break-up of respondents of Personal interview of Marginal Farmers
 - Scheduled Caste: 36
 - Scheduled Tribe: 0
 - Other Backward Caste: 31
 - General: 12
 - Not Available: 6
 - Women: 9

Case studies:

- Share croppers: 41 (Female-06)
- Marginal Farmers: 20 (female -02)
- Agriculture labors: 84 (Female – 36)
- Land lords: 32

Total participation of community in FGD in 23 locations: 745 (35 per cent are women)

- Total Population covered under the study: 89,976
- Total agriculture land covered in sample locations: 21599.63 acres
- Total irrigated land covered in sample locations: 14654.65 acres
- Total un-irrigated land covered in sample locations: 4350.25 acres
- Total waste/barren land available in sample locations: 900.77 acres

4. Overview of Bihar

Demographic Overview

Bihar is a state in eastern part of India and is the 12th largest state in terms of geographical size and 3rd largest by population in the country. It is bounded by Uttar Pradesh to its west, Nepal to the north, West Bengal to the east and by Jharkhand to the south.

Total geographical area of the state is 93.60 lakh ha, having 56.03 lakh ha of Net Sown Area. Cultivable wasteland, current fallow and other

fallow is 8.5 per cent of the geographical area. Piedmont swamp soil, Terai soil and the Gangetic alluvium are three major types of soil available in the state. 1.53 lakh ha area has salinity and alkalinity, soil acidity is also a problem in parts of the state.

Annual average rainfall is 1205 mm. 45.67 lakh ha is irrigated area but varies across different regions ranging from a low of 16 per cent to a high of 86 per cent. Very low level of Seed Replacement Ratio has been observed in the majority of the crops, however, increase in maize productivity is a success story. As per 3rd Advance Estimates of 2008-09, productivity of rice in the state has been reported as 1584 kg/ha, wheat 1932 kg/ha, jowar 1035 kg/ha, bajra 1076 kg/ha, maize 2439 kg/ha, jute 1268 kg/ha, total pulses 846 kg/ha, total oilseeds 959 kg/ha, sugarcane 41157 kg/ha, Jute 1268 kg/ha.

An area of 2.91 lakh ha is under horticulture having productivity of 10.9 MT/ha and 8.23 lakh ha is under vegetable cultivation and productivity is 17.1 MT/ha. 57 per cent of banana, 53.3 per cent of litchi, 17.5 per cent of tomato, 17.5 per cent of potato, 12.9 per cent of guava, 11 per cent of vegetables, 6.3 per cent of mango and 5.2 per cent of lemon of the country is grown in



Bihar. Agriculture and allied sector contributes approx 30 per cent to the State GSDP. The table below gives key demographic indicators and their comparison with pan-India numbers:

Table 4-1: Demographic Indicators

Sl	Indicators	Year	Unit	Bihar	India
1	Geographical Area	2011	Lakh Sq. Km	0.94	32.87
2	Population	2011	Crore	10.3	121.02
3	Decadal Growth Rate	2011	Percentage	25.1	17.64
4	Density of Population	2011	Population/Sq. Km.	1,102	382
5	Sex Ratio	2011	Females/1000 Males	916	940
6	Literacy Rate (LR)	2011	Percentage	63.80	74.04
7	Birth Rate	2011	Per 1000 Mid-year Population.	27.7	21.80
8	Death Rate	2011	Per 1000 Mid-year Population	6.7	7.1

Economic Overview

The state is largely agrarian and rural with almost 90 percent of the total population depending on and engaged in agricultural activities. Though the share of agriculture in the GSDP has been decreasing over the years and it remains only one-fifth of the GSDP presently, agriculture still remains the backbone of the state economy even as industry sector (specially food processing) and services sector have made good progress in recent years. Recently, Bihar's state GDP has recorded a very high growth (in the excess of 10 per cent), making Bihar the fastest growing major state of India. Key economic indicators for the state are given below:

Table 4-2: Economic Overview

Particular	Unit	2010-11	2011-12
Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)	Rs. Crore		
Constant (2004-05) Prices		201856	252694
Current Prices		130125	151866
Economic Growth Rate as per GSDP	Percent		
Constant Prices		23.23	25.18
Current Prices		13.67	16.71
Per Capita Income	Rs.		
Constant Prices		20769	25653
Current Prices		13388	15417

Production Base/Resource Mapping

Agriculture: The total production of agri-commodities (food grains, pulses, oilseeds etc) in 2011-12 stood at 172.42 lakh tonnes. During previous two years, these figures stood at 103.52 lakh tonnes and 96.16 lakh tonnes respectively. Production of top five agricultural crops over the last three years is given in the following table.

Table 4-3: Production of Agricultural crops in last three years

Production (in lakh MT)			
Crop	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Rice	36.40	31.12	81.87
Maize	15.44	21.08	24.86
Wheat	44.03	50.94	65.31
Pulses	4.59	4.67	5.19
Oilseeds	1.40	1.42	1.74

Horticulture: The total production of fruits in 2011-12 stood at 39.46 lakh MT. Production of major fruit crops over the last three years is given in the following table.

Table 4-4: Production of Major Fruits in last three years

Production (in lakh MT)			
Item	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Mango	9.95	13.34	12.41
Guava	2.31	2.35	2.45
Litchi	2.15	2.26	2.36
Banana	14.35	15.17	15.80
Lemon	1.31	1.30	1.33

The total production of vegetables in 2011-12 stood at 155.52 lakh MT. Production of major vegetable crops over the last three years is given in the following table.

Table 4-5: Production of Major Vegetables in last three years

Production (in lakh MT)			
Item	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Potato	53.87	57.84	61.01
Onion	10.16	10.82	12.36
Tomato	10.43	10.56	11.04
C. Flower	10.80	11.18	11.55
Cabbage	6.89	7.11	7.34

Dairy and Livestock: Bihar State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation (COMFED) is the implementing agency of Operation Flood, aimed at promoting dairy development in the state on the pattern of Anand in Gujarat. In terms of milk procurement, Bihar is among the leading states in the country. The total number of dairy cooperative societies, organised upto 2011-12, was 11,638, of which 8823 (76 percent) were functional and around 34 percent of them registered. The total livestock and poultry population in the State is represented in the table below:

Table 4-6: Total Livestock and Poultry Population

Livestock and Poultry	Population in '000
Cow	12401
Buffalo	6698
Pig	632
Sheep	218
Goat	10169
Poultry	11414

Agri-Marketing Infrastructure in Bihar

- Bihar does not have state regulated agricultural market infrastructure after the APMC Act was repealed by the Government of Bihar in 2006.
- There were about 100 main wholesale agricultural markets in the state, 54 of them being of relatively larger size, before the repealing of APMC Act.
- As per the Food Corporation of India, total storage capacity in the state is 7.19 lakh tonnes as on Feb 2013, with utilization levels close to 48 percent.
- As per the CWC and SWC annual report 2011-12, the total storage capacity in Bihar was 1.18 lakh MT and 2.6 lakh MT respectively. Out of these capacities, 0.85 lakh and 1.13 lakh respectively were given to FCI. Hence, the FCI capacity above is inclusive of the storage capacity hired from CWC and SWC.

Table 4-7: Cold Storage Capacity in Bihar as on 2013:

Capacity (in lakh MT)		
Total No. of functioning Cold Storage	212	10.30
Total No. of under construction Cold Storage	23	8.80
Total No. of non-functioning cold storage	120	4.16
Total	355	23.26

5. Agriculture Profile of the State

Agro-Climate Condition

Bihar with a geographical area of about 94.2 thousand square km is divided by river Ganges into two parts, the north Bihar with an area of 53.3 thousand square km and the south Bihar having an area of 40.9 thousand square km. Based on soil characterization, rainfall, temperature and terrain, four main



agro-climatic zones in Bihar have been identified. These are: Zone-I, North Alluvial Plain, Zone-II, north East Alluvial Plain, Zone-III A South East Alluvial Plain and Zone-III B, South West Alluvial Plain, each with its own unique prospects.

Agro climatic zone I and II is located south of the river Ganges whereas the Zone III is located south of the river Ganges. Zone I is situated in the north western part of the state whereas zone II is located in the north eastern part. Zone I and II are flood prone whereas zone III is drought prone. Potential wise all three agro climatic zones have vast untapped potential for increasing the productivity of food grain crops. Across the state soil texture is varies from sandy loam to heavy clay. However the majority type belongs to loam category which is good for crop cultivation.

The natural precipitation varies from 990 to 1700 mm. Most of the precipitation is received during the month of July to September. Soil PH varies from 6.5 to 8.4. There are three crop seasons- Kharif, Rabi and Zaid. Rice, wheat and pulses are grown in all the districts however the choice of the crop and crop rotation varies across the agro climatic zone. Being located between 25 to 27 degree North latitude the climate of Bihar is of mostly sub-tropical. Nevertheless region close to Tropic of Cancer experiences tropical climate during summer. Like all the Indian states Bihar also reels under hot summer season during months of March to May. Average temperature is 35-40 degree Celsius throughout the summer months. April and June are the hottest months of the year. December to January is the winter season in Bihar because of its location is Northern hemisphere. The winter in Bihar is mild with average temperature being 5 to 10 degree Celsius. Bihar gets its maximum rainfall during South-West monsoon season which prevails from June to September. The average rainfall of Bihar is around 120 cm. As far as soil resources are concerned Bihar has three types of soil: montane, alluvium and marshy/swampy soil of Tarai. Detailed description about the agro climatic zone is as follows:

Table 5-1: Name of the districts under each Agro-Climatic Zone

Sl.	Agro-climatic zone	Districts
1.	Agro- climatic zone I (Northern West)	West Champaran, East Champaran, Siwan, Saran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Gopalganj, Begusarai
2.	Agro-climatic Zone II (Northern East)	Purnea, Katihar, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura, Khagaria, Araria, Kishanganj.
3.	Agro-climatic zone IIIA (Southern East)	Sheikhpura, Munger, Jamui, Lakhisarai, BhagalpurBanka.
4.	Agro-climatic zone IIIB (Southern West)	Rohtas, Bhojpur, Buxar, Bhabhua, Arwal, Patna, Nalanda, Nawada, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, Gaya.

Table 5-2: Important Physiographic features of the Agro-climatic Zone

Sl.	Agro-climatic zone	Soil	pH	Total Rainfall (mm)	Temperature (° C)	
					Max	Min
1.	Agro- climatic zone I (Northern West)	Sandy loam, loam	6.5 – 8.4	1040 – 1450 (1245.00)	36.6	7.7
2.	Agro-climatic Zone II (Northern East)	Sandy loam, Clay loam	6.5 – 7.8	1200 – 1700 (1450.00)	33.8	8.8
3.	Agro-climatic zone III (Southern EastWest)	Sandy loam, Clay loam, loam, Clay	6.8 – 8.0	990 – 1240 (1115.00)	37.1	7.8

Physiography and Soil

- A. **Agro- Climatic Zone I:** The lands of this zone which are alluvial plains are sloppy towards the south east direction with a very low gradient as evidenced by the direction in which the rivers flow. However, the rivers move eastward direction along the natural levee before they finally meet the Ganga. As a result, there are vast waterlogged areas in the districts of Saran, Vaishali and Samastipur. Due to near flatness of the landscape, vast area gets flooded during rains. The north – eastern portion of this zone, the “Don hills valleys” is glacial hills and valleys.
- B. **Agro- Climatic Zone II:** This zone, the alluvial plains of Kosi, Mahananda and its tributaries and Ganga (a narrow strip in the south) is slightly undulating to rolling landscape mixed with long stretches of nearly flat landscape with pockets of areas having sub – normal relief. The area is full of streams with abandoned dead channels of Kosi river, which becomes notorious for its frequent and sudden change of courses forming small lakes and shallow marshes. In the south, in between the natural levees of Ganga, on the one hand and Kosi and Mahananda on the other, there are vast areas which remain waterlogged for a considerable part of the year.

- C. **Agro-Climatic Zone III:** This zone is the alluvial plains of river Ganga on its southern side and the sediments are received both from river Ganga and those flowing from the south having their origins in the Chotanagpur Plateau, which rise abruptly from the plains. The land's slope is towards north east with gentle slope gradient and moderate to low gradient. In the south of the natural levee of the Ganga, there is vast stretch of backwaters known as "Tal" lands extending from Buxar to Pirpaity, where most of the rivers and rivulets coming from the south get lost. The flood plains of Ganga, which get reworked and get eroded and deposited at regular intervals, are lighter than "Tal" lands and are known locally as Diara lands.

Land Utilization Pattern

Out of total geographical area, 57.12 lakh hectares is under cultivation which is around 60 per cent of the total. The detail land use classification of the state is depicted in table 3. 23.58 lakh hectare area is put to cultivation more than once in a year. Therefore the Gross cropped area is 78.82 lakh hectares. The cropping intensity is 138 percent (table below).

Table 5-3: Land Use Classification

Sl	Category	Area in Lakh hectare
1	Forest	6.21
2	Barrennon-cultivable land	4.36
3	Land put to non-agriculture uses	16.44
4	Culturable Waste land	0.45
5	Permanent pasture	0.18
6	Area under misc. Crops	2.38
7	Other fallow (2 to 5 years)	1.30
8	Current fallow	5.13
9	Net area sown	57.12

Table 5-4: Cropping Intensity (138 per cent)

Sl.	Category	Area in Lakh hectare
1	Gross cropped area	78.82
2	Area sown more than once	21.70

Distribution of Operational Holdings

There are around 1.04 crore landholdings in the State of which around 83 percent are marginal holdings of size less than 1 hectare (Table below). With around 90 percent of the total population living in rural areas, agriculture as the primary feeder of rural economy continues to operate not only on margins of land but also on the margins of human enterprise. Without increasing returns to these margins, not much can be done realistically to develop the agricultural sector. Thus, agriculture continues to define both the potentialities and constraints to development in Bihar.

Table 5.5: Distribution of Holdings by Size Class

Category of farmers	No. of Holdings	Operational holding (In Ha.)
Marginal (0-1Ha.)	86,45,932 (82.9 per cent)	27,87,789 (40.8 per cent)
Small (1-2 Ha.)	10,05,650 (9.6 per cent)	13,00,667 (19.0 per cent)
Semi medium (2-4 Ha.)	5,90,970 (5.7 per cent)	15,82,279 (23.1 per cent)
Medium (4-10 Ha.)	1,78,295 (1.7 per cent)	9,75,355 (14.3 per cent)
Large (10-above Ha.)	11,570 (0.1 per cent)	1,93,760 (2.8 per cent)
Total	1,04,32,417 (100 per cent)	68,39,850 (100 per cent)

Source: Agricultural Census Division, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi

Irrigation

Out of the Gross cropped area of 78.82 lakh hectare area under assured irrigation is about 45.60 lakh hectares. Tube well is the major source of irrigation which irrigates 63 percent (28.3lakh hectare) of the area under assured irrigation. Area under canal irrigation is 13.7 lakh hectares (30 percent). District wise/ source wise/ zone wise detail of area under assured irrigation is mentioned below.

Table 5-5: District wise/ Source wise/ Zone wise detail of Area under Assured Irrigation

Name of District	Canal	Tube well	Other sources	Total irrigated Area
Zone I				
Zone 1 Total	190371	981400	138293	1310064
	14.53	74.91	10.56	100.00
Zone 2				
Zone 2 Total	117403	867038	21671	1006112
	11.67	86.18	2.15	100.00
Zone 3 A				
Zone 3A Total	134849	178311	64054	377214
	35.75	47.27	16.98	100.00
Zone 3 B				
Zone 3B Total	925041	828453	119950	1873444
	49.38	44.22	6.40	100.00
Grand Total	1367664	2855202	343968	4566834
	29.95	62.52	7.53	100.00

Cropping Pattern Zone wise

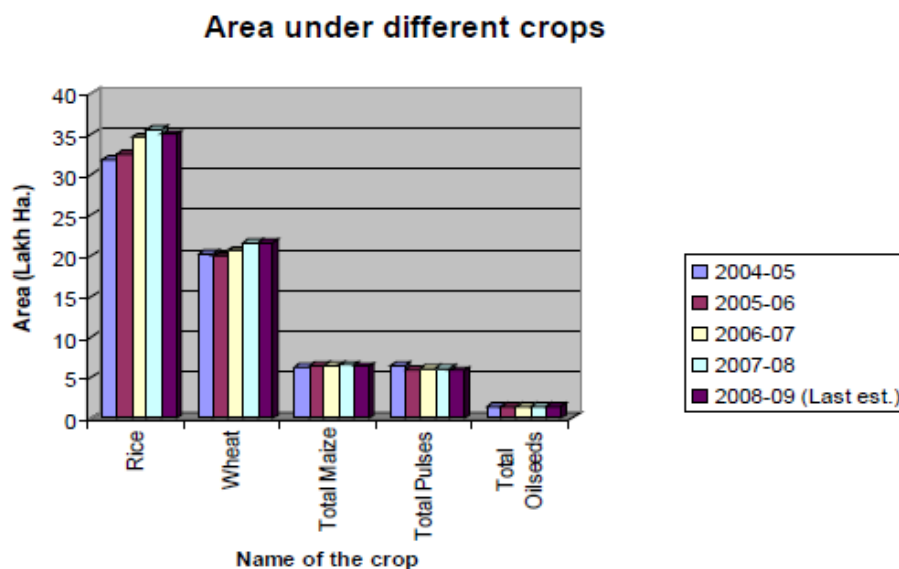
Cropping pattern is dominated by cereals. Rice-wheat cropping system occupies more than 70 per cent of the gross cropped area. Pulses occupy around 7 percent of the gross cropped area. The important cropping sequence of different zones is:

Table 5-6: Cropping Sequence of Different Zones

Zone	Crops
Zone – I	Wheat, Rice-Rai, Rice-Sweet Potato, Rice-Maize (Rabi), Maize -Wheat, Maize-Sweet Potato, Maize-Rai, Rice-Lentil, Rice-linseed
Zone – II	Jute-Wheat, Jute-Potato, Jute-Kalai, Jute-Mustard, Rice-Wheat-Moong, Rice-Toria
Zone – III	Rice-Wheat, Rice- Gram, Rice-Lentil, Rice-Rai

Trend in Food grain production

The growth trend for food grain production has not been commensurate to the potential of the state. Food grain production growth rate has been less than 1 per cent during the last decade. There were two successive poor crop years during 2004-05 and 2005-06 with food grain production has been restricted to about 80 lakh MT. The food grain production during 2007-08 was around 117 lakh MT.



Agriculture in the state is prone to natural calamity. Whereas the North Bihar districts are affected by the recurrent flood the south Bihar districts are prone to lack of rainfall. The coverage under rice, wheat, total maize and oilseeds crop is estimated to increase about 9.6, 6.7, 2.0 and less than 1 per cent



Agriculture is prone to natural calamity - recurrent flood and lack of rainfall respectively in 2008-09 from 2004-05, while the area under total pulses decrease to about 10 per cent. However, the productivity trend shows a positive slope over the same period.

6. Key Findings from the Study

Profile of Sample Villages Surveyed

Total 23 sample villages in 23 Panchayats were covered from 16 administrative blocks of 09 districts. Two districts were selected from each of the four agro climatic zones. In zone one located in the north of the state consisting of alluvial plain Madhubani and Samastipur districts were covered. Saharsa and Araria districts were covered from zone two of north-eastern Kosi region having alluvial plain. From one part of zone three which is south eastern region only Banka district was selected while in the second section of zone three in the south west region Buxer, Patna, Nawada, and Gaya districts were covered.

Table 6-1: Holdings of Agricultural land in villages Surveyed

Upto 100 acre	101-500 acre	501-1000 acre	More than 1000 acre
7	7	3	6

There were 7 villages each in the category of

landholding area of upto 100 acre and between 100 to 500 acres. In the category of more than 1000 acres there were total 6 villages.

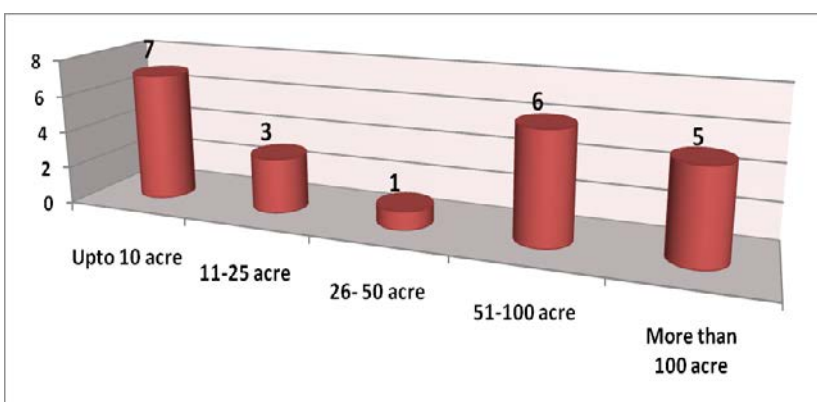
Table 6.2: Holdings of Irrigated Land among Respondents

As per the survey findings in 10 villages land title

Upto 100 acre	101-500 acre	501-1000 acre	More than 1000 acre
10	5	6	2

holders own upto 100 acre irrigable agriculture land while in 06 villages it is in the range of 501 to 1000 acres. There were 05 villages where the landowners own irrigable land in the category of 100 to 500 acres and only in 02 villages it was mentioned the ownership of irrigable land is more than 1000 acres.

In 30 percent (07) villages non- irrigable land holding is less than 10 acres and in 21 percent (05) villages it was mentioned more than 100 acres of agriculture land owned is un-irrigated.

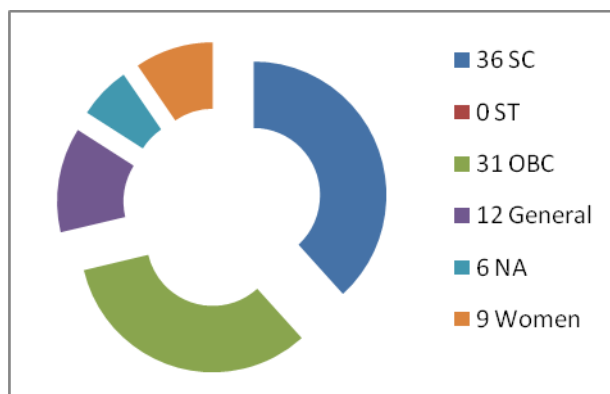


Profile of Respondents in Sample Villages Surveyed

The study covered a population of 89,976 people, a total of 21599.63 acres of agriculture land (14654.65 acres of irrigated land, 4350.25 acres of un-irrigated land and approximately 900.77 acres of waste/barren land) in the 23 sample locations.

A total 124 Sharecroppers and 85 marginal farmers were personally interviewed by the study team. In 23 sample locations total 745 respondents participated in FGDs among them 35 percent were women. Total 20 FGDs were conducted with the marginal farmers and 84 agriculture labourers with 36 were women. Among the total 124 Sharecroppers who were interviewed, 75 belonged to Schedule Caste, 35 were OBC, 09 were General Caste and 19 were women. There were no Scheduled Tribe respondents (they are not residing in the area).

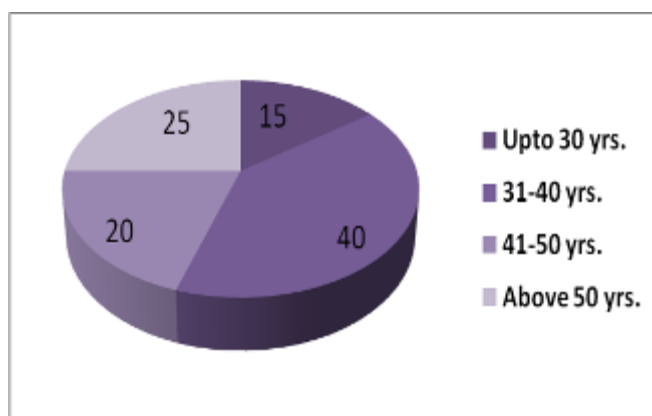
Break up of respondents of Personal Interview of Marginal Farmers



landowners.

Among 85 marginal farmers who were interviewed 36 belonged to Scheduled Caste, 31 were OBC, 12 General Caste and total 09 respondents were women.

Apart from interviews and FGDs case studies with sharecroppers, marginal farmers, agriculture labourers and landlords were also documented under the study. Total 41 case studies are of Share croppers with 06 being women apart from 32 case studies of



Age wise configuration of respondents

Social Group:

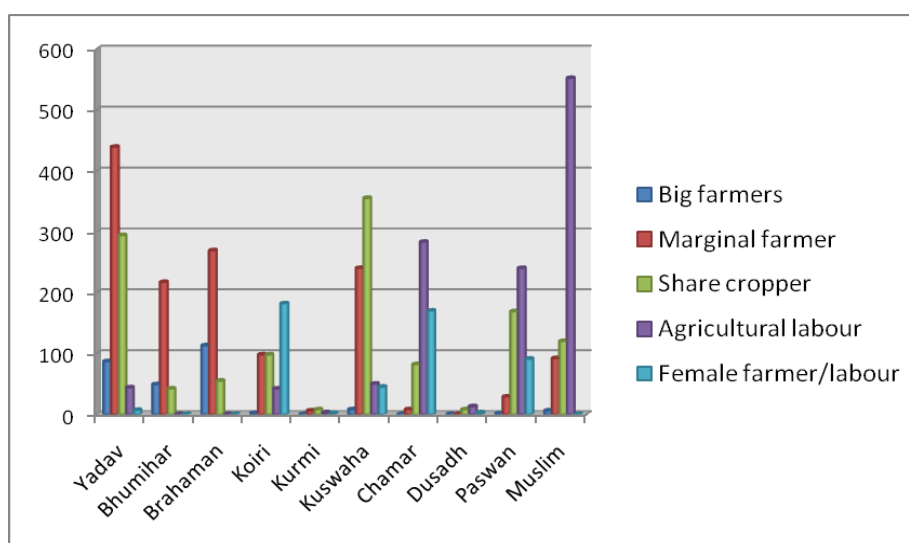
Total 165 caste community cultivators participated in the FGD in 23 sample locations. There were 435 large farmers who own more than 5 acres, 2081 are marginal farmers owning less than 5 acres, 3022 are share croppers; 3854 are agriculture labour and 1778 are women labours share croppers.

Caste Community Engaged with Agriculture

Table 6-2: Caste-wise breakup of Community Engaged with Agriculture

	Big farmers	Marginal farmer	Share cropper	Agricultural labour	Female farmer/labour
Yadav	87	439	294	44	7
Bhumihar	49	217	42	0	0
Brahamin	113	269	55	0	0
Koiri	2	98	98	42	182
Kurmi	0	6	8	3	2
Kuswaha	8	240	355	50	45
Chamar	0	8	82	283	170
Dusadh	0	0	8	13	3
Paswan	1	29	169	240	91
Muslim	6	92	120	552	0

If survey findings to be relied than 43 percent Brahmins followed by 33 per cent Yadav and 18 per cent Yadav come under big farmers category. In the category of marginal farmers 33 per cent are Yadav followed by 20 per cent Brahmins, 18 per cent Kuswaha and 16 per cent Bhumihars. Among sharecroppers



32 per cent are Kuswaha, followed 26 per cent Yadav, 15 per cent Paswan, 9 per cent Koiri and 7 per cent Chamar. In the category of agriculture labourers close to 81 per cent Muslims, 42 per cent Chamar and 36 per cent Paswans are engaged followed by Kuswaha, Yadav and Koiri. 36 per cent Koiri close to 34 per cent Chamar constitute women agriculture labourers.

However in course of FGDs it was understood in Nawada, Banka, Samastipur and Patna district big farmers are Bhumihar, Yadav, Brahmin and Muslim. Kumhar, Dhanuk, Lala, Kandua, Barhai and Thakur constitute marginal farmers. Agriculture labourers mostly belong to Dhankuk, Rabani etc. In Samastipur district it was observed large farmers belong to again Bhumihar, Lala and Kuswaha whereas marginal farmers are Bhumihar, Kuswaha, Rajak, Sao, Mahto and Muslims. Das, Ram, Sada, Tatma and Muslims belong to agriculture labourers in Samastipur. Mostly marginal farmers and some agriculture labourers are dependent on share cropping. The

study revealed the youth across all caste groups are not inclined to agricultural activities and for livelihood options they mostly migrate outside Bihar.

In few of the villages of Banka it was mentioned by the sharecroppers that total land area 'rakba' is approximately 1800 *Bigha* of which close to 1300 *Bigha* is owned by 15 Bhumihar members who reside in Deoghar, Simultala, JhaJha etc. While interacting with Chunchun Rai (Rajiv Nayan Rai) son of late Brij Kishore Rai who stays in Deoghar said he owns close to 800 *Bigha* land around Kharna, Fatehpur, Goriamma, Haria Kura, Chanan, Gujhora, Gaura etc and gives his land to 50 sharecroppers.

Sharecroppers from some of the villages in Bihta and Bikram blocks of Patna said in one of the village named Mahajpura in Bikram Block the total land area (*Rakba*) close to 2500 *Bigha*. From the 2500 *Bigha* close to 2000 *Bigha* is irrigable and almost 95 percent of this 2000 *Bigha* land is owned by 60 Bhumihar families of which 70 percent of them stay around Bikram, Naubatpur, Bihta, Paliganj etc and rest reside outside in Patna, Delhi, Noida and elsewhere.

Table 6-3: Types of Land Holding Pattern

Sl	Types of Land Holding Pattern	Number
1	Homestead Land	62
2	Agricultural Land (Raiyati)	49
3	Bhudan Land (residential)	3
4	Bhudan Land (agriculture)	4
4	Gair Majorua (Malik)	6
5	Gair Majorua (Aam)	30
6	Hind Kesar (Gol)	11

Family with no homestead land- 59

As per survey findings, out of 124 share croppers only 50 per cent have access to homestead land and about 43 per cent (53) of them own small portion of land for cultivation hence depend on additional land of land owner. Almost 27 per cent (33) of the share croppers do not have any land title to claim ownership for agriculture purpose.



FGD process with men and women Sharecroppers in rural Patna

In Banka and Lakhisarai districts farming is done by the BC, OBC, and SC (Turi, Das). The small farmers shared agriculture does not suffice even 4-6 months of food security even after doing sharecropping. They have to depend on other source of livelihood such as non-agriculture wage work and migration to repay heavy interest loan borrowed. Secondly there is severe irrigation problem and landowners do not share irrigation expense and nor do they wish to share the wage labour component on agriculture.

In Patna district in two villages (Mustafapur village of Bihta block) and (Mahajpura village of Bikram Block) respectively there are 88 landless families amongst a total of 150 families and 243 landless from total 450 houses respectively. They are engaged in different forms of farming which has mentioned in subsequent chapters. Caste community engaged with agriculture in Patna and adjoining districts are Dangi, Koiri, Kurmi, Mali, Paswan, Ravidas, Kahar (Rawani) etc.

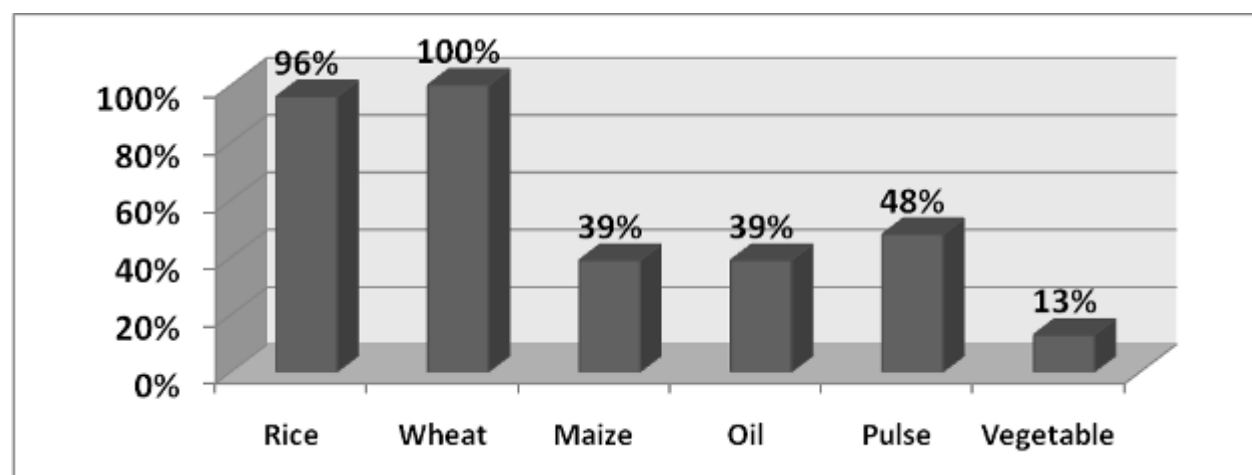
Production of Seasonal Crops

The study revealed farmers on an average cultivate Kharif/Rabi crops dependent on irrigation facility for 6-8 months across the year. For instance in Nawada district farmers cultivate mostly cultivate Paddy-Wheat, Pulses, Oil seeds, Maize, and seasonal vegetables are in small quantity. Whereas in Samastipur district other than Paddy, Wheat-Maize, farmers also grow Potato and seasonal vegetables across the year.

Major crops grown:

1. **Rabi: Wheat** , Pulses (*Dalhan*), Cereals (*Tilhan*)
2. **Kharif: Paddy** , Pulses, Maize, Sugarcane, Bajra, Marhua

Majority farmers (96 per cent) cultivate Paddy followed by Wheat and Maize. The productivity of Paddy in 01 *Bigha* land is between 480 Kg to 1280 kg, Wheat 350 kg to 950 Kg, Potato 1600 to 3400 kg, Pulses between 150 to 500 kg, Oil seeds – 200 to 500 kg in 01 *Bigha* land.



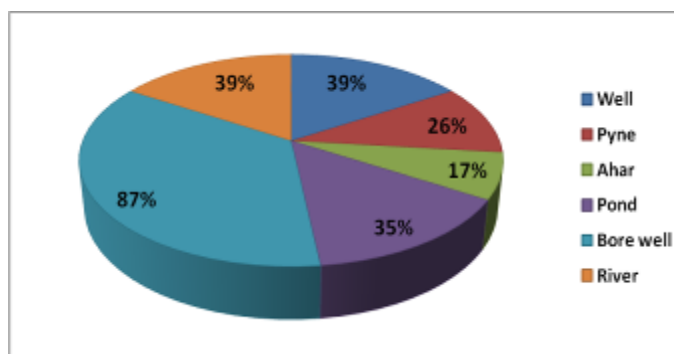
Seasonal Crop Cycle

- June-July (*Asar*): Sowing of paddy ,
- July-Aug (*Sawan*): Weeding, irrigation
- Sept-Oct (*Kartik*): Sowing of Potato, wheat , harvest of paddy
- Oct-Nov: (*Aghan*): Harvest of paddy , sowing of Pulses, oil seeds etc
- Nov-Dec (*Pus*): Sowing of Pulses, Gram seeds, Mustard, Khesari
- Dec-Feb (*Magh*): Irrigation of wheat , weeding, harvest of Pulses
- Feb-March (*Fagun*): Harvest of Potato, Pulses,
- April-May (*Chait*): Harvest of Pulses, Cereals
- May-June: (*Baisakh-Jeth*): Vegetable cultivation (*Karela, Boro, Lauki, Mirchi*), Maize in irrigable land

Sources of Irrigation

Lack of irrigation is key bottleneck in agriculture. Over the years farmers have been dependent on traditional irrigation sources like Well, Paine, Ahar, Ponds, Streams etc. Due to prolonged and disproportionate usage of water for irrigation has resulted in depletion of water level in these sources. There is no water in government tube wells and presently water from private boring and monsoon are the only source at the moment.

In course of the interaction 30 percent respondents mentioned about well, 26 per cent Paine, 34 per cent Ponds, 13 per cent *Nala*, 87 per cent Boring wells, 4 per cent stream (*Jharna*), 39 per cent Rivers and 9 per cent said they are dependent on Tube well, rivulets as their



source of irrigation. Majority of the cultivators are dependent on monsoon to irrigate their agriculture land. Due to poor or no monsoon 87 percent of the cultivators are dependent on boring followed by well, river (39 percent), pond (34 percent). Other source of irrigation in 23 sample locations across 06 districts are *Paine, Ahar, Nala, Jharna*, Tube well, streams etc.

Scheduled Caste (Turi) women landless and marginal women sharecroppers in Kharna Karwamaran villages in Chanan block and Tulsibaran village in Katoria block of Banka district mentioned there is no irrigation facility in the area hence farmers have to depend on good monsoon. A small farmer is able to save about Rs 1000 on the wage labour component since the family members are engaged in sowing, transplantation, weeding, threshing, storing etc. If there is good monsoon paddy production in one Kattha is between 60 to 80 kg maximum (30 to 40 kg rice) which is worth Rs 600 to Rs 800 of market value.

In districts like Nawada it was reported by the small and marginal farmers that the landlord shares cost on irrigation and fertilizer and in return the share cropper shares half of his total produce. But if there is crop loss the share cropper has to bear the entire loss. In few instances

the landowner may choose to provide some respite. In few districts like Samastipur there is no sharing of investment during agriculture. The share cropper has to pay an annual rent ranging between Rs 600 to 1200 per Katha with effect from June each year which is based on mutual and oral agreement. The rental arrangements continues for years unless the land lord decides not to offer his land to the share cropper if there is someone else who is willing to pay better rent. Usually they borrow land maximum till 15 *Bigha* .

Marginal farmers and sharecroppers from five villages (Ladaura) from Kalyanpur and (Thahra Gopalpur, Kejia Vishnupur, Chakle Waini and Patepur Gopinath) from Pusa block of Samastipur districts they cultivate on 1 to 5 *Kattha* agriculture land. They shared the cost of agriculture investment has increased four times making irrigation and fertilizers expensive. Sharecroppers are the ones who get most affected due to the impact of natural calamities and adversities such as flood or draught. Lack of and expensive irrigation facility makes them depend on monsoon and due to poor monsoon their crop productivity gets severely effected compelling them to borrow money at high interest rate or migrate for 4-6 months. To repay the amount they are compelled to migrate for wage work. They shared during such distress and lean periods government should implement 100 days wage work for the benefit of the landless and marginal farmers. Wage employment schemes like MGNRGA should be better implemented between two crop cycles when there is no agriculture work.

Forms of Sharecropping

The sharecroppers shared following forms of sharecropping practiced depending on the fertility of the land.

1. **Manni:** The landowner does not share any cost of cultivation and the entire investment is done by the sharecropper. If the sharecropper invests in agriculture for one year on 1 *Bigha* land in return as rent



Explaining Forms of Sharecropping practiced

he has to provide 800 to 1000 kg (20-25 Mann) Paddy or 480 kg (12 Mann) Rice to the landowner. In *Manni* form of sharecropping, the farmers shared they are forced by the landowners to give 1000 kg (25 Mann) of paddy irrespective of total production. The landowners are aware about the total productivity even if it is less than desired yet they keep demanding the required quantity. They threaten sharecropper to either provide balance produce next year or give the land to another sharecropper.

2. **Annual fixed rent ‘Theka’ or Patta:** A sharecropper borrows agriculture land on annual rent and does not have to share any produce with the land owner. The prevailing rent is between Rs 1000 to 3000 per *Kattha* as per the quality of land or the sharecropper has to pay an annual rent of Rs 8000 to Rs 12000 for 1 *Bigha* to the landowner as per the quality of the land. Even in *Patta* and *Batai*, if sharecroppers fail to pay Rs 10,000 to Rs 12000 every year before cultivation or does not share 50 percent of the total produce they lose land next year for cultivation.

3. **Share Cropping ‘Batai’:** The landowner shares half the cost of fertilizer and irrigation (no seeds) and in return the sharecroppers shares 50 percent of the total produce. If the land is productive landowners prefer giving it on *Batai* or else or else it on *ManniPatta*. Usually the cost of fertilizer and irrigation is shared by the land owner while the cost of ploughing, seeds and labour is borne by the share-cropper. Produce is shared equally between sharecropper and the land-owner. Few farmers who are engaged with share-cropping in few sample locations:
 - Bhim Yadav age 45, Krishna Yadav age 25, Dilip Yadav age 38 does collective farming on 5.5 *Bigha* of land as share croppers. They take 01 *Bigha* land from Ramdhani Rai and 4.5 *Bigha* land from Basant Yadav. Basant Yadav is owner of 4.5 *Bigha* land in the village and stays in Dhanbad. He owns a cinema hall, flower market and sells milk.
 - Nepali Nouniya age 65 takes 06 *Bigha* land from Balmiki Nouniya of Sawan Kherma village in Lakhisarai and does share cropping.
 - Hari Prasad age 52 does share cropping on 04 *Bigha* land. He borrows 02 *Bigha* from Ram Prasad Nouniya and 02 *Bigha* from Chandrika Prahlad of Samastipur.
 - Tikam Ram age 80 has 10 family members and does share cropping on 01 *Bigha* of land.

4. **Rehan farming** – It is similar to *Theka* where land is taken on rent at Rs 4000 per *Kattha*. This amount is returned after 03 years to the land owner without any rate of interest. For next 03 years the farmer cultivates whatever crop that he wants and bears profit or loss. There is a condition he cannot grow Marijuana ‘*Ganja*’, opium or any crop which is prohibited by the state or any activity that will destroy the innate character and fertility of the land. Jhunjhun Pandit age 55 from Gaya does Rehan farming on 1.5 *Bigha* land of Shiv Shankar Pandit who is a temple priest in Patna.

5. **Mann Kattha farming (Mann Kuntha or Mankhap):** It is similar to ‘*batai*’ but in this form of cultivation a sharecropper borrows land for one year tenure and invests on all the agriculture related cost. Instead of 50 percent of the total produce he has to share a fixed 40 kg of produce in the month of May and June. The 40 kg share can be either one crop or also combination of crops like Paddy, Wheat-Pulse. There are close to 20-35 percent sharecroppers who prefer this form of farming. It is an oral agreement between share cropper and landowner is for 01 year and the sharecropper has to provide 05 kg Paddy in 1 *Kattha* or 100 kg per *Bigha* by the month of January since the agreement was made in May-June. After 01 year the agreement ends and the land owner is free to provide his land to another person. Names of few farmers engaged with Mann Kattha farming:

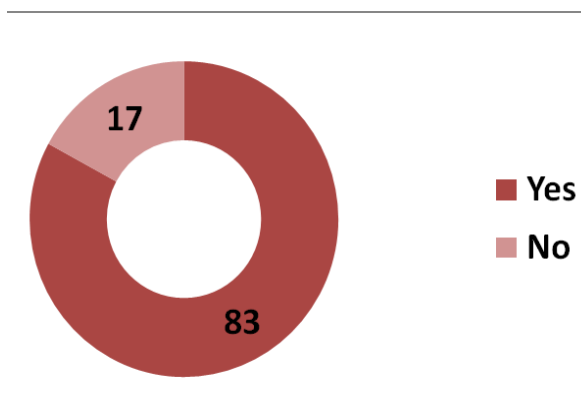
- Biseswar Nouniya age 61 does farming on 3.5 *Bigha* land in Mann Kattha system. He borrows 2.5 *Bigha* land from Baidhnath Nouniya and one *Bigha* from Chand Muni Devi
- Ramji Nouniya age 61 does farming on 05 *Bigha* on Mann Kattha, borrows land from Nanda Nouniya who works in BCCL cold storage.
- Gopal Yadav age 50 does farming on 03 *Bigha* on Mann Kattha taking land from a Muslim family from Gulni village

Reverse Sharecropping

It was shared by the sharecroppers across the state mostly the EBC, SC and BC are engaged in sharecropping since they constitute the landless or small farmers who own between 1 to 3 *Kattha* land. They borrow additional 2 to 3 *Kattha* land for Paddy, Wheat, Pulse, Grams, Peas, vegetable cultivation.

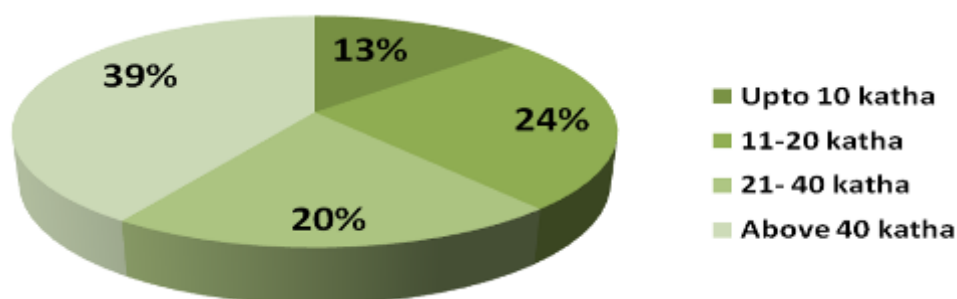
Some marginal farmers are also engaged in

Sharecropping. In Samastipur since few years businessmen from outside the district and some big landowners are investing to borrow 1-3 *Bigha* agriculture land from 5-6 cluster of villages around for 3 years tenure primarily for tobacco or large scale commercial purpose. They hire total 50-80 *Bigha* land and pay better annual rent to the landowners as a result specially the landless and small farmers who were engaged with sharecropping are finding it difficult to borrow land for *Kharif* and *Rabbi* cultivation affecting their domestic food security. Usually it is at the mercy of the landowner to extend rent agreement to the sharecropper beyond one year. The sharecropper can be evicted after one year if he does not provide the agreed share of produce irrespective of the quality and quantity of yield.

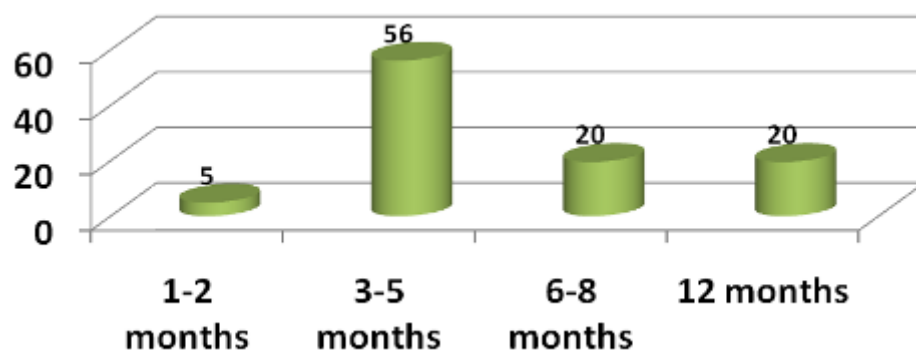


Engagement of Earlier Generation in Sharecropping

Land used for Sharecropping



Availability of work through Sharecropping



The study findings revealed a small proportion of respondents i.e. less than 5 percent do not get agriculture work more than 2 months in a year. Almost 45 per cent (56) respondents shared they get work for 3-5 months, 16 percent (20) between 6-8 months and another 16 percent (20) get work for all 12 months. Analyzing this trend, one may conclude inspite of all odds faced by the share croppers and marginal farmers close to 32 percent (40) respondents are engaged with agriculture activity for 6-12 months approximately. This reflects an encouraging drift in reduction of migration as 51 percent respondents said they don't have to migrate outside in search of alternative livelihood as compared to 49 percent who are compelled to migrate seasonally because they do not get adequate work more than 5 months in a year.



Table 6-4: Investment in paddy Cultivation in one *Kattha* land

Sl	Details	Amount
1	Ploughing/tilling of land	Rs 900
2	Cost of paddy seeds	Rs 100
3	Wage labour	
	Spade work (wage +b'fast +lunch)	Rs 25
	Transplantation of paddy seedling	Rs 100
	Weeding (2 labour)	Rs 200
	Paddy harvest - 1/10 th of total produce or (15 kg paddy x Rs 8)	Rs 120
4	Irrigation with diesel pump (3 times x Rs 155)	Rs 465
5	Fertilizer during transplantation: (Urea 2 Kg x Rs 9) + (DAP 4 Kg x Rs 27)	Rs 126
6	Fertilizer during weeding: (Urea 3 Kg x Rs 7) + (Potash 1 Kg x Rs 18)	Rs 165
7	Organic manure (cow dung) – ½ tractor trailer	Rs 700
	Total cost	Rs 1535

Net Productivity Earning from Paddy Cultivation

Total production of Paddy from 01 *Kattha* land is 80 Kg worth Rs 1500 i.e. (80 x Rs 8 per kg) and Rs 700 from Paddy husk. However in sharecropping a landless or marginal farmer saves about Rs 1000 to 1200 on wage labour component of Rs 350-500 since the family members are engaged, organic manure is around Rs 250 and 50 percent cost on fertilizer and in some cases on irrigation by the land owner. Therefore for a sharecropper after sharing 50 percent of the produce with the land owner his net earning from 01 *Kattha* land is 40 kg of paddy worth Rs 750.

Similarly on wheat cultivation the cost of investment for a sharecropper is between Rs 500 to Rs 700, Potato Rs 850 to Rs 1000 and for Maize is between Rs 900 to Rs 1000. They do not engage tractor for ploughing and tilling and use less quantity of organic manure.

Table 6-5: Monthly food Consumption with cost by a family member of a sharecropper

Sl	Details	Total	Cost
1	Rice (250 gram per day x 30 days)	7.5 kg	Rs 150
2	Wheat dough (300 gram x 30 days)	9.0 kg	Rs 198
3	Pulse (50 gram x 30 days)	1.5 kg	Rs 180
4	Edible oil (500 grams)	0.5 kg	Rs 60
5	Green vegetables, spice etc		Rs 200
	Total:		Rs 788

Table 6-6: Expenditure on paddy cultivation by a small Sharecropper in Banka

Sl	Activity	Cost
1.	Plowing by bullock	Rs 400
2.	Paddy seeds: 8 kg x Rs 150 = Rs 1200 (Half)	Rs 600
3.	Fertilizer: (First – Rs 108 x 15 Kattha = Rs 1620) + (Second: Rs 36 x 15 Kattha = Rs 540) + (Organic manure: Rs 244) = Rs 2260 (Half the expense)	Rs 1130
	Total:	Rs 2130

Paddy Productivity and Earning from sharecropping

Total productivity of Paddy from 15 *Kattha* land is (900 kg x Rs 8 per Kg) Rs 7200 from which 450 kg or Rs 3600 is sharecropper's share after 50 percent of the produce is shared with the land owner. Net earning from sharecropping is (Rs 3600 – Rs 2130) Rs 1470 worth of food grain which will last for 5-6 months for a family of 9 members.

Vibha Devi owns 2.5 *Kattha* land and borrows 10 *Kattha* for sharecropping. Her family's daily food consumption and expense is 2 Kg rice, 1 Kg wheat flour, Rs 10 on cooking oil spices and Rs 20 on vegetables etc. For the remaining 6 months



Vibha gets 14 kg wheat, 21 Kg rice and 2.5 liters of kerosene oil for 6 months under Antodaya scheme (yellow card) instead of 12 months which she regrets.

Case Study: Collective Women's Sharecropping in Nalanda district



About 25 women are engaged as collective sharecroppers in Shobhnagar village which is 1.5 km from Pokharpur Panchayat, 07 km from Giriyak Block and 21 km from Nalanda district. Among them almost 90 percent are landless and 10 percent are small farmers. They are cultivating vegetables on 65-80 *Kattha* or approximately 04 *Bigha* agriculture land. The women sharecroppers have

borrowed agriculture land as a group spread in 04 villages; Daulachak, Jenedi, Pokharpur and Dharampur from 10 landowners.

The arrangement of sharecropping with the marginal landowners owning 15-20 *Kattha* land is oral in nature and for one year only. Most of the landowners are settled and employed outside, hence do not cultivate themselves on their land. The second generation of the landowners who have been brought-up in urban lifestyle do not wish to come and settle in their village. However they desire to remain connected with their ancestral land property. Therefore to maintain land productivity they prefer to give their land to the sharecroppers.

The sharecroppers suggested the agreement should be extended for longer periods atleast for 03-04 years. Efforts are being made by *Mahila Adhikar Morcha* to organize a common interface between sharecroppers and the landowners either in the Block or Revenue office so that there is transparency in the arrangement. The group mainly cultivates cash crops such as Potato, Gourd, Nenua, Chilies, Onion etc since Nawada and Bihar Sharif are key markets close by.



Cost benefit Analysis from Cash Crop Cultivation

Table 6-7: Investment in Potato cultivation in one Kattha

Sl	Items	Cost
1.	Seeds (40 kg Rs 16 per Kg)	Rs 640
2.	Fertilizer: Sulphate (10 kg x Rs 140) + Phosphate (10 kg x Rs 90) + Potash (05 kg x Rs 90)	Rs 320
3.	Uria (05 kg) + Enzyme (300 g) + Pesticide (Rs 35+Rs 12+Rs25)	Rs 72
4.	Irrigation - 08 times at Rs 10/Kattha	Rs 700
	Total	Rs 1732

Production of Potato in 1 *Kattha* land is approximately 400 kg, i.e. Rs 3200. One packet of 50 kg Potato is sold at Rs 400, hence the margin of profit is (Rs 3200 – Rs 1732) Rs 1468

Table 6-8: Investment in Gourd (*louki*) cultivation in one Kattha

Sl	Items	Cost
1.	Seeds : 02 packets of 10 gram of Rs 32	Rs 65
2.	Fertilizer (03 times after Germination) DAP+Zinc + (03-04 kg of Insecticide Furadan) total 15-16 kg (Rs 30/kg+ Rs 95/kg+ Rs 100 kg)	Rs 450
3.	Irrigation : 10-12 times @ Rs 10	Rs 120
4.	Pesticide: Rs 25 x 07	Rs 175
	Total	Rs 810

Production of Gourd is 08-10 Mann (400 Kg) in a season and 40 to 50 kg one day in week. The market rate of 400 Kg is Rs 4000 at Rs 10 per Kg. The margin of profit is Rs (Rs 4000-810) Rs 3000

Table 6-9: Investment in Onion cultivation in 1 Kattha

Sl	Items	Cost
1.	Seeds: 300 gram (Rs 2500/kg)	Rs 360
2.	Fertilizer: 04 Kg x 1 time - total 25 kg	Rs 700
3.	Pesticide spray: 03 times	Rs 500
4.	Irrigation: 15 times x Rs 10	Rs 150
	Total	Rs 1710

Production of Onion in 1 Kattha is approximately 10 Mann i.e. 400 kg. It is sold at Rs 350 per Mann i.e. (Rs 8.75 x 400 kg) Rs 3500. Net profit from Onion cultivation in 1 Kattha is Rs 1790. Presently Onion is sold at Rs 06 per kg since there is no demand and it is difficult to store.

Investment in *Nenua* (Luffa) Cultivation in one Kattha is between Rs 700 - Rs 800 and the net production of *Nenua* is 06 Mann i.e. 240 kg. It is sold at Rs 15 per kg worth Rs 3600. Net profit margin from *Nenua* cultivation is Rs 1890.

Awareness about Government Schemes

The study revealed that cultivators particularly the marginal farmers and share croppers are mostly aware about the government schemes and benefits for the farmers. However due to lack of information on lengthy and complex procedurals to avail the schemes dissuade them to approach.

Often they shared they are able to procure items from the open market at a competitive and lesser rate than the subsidized rate fixed by the government. The marginal farmers and share croppers are able to access most of the agriculture related requirements from the local market. Only in exceptional cases when they need any specialised or technical agriculture tools, equipments or quality seeds, fertilizers they visit markets located in major towns.

In some occasions the share croppers also sell their agriculture produce to the traders at a higher rate than the minimum selling rate fixed by the government. The traders directly visit them to purchase their agriculture produce.

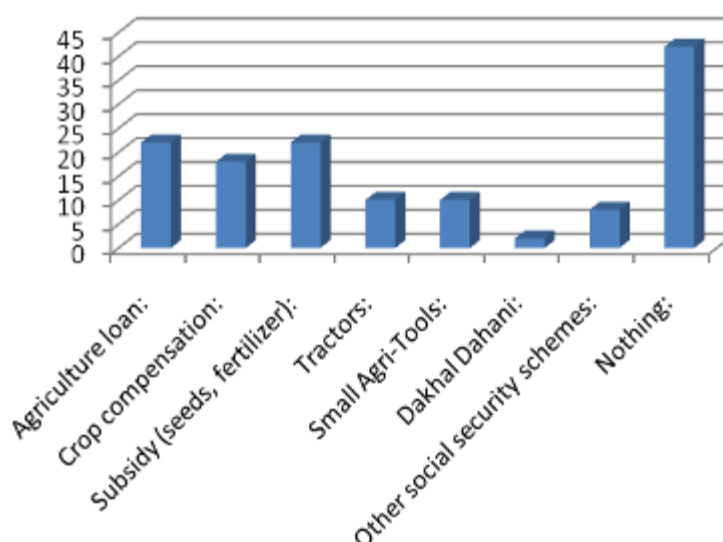
Table 6-10: Schemes related to Agriculture

S. No	Schemes related to Agriculture	Yes	No
1	Awareness about Minimum Support Price	15	109
2	Awareness about Agri Subsidy	23	101
3	Awareness about Procurement Agencies	4	120
4	Agri Loans/KCC	27	97
5	Awareness about Agri-extension Scheme	7	117
6	Awareness about claiming crop damage compensation	30	94

The study revealed almost 88 percent (109) of the share croppers and marginal farmers are not aware about Minimum Support Price (MSP). A good majority of 97 percent (120) cultivators are not aware about procurement agency, 94.3 percent (117) do not know about agriculture extension scheme and close to 81 percent (101) do not know about agriculture subsidy procedures provided by the government.

Access to Agriculture Schemes

From total 124 respondents, 57.2 percent (71) are exclusively dependent on share cropping and remaining 42.7 percent (53) are land title holders. From the total 71, 34 percent (42) shared they did not avail any agriculture related benefits from the government. However 08 among them have availed other social security schemes like pension, PDS etc. 9 villages are not aware



about agriculture produce Insurance and 14 villages are aware

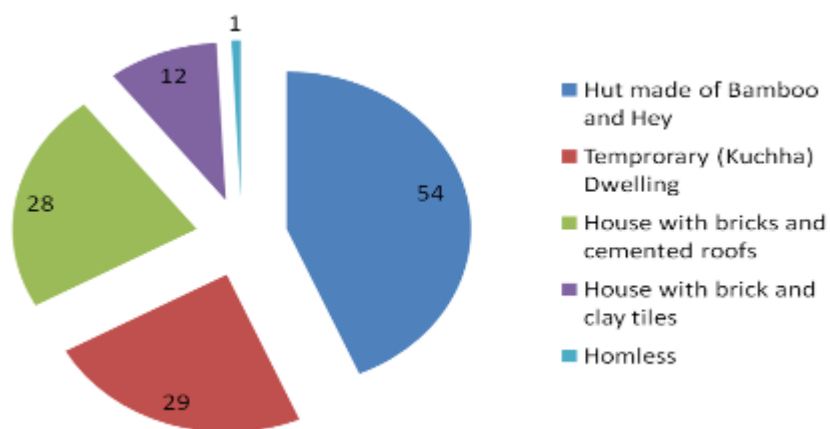
Scheme of Distribution of land to the landless for agriculture

Selling surplus land of minimum one acre land was to be redistributed by government of Bihar for agriculture purpose to all landless agriculture labourers. Between 1982-90 some landless were provided land titles however they have not been able to take possession till date. During the course of the study it was revealed from total 23 sample villages visited in almost 19 villages the landless cultivators are not aware of this scheme.

In the current financial year Revenue and Land reforms department, Bihar government, has also identified over 2.10 lakh homeless families for the allotment of homestead land. Each of these homeless families has to be given three decimal (one decimal equals 435 square feet) of homestead land under *Mahadalit Vikas Yojana*.

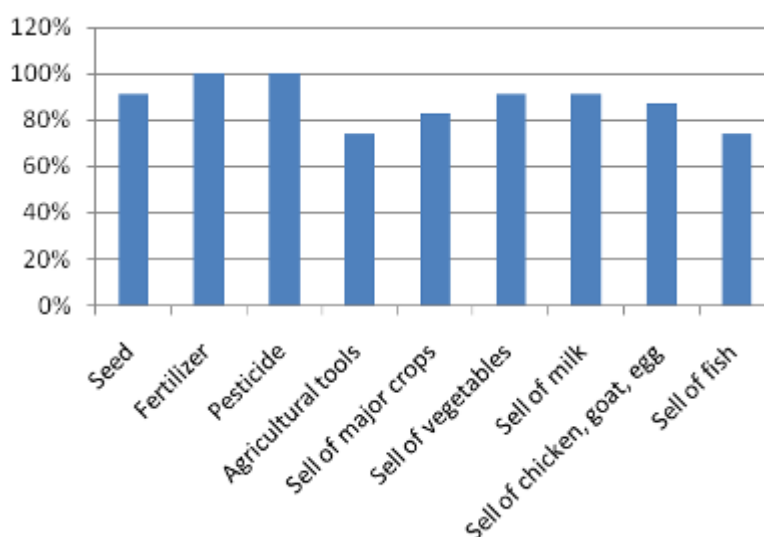
Housing of Sharecroppers

The findings revealed 67 percent of the sharecroppers are residing in temporary dwellings and only 22 per cent own house with brick and cemented roof. 43 percent stay in huts made of bamboo and hey while 23 percent stay in temporary *Kutchha* dwellings.



Availability of Agricultural Produce and Inputs in Local Market

Findings from the survey provide a positive picture about availability of most the produce and inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agriculture tools etc ranging between 74 to 100 percent from the local market. According to the survey data sharecroppers shared Fertilizer and Pesticides are easily available, but in course of the discussions with the sharecroppers across different locations they mentioned the cost of agriculture investment has increased four times today making irrigation and fertilizers expensive. They either get



duplicate inferior quality of seeds and fertilizer from the market or pay higher rates than what government offers. The cost of 50 Kg DAP bag in the month of June 2016 is Rs 1200 but when they go to purchase in the month of October and November it is priced at Rs 1800. They said they are either charged higher rates if they go to store their seeds in cold-storage or given inferior quality of seeds of same quantity when they go to collect.

Due to lack of agriculture related resources the sharecroppers have to make their own arrangements by borrowing at heavy interest rate. They expect all agriculture support such as credit, subsidized tools,



equipments, fertilizers, seeds etc from block office. In KCC the subsidy is provided to the farmers, only few among them are fortunate to avail by paying bribe of Rs 5000 for Rs 20000 loan amount paid to agents and staff which actually increases their rate of interest.

During crop failure there is no crop insurance coverage or wage compensation for the physical labour invested by the sharecroppers. The landowners are also unsympathetic about their concerns and do not extend or transfer any benefits availed by them from the government. They are least affected and also enjoy two fold gain. The sharecroppers suggested there should be on the spot crop loss verification by the village level extension worker '*krishi-salahkar*' and accordingly compensation decided.



Group of women sharecroppers expressed poor have to face lot of difficulty due to lack of empathy by the government staff and officials in block and circle office. A small farmer and a sharecropper in Banka district - Ramdeo Rana shared his case since last

two years he has been running to Bhairavganj Circle Office to rectify name of his grandfather. Till now he has spent Rs 4000 (Rs 3000 in court and Rs 1000 to CO) but till date nothing has been done.

Last year Anita from Samastipur district said during wheat cultivation filled application for 25 kg packet of subsidized wheat seeds and Rs 250 for diesel subsidy from block office. The officials took bribe of Rs 200 and assured her the benefits but she could not avail them even after 1 year.

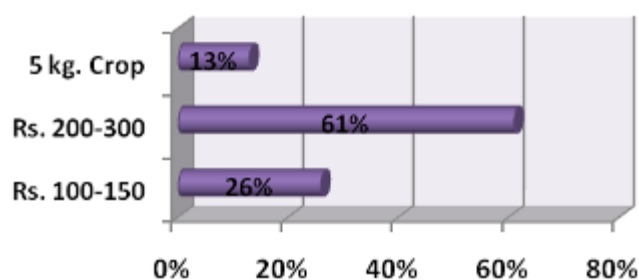
Suresh Yadav, Boltu and Mahendra from Kharna village had applied for agriculture group loan of Rs 99,000 from SBI Bhairavganj. The bank sanctioned their loan amount in September 2015 but each of them had pay bribe of Rs 15,000 to bank agents to get only Rs 35,000 in March 2016. The bank also did not provide any acknowledgement indicating receipt of Rs 35,000 only instead of Rs 50,000 each. They had to go to Chanan Circle Office nine times and spent Rs 4000 to get their land receipt which was required to issue Land Possession Certificate (LPC) for sanctioning of the loan amount by the bank.

Many complained their block office does not provide subsidized Paddy, Wheat, Gram seeds or Pulses (*masur*) seeds. Timely availability of good seeds is important which can provide better yield in less water which is the need of the hour.

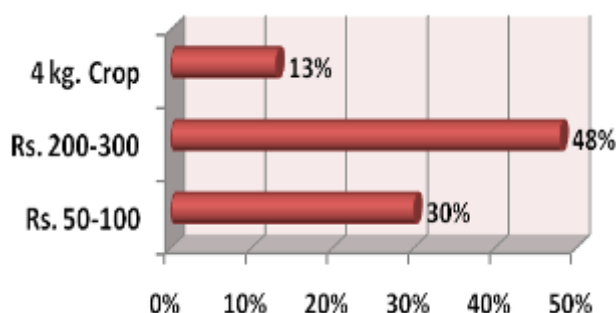
7. Agriculture Wage labour

Availability of work in the village

As per the survey findings 61 percent males and 48 percent women said they get wages between Rs 200-300 per day for agriculture labour work.



Per day wages of male labour



Per day wages of women labour

However as per FGDs, it was learnt that landless and small farmers across the year get approximately 20-25 days of agriculture wage work during paddy cultivation season. They get 8 to 10 days wage work during paddy sowing in the month of July-August, 04 days in the month March-April to spread organic manure in the agriculture field and 08 to 10 days in the month of October-November during harvesting of Paddy. Male labourers earn between Rs 200 (with meals) to 250 and women are paid between Rs 100 to Rs 120. For spreading of manure both men and women earn Rs 100 per day.

Table 7-1: Wage Rates for Different Agriculture Work:

Sl	Items	Rate
1.	Ploughing by Tractor	Rs 900/ <i>Bigha</i> (02 times)
2.	Spade work	Rs 250/ person (with meal)
3.	Plantation	Rs 125/ person (with meal)
4.	Weeding	Rs 60/ person for ½ a day (500 gm <i>sattu</i>)
5.	Harvest	Rs 125/ person whole day (with meals)
6.	Carrying loads	Rs 300/ person whole day (with meals)

Total number of work days to agriculture labourers

1. Agro- climatic zone I (Northern West) get between 100-120 days
2. Agro-climatic Zone II (Northern East) get about 90 days
3. Agro-climatic zone IIIA (Southern East) get about 40-45 days only
4. Agro-climatic zone IIIB (Southern West) which is mostly draught prone are get between 45-50 days

Sex Disaggregated Distribution of work load between in Agriculture Labour work

Male agriculture labourers shared they are engaged in agriculture wage work mostly in tilling/ploughing sowing of paddy saplings, plucking, weeding, spraying of fertiliser, insecticide, pesticide, irrigating, etc. The study revealed there are three forms of wage earning based on different geographical areas:

- A. In the first category a labour is hired on contract for a fixed tenure during entire agriculture season known as '*Harwaha*' locally. The labour works for 8-12 hours for the day and he is paid 2 kg food grains, refreshment, one time meal, and one *Bigha* agriculture land for him to harvest his own produce.
- B. In the second category, the labour is paid only wages between Rs 200-250 without any meals.
- C. In the third category the labour is provide 5 kg rice with meals or Rs 150-200 wages with meals.

Women labourers are engaged with weeding, sowing, harvesting loading of produce. They are paid usually Rs 70-100 as wages with one time refreshment. In some locations the women labourers mentioned about receiving 3 kg food grains with refreshment only.

Case Study of a woman Sharecropper: Parwati and her husband from Nawada district does farming on their 10 *Kattha* agriculture land and also engaged with agriculture wage labour work. Together both earn Rs 7360 from agriculture wage work during paddy cultivation season.

Both get 15 days of wage work during sowing season earning Rs 4800 (Rs 200 x 15 days + Rs 120 x 15 days). Men are paid Rs 200 and women earn Rs 120 per day. Again during paddy harvest season during November-December and both get 8 days of wage work together earning Rs 2560 (Rs 200 x 8 days + Rs 120 x 8 days).

Case Study from Lakhisarai:

In one of the villages from Lakhisarai a group of 30 SC (Majhi) families work as agriculture wage labourers for 04 months in different villages. For 03 months they are engaged with Paddy cultivation, 10 days in Wheat, 08 days in Pulses and 20 days in Onion farming. Few among them are also engaged with Sharecropping along with wage labour in Rata, Bahirama,



Kherma Baghor villages. Every Mushar caste has BPL card but they do not get ration and Kerosene oil regularly. This year only in March 2016 they got ration quota once. The mentioned about the prevailing wages for agricultural labor work:

- Spade work: Mostly male work and are paid Rs 150 per day with 02 times meal for 13-15 days
- Pulling out Paddy seeds: Male members get work for 20 days and instead of cash are paid 05 kg of rice grain with 02 times meal
- Transplantation: Both sexes work for 30 days and are paid Rs 100 per day with 02 times meal
- Paddy harvesting: Family of 02-03 members work together during season for 10 days and earn 2.5-3 kg of paddy per family
- Threshing, *Aukhoni* Carrying: Only male members get work for 10 days and earn 02 kg paddy per person per day.
- Wheat harvesting: Both sexes work for 10 days and earn 16 Kg wheat grains per family

Disparity in Wages

One of the key functions of the Labour Wing headed by the Labour Commissioner, Government of Bihar (<http://labour.bih.nic.in>) is to fix and revise minimum wages under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. This Act has been amended in Bihar by Act 3 of 1961. The equal Remuneration Act, 1976 [Act 25 of 1976 amended by act 49 of 1987] also specifies no employer shall pay to any worker, employed by him, remuneration, whether payable in cash or in kind, at rates less favourable than those at which remuneration is paid by him to the workers of the opposite sex for performing the same work or work of a similar nature. However, across all the study locations the survey team did not find women agriculture labourers earning the same wages for performing the same agriculture task. Some of the case studies points out this startling fact.

1. Prabhavati Devi 47 years old from Mahugpura village of Bikram Block in Patna district is landless agricultural labourer She and her husband get 100-125 days of wage work across the year and earn Rs 100-150 with 03-04 kg rice per day. They are BPL card holders and avail get ration & Kerosene oil. Prabhavati says if they get work for the entire year with minimum

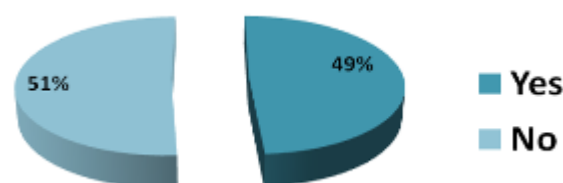
wages their socio-economic situation will improve. She is extremely unhappy with the labour law at ground level since women wage workers do not get all type of neither wage labour work nor minimum wages.

2. Chanmati Devi age 44 from village Muhamadpur of Mahagpura Panchayat in Bikram block of Patna district. She is landless widow works for 100 days a year as agricultural laborer and earns wages and crop against her wages. During Paddy plantation she gets 03-04 kg rice, during weeding 01-02 kg and during harvesting 01 Gahi as wages. Chanmati does not get anything to eat when she works from the land owner and there is wage disparity – much less from what male labourers earn. Neither does she get any wage work from the government nor any loan from the bank as she does not have any land or property.
3. Malo Devi age 50 wife of Nagdev Ram, mother of is 02 daughters and 01 son hails from village Kaitheniya in Bhaknor block of Madhubani district. Since last 30 years she is engaged as agriculture wage labour work. As she is a Dalit she narrated her experiences of discrimination in her everyday life. She has to remove their slippers before entering the house of upper caste landowner, not served food on their plates, physically agonized, wages withheld, removed from work etc. There is no one in the village including Panchayat where she get share her grievances.
4. Malkeshia Devi age 60 years an agricultural wage laborer from village Mustafapur, in Puruthotampur panchayat of Bihta block of Patna district. She was married when she was a girl hence could not study. When she was married her husband owned 02 Bigha land but at present she has only one hut since her husband sold out his share of land and got married again. After her husband married she was thrown out of the house surviving in acute financial distress. Malkeshia survives on wage labour work but does not get regular work or wages. No one is there to listen to their dilemma in the village. According to her government should provide her anti-poverty benefits and her husband should provide her anomaly –subsistence allowance.
5. Mankana Prasad age 30 is from village Mustafapur, Panchayat Painari, Block Bihta. He has 02 kattha of land but as it is not sufficient he works as an agricultural laborer. He is working as an agricultural laborer from a very young age of 06 years. He gets 100-150 days work in a year and gets Rs 200-250/ day. He does not have toilet in the house and has to face many difficulties. Due to his son's illness he has to take him to AIIMS for which he took loan. To repay his loan he migrated but cannot stay there for long and returned back. He does not get any profit from the various government schemes. He does not have a BPL card or job card as to get this he has to pay bribe to the officials.

8. Non-Agriculture Work

As mentioned in previous sections close to 65 percent of the sharecroppers are able to meet 1-5 months of food grains and close to 45 percent share croppers borrow agriculture land between 5 to 20 Kattha for different forms of sharecropping. For a landless or small farmer it is extremely difficult to sustain only from engaging in sharecropping and few months of agriculture wage work. Sharecropping provides them average 3-5 months of food grains for the family and wages from agriculture work gives them some ready cash either to invest in their sharecropping or meet day to day needs. However for remaining 4-7 months they need additional wage work. Across the locations the landless and sharecroppers mentioned the following source of wages:

1. **Brick making:** The sharecroppers in several sample locations mentioned about getting seasonal wage work in local brick kilns for 03 to 05 months. They make bricks between January to May and are engaged in carrying baked bricks for 3 months between August to October. To make 1000 bricks a labour is paid Rs 500 and for carrying 1000 bricks they earn Rs 200. In a day a labour makes 250 bricks to earn average Rs 125 and for carrying 500 bricks earns Rs 100 per day.
2. **Transportation of sand:** In village which are located close to rivers, they are engaged for 2 months in September and October (*Aghan-Pus*) to transport sand from river bed in tractor trolley. One labour is paid Rs 25 to load and unload sand earning between Rs 50 to Rs 100 per day.
3. **Construction work:** Majority are engaged as daily wage workers in construction work either as daily wage physical labours, assistant construction workers or mason for four months between November to February (*Magh, Fagun, ChaitBaisakh*) in blocks, districts and major towns to earn Rs 150 to 400 per day. In construction work assistant construction workers, work for 8 hours work daily gets Rs 150-200 and mason Rs 400 but there are cases narrated by them being harassed by contractors, employers of not getting their due wages.
4. **Migration:** Mostly the male youth between age 16-45 years migrate alone outside to Patna, Jharkhand, Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Surat, Punjab etc as wage labour for 4-10 months at a stretch. In a month they get 20-25 days of work and are paid between Rs 250 to 350 per day earning between Rs 6000 to Rs 8000 in agriculture field, real estate construction sites, plastic, fabric, thread, metal mills, factories, canteens, cycle auto-rickshaws etc. The migrants send between Rs 3000 to 6000 home every month.
5. **Others – Basketry, leaf plates, Bidi making:** Few sharecropper women shared about working from home on making Bidi, leaf plates, baskets in their free time. They earn Rs 20 for making 1000 bedis. A Muzaffarpur based trader Titullal comes once in 1-2 month and collects the finished bidi's and makes the payment.



Case study of a landless farmer from Tulsibaran village, Banka

Gulo Das age 50 years has a family of 6 members. He shared he has been engaged with sharecropping since last five years but he realized last year is no more productive for a landless like him since it requires investment but does not guarantee returns. Hence now he is working in a brick-kiln between June to October. In those months he gets 20 days of work earning average (Rs 200 x 20 days) Rs 4000 per month. Between November to May Gulo Das goes to Katoria market 2 kms away as daily wage labour to assist construction work, loading and unloading etc. During these days he gets 25 days of work earning Rs 5000 per month.

Table 8-1: Gulo Das's monthly expense

Sl	Items	Cost
1	Rice: Rs 23 x 1.5 kg daily x 30 days	Rs 1050
2	Wheat dough: Rs 22 x 1 kg x 30 days	Rs 660
3	Pulse: Rs 100 x 1.5 kg x 30 days	Rs 150
4	Edible oil: Rs 100 x 1.5 kg x 30 days	Rs 150
5	Vegetables: Rs 25 x 1 kg x 30 days	Rs 750
6	Spices:	Rs 100
7	Other domestic expense, medical treatment etc	Rs 500
	Total:	Rs 3360

Gulo Das's average monthly income is between Rs 4000-5000 and his monthly expenditure is Rs 4000. Since there is easy availability of wage work Gulo Das does not need to borrow credit from any source unless there is any emergency.

9. Debt Analysis

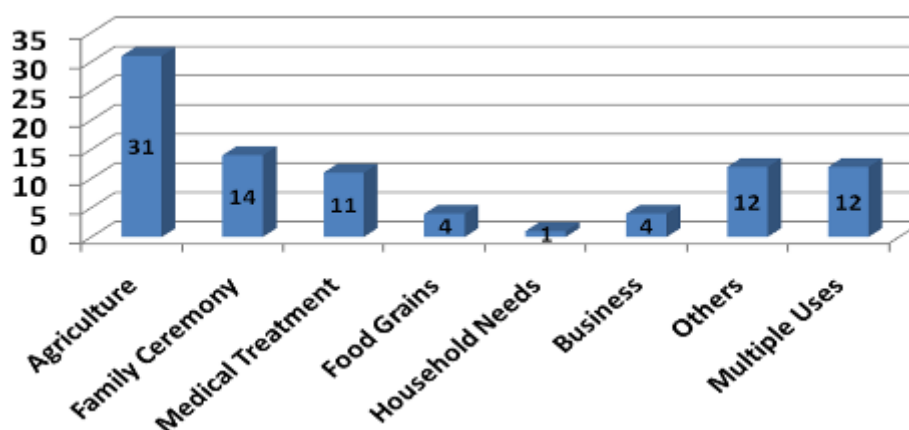
Demand and Utilisation for Credit

Finding timely credit is a major bottle neck for most of the sharecroppers.

The charts shows a maximum of 25 percent (31)

respondents borrow money for agriculture purpose followed by 11.2 percent (14) to

meet expenses related to family ceremony etc, 9.6 percent (12) each on others emergency/multiple purpose and 8.8 percent (11) borrow for medical treatment. 54 percent



(67) respondents said they have borrowed money at 5 percent and 17.7 percent (22) mentioned about borrowing between 6-10 percent interest rate respectively. Interestingly close to 30 percent (37) respondents have started repaying loan and 42 percent (52) have yet to repay.

Among the small and marginal farmers shared about 15 of them had taken KCC loan of Rs 45,000, 03 years back from Punjab National Bank, Bihta, Patna. They had to pay bribe 10-12 percent (Rs 5000) to the staff and agents to avail the loan amount which actually increases the rate of interest. More than 30 percent of the sharecroppers said agriculture is the primary reasons behind borrowing other than medical treatment, family ceremony like marriage rituals, household needs, emergency etc. They borrow money for agriculture purpose since they do not have any savings or ready cash in-hand. For five to six months across the year they need credit for agriculture which is usually thrice a year; January-February, June-July and October-November.

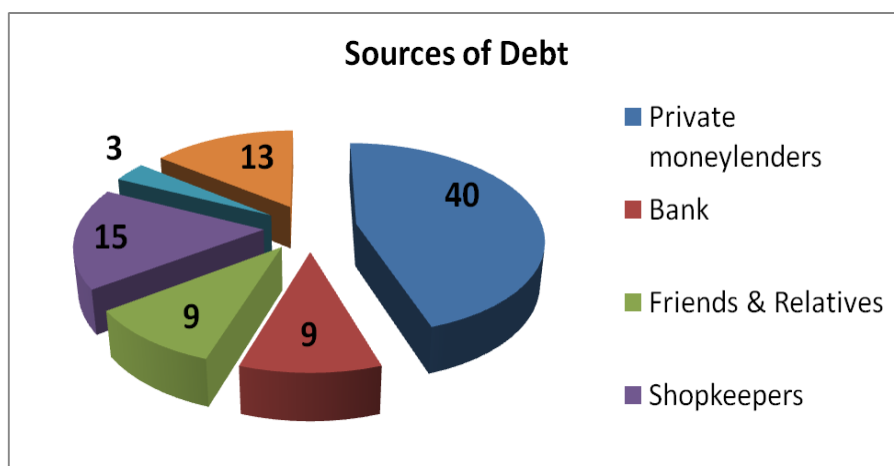
During January-February sharecroppers need credit to rent boring pump sets to irrigate their agriculture land, purchase fertilizers and support weeding process for Wheat-otato cultivation. Again during June-July the farmers need money to start ploughing process, purchase of seeds, fertilizers for Paddy cultivation which is estimated between Rs 700-900 per *Kattha*. By the year end around October-November they require credit for Paddy harvest, Wheat, Maize-Potato cultivation which is estimated Rs 1500 per *Kattha*. Between June-July, August-September and December to February they borrow money for medical treatment.

Source of Loan

1. Mini KCC through KCC through JLG (Joint Livelihood Group):

Although this loan facility is not a common source among sharecroppers however few are able to avail the facility as a group of 4 to 5 members. In a group

each stand as guarantor for other members and submitting their identity proof for group loan. They group gets a loan amount between Rs 30,000 to 50,000 at 4 percent interest rate. Mulchand and few of the sharecroppers shared their experience of borrowing previously when they had to pay a bribe of Rs 3000 to 5000 for every Rs 20,000 borrowed, hence they actually pay a higher interest rate which is between 14 to 20 per cent as bribe amount to the agents and staff.



Problems with Accessing KCC through JLG (Joint Livelihood Group)

Few of the big farmers and some marginal farmers mentioned about receiving loan through Kisan Credit Card through JLG (Joint Livelihood Group). In JLG each member is provided an individual KCC. The financing branch assesses the credit requirement, based on the crop to be cultivated, available cultivable land / activity to be undertaken and the credit absorption capacity of the individual. All members jointly execute a loan document, making each one jointly and severally liable for repayment of all loans taken by all individuals belonging to the group.

Some of the marginal farmers shared after availing loan through KCC or JLG they prefer to borrow from the money lenders since the procedures are cumbersome. They have to pay several charges to the officials which make the loan amount expensive. The money lenders charge Rs 5 to 10 per month from an individual borrower on every Rs 100 borrowed or Rs 2 on Rs 100 from a group. In some instances even the land owner provides interest free loan.

2. **DRDA loan to SHGs through Banks:** Banks provide loan to the SHG and the loan amount ranges between Rs. 5000 to 10,000 which is considered based on repayment assessment and past experience of the group usually sorted in three categories. The rate of interest is Rs 2 to Rs 3 on every Rs 100 borrowed per month. The sharecroppers borrow money from SHGs primarily for agriculture, purchase of livestock, renovation of house and medical treatment.

In few sample locations women SHG members engaged in sharecropping mentioned about receiving bank loan. In Banka district a group of sharecroppers said in 2008-09 the village SHG consisted of 12 women and it received group loan of Rs 25,000 in 2010 from SBI Bhairavganj. The members repaid Rs 15,000 within a period of 6 months and Rs 10,000 was subsidy amount waived off. In 2011 the all the SHG members instead of cash amount got 04 months old calf from SBI Bhairavganj. However after 2011 there has been no credit support from any financial institution.

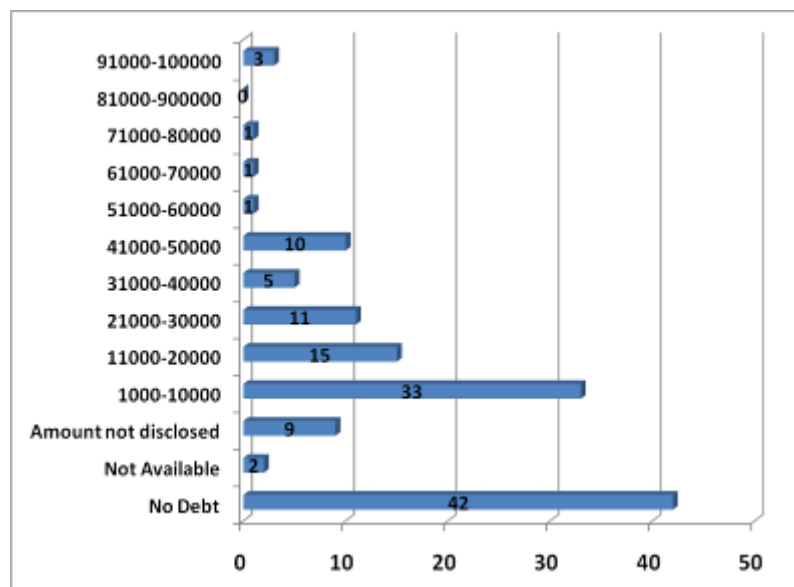
3. **Private money lenders 'Mahajan':** Majority borrow amount between Rs 5000 to Rs 10,000 from private money lenders at an interest rate of Rs 5 on Rs 100 per month every year during Paddy, Wheat and Potato cultivation. Sriram Kumar from Kejia Vishnupur of Pusa block shared that last year in the month of August he borrowed Rs 20,000 from private money lender and an additional Rs 5000 from SHG for Potato cultivation. Unfortunately his Potato crop failed and he had to repay Rs 14,000 to the *Mahajan* and Rs 700 to SHG just as interest apart from the principal amount. Sriram lamented saying although he borrowed Rs 25,000 with a hope to earn but instead had to repay total Rs 39,700 accruing a crop failure. Sriram Kumar had to work as wage labour to return the loan amount.
4. **Loan against mortgaged assets:** Mortgaging of livestock, gold and silver ornaments and land is common among several poor landless and marginal farmers. Such borrowers are subjugated to exploitation losing their valuable assets as there is no written agreement. The rate of interest is 2 to 3 percent on every Rs 100 per month i.e. 24 to 36 percent annually.

The lenders are mostly influential landowners who are available to provide easy loan amount on heavy interest rate and projecting themselves to support poor farmers. 80 percent of the landless and marginal farmers cultivate on 5 to 10 Kattha land who need to borrow money on heavy interest rate during agriculture season and among them about 30 percent mortgage their assets who mostly belong to EBC & SC community subjected to different layers of economic, social and physical exploitation. Those among them are fortunate to borrow lesser amount repay the loan amount and interest after 4-5 months from sale of agriculture produce, wages earned from labour or family members migrating outside. But most get trapped in the repayment cycle losing they assets and family savings like ornaments, livestock, land etc.

4.1 Jeweller ('Sonar'): Terms and condition while borrowing from a jeweller is in lieu of silver and gold ornaments or any valued household assets which are mortgaged in return for the loan value which is more than the principal amount borrowed. The duration of repayment is also decided on the day and time the amount is borrowed and the rate of interest is Rs 3 to 08 on every Rs 100 per month. For instance a sharecropper borrows Rs 10,000 from a jeweller and assures to repay the amount before 5 months, his interest amount after 5 months will be Rs 5000 (Rs 5 on every Rs 100 per month). He will have to mortgage either his ornaments, portion of land or any capital asset cost of which is more than Rs 15,000. After 5 months if the borrower fails to repay the borrowed principal with interest amount, the jeweller will claim his ownership right on the items mortgaged.

4.2 Mortgage of Livestock/land: The borrower mortgages his milch livestock like cow, buffalo, goat etc to borrow cash amount. In this case the lender cannot sell the animal till the borrower repays the entire amount with interest but has the right on the milk produced by the mortgaged animals and also half the cost of goat kids or calf sold till he receives the full loan amount. Beyond the agreed period if the borrower does not return the loan amount and interest the lender sells the animal to gain more than the amount he had lent. But in case of mortgage of land, the lender has the right on the full harvest and gradually extends the period of the loan repayment to finally take full possession on the land. Thus in the end the end the poor borrower loses the ownership of his land.

5. **Friends/Relatives:** Loan amount usually depends on the financial situation of friends and relatives and their paying capacity.



Debt Analysis at Household Level

A total of 66 per cent (82) respondents have borrowed money and among them 59.6 per cent (74) have borrowed between Rs 1000 to 50,000. According to the findings a maximum of 26 per cent (33) have borrowed amount between Rs 1000 to 10,000 followed 12 per cent (15) ranging between Rs 11,000 to 20,000.

Problems with Accessing Loan

Majority of big and marginal farmers across 23 sample locations mentioned they have no problems in accessing credit facilities mainly subsidised agricultural loans through banks and Kisan Credit Card since they hold land ownership documents. Cultivators from 9 villages from 23 did not have knowledge about KCC. In 11 villages the study team observed majority of big farmers from forward caste and few OBC have accessed KCC loan.

In contrast the poorer sharecroppers shared they are not able to access any government loans as they lack necessary information and secondly they do not own any requisite land title documents. They are unable to furnish any security mortgage documents to bank for KCC eligibility. Hence for the agriculture need they have to primarily depend on credit facility from money lenders or big farmers at an interest rate of Rs 3 to Rs 10 on Rs 100 per month.



Need to depend on private money lenders or big farmers for loan



Cultivators who have not been able to access bank loan and KCC shared about their key obstacles. Some also cited reasons about lack of information, long drawn bank procedure and interference of mediators and intermediaries. At few locations the sharecroppers and agriculture labourers shared the big farmers

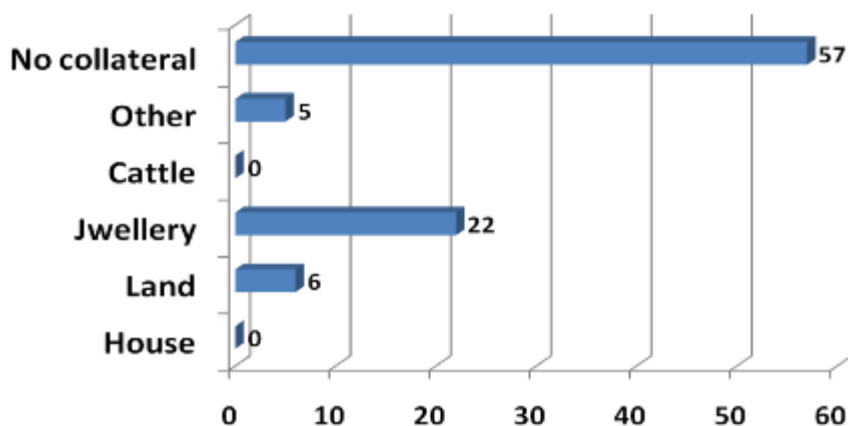
borrow subsidised credit facility from banks and then divert the borrowed amount to them at a higher interest rate thus not extending the government supported credit benefit to the sharecroppers.

Collaterals for Taking Debt

As per survey findings close to 45 percent sharecroppers said there is no collateral for taking debt. However Sharecroppers from Nawada, Banka, Samastipur, Gaya and Patna did mentioned about keeping ornaments, assets, land as collateral. in Patna district sharecroppers borrowed money from private money lenders at an interest rate of Rs 10 on Rs 100 per month mortgaging their ornaments, land, assets as a collateral to meet agriculture, marriages or medical expense ranging between Rs 5000 to Rs 20,000. When they require more amount beyond Rs 20,000 at a lesser interest rate i.e. Rs 5 on Rs 100 per month they approach their landowners such as Bharat, Madan, Pappu, Sudama, Lala Singh etc. The benefit they perceive in borrowing from landowners is there is more leeway and longer horizon on settlement. But in this process the family does not realize the plodding trap getting entangled as bonded labour in providing incontestable free wage service.

Case Studies on Nature of Oppression:

According to survey findings close to 46 percent (57) respondents shared they do not have to



pay any collateral when borrowing however they have to pay heavy interest rate. 17 per cent (22) and 4.8 per cent (6) respondents shared they have provide jewellery and land respectively as collaterals.

Case 1: Landless bonded labour: Bedami Devi wife of Dukhan Paswan is mother of eight years old daughter. When she got married her husband had one Kattha land but 03 years back for want of money they were compelled to sell his share of land for Rs 75,000. Bedami had to borrow Rs 30,000 from Jitendra Singh and has not been able to repay the amount till date. Since last one year her husband Dukhan Paswan stays fulltime at Jitendra's house and works as fulltime bonded labour taking care of his house, family, four cows etc. In return Jitendra Singh provides him free meals and liquor. Bedami now stays in the residential plot of one *kattha* owned by Dukhan's two brothers with her daughter. Since her husband is trapped at Jitendra's house not earning anything, Bedami makes cow dung cake (*Goitha*) from 6 am to late night and earns one-fourth of the total output. During the brief agriculture season she earns 02 kg of rice and Rs 50 per day.



Case 2: Radha Devi borrowed 2.5 *Bigha* land on *Manni* but failed to provide the required quantity to the landowner. She was not given land for farming next year and was asked to provide free labour whenever needed during marriage rituals, support landlord's family members, domestic work etc. She urgently required loan in the month of April-May for her daughter's marriage and around October for festivals etc. With no land and no revenue to meet her essential expenses she had to borrowed money at Rs 10 per Rs 100 per month interest rate and as a collateral she mortgaged Rs 33,000 worth of her Gold '*Mang-Tika*' close to 01 gram '*Bhari*' and Brass *Pital* utensils.

Case 3: Landless Shela Devi wife of Nil Kumar Paswan is a daily wage labourer with 2 daughters and 2 sons of 10 and 08 years old. She borrowed Rs 50,000 last year for her elder daughter's marriage from Madan Singh at an interest rate of Rs 05 for Rs 100 per month. She has not been able to repay either the interest or the principal loan amount. Her monthly interest amount is Rs 2500 and after one year she is expected return Rs 30,000 the interest amount and (Rs 30,000 + Rs 50,000) Rs 80,000 as full repayment of the loan. However after a year she failed to return anything today forced to work as bonded labour for free in Madan Singh's agriculture land. Her husband groused saying his wife stays at Manan Singh's house from early morning to late evening but he too is helpless. Shela said for her free service no record for her daily service is been maintained by Madan Singh. Shela has another daughter of 15 years to get her married soon.



Case 4: Shambhu Paswan narrated he was cultivating on *Manni* on 12 *Kattha* land for last five years. Landlord kept demanding 1000 kg of Paddy even when the production is less. Last year he failed to provide him required quantity of Paddy so this year he was not given land for sharecropping.



Case 5: Phulla Devi, wife of Kapuri Paswan mother of two sons and one daughter also borrowed Rs 50,000 three years back to purchase new motorcycle for daughter's marriage to gift her son-in-law for Rs 35,000 and Rs 15,000 to meet other marriage expenses. Phulla says she has to pay Rs 3500 per month as the interest amount only at Rs 5 per Rs 100 per month and for three years is Rs 1,26,000. These are very usurious rates. Total amount payable is (Rs 1,26,00 + Rs 70,000) is Rs 1,96,00 of which she has been able to pay Rs 96,000.

Case 6: Manorama Devi wife of Bhusan Paswan borrowed Rupees one lakh for her daughter's marriage from money lender Jitendra Tiwary locally known as '*pandit*' about a year back. She is paying the interest amount of Rs 5000 per month and till date has repaid Rs 20,000 as interest amount. Principal amount is still far away to be repaid.



Case 7: Another Shila Devi, wife of Laxman Paswan borrowed Rs 70,000 for her daughter's marriage and has been able to repay the two years of interest amount of Rs 45,000. The principal amount has still to be paid. Similarly Gita Devi wife of Lalan Paswan borrowed Rs 30,000 four years back and she too her story to narrate like more women sharecroppers like Shanti

Devi, Anita Devi, Manju Devi etc.

Case 8: The sharecroppers borrow money before Paddy season from the private money lenders at an interest rate of Rs 10 for Rs 100 per month or the landowners at Rs 5 for Rs 100 per month. The private money lenders mortgage '*bandhak*' their ornaments, livestock, piece of land etc till the sharecroppers repay the amount by selling their harvest or working as wage labour.

Last year before paddy cultivation in the month of June 2015 Parwati required credit hence borrowed Rs 1500 at an interest rate of Rs 10 on Rs 100 per month from a private money lender Kanu Modi located in *Telwa Bazar*. She has returned the interest amount of Rs 1650 in the month of May 2016 (Rs 150 per month x 11 months). However she has still to repay the principal loan amount of Rs 1500 till date. Parwati shared if she had borrowed from the landowners in the village then the rate of interest would have been Rs 5 on Rs 100 per month but in return she had to provide him free labour to adjust the loan and interest amount which she wanted to avoid.

Case 9: Bimla Devi age 45 years wife of Kamdeo Turi has a family of 6 members. She owns 2 *Kattha* and does share farming on 5 *Kattha* land. Fortunately her husband is driver and earns Rs 5000 per month. Bimla has borrowed Rs 8000 from the landowner Lalan Rai three years back at an interest rate of Rs 5 on Rs 100 per month. Bimla shares she is trapped and has been repaying the loan amount by providing both cash amount and free labour on his premise. Today she has to still pay Rs 4000 from the total loan amount.

Case 10: Anita Devi age 38, wife of Jalim Turi with a family of 06 family members. She has a small portion of land and does share farming in 02 *Kattha* land. She borrowed Rs 15,000 from the landowner Uday Rai in 2015 for paddy cultivation and daughter's marriage. Anita and her husband both are providing free labour on Uday Rai's agriculture land rear his domestic livestock, carry out all domestic work etc. Till now she has been able to repay 50 percent of the principal amount with interest rate as a bonded labour and some cash payment generated from other wage labour work elsewhere.

10. Problems faced by Sharecroppers

Summary of Problems

1. Assured irrigation is a major problem across most of the villages visited making agriculture particularly susceptible to the vagaries of monsoon. Both a shortfall and an excess of rainfall can destabilise the thin margins.
2. Even if ground water is available, the cost of pumping it proves to be very high. Electricity connections are non-existent or not assured compelling use of diesel powered generators to run pumps increasing several fold the cost of irrigation.
3. There are different forms of share cropping in vogue in the study area but one area tends to have one type of sharecropping. So the sharecropper is not able to negotiate the terms that works best for him considering his manpower availability etc.
4. Lack of quality seeds and fertilizer is another bottle neck for small sharecroppers. Small farmers buy fertiliser from open sacks which have been previously contaminated by the sellers with spurious additives.
5. The sharecropper must invest on seed, pesticide fertiliser and even on irrigation and ploughing by tractor/ power tiller if drought power is not available with him or inadequate to capitalise on the monsoon. All this requires constant cash outgo. Lack of credit support when required during agriculture season is a recurrent problem. Further as agriculture is often a gamble in monsoon, the ability to repay is uncertain. Inability to repay pushes the bread earning males and children into unpaid bonded labour despite existence of laws outlawing the practice.
6. When pushed to the brink sharecroppers must borrow to survive. But the loan is at usurious rate and additional exploitative terms. If the upfront interest demand is less then it comes coupled with bondage.
7. Increasing indebtedness leads to further borrowing or mortgaging of household assets
8. Annual land rent or even the burden to share 50 percent of the total produce is turning expensive and unprofitable
9. Even when the harvest is poor there is a constant pressure to give the committed portion of the produce with land owner.
10. It is difficult for the farmer to continuously remain vigilant against thefts of crop, attack by grazing wild animals like Nilgai and insects etc
11. Recurrent loss of crop due to unpredictable weather conditions – draught, flood, storm etc. Not providing the contracted quantity of grain even in bad weather year, leads to loss of sharecropping rights.
12. Due to insecurity of tenure and lack of papers the share croppers are unable to access any crop loss compensation from the state
13. No visible and evident support forthcoming from any quarter
14. Till now crop insurance was available through banks to the borrower farmers alone. But in 2016 with the focus on non-borrower farmers, even then sharecroppers cannot insure due to the lack of necessary land possession/ ownership documents which is a pre-condition for seeking cover under the successive variants of crop insurance that were introduced over the years.

15. In course of the study we felt the problems that plague the sharecropper are well known and have existed since long, but often the moneyed land owning class is politically better connected. The will to act to change the situation of sharecroppers is often not there or in reality more a tokenism.
16. In absence of any land related documents the sharecroppers are deprived from availing loan under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) despite being agriculturists. They are constrained to borrow credit for agriculture requirements from the private money lenders, local traders and the land owners at higher interest rate for financing their agriculture needs, at usurious interest rate of Rs 3 to Rs 10 on Rs 100 per month.
17. At some locations according to the share croppers and agriculture labourers the big farmers avail subsidised credit from banks for agricultural purposes and then on-lend the borrowed amount to them at a higher interest keeping the spread or use it for non-agricultural personal needs. This is fuelling black money economy.
18. The irony is the landowners who do not cultivate on their land borrow KCC loans through banks and spend the amount during natural calamities when government decides to waive-off the repayment of loan amount to the farmers the landowners enjoy twofold benefits; compel the sharecroppers to provide them their share of produce and also claim entire benefit from loan waiver offered to the farmers.
19. Minimum Support Price is available to a seller who can produce the land documents. The absentee landlord prefers the sharecropper's sells and provides the money. A sharecroppers is compelled to sell their produce to middle men who in league with some land owning households show the produce as theirs and sell it the government yard. Where the land owner stays in the same area or vicinity he sells his share at the market yard along with other produce and keeping for himself the price advantage.
20. The government provides several incentives and subsidies to the farmers such as seeds, diesel, fertilizers, pesticides, etc to encourage agriculture productivity. Due to lack of valid land documents the share croppers remain deprived from these benefits which are claimed by the landowners. One of the study findings revealed that the land owners corner all the benefits which are either free or subsidized but instead of passing on the benefits to the sharecroppers they sell it to the middlemen. The middlemen then approach the ignorant sharecroppers to sell them at times several times higher than the market rate.
21. **Duration of Lease Agreement and quality of soil:** In Bihar as per the Land Tenancy Act, the sharecropper has to prove he has been tilling land for 12 years to claim land ownership. After D. Bandhopadhyay's commission report no landowner is willing to give extension of lease beyond one year and nothing at all in writing. In this situation no sharecropper is willing to invest on land development. In the absence of a minimum period of say 4-6 years of lease/ tenancy tenure the sharecropper cannot invest in land development. So land quality suffers irreversible damage and both productivity and efficiency reduces. This too can affect food sufficiency situation and the effects are expected to be more pronounced in coming years.

22. **Changes in engendered household roles:** Lately this distress migration is changing the configuration of land cultivators. Women members of landless migrant families are engaged in sharecroppers with males staying away after the initial ploughing. The work remains the same but the household manpower thus reduces increasing the burden on women.

Voices of Sharecroppers on the Nature of Exploitation

Banka & Lakhisarai Districts

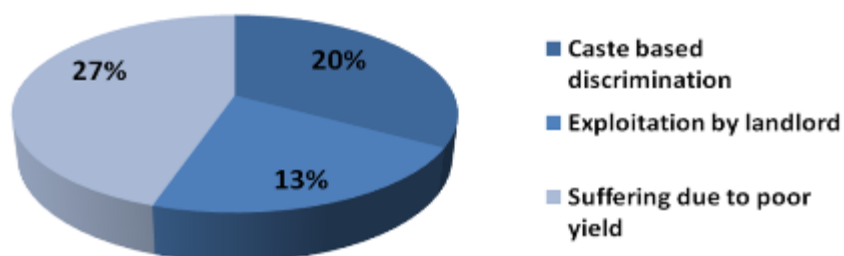
1. Lack of livelihood opportunities locally compels the poor landless and marginal farmers to depend on landowners for sharecropping, wage work and credit needs. Each year they decide not to continue with sharecropping but they get tempted in the agriculture season for the family's food security needs. Unfortunately it turns out to be expensive and uneconomical livelihood proposition. There is no support from the government therefore the landowners exploit their distress rather than being sympathetic and supportive. The landowners are reluctant to share expense on sowing, transplanting, threshing, transportation cost.
2. Return from agriculture, especially after giving the land owner's share does not even assure six months of food security for a sharecropper's family. This affects their staying capacity. They have to depend on other source of livelihood such as non-agriculture wage work and migration to repay loan taken at a heavy interest. Instead of sending their children to schools they too are engaged in agriculture and wage labour work for the family.
3. There is severe irrigation problem in the area and the farmers have to fully depend on monsoon for agriculture. The landowners do not share irrigation expense and nor do they wish to share the wage labour expense during agriculture.
4. The landowners do not issue any receipts or any written agreement '*parchi*'. There is fear that like in neighbouring Bengal the tenant's rights will be recognised in their land deeds. As a result the sharecroppers cannot avail credit from bank, subsidized Paddy/Pulse seeds or diesel fertilizer from the block office. The landowners do not want to transfer or share the benefit to the sharecroppers which they claim from the government.



5. Instead the landowners threaten them if 50 percent of the produce is not shared they will transfer the land to another sharecropper who is willing to provide better share. The sharecroppers want instead of 50 percent the landowners should ask for 40 percent of the produce deducting 10 percent towards their labour investment which is not accounted.
6. Due to inadequate and delayed credit they are not able to purchase good seeds. Per force they must borrow from private money lenders at high interest rate. The private money lenders and landowners who provide loan are exploitative. When sharecroppers are unable to repay the loan amount they forcibly take their food grains, livestock, assets and force family members to provide free physical work).
7. There is no collective union of sharecroppers to voice their concerns in any forum therefore the poor are subjected to repeated exploitation.

Cultivators and different category of farmers across all sample locations shared agriculture is not profitable and cost effective as a result farmers are exploring other livelihood opportunities. Some of the major impediments for discouraging are:

1. Severe problem or lack of irrigation facility
2. Lack of fixed market rate for the produce as a result middle men or traders tend to gain more than the producers.
3. Government provides several benefits and incentives but either these provisions are untimely or the procedures is lengthy and cumbersome. The experience is extremely discouraging. The marginal farmers shared in one of the FGD – ‘*Sarkar sab kuch deti hai par ye be-mausam ki tarah hai – etne jhanjat mei log fasna nahi chahte*’.



Exploitation by Block Staff/Officials


Poor have to face lot of difficulty due to lack of empathy by the government staff and officials in block and circle office. Ramdeo Rana son of Narayan Rana narrated about his case since last two years he has been running to Bhairavganj Circle Office in Banka district to rectify name of his grandfather. Till now he has spent Rs 4000 (Rs 3000 in court and Rs 1000 to CO) but nothing has been done.

The people are also easily sweet talked into giving bribes. Last year Anita during wheat cultivation filled application to avail 25 kg packet of subsidized wheat seeds and Rs 250 for diesel subsidy from block office. The officials took bribe of Rs 200 and assured her the benefits but she could not avail them even after a year.

Suresh Yadav, Boltu and Mahendra from Kharna village of Banka had applied for agriculture group loan of Rs 99,000 from SBI Bhairavganj. Suresh Yadav owns 3 *Bigha* land and borrows 10 *Bigha* land from Tuntun Rai for sharecropping. Mahendra Yadav owns 15 *Bigha* land and takes 15 *Bigha*, and Boltu owns 6 *Bigha* *Khatiani* and sharecrops on additional 10 *Bigha* each year. The bank sanctioned their loan amount in September 2015 but each of them had to pay a bribe of Rs 15,000 to bank agents and got only Rs 35,000. The bank also did not provide any acknowledgement indicating receipt of Rs 35,000 only instead of Rs 50,000 each. Apart from the Rs. 15,000 paid upfront and additional Rs. 15,000 to be repaid though not received, they had to go to Chanan Circle Office nine times and spend Rs 4,000 to get their land receipt which was required to issue Land Possession Certificate (LPC) for sanctioning of the loan amount by the bank.

Timely availability of good seeds is important which can provide better yield in less water which is the need of the hour. But the block office does not provide subsidized paddy, wheat, gram and masur seeds and divert most of it.

Nature of Exploitation in Patna (Bihta & Bikram)

- As availability of agriculture wage labour is getting scarce due to other better wage opportunities, the landlords find it much effortless and undemanding to exploit the vulnerable sharecroppers by demanding to provide free labour whenever required. Due to their influential they even threaten the sharecroppers by informing the Circle Office not to provide them land for residential purpose.
- 
- Ajay Kumar 35 years from Pushtampur village of Panchayat Panaithi in Bihta block of Patna district is been working as a share-cropper when he was 15 years old. Dhananjay Kumar, son of Mahavir Prasad Verma is another share-cropping from the same area. Under oral agreement both pay an annual rent of Rs 7000 per Bigha and cultivates Wheat, Paddy and Pulses. They do not have the freedom to cultivate crops of their choice. When the crop production is good they are able to share 50 percent of the total produce but when it fails due to poor monsoon it becomes extremely difficult for them. During crop failure the landowner demands cash instead of crop and they have to borrow amount from private money lenders. They cannot share their grievances to anyone fearing losing the land to cultivate next year. In order to meet the cost of farming they borrow loan at an interest rate of Rs 5 to Rs 10 on each Rs 100 per month. Both Ajay and Mahavir do not avail any government benefit since they do not have any land document. They are in favour for a law

which can help tenants to cultivate for a longer tenure and which can ensure written document to help to avail benefits and government subsidies.

- During marriages or other rituals at a Bhumihar caste persons's residence in the village they are not served meals with others and made to wait till the end. Some also mentioned about getting their own plates from home to be served food only after they provide free work till the ceremony gets over.
- When sharecropper falls short of the required quantity of produce, rent or is unable to repay the loan amount borrowed they are subjected to deplorable forms of exploitation.

Issues of Sharecroppers in Samastipur District

1. Sharecroppers are not provided any written agreement hence are not able to avail any government benefits such as credit, subsidized seeds, fertilizers, or PACS minimum support price for their produce.
2. Due to lack of agriculture related resources the sharecroppers have to make their own arrangements of funds and borrow at heavy interest rate. They expect all agriculture support such as credit, subsidized tools, equipments, fertilizers, seeds etc from block office. For credit requirement there is no benefit from government for the sharecroppers. In KCC subsidy provided to the farmers, only few among them are fortunate to avail by paying bribe of Rs 5000 for Rs 20000 loan amount paid to agents and staff which actually increases their rate of interest.
3. During crop failure there is no compensation for the physical labour or money invested by the sharecroppers. The landowners are unsympathetic and do not extend or transfer any benefits availed by them from the government for agriculture crop losses. The sharecroppers suggested there should be on the spot crop loss verification by the village level extension worker '*krishi-salahkar*' and accordingly compensation decided.
4. Cost of agriculture investment has increased four times making irrigation and fertilizers very expensive. They either get duplicate inferior quality of seeds fertilizer or pay higher rates than what government offers. The cost of 50 Kg DAP bag in the month of June 2016 is Rs 1200 but when they go to purchase in the month of October and November it is priced at Rs 1800.
5. They are either charged higher rates if they go to store their seeds in cold-storage or given inferior quality of seeds of same quantity when they go to collect.

6. A poor sharecropper farmer is often exploited for additional '*begari*' by the land owners to provide free services like cutting hay, work on owner's agriculture land and house, attend to land owners domestic needs, provide free supply of vegetables, milk, chicken etc. If in case there is any dispute between a sharecropper and a landowner, most often the resolution is passed in favour of the land owner only in a *panchayat* meetings.
- 
7. The sharecroppers fail to negotiate on the quality of land with the landowner. They usually are given small section of inferior quality land which are unproductive, infertile, non-irrigable, grassy and low lands. If the land productivity is very low yet they are expected to provide 50 percent share of the total produce with the landowner.
8. The oral agreement is only for one year hence sharecropper is not encouraged to invest much on organic manure which turns agriculture expensive. If the productivity of land increases there is possibility the landowner may himself start cultivating by engaging labour, possibility of increasing the rent next year or may also ask another sharecropper who can afford to provide better returns. Hence the only investment a sharecropper can make is his hard physical labour.
9. The sharecroppers voiced their concern there are no 'unions' or collective forum of sharecroppers to take up their issues as a result they are unable to engage their community in protesting cases of harassment, exploitation and distress.
10. The sharecroppers shared, similar to Punjab; there should be provision of easy credit for landless and small farmers to support agriculture. If written agreement title '*parcha*' is issued to the sharecroppers they will not be compelled to go to the private money lenders to borrow amount at heavy interest rate.
11. Both landowner and sharecroppers should share the cost, produce and subsidies provided by government. During crop loss failure the landowners should also share the government compensation with the sharecroppers.
12. Most of the problems of the farm sector start and end with agricultural markets in some way or the other whether it is to do with the purchase of farm inputs or sale of produce.

The Model Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC Act 2003) provided a road map for States to amend their APMC Acts in order to provide a choice of channels to farmers for sale of produce in the form of direct purchase and contract farming.

In Bihar farmers could not afford to take their produce to faraway APMC markets both in terms of time as well as cost of transport hence Bihar is the only State that abolished the APMC Act in 2006. As a result in semi-urban and rural areas private unregulated wholesale markets of a different kind have come up. They may be providing easy access to small farmers who wanted to sell directly on the roadside from 7 am to 10 am. But at the other end small and marginal farmers are now forced to sell their produce at a throw away price to these private traders and middle men. Once they sell their produce they become mute spectators when their own produce is sold at double the price in next one hour.

13. Sharecroppers are the ones who get most affected due to the impact of natural and manmade calamities and adversities. Lack of irrigation facility and expensive alternate irrigation makes them depend on monsoon and due to poor monsoon their crop productivity gets severely affected compelling them to borrow money at high interest rate or migrate for 4-6 months. To repay the amount they are forced to migrate for wage work. During such distress and lean periods government should implement 100 days wage work for the benefit of the landless and marginal farmers. Wage employment schemes like MGNRGA should be better implemented between two crop cycles when there is no agriculture work.

Issues of Sharecroppers in Nalanda District

1. Farmers sell their produce in Nawada - Bihar Sharif markets which are nearby two wholesale markets but controlled by the traders. Farmers have limitations to competitive market outside to sell the produce.
2. Even to avail seed subsidy farmers have to pay commission of Rs 240 to local agents to get Rs 600 and there is no guarantee when the subsidy amount will be credited in their bank account. .
3. If farmers want any agriculture tools and equipment as support from the government they are forced to purchase one with another tool as has been with Rota Vetar an agriculture tool used for ploughing.
4. Government instead of supporting individual farmers it should support collective sharecroppers. For instance without land receipt they cannot sell paddy in PACS at Rs 1400 quintal (Rs 14 per kg) and are forced to sell it at much lower price in the open market at Rs 420 Mann or Rs 10.5 per kg.

Consideration between Landowners and Sharecroppers

Majority said there is no written agreement and the rent arrangement is mostly oral and informal in nature The share cropper has to pay an annual rent between Rs 6000 to 9000 for one *Bigha* agriculture land wherein he does not have to share any produce.

The share croppers shared depending on their capacity to pay rent they borrow minimum five Katha (minimum 0.03 acre) to maximum 5 *Bigha* (3 acre and 4 Kattha) land offered for one year tenure.

78 per cent share croppers said land owners do not provide any resource support. From the remaining 22 per cent share croppers who get some support, 95 per cent said they get support mostly in fertilizer, 56 per cent said the land lord share cost of seeds and 35 per cent mentioned about land lord sharing availing support in irrigation.

When the land owner provides full support in irrigation, the share cropper has to share 50 percent of the total produce. The share cropper has to bear the cost of remaining resources such as seeds, fertilizer, labour, tools etc. In case of crop loss the loss is equally shared by both the parties.

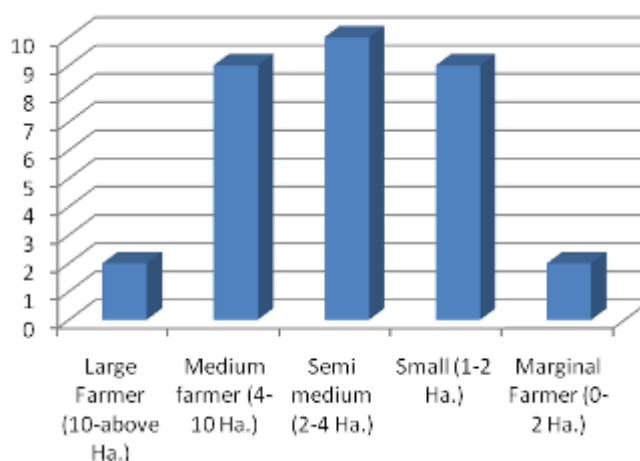
Suggestions by Share Croppers on formulation of Policy

1. The state should formulate an effective policy in favour of the share croppers and marginal farmers so that the schemes meant to benefit share croppers reach them and are effectively implemented in true spirit.
2. Under the proposed policy the state should first prepare a list of share croppers at every *panchayat* level.
3. Based on the list the State should extend all schemes and facilities farmers who cultivate either on their own land or on others land as share croppers.
4. *Gram Kutcheri* could facilitate in provision of certificate to all the share croppers. Any related disputes and disagreement to be addressed directly to the office of the district magistrate.

11. Response of Landowners

Category of landowners Interviewed

A total 32 land owners were interviewed in the survey. Among them maximum of 31 percent were in the category of semi medium landholders owning between 2-4 hectares of agriculture land, followed by 28 percent each in the category of medium landowners with 2-10 hectares and small owners with 1-2 hectares. Approximately 9 percent farmers owned above 10 hectares in the category of large farmers and another 9 percent were marginal farmers with two hectares of land.



Practice of Cultivation

75 percent of the landowners said they self-cultivate a portion of their land but also give on sharecropping. While 31 percent said they give their entire land for sharecropping and 25 cultivate all by themselves.

Cultivation through Sharecroppers

A maximum of 22 percent landowners give between 2 - 5 acres for their land on sharecropping while 15 percent of them give between 0-2 acres followed by 12 percent landowners giving their 6 to 10 acres and 9 percent between 11 to 15 acres. Only three percent landowners shared they give more than 15 acres of agriculture land for sharecropping.



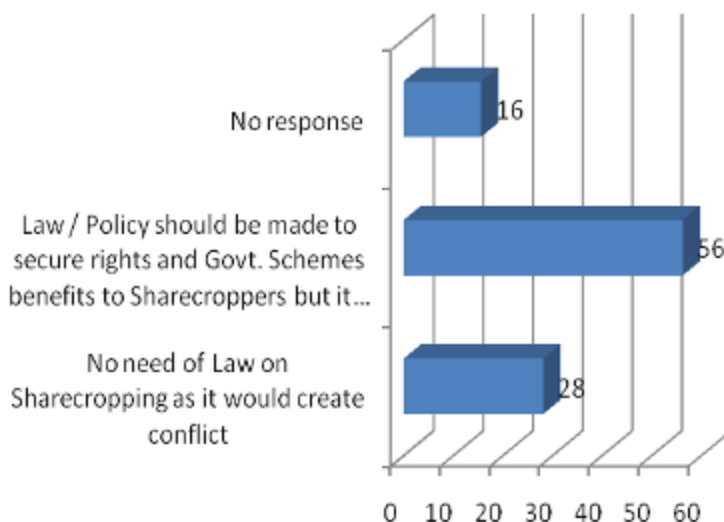
Nature of Agreement with Sharecroppers

Close to 56 percent landowners mentioned they share 50 percent of farming expenses such as fertilizers, seeds, irrigation and other supports to sharecroppers and in return the sharecroppers provide them 50 percent of the produce.

While 15 percent landowners said they do not provide any support to the sharecroppers for cultivation but give it on annual rent ranging between Rs.6000 to Rs.9000 per *Bigha*. 28 percent landowners prefer not to share anything with the sharecroppers but expect 50 percent share of the produce.

Issues related with Sharecropping System

The landowners were interviewed about the nature of issues faced by them in sharecropping process. 44 percent landowners said there are no any problems but 22 percent complained about loss in their 50 percent share from the sharecroppers due to their dependency on monsoon. About 9 percent of the landowners do not trust sharecroppers in sharing equal produce of food grains and prefer to change sharecroppers next year. Only 3 percent were empathetic to the



issues of sharecroppers and they agreed in case of crop loss sharecroppers are not able to pay the rent amount or crop share. 22 percent of the farmers preferred not to comment or provide any response.

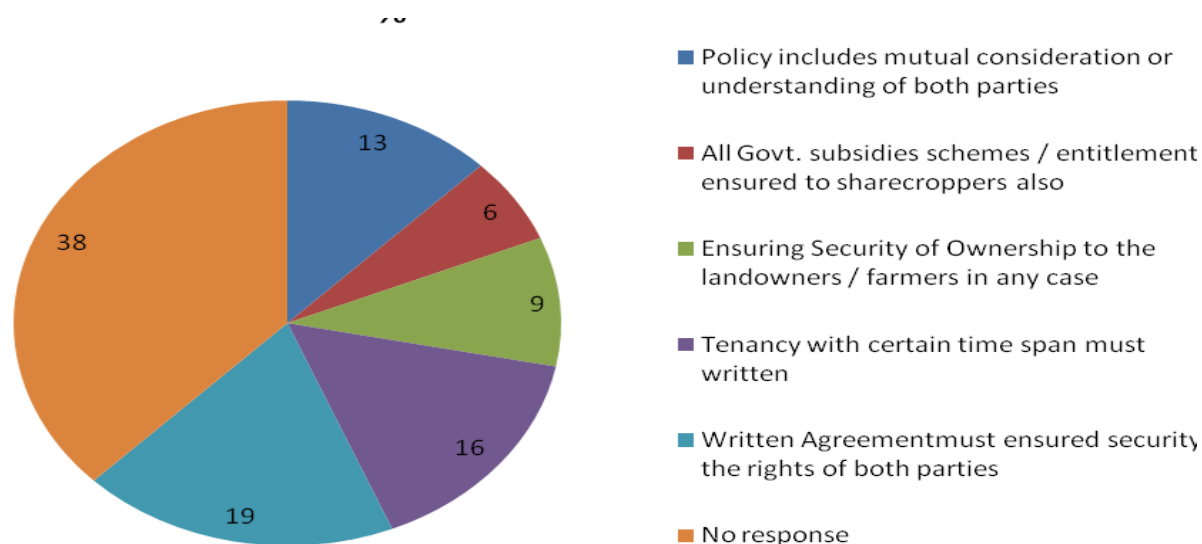
Opinions on Framing Law

Close to 56 percent of the landowners shared law and policy should be made to secure the rights and government schemes and benefits to the sharecroppers but their ownership of land must be secured while 30 percent agreed on written agreement between farmers and sharecroppers securing their land ownership. 20 percent landowners shared the policy should provide space for mutual consideration or understanding between landowners and sharecroppers while 10 percent said all kinds of Govt. subsidies schemes for irrigation and agricultural inputs should be provided to sharecroppers also. 28 percent of the landowners said there is no need of law as it will create conflict with their interest and 16 percent did not give any response.

With regard to forms of agreement in sharecropping, there was not a single landowner who is engaged in written agreement with sharecroppers. Little more than 84 percent landowners mentioned about oral agreement with sharecroppers and 12 percent did not respond.

12. Suggestions and Recommendations

Bihar is predominantly an agrarian society and in this context if one observes carefully 96 percent of the total work force comes under unorganized sector of which 55 per cent are landless while 70 per cent of them are agricultural labourers. Among the total landless agriculture labourers almost 59 per cent are engaged with share cropping or some or the other allied farming activities dependent on other's land as per prevalent local arrangements and practices.



The study captures the condition of share croppers in Bihar. The sharecroppers are extremely vulnerable and insecure and have to fully remain dependent on the mercy of landowners who can evict the sharecroppers without any prior notice since there is no written agreement and also corner all benefits/ subsidies. This study also endorses the recommendations of the chairmanship of D. Bandhopadhyay and incorporates them in appropriate places:

The Study Team's recommendations are:

1. Revamping and **enacting a new Bihar Land Tenancy Act** is a need. This Act needs to protect the share-croppers. Often the actual agriculturists in Bihar are sharecroppers of various types. The better off landed class is progressively moving away from cultivation but does not want to alienate their land. In secure tenancy/ sharecropping arrangement is compelling younger members of sharecropper families to move out to alternate avenues. If sharecroppers are not protected, and this system of tenancy at will continues. Bihar may see a severe decline in food sufficiency from agriculture when its production falls short of needs and has to import. The changes cannot be incrementally made on the old Act – it has too many flaws and is not suitable for amending.
2. Secure long term tenancy arrangement require registration of the lease deeds to protect both the share cropper and the land owner's right. In reality expense for registering a 12 year lease as pointed out by D Bandopadhyay committee, in every cycle if done it almost equals to the cost of the land after a period of time. In some intermediate point it equals cost of registering a sale deed, hence there is need to **revamp and revise down the registration charges and stamp duty of agriculture land** to make registering feasible for the tenant farmer.
3. The issue of a comprehensive land reform of land to tillers needs to be distinguished from securing the tenure of sharecroppers to enable him to access subsidised agriculture inputs, insurance etc. Unless these issues are de-coupled the resistance to giving proof of tenancy/ lease etc will remain with owners. This resistance is largely erased in urban areas where the practice of tenant agreement etc is in vogue due to need to furnish proof to employer's for house rent allowance etc. We can learn from the practice hitherto in neighbouring Jharkhand in a matter that has been a flashpoint. The descendants of non-*Khatiyani* settlers after 1932 and those of recent day settlers were issued "domicile certificate" for the limited purpose of



claiming educational rights endorsed on it. Doctors issue standard medical certificate with “not for medico-legal purposes” endorsed on it. Electricity connection is given by the Electricity Board or its recent day *avtars* that state that its issuance is not to be construed as proof of title. So limiting ambit of a document is a practice already in evidence. A lease and tenancy arrangement is governed by provisions that parties themselves incorporate in the said deed. Can the clause be allowed – that overtly states this does not prove **title and issued for limited purpose** of crop insurance or whatever is deemed relevant.

4. Legalizing Land Lease Document:

- a. The unresolved issue between the sharecroppers/tenants and the landowners has been affecting the landless sharecroppers economically and the farm productivity. During Kosi flood few years back the actual tillers did not receive any crop loss compensation from the state government since they did not have any land lease documents. Considering the interest of both sharecroppers and landowner the lease system should be legalized in Bihar. The security of landowners also needs to be assured in the lease agreement so that their land ownership will not be threatened. The sharecroppers/tenants have easy access to the land, subsidy, tools, equipments, seeds, credit, insurance, crop loss compensation, minimum support price etc.
- b. There is a need to document existing land lease for agriculture in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Leases in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are for a minimum 4-6 years. Some benefits can reportedly be availed by sharecroppers in Punjab. The aspect of assurance of title of land owners and how it is handled there also needs to be documented. This may provide invaluable learning. The publicity document prepared on this finding may help to break resistance. It could also help state evolve a system for assuring the land owners that their ownership is protected.

5. Land Rights of Owner

Free holding land ownership actually provides a bundle of rights. But in case of arable land there needs to be a distinction:

- a. **Right to self-cultivate by owner:** The landowner may be allowed to get back the ownership of the land when for his livelihood he decides to cultivate on his land either himself or with the help of family members, relatives or by engaging agricultural labour. The landowner will have the right on the ownership of his land if the children of the sharecropper decline to cultivate on the land. Following due legal procedures, the landowner can claim back the ownership on his land.
- b. However contract farming or leasing out of arable land to companies cannot be taken as “self-cultivation”. The land which landowner wants to claim back from the sharecropper to do his own farming must be the same land from which he

used to get share of the produce and that land cannot be transferred to private parties/ reverse mortgaged. To qualify as owner farming the cultivator after the resumption of land hitherto given on share cropping is a regular resident of the same or neighbouring village where the agriculture land is located.

- c. **Compel cultivation of arable Land:** In cities like Noida etc., once a person has purchased a plot for constructing home but does not do so in the period allowed to him, he can be penalised and ultimately the allotment can also be reversed after a certain period of time. There is thus need to discourage holding arable land fallow. And proof by way of purchase of seeds/ agriculture inputs/ sale in Agriculture Market Yard or furnish proof of giving on sharecropping some comparable mechanism to identified/ evolved needs to be put in place.

If a land owner alleges cultivation is unviable or beyond his means, the State can collect the declaration take the liberty of getting the land allotted to a willing sharecropper as per standardised terms.

The landowner cannot appoint another sharecropper on the land which he has taken back to do farming. If he does then the land then a willing prior sharecropper's right to cultivate will revive and be re-instated.

- d. **Proactively building systems discourage holding arable land as a dead investment awaiting accretion in value:** In Bihar people invest on land since after 10 years the market rate of land will increase. This is why despite the decline in the practice of agriculture, land continues to be valued as such land is considered as a property. Arable land especially closer to urban areas are used as security to raise more capital for urban based operations and business even before the land usage conversion has been done. Real Estate Valuers empanelled with bank look at the potential for urbanisation/ commercialisation in relation to the area and gloss over the fact that on records it remains an agriculture land. State should consider intimating the Banking Loan Regulatory Committee BLRC to require land conversion prior to valuation as commercial/ residential land or otherwise the mortgage deed of the bank will not be registered and that a copy of the valuation report must be presented when presenting the mortgage deed. This will prevent arable land being left fallow or being considered for other aspects without conversion.
- e. **Presumptive Sharecropper:** Lets first see corollary, Indian law requires the person levelling a criminal charge against other needs to establish it first and then only opposite party has to assert innocence. But in matters like death of a married woman within seven years of marriage the defendant is required to prove his innocence. When in criminal matters legal presumption could be reversed, it should not be impossible in civil matters. If any farmer cultivates on another person's land he should be presumed as a sharecropper of the latter.

Anyone who contests or challenges this assumption or status of the sharecropper the burden of rebuttal will be on him to establish his stated position or status. So this system coupled with penalising of leaving arable land fallow may re-align land rights in matters not considered before. This aligns with D Bandopadhyay committee report also.

The foregoing steps if implemented will force a realignment of property rights around arable land. This will also strengthen realisation of repeated demand of the sharecroppers consulted during the course of this study “sharecroppers should have a title receipt ‘*parcha*’ clearly indicating the name of the land-owner, total number of plots he is cultivating, total area ‘*rakba*’ and the location. One authenticated copy of this document will be with the landowner and the right to cultivate by the sharecropper on the said land will be hereditary. The land document of the sharecroppers will be legally valid to avail farm loans from any commercial, cooperative banks or financial institutions.”

6. **Lease Rent/Sharing of Produce:** This is a matter of private agreement between parties and difficult to enforce by a state. Yet the various types of sharecropping terms could benefit with documentation in a law along with some minimal standard on sharing of harvested produce. This needs to consider scenarios like where the sharecropper bears all costs of production, where land owner only bears irrigation or the landowner’s shares and so on. It also needs to enunciate situations of adverse weather induced crop loss, sharing of insurance premium and claim amount etc. This report does not undertake to specify the standards but viable minimal standards can be set.

However land is of varying quality and also access to irrigation etc also varies. Hence there is another school of suggestion based on few recent experiences where sharecroppers decide to fix rent and were not willing to haggle with landowners. The sharecropper’s right to cultivate suffered. Therefore an optimal intervention point has to be determined by the State without ousting market forces altogether. Perhaps it may good for both the tenant and the landowners to mutually decide on the rent based on land quality, tenure and local demand but within a framework of minimal assurance that reduces tenancy at will and also creates basis for claiming crop insurance etc.

7. During the process or once the sharecropper’s act is enforced there may be incidences when the landowners may forcefully evict the sharecroppers from the land. Such evictions will be illegal under the act until the concerned Revenue Officer hears both sides of the case.
8. The legal structure for settling disputes where sharecropper is a party needs to be made poor friendly. Like in Labour Court, where the employer cannot automatically claim right of representation through a lawyer, any disputes arising between the landowner and the sharecropper, the land owner should not be allowed to engage an Advocate. It needs to be outside the domain of the Circle Office. All cases and appeals by sharecropper must be

stamp duty/ court fees free. An appropriate structure needs to be developed within the Revenue Department with first appeals lying to the Collector or additional Collector.

9. Land transfer cannot be used as a tool or means to evict the sharecropper. The landowners will have the right to transfer his land to any institution or private person. In such case the right of the sharecropper to continue to cultivate on the same land will be safe guarded.
10. Sharecropper also want security of tenure - say if they do not pay the rent or shares produce with the landowner for three consecutive years or attempts to alter or destroy the original characteristics of the land quality or reduces the productivity of the land, such circumstances may be grounds for sharecropper's removal.

11. Computerise and Update Land Records:

- a) About 70 years back maximum land ownership with land titleholders were '*khatiyani*' but today most of the land is purchased ('*kharid*'). With rapid changes in ownership land title ownership is not clear to the tiller and it becomes difficult for the sharecroppers to approach the landowners. Both land and lease records and land's actual usage for cultivation or lying fallow needs to be updated periodically and be available



for public view on on-line data base etc. This will help tillers to know whom to approach with proposal to cultivate as sharecropper despite rapid changes in ownership. Further if GPS position of the plot is taken and linked to an on-line land records it may help to reduce bank fraud and also aid sharecroppers as explained in the following point.

- b) If GPS enabled photos and names of the sharecropper can be uploaded even on a separate database, it will help facilitate all legal land tenants to access small loans from Banks and financial institutions. With smart phones gaining currency even amongst the landless, this may be more feasible than actually realised. Perhaps the database can be initiated by Actionaid as well and its utility along with foregoing point a) put to good use.

- c) Additionally centre for which participatory field census '*bujharat*' may be conducted in cluster of villages in all the districts with due training of government functionaries. This would help create a database of available sharecroppers – with or without details of land cultivated. Should as suggested in foregoing point 5, the willing and proximately located sharecropper's right to cultivate can be created when owner declines.



12. A good place to start could be to constitute a core committee with Actionaid, this Study team's representatives and other likeminded institutions and individuals can work together on above recommendations and may be also on the evolution of a comprehensive policy.
13. Among the first tasks the committee takes up could include prioritising the above into long term and near term. Assuring political buy-in is also relevant.

Two Proposed Studies:

Post study findings and views expressed by participants in the state consultation workshop scope for two studies emerges related to the sharecroppers:

1. The prevalent lease system in Bihar between sharecropper and land owner is mostly oral. Earlier 50 percent input cost and productivity was shared but now in several districts it was observed fixed rent '*patta*' or '*batai*' is prevalent. It is a presumption that farm productivity reduces in un-leased land. It will be useful to study if there is any difference in productivity between leased and non-leased agriculture land.
2. Presently the process of sharecropping is reversing from labour intensive to technology driven resource investment. In this context it will be interesting to study and capture existing patterns and trends of lease arrangements in Bihar and elsewhere.

Annexure 1: Key Recommendations made by D Bandopadhyaya Committee

- Government should ratify an act for the protection of the share-croppers
- They sharecroppers should have the right to cultivate on the land
- The act should clearly define sharecropping- the definition should be simple
- There should be a legal presumption in favor of sharecroppers so that if a farmer legally cultivates on another person's land he should be presumed as a sharecropper of the latter.
- Anyone who contests or challenges the arrangement or status of the sharecropper the burden of rebuttal will be on him to establish the stated position or status.
- All sharecroppers should have a title receipt '*parcha*' clearly indicating the name of the land-owner, total number of plots he is cultivating, total area '*rakba*' and the location. One authenticated copy of this document will be with the landowner and the right to cultivate by the sharecropper on the said land will be hereditary.
- Name of all the sharecroppers need to be recorded and registered in a center for which participatory field census '*bujharat*' may be conducted in cluster of villages in all the districts.
- Government staff needs to be trained with skills to organize and facilitate these participatory public registration camps. It needs to be ensured that respective should actively participate in these events. The elected panchayat members will ensure that names of the sharecroppers should be correctly recorded.
- The law should make provision on sharing of crop harvest. If the sharecropper bears all expenses on the cost of production he should have 70 to 75 per cent of the harvest. In case the landowners shares the production cost the sharecropper could share 60 per cent of the produce while 40 per cent goes to the landowner.
- The landowner will get back the ownership of the land when for his livelihood he decides to cultivate on his land either himself or with the help of family members, relatives or by engaging agricultural Labor. The landowner will have the right on the ownership of his land if the children of the sharecropper decline to cultivate on the land. Following due legal procedures, the landowner can claim back the ownership on his land.
- The landowner cannot appoint another sharecropper on the land which he has taken back to do farming. If he does then the land will again be given to the previous sharecropper.
- The term 'private farming' should mean the landowner belongs from the same or neighboring village where the agriculture land is located. The land which landowner wants to claim back from the sharecropper to do his own farming must be the same land from which he used to get 50 percent share of the produce.
- During the process or once the sharecropper's act is enforced there may be incidences when the landowners may forcefully evict the sharecroppers from the land. Such evictions will be illegal under the act until the concerned Revenue Officer hears both sides of the case.

- The land document of the sharecroppers will be legally valid to avail farm loans from any commercial, cooperative banks or financial institutions.
- Any disputes arising between the landowner and the sharecropper cannot be entertained by an advocate or decided by Circle Office. All cases and appeals by sharecropper will be stamp duty free. The sharecropper can make his first appeal at the level of Sub Divisional Officer (SDO), District Circle and Land Revenue (DCLR). The second appeal can be made to the office of Collector or additional Collector.
- All the old provisions under the Bihar Tenancy Act should be repealed so that it does not impede with the provisions made under sharecroppers act.
- The landowners will have the right to transfer his land to any institution or private person. In such case the right of the sharecropper to continue to cultivate on the same land will be safe guarded. Land transfer cannot be used as a tool or means to evict the sharecropper.
- A sharecropper cannot be removed without following appropriate legal framework and procedures. Only if a sharecropper does not pay the rent or shares produce with the landowner for three consecutive years or attempts to alter or destroy the original characteristics of the land quality or reduces the productivity of the land, such circumstances provides grounds for sharecroppers removal.

Annexure 2: State Consultation on Securing Rights of Sharecroppers



One day state level consultation workshop was held in Patna on 28 May 2016. It was participated by several eminent speakers and sharecroppers from different districts. Some of the speakers shared about the historic aspect of Land & Tenancy Act Reform while others spoke about the present scenario in respect to sharecropper's issues. Some of the sharecroppers shared their experience while cultivating on lease land. Survey findings were also shared by one of the Actionaid partner which was conducted in 09 districts of Bihar in 23 sample villages supported by Actionaid Patna regional office. The workshop concluded with suggestions & feedback on ensuring rights of share croppers. This note summarizes the key workshop proceedings.

Dr. Pyarelal, Director of Bihar Institute of Economic Studies clarified landowners with 2.74 hectares are considered small and medium farmers and farmers with 5 or above hectares are large farmers who are located mostly in Purnia, Nawada, Samastipur, Bhojpur districts. He shared as per one of the survey findings from Bihar, in 2002 there were 19 percent tenants which has been gradually declining. The reason attributing to this decline has been unresolved issue between the tenants and the landowners which has been affecting mostly the landless sharecroppers economically and the overall farm productivity. Dr. Pyarelal pointed out during Kosi flood few years back the actual tillers did not receive any crop loss compensation from the state government since they did not have any land agreement records. The recommendations made by Dr. D. Bandhopadhyay's Committee report have not been implemented by the state government since the security of landowners also needs to be ensured. Once the land owners are assured that their land ownership will not threatened till then issues of both tenants and landowners



will be difficult to address. Bihar could learn from AP experience wherein the tenants are leased land for minimum 6 years agreement for sharecropping.

It is a presumption that farm productivity reduces in un-leased land, hence it will be useful to study if there is any difference in productivity between leased and non-leased agriculture land. The prevalent lease system in Bihar between sharecropper and land owner is mostly oral. Earlier 50 percent input cost and productivity was shared but now it mostly agreed on fixed rent and in some locations there is sharing of some percentage of produce.

Considering the interest of both sharecroppers and landowner the lease system should be legalized in Bihar. Both land record and lease records need to be updated periodically. This will help facilitate all legal land tenants to access small loans from Banks and financial institutions. It is important to remove all the adverse clauses and processes in the old land tenancy act.

Next speaker, **Satya Narayan Madan** shared the sharecropper's issue are very old in the context of agriculture productivity at one end and rights of sharecroppers and landlords at the other end. Sharecropper was born only after permanent settlement in Bihar and not during Britishers time. British recognized *Zamindari* system wherein *Zamindars*, small *Zamindars*, *Raiyats* collected land tax. Earlier maximum backward caste and dalit were engaged in sharecropping but once forward caste got involved the *Nagadi* (cash) system started.

He felt if lease is legalized it will affect corporate world. Issue of sharecroppers is complex which is different from old land tiller issue where mostly landlords were engaged. Today youth are not interested in agriculture since it has become expensive and returns are less.

The state government should remove the insecurity among the landlords and safeguard their interests. Mr Madan said some of the adverse clause in the tenancy act needs to be removed such as a sharecropper can cultivate the land for 12 years and the landlord cannot increase the rent. He said in both Land Ceiling Act, BT Act there are provisions a landlord cannot increase the rent whenever desired. Hence such lease requirements need to be reconsidered without compromising the rights of the sharecroppers.

Third speaker **Vijay Prakash**, Principal Secretary, Government of Bihar said before permanent settlement there was a provision of rent which was collected as tax in proportion to the total produce. After permanent settlement a new entity emerged – the sharecroppers and the rent was collected either as cash (*Nagad*) or produce (*Fasal*).

Mr Prakash was clear, whoever is tilling the land his interest should be secured yet he finds there are conflicts between two concepts of ownership. About 70 years back maximum land with people were '*khatiyani*' but today most of the land is purchased '*kharid*'. Hence such purchased land cannot be transferred to the tillers. The rights & interests of both parties need to be considered in leasing arrangement in such purchased land.

He felt sharecropping has reversed today since it has altered from labour intensive to investment in technology resource. In this context it will be interesting to study and capture the existing patterns and trends of lease arrangements. Actually the expense on lease for 12 years is almost equal to the cost of the land, hence the registration charges and stamp duty for agriculture purpose has to reduce or atleast be made nominal. If lease is promoted then banks can also provide loan.

Mr Prakash felt more complex and worrisome is the issue of absenteeism when agriculture land is kept unutilized. He mentioned about the book title



‘Mystery of Capital’ *Vijay Prakash, Principal Secretary, Government of Bihar putting his point across* which reinforces

the his point that more capital can be raised from the land to make it profitable. However presently the problem is in 1 of acre land there are 50 owners and the land title ownership is not clear hence it becomes difficult for the sharecroppers to approach the landowners. The land ownership record first needs to be updated in Bihar without it all effort to address the issue of sharecroppers will remain futile.

The land tenancy act 1885 is very old hence it needs to be redefined and made meaningful for today’s context. Both landowners and sharecroppers are not happy since the law is not clear. The act needs an update and has to be redrafted considering the profile of landownership and issues of sharecroppers. Let there be a debate on the new drafted act so that more diverging views can be incorporated.

Vinoy Odhar from Landesa said even today we keep mentioning Bihar is an agrarian society where 80-90 percent of people are dependent on agriculture. But in reality not more than 40 percent are dependent on agriculture for several reasons.

Small and marginal farmers mostly belong to the backward castes and a few are Dalit. Both community take and give land for sharecropping. 80 percent of the dalit take land for cash crop and for harvesting enough produce for their all year food security. Some general castes who themselves own 100 bigha land yet take additional 100 bigha land purely for commercial purpose.

There are also cases where the sharecroppers have an upper hand. They decide and fix the rent and ask the landowner to given their land – ‘dena hai to de do’ and are allegedly not willing to negotiate.

Across the world all he said laws do not favor sharecroppers. Leasing of land and sharecropping is illegal in several countries. In some countries only some category of landowners are only allowed to lease land and not all. In few others there are restrictions on land area and annual rent – both cannot be increased as one decides. In Bihar as per the act, the sharecropper has to prove he has been tilling land for 12 years to claim land ownership. After D Bandhopadhyay commission report in Bihar no landowner is willing to extend lease beyond one year. Consequently no sharecropper is willing to invest on land development in one year lease as a result in small tenure both production and efficiency reduces. Lately women members of landless migrants are engaged in sharecropping, they and other vulnerable sections suffer the most in short duration lease. The relationships between sharecropper and landowner also get affected in one year lease arrangement. In a study in Karnataka due to prevalence of short duration leases, 84 percent sharecroppers and 92 percent landowners said it is a loss for them. 40 percent of the landowners said due to the law they have stopped giving their agriculture land for lease. In Bihar land is an investment avenue like gold. People invest on land since after 10 years the rate of land will increase. Land is considered as a property but not to be used for crop production.

Land is a state subject hence even short duration leases should be accorded a legal status so the tenants have easy access to the land, subsidy, tools, equipments, seeds, credit, insurance, crop loss compensation, minimum support price etc. A minimum period of 4-6 years may be considered for lease so that the sharecropper can invest on the land for development. If there is an assurance from the state to the land owners that their ownership is protected then the lease can for longer duration.



Mr Vinoy mentioned can the issue of lease rent be left to market rather than the state interfering. Let the tenant and the landowner mutually decide based on local demand. He too felt for the betterment of Bihar a

comprehensive land policy needs to be formulated. A core committee can be constituted so that Actionaid and other likeminded institutions and individuals can work together.

Satish from CASA said the land holding patterns have changed and plot sizes have reduced which compels farmers to borrow land for sharecropping to supplement the return from their own land. State law and initiatives should focus on increasing the productivity and also assure landowners do not loose their land.

Kapileshwar Ram of Dalit Vikas Manch was worried after listening to the speakers. He expressed his concerns how is it possible to formulate a land policy based on old traditional practice that there will be no difference of opinion '*vivadrahit*'. He questioned the very premise that sharecroppers can only cultivate but can never claim ownership of the land. By stating this we are only weakening their fundamental rights and reviving the *Zamindari* system which was abolished several years back. The land act should be about improving land, land ownership and productivity. He said landlords never cultivate but in contrast Dushad, Dalit and other SC community are fully dependent on agriculture. As per the constitution, the land policy and the law should be in favour of the landless.

Brief Views of sharecroppers

1. **Bachhu Paswan from Patna:** We have to invest on everything and there is no support from landowner. We work as bonded laborers '*bandhua Mazdur*' and get one twelfth share of the total harvest.
2. **Sukhiya Devi from Bihta Patna:** I was working as sharecropper about year back but left now. We invested from home and had to share the produce as rent. Last year due to draught the produce was less, still the landowner demanded his share of produce as rent.
3. **Madhesi Thakur from Gaya:** Due to consecutive two years of draught due to lack of electricity, irrigation facility the production was very poor. There is no support from the government for landless sharecroppers.
4. **Brijnandan from Nalanda:** We want to sell our produce to cooperative but they demand land receipt ('*rasid*') which we cannot produce. We are compelled to sell our produce at a throw away price to the traders.
5. **Mangal Prasad from Gaya:** They are completely dependent on monsoon. The only river Koel has dried and there is no water below the land. Due to poor monsoon and irrigation facility they are struggling to survive.
6. **Indira Mohan from Samastipur:** Indira is both landowner and sharecropper. Sharecropping is loss making venture since the investment is more and the production is poor as compared to farming on his agriculture land.
7. **Punam Devi (SC):** Punam is farming on five Bigha land but does not get any benefit of subsidy, diesel, seeds, fertilizer etc.
8. **Arjun Rishideo (SC):** Does sharecropping on two acre land. Landowner does not share the investment but wants his share of produce. His attitude has been insensitive '*tu mar ya ji hum kya jane*'. As a citizen of India he too has dreams and aspires his children are educated, happy and their stomach is filled. The proposed land law will be a great relief.

Akhilesh, Communist Party of India said his party has making efforts in the interest of land reform in India for landless peasants, sharecroppers. Other than agriculture there are no livelihood options in Bihar. It is an irony that poor are denied fundamental rights and are forced out to migrate for agriculture work in Punjab Haryana. The state government has to seriously think about agriculture related employment work – land reform in the interest of the poor and landless peasants in the state.

Amarji from East Champaran questioned the organizers about the preparations done with the study outcome and anything has been planned is it fulfilling. He reminded the audience even Karpuri Thakur's son had assured land reform by implementing the Bandhopadya report then why till date nothing has moved. Amarji also expressed his displeasure to the communist party friends for being silent and not agitating as aggressively on the land reform issues after 1970 movement?

Concludingly Mr Rupesh summarized the workshop proceedings before delivering the vote of thanks

Key Links & Reference

<http://nhb.gov.in/> and <http://agricoop.nic.in/> (for all horti and agri production information)

<http://www.krishi.bih.nic.in/> (Department of Agriculture, Bihar)

<http://horticulture.bih.nic.in/> (Department of Horticulture, Bihar)

<http://cewacor.nic.in/> and <http://fciweb.nic.in/> (for all warehousing space related information)

<http://censusindia.gov.in/> (Census of India)

<http://ahd.bih.nic.in/> (Animal Fisheries Resources Department, Bihar)

Please refer FGD narratives from Samastipur, Banka, Nalanda & Patna districts in a separate file in the Annexure.

Annexure 4: Survey Formats

केस स्टडी खेतिहर बड़ाईदार के सन्दर्भ में

नाम : उम्र : लिंग :

पेशा : पिता / पति :

ग्राम : पंचायत :

प्रखंड : जिला :

संपर्क नंबर :

१. कब से बड़ाईदारी केपेशा में हैं क्या पूर्व की पीढ़ी भी बड़ाईदारीके कार्य कर रहे थे

२. क्या पूर्व में बड़ाईदारीइसी गाँव/खानदान से लिया करते थे?

३. बड़ाईदारीमें कितना जमीन पर खेती करते हैं? वर्तमान मेंक्या फसल उपजा रहे हैं

४. बड़ाईदारीमें मालिक के साथ किया हुआ समझौता के बारे में बताईये (विस्तार से लिखें)

समझौता के प्रकार	खेत मालिक से क्या क्या सहयोग मिलता है?	बड़ाईदारी में जमीन मालिक और बड़ाईदर के बीच “लाभ या नुकसान” का बंटवारा कैसे होता है

५. बुनियादी सुविधाओं सम्बंधित जानकारी को विस्तार से लिखें :

आवासीय भूमि	
घर (पक्का / कच्चा)	
पिने का पानी का स्रोत	
शौचालय	
बिजली	

६. बड़ाईदारीके काम के चलते किसी प्रकार की समस्या या शोषण सामना करना अगर हुआ हो तो विस्तार से लिखें.

.....

७. बड़ाईदारीके सन्दर्भ में जमीन मालिक से कोई समस्या या मतभेद होने पर शिकायत या मध्यस्तताकिन से करते हैं? अगर कभी शिकायत किया गया तो किसी प्रकार की सहायता मिली ? (विस्तार से लिखें)

.....

८. बड़ाईदारी में साल भर में कितने दिन काम मिलते हैं (लगभग)

.....

९. बड़ाईदारीके काम के आलावा और कौन सा रोजगार स्थानीय स्तर पर उपलब्ध है या और कौन सा रोजगार करते हैं ? उस रोजगार से कितनी मजदूरी मिलती है ? (विस्तार से लिखें)

.....
.....
१०. रोजगार की तलाश में क्या अन्य शहर या राज्य में भी जाना पड़ता है ? अगर हाँ तो कहाँ जाते हैं ? किस प्रकार का रोजगार मिलता है ? कितनी मजदूरी मिलती है ? पलायन करने पर घर पर अन्य सदस्यों को किस प्रकार की परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ता है?
.....
.....
.....

.....
११. बड़ाईदारी की जरूरत को पूरा करने हेतु कर्ज़ भी लेना पड़ता है क्या ?अगर हाँ तो किन किन से कर्ज़ लेते हैं?
.....
.....

१२. कर्ज़ का ब्याज कितना चुकाने पड़ता है?

१३. पहले की तुलना में बड़ाईदारी की प्रकार या समझौताओं में कोई अंतर हुआ है?
.....
.....
.....

१४. अगर हाँ तो विस्तार से बताइये?
.....
.....

१५. खेती-बड़ी से सम्बंधित सरकारी योजनाओं, जैसे - कृषि ऋण, क्रेडिट कार्ड, अनुदान बिज़, खाद, डीजल, न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य पर फसल बिक्री, फसल बिमा योजना

योजना	लाभ मिलता "है" या "नहीं"	अगर नहीं तो क्या मूल कारन या समस्या है
क्रेडिट कार्ड		
कृषि अनुदान ऋण		
बिजली		
पानी - पटवन		
फसल बिमा		
आपदा से फसल नुकसान पर मुआवजा राशी		
अनुदान बिज		
अनुदान खाद		
अनुदान डीजल		
सरकारी स्तर पर अनुदान पर कृषि यन्त्र		
न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य पर फसल बिक्री		
अन्य		

उपरोक्त तथ्यों से सम्बंधित विशेष उल्लेखनीय बातों को विस्तार से लिखें

.....
.....
कोई अन्य या उल्लेखनीय बात हो तो विस्तार से लिखें
.....
.....
.....

तिथि : कार्यकर्ता का नाम : संपर्क नंबर :

केस स्टडी खेतिहर सीमान्त किसान के सन्दर्भ में

नाम : उम्र : लिंग :

पेशा : पिता / पति :

ग्राम : पंचायत :

प्रखंड : जिला :

संपर्क नंबर :

१६. कब से खेती कर रहे हैं क्या पूर्व की पीढ़ी भी खेतीके कार्य कर रहे थे

१७. क्या पूर्व की पीढ़ी के पास जमीन ज्यादा हुआ करता था?

१८. यदि हों तो कितना जमीन था?

१९. खरीफ, रबी व अन्य मौसम के आधार पर क्या-क्या खेती करते हैं (विस्तार से लिखें) ?

२०. अपना खेती के अलावा क्या आप बड़ाईपर भी खेती करते हैं?

२१. अगर हों तो कितना जमीन पर बड़ाईदारी का खेती किया हुआ है? क्या-क्या फसल बड़ाईदारी के खेत में किया हुआ है?

२२. बुनियादी सुविधाओं सम्बंधित जानकारी को विस्तार से लिखें :

आवासीय भूमि	
घर (पक्का / कच्चा)	
पिने का पानी का स्रोत	
शौचालय	
बिजली	

२३. खेती सम्बन्धी या बड़ाईदारीके काम के चलते किसी प्रकार की समस्या या शोषणका सामना करना अगर हुआ हो तो विस्तार से लिखें.

खेती सम्बन्धी कोई समस्या या मतभेद किसी से होने पर शिकायत या मध्यस्तताकिन से करते हैं? अगर कभी शिकायत किया गया तो किसी प्रकार की सहायता मिली ? (विस्तार से लिखें)

२४. खेतीबारी में साल भर में कितने दिन काम मिलते हैं (लगभग)

२५. खेती व बड़ाईदारीके काम के आलावा और कौन सा रोजगार स्थानीय स्तर पर उपलब्ध है या और कौन सा रोजगार करते हैं ? उस रोजगार से कितनी मजदूरी मिलती है ? (विस्तार से लिखें)

२६. आप अपनी खेत को कभी बड़ाई पर दिए हैं?

२७. यदि हों तो किस किस तरह का समझौता किया था? (विस्तार में लिखें)

२८. रोजगार की तलाश में क्या अन्य शहर या राज्य में भी जाना पड़ता है ? अगर हाँ तो कहाँ जाते हैं ? किस प्रकार का रोजगार मिलता है ? कितनी मजदूरी मिलती है ? पलायन करने पर घर पर अन्य सदस्यों को किस प्रकार की परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ता है?

२९. अपने जमीन पर खेती की जरूरत को पूरा करने हेतु ऋण भी लेना पड़ता है क्या ? अगर हाँ तो किन किन से ऋण लेते हैं?

३०. ऋण का ब्याज कितना चुकाने पड़ता है?

३१. बड़ाईदारी की जरूरत को पूरा करने हेतु ऋण भी लेना पड़ता है क्या ?

३२. अगर हाँ तो किन किन से ऋण लेते हैं? कितना ब्याज देना पड़ता है?

३३. खेती-बड़ी से सम्बंधित सरकारी योजनाओं, जैसे - कृषि ऋण, क्रेडिट कार्ड, अनुदान बिज, खाद, डीजल, न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य पर फसल बिक्री, फसल बिमा योजना

योजना	लाभ मिलता "है" या "नहीं"	अगर नहीं तो क्या मूल कारण या समस्या है
क्रेडिट कार्ड		
कृषि अनुदान ऋण		
बिजली		
पानी - पटवन		
फसल बिमा		
आपदा से फसल नुकसान पर मुआवजा राशी		
अनुदान बिज		
अनुदान खाद		
अनुदान डीजल		
सरकारी स्तर पर अनुदान पर कृषि यन्त्र		
न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य पर फसल बिक्री		
अन्य		

उपरोक्त तथ्यों से सम्बंधित विशेष उल्लेखनीय बातों को विस्तार से लिखें

३४. कोई अन्य या उल्लेखनीय बात हो तो विस्तार से लिखें

तिथि : कार्यकर्ता का नाम : संपर्क नंबर :

केस स्टडी खेतिहर मजदूर के सन्दर्भ में

नाम : उम्र : लिंग :
 पेशा : पिता / पति :
 ग्राम : पंचायत :
 प्रखंड : जिला :
 संपर्क नंबर :

३५. कब से खेती-बाड़ी के पेशा में हैं क्या पूर्व की पीढ़ी भी खेतिहर मजदूरी के कार्य कर रहे थे

३६. क्या पूर्व में खेती-बाड़ी के लिए स्वयं की ज़मीन थी अगर हाँ तो कितनी ज़मीन थी और वर्तमान में उसकी
 क्या स्थिति है (विस्तार में लिखें)

३७. खेती-बाड़ी में कौन-कौन से काम करते हैं (विस्तार से लिखें)

काम के प्रकार	मजदूरी का स्वरूप (नगद / अनाज / फसल का हिस्सा / भोजन)	मजदूरी का भुगतान कब होता है

३८. बुनियादी सुविधाओं सम्बंधित जानकारी को विस्तार से लिखें :

आवासीय भूमि	
घर (पक्का / कच्चा)	
पिने का पानी का स्रोत	
शौचालय	
बिजली	

३९. कार्य-स्थल पर किसी प्रकार की समस्या या शोषण अगर हुआ हो तो विस्तार से लिखें जैसे - छुआ-छूत, जाति या लिंग आधार पर भेद-भाव, कर्ज़ चुकाने हेतु जबरन कार्य करना, काम के बदले उचित मजदूरी नहीं मिलाना या देर से मिलना या नहीं मिलना या अन्य (विस्तार से लिखें)

४०. उपरोक्त घटना-क्रम के सन्दर्भ में प्रशासन के पास या पंचायत कचहरी में शिकायत किया गया ? अगर शिकायत किया गया तो किसी प्रकार की सहायता मिली ? (विस्तार से लिखें)

४१. खेती-बाड़ी में साल भर में कितने दिन काम मिलते हैं (लगभग)

४२. खेती-बाड़ी के काम के आलावा और कौन सा रोजगार स्थानीय स्तर पर उपलब्ध है या और कौन सा रोजगार करते हैं ? उस रोजगार से कितनी मजदूरी मिलती है ? (विस्तार से लिखें)

.....
 रोजगार की तलाश में क्या अन्य शहर या राज्य में भी जाना पड़ता है ? अगर हाँ तो कहाँ जाते हैं ? किस प्रकार का रोजगार मिलता है ? कितनी मजदूरी मिलती है ? पलायन करने पर घर पर अन्य सदस्यों को किस प्रकार की परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ता है ?

.....
 आकस्मिक जरूरत को पूरा करने हेतु कर्ज़ भी लेना पड़ता है क्या ? और कर्ज़ को चुकाने के लिए क्या कोई जबरन काम करना पड़ता है ? (विस्तार से लिखें).....

४३. क्या मनरेगा का जॉब कार्ड है ? रोजगार के लिए आवेदन किये ? अगर आवेदन किये तो काम मिला ? अगर काम मिला तो मजदूरी का भुगतान हुआ ? अगर इस-से सम्बंधित समस्या हो तो विस्तार से लिखें .

.....
 कोई अन्य या विशेष घटना-क्रम हो तो विस्तार से लिखें

तिथि : कार्यकर्ता का नाम : संपर्क नंबर :

समुदाय के साथ विमर्श

गाँव : पंचायत :

प्रखंड : जिला :

१. गाँव में कुल जनसँख्या :

२. गाँव में खेती हेतु कुल ज़मीन :

३. गाँव में कुल सिंचित भूमि :

४. गाँव में कुल असिंचित कृषि भूमि :

५. गाँव में कुल वंजर भूमि :

६. सिंचाई से सम्बंधित मुख्य समस्यायें :

.....

७. सिंचाई एवं पटवन के उपलब्ध मुख्य साधन / स्रोत :

सिंचाई के साधन	हाँ	नहीं
कुआँ		
पाईन		
आहर		
तालाब		
नाला		

बोरिंग		
झरना		
नदी		
अन्य		

८. क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर मुख्य फसल / खेती :

फसल के प्रकार	फसल विवरण	प्रति बिगाह फसल की उपज
रब्बी		
खरीफ		

९. मौसम के अनुसार फसल की खेती का विवरण:

मौसम	फसल का विवरण	प्रति बिगाह फसल की उपज
चैत्र		
वैशाख		
जेठ		
अषाढ़		
सावन		
भादो		
आश्विन		
कार्तिक		
अग्रहन		
पुष		
माघ		
फागुन		

१०. खेती-बाड़ी करने वाले मुख्य समुदाय / जाति एवं परिवारों की कुल संख्या :

जाति/ समुदाय	बड़े किसान (जमीन मालिक)	सीमांत किसान	बढ़ाईदार	खेतिहर मजदूर	महिला किसान / मजदूर

यदि अन्य कोई उल्लेखनीय बात हो तो स्पष्ट रूप से लिखें :

११. गाँव में समुदाय स्तर पर पशुधन की उपलब्धता / पशुपालन (परिवारों की कुल संख्या इंगित करें) :

पशु का विवरण	सीमांत किसान	बढ़ाईदार	खेतिहर मजदूर	किसान
--------------	--------------	----------	--------------	-------

गाय				
भैंस				
बैल				
भैर				
बकरी				
सुअर				
मुर्गी				
बतख				
मछली पालन				
अन्य				

१२. स्थानीय स्तर पर खेती-बारी से सम्बन्धीत बाज़ार की उपलब्धता :

क्रय / विक्रय से सम्बंधित वस्तु	स्थानीय बाज़ार की उपलब्धता (हाँ / नहीं)	यदि हाँ तो कितनी दूरी है
बिज़		
खाद		
किट-नासक दवा		
खेती-बारी में प्रयोग करने वाले यन्त्र		
मुख्य फसल बिक्री हेतु		
साग-सब्जी बिक्री हेतु		
दूध बिक्री हेतु		
बकरी, मुर्गी, अंडाबिक्री हेतु		
मछली बिक्री हेतु		
सुअर बिक्री हेतु		
अन्य		

१३. खेती सम्बंधित ऋण की स्रोत (कृपया ✓ से चिन्हित करें):

ऋण के स्रोत	बड़े किसान (जमीन मालिक)	सीमांत किसान	बढ़ाड़दार	खेतिहर मजदूर	महिला किसान / मजदूर
सरकारी योजना ऋण व अनुदान योजना					
सरकारी बैंक					
निजी बैंक					
महाजन*					
परिवार / मित्र					
अन्य					

- महाजन से प्राप्त ऋण पर कितना सूद देना पड़ता है

१४. निजी ज़रूरतों एवं आकस्मिक खर्च हेतु ऋण की स्रोत:

समुदाय	ऋण के स्रोत	ऋण का सूद का स्वरूप
बड़े किसान (जमीन मालिक)		
सीमांत किसान		

बट्टाइदार		
खेतिहर मजदूर		
महिला किसान / मजदूर		
अन्य		

१५. सरकारी याजनाओं की जानकारी :

सरकारी योजना	जानकारी (हाँ / नहीं)	प्राप्त करनेवाले समुदाय	प्राप्त करने में बाधाएं
किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड			
खेती हेती सरकारी ऋण योजना			
वन-भूमि योजना			
खेती हेतु भूमि वितरण योजना			
बिज योजना			
खाद योजना			
कृषि-यन्त्र योजना			
डीजल योजना			
फसल क्षतिपूर्ति योजना			
न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य पर फसल विक्रय योजना			
फसल बिमा योजना			
पशुपालन (गाय / बकरी / मुर्गी / सुअर / अन्य)			
वृद्धा / विकलांग / विधवा पेंसन			
खाद्य सुरक्षा योजना			
स्वास्थ्य बिमा योजना			

१६. सरकारी याजनाओं को प्राप्त करने हेतु पहुँच (परिवारों की संख्या) :

सरकारी योजना	बड़े किसान (जमीन मालिक)	सीमांत किसान	बट्टाइदार	खेतिहर मजदूर	महिला किसान / मजदूर
किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड					
खेती हेती सरकारी ऋण योजना					
वन-भूमि योजना					
खेती हेतु भूमि वितरण योजना					
बिज योजना					
खाद योजना					
कृषि-यन्त्र योजना					
डीजल योजना					
फसल क्षतिपूर्ति योजना					
न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य पर फसल विक्रय योजना					
फसल बिमा योजना					
पशुपालन (गाय / बकरी / मुर्गी / सुअर / अन्य)					
वृद्धा / विकलांग / विधवा पेंसन					

स्वाध सुरक्षा योजना					
स्वास्थ्य विमा योजना					

१७. खेतिहर मजदूरों से सम्बंधित जानकारी :

क) पुरे साल में खेती-बरी में कितने दिन रोजगार उपलब्ध है

ख) पुरुष मजदूर का मुख्य कार्य :

ग) महिला मजदूर के मुख्या कार्य :

घ) पुरुष को कार्य के अनुरूप दैनिक मजदूरी:

ङ) महिला को कार्य के अनुरूप दैनिक मजदूरी:

च) मजदूरी किस रूप में मिलता है (नकद / अनाज / अन्य विस्तार में लिखें)

.....

छ) मजदूरी मिलने की अवधी (दैनिक / साप्ताहिक/ मासिक / अन्य विस्तार में लिखें)

.....

ज) क्या किसी स्रोत से अग्रिम ऋण आकस्मिक स्थिति में किसी के द्वारा दिया जाता है ?

.....

झ) यदि कोई मजदूर अग्रिम ऋण लेते हैं तो ऋण एवं सूद चुकाने हेतु बदले में ऋणदाता के हिसाब से काम करना पड़ता है ?

ञ) ऋण चुकाने हेतु कहीं और जाकर कार्य करना पड़ता है ?

.....

ट) खेती-बरी में जब काम नहीं होता है तोह स्थानीय स्तर पर रोजगार क्या उपलब्ध है ?

.....

ठ) खेती-बरी में काम नहीं रहने पर रोजगार के लिए अन्य शहर / राज्य में पलायन करते हैं तो विवरण दें :

कहाँ जाते हैं	कब-कब जाते हैं	कब-कब घर वापस लौटते हैं	क्या रोजगार करते हैं	कितना दैनिक / मासिक मजदूरी मिलता है	प्रति दिन कितने घंटे काम मिलता है	कार्य-स्थल पर किसी प्रकार का शोषण या समस्या

अन्य अगर कोई विशेष समस्या हो तो विस्तार से लिखें खेतिहर मजदूरों का मुख्य भोजन :

.....

१८. बड़ाइयों से सम्बंधित जानकारी :

क) खेती हेतु जमीन लेने पर जमीन मालिक के साथ किस प्रकार का समझौता होता है :

समझौता मौखिक या लिखित होता है	
कितना जमीन खेती के लिए मिलता है (कम-से-कम और ज्यादा-से-ज्यादा)	
कितने समय अवधी के लिए मिलता है	
बड़ाइ की खेत पर मालिक के तरफ से क्या सहयोग मिलता	

हैं (पानी-पटवन, खाद, बिज, अदि)	
बढ़ाईदार जमीन मालिक को बढ़ाई (जमीन) के बदले क्या देते हैं (नगद-राशी / फसल / आदि)	
फसल के नुकसान पर जमीन मालिक की तरफ से क्या सहायता मिलता है	

ख) बढ़ाईदार और जमीन मालिक के बीच लागत / लाभ का बंटवारा कैसे होता है ?

समझौता	बढ़ाईदार का हिस्सा	मालिक का हिस्सा
अगर बीज, खाद, पानी पटवन आदि मालिक की ओर से मिलता है तो		
अगर बीज, खाद, पानी पटवन आदि मालिक की ओर से नहीं मिलता है तो		
यदि फसल कोई आपदा के कारण नष्ट होता तो		
अगर बढ़ाईदारी जारी रखना है तो		

ग) बढ़ाईदारी का खेती करने की सम्बन्ध में बढ़ाईदार को विशेष क्या क्या समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है?

१९. सीमान्त किसानों से सम्बंधित जानकारी :

क) सीमान्त किसानों के बीच सामूहिक रूप से खेती करने का प्रचालन है?

ख) यदि हाँ तो सामूहिक कहती करने पर पानी पटवन बीज खाद आदि के संदर्भ में किस तरह का समझौता रहता है?

ग) यदि हाँ तो उपज एवं लाभ के बंटवारे के संदर्भ में किस तरह का समझौता रहता है?

घ) क्या सीमान्त किसान भी अपनी जमीन के अलावा बढ़ाईदारी का खेती भी करते हैं?

ङ) क्या सीमान्त किसान भी अपनी जमीन दूसरे को बढ़ाईदारी पर देते हैं?

च) अपने जमीन पर खेती करने की सम्बन्ध में सीमान्त किसानों को विशेष क्या क्या समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है?

२०. भूस्वामियों से सम्बंधित जानकारी:

क) बढ़ाईदारी की खेती से सम्बंधित कोई लिखित प्रमाण भूस्वामियों द्वारा बढ़ाईदार से लिया जाता है?

ख) अगर हाँ तो उस प्रमाण में किन किन समझौताओं का उल्लेख होता है? (विस्तार से उल्लेख करे)

ग) बढ़ाईदारी की खेती से सम्बंधित लिखित प्रमाण होने से भूस्वामियों को क्या परेशानियों का सामना कर पड़ता है?

घ) बढ़ाईदारी की खेती के सम्बन्ध में भूस्वामियों को क्या विशेष समस्याएं होता है?

ङ) बढ़ाईदारी सम्बंधित अगर कोई कानून बनता तो उसमें क्या क्या बातें उल्लेखित होना चाहिए?

२१. बाजारीकरण, बदलता मौसम आदि का प्रभाव से खेती में आ रहे परेशानियों का कृषकों पर क्या क्या असर हो रहा है?

प्रभाव की घटक	बड़े किसान (जमीन मालिक) पर	सीमांत किसान पर	बढ़ाईदार पर प्रभाव	खेतिहर मजदूर पर	महिला किसान / मजदूर पर

	प्रभाव	प्रभाव		प्रभाव	प्रभाव
खेत का उपजाऊपन					
पानी का उपलब्धता					
फसलों का उपजाऊपन					
फसलों की समय में बदलाव					
बढ़ता हुआ तापमान					
नयी नयी किसम के बीज का बढ़ता प्रयोग					
रासायनिक खाद एवं कीटनाशकों का बढ़ता हुआ प्रयोग					
छोटे होते जा रहे खेत का रकबा					
खेती का यंत्रीकरण					

कृषक-मजदूर / सीमान्त किसान / बट्टाईदार / तथा जमीन मालिक से सम्बंधित और कोई जानकारी हो तो उसे इधर अंकित कीजिये:

विमर्श संचालक की अपना मतव्य यह उल्लेख करे .

विमर्श की भागीदारों का नाम: हस्ताक्षर:

यदि संभव हो तो गाँव के सबसे बड़ा किसान, एक बट्टाईदार, एक कृषक-मजदूर तथा एक सीमान्त किसान का नाम, हस्ताक्षर, पता एवं फ़ोन नंबर का अंकित करे .

विमर्श संचालक का नाम हस्ताक्षर दिनांक

प्रपत्र : १ – बट्टाईदारी (सीमांत किसान / बट्टाईदार) प्रथा सर्वेक्षण प्रपत्र

राज्य जिला प्रखण्ड पंचायत ग्राम

1. उत्तरदाता का विवरण

1	नाम	10	परिवार के संबंध में					
2	पिता / पति का नाम	10.1	नम	उम्र	लिंग	संबंध	पेशा	शैक्षिक स्तर
3	ग्राम	10.2						
4	पोस्ट	10.3						
5	थाना	10.4						
6	जिला	10.5						
7	पिन कोड	10.6						
8	मोबाईल न0	10.7						
9	कोटी	10.8						

2. आवास / जमीन / योजना / जीविकोपार्जन से संबंधित

1	2	3	4	5
आवास	जमीन के प्रकार	कृषि योजना लाभ	सरकारी दस्तावेज	जीविकोपार्जन

3. कृषि के लिए कोई जानकारी/सहयोग

टेबल-1				टेबल-2			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
क 0	कृषि के लिए बाह्य सहयोग	हाँ	नहीं	क 0	पूर्व में बाहरी सहयोग का उपयोग किया है, यदि हाँ तो	एजेन्सी/योजना/अन्य का नाम	अभियुक्ति
1	न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य की जानकारी है ?			1	सरकारी कय एजेन्सी		
2	सब्सीडी की जानकारी है ?			2	सरकारी योजना के तहत ऋण सुविधा		
3	सरकारी कय एजेसियों के प्रति जागरूकता है ?			3	प्रसार		
4	योजना जैसे-ऋण, किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड के बारे में जानते हैं ?			4	सरकार द्वारा वित्तीय सहायता यदि मिला है		
5	कृषि प्रसार सेवा का लाभ लिया है ?			बीमा कम्पनी : नीजी-1, सार्वजनिक/सरकारी -2 क्या दावा किया गया ? हाँ-1, नहीं -2			
6	प्राकृतिक आपदा में फसल की क्षतिपूर्ति जानकारी है ?						
7	कृषि योजना से संबंधित जानकारी है ?						

4. फसल बीमा कराया है, यदि हाँ तो

1	2	3	4	5
बीमायुक्त फसल	बीमा कम्पनी	बीमा एजेन्सी का नाम	क्या बीमा राशि प्राप्त किया?	(यदि हाँ तो) राशि

4 के लिए कोड बीमायुक्त फसल : चावल-1, गेहूँ-2, मकई-3, बाजरा-4, ज्वार-5, दलहन-6, आलु-7, मुँगफली-8, ईख (गन्ना)-9, सुर्यमुखी-10, सरसों-11 प्याज-12, तम्बाकू-13, सब्जी-14, अन्य (विवरण दें)-15

5. गृहस्थी के ऋण का आकलन .

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ऋण की राशि	ऋण का स्रोत	ऋण के बदले गिरवी रखी गई वस्तु	दी गयी वस्तु का मूल्य	किस प्रयोजन से ऋण लिया गया	ब्याज का दर	क्या ऋण भुगतान किया गया	(यदि हाँ तो) कितनी राशि ?

5 के लिए कोड
(1) ऋण का स्रोत: नीजी महाजन-1, बैंक-2, दोस्त/रिश्तेदार-3, दुकानदार/महाजन-4, अन्य(विवरण दें)-5 गिरवी : घर-1, जमीन-2, सोना/ जेवर-3, पशु-4, अन्य(विवरण दें)-5(2) ऋण का प्रयोजन: खेती-1, पारिवारिक अनुष्ठान(विवाह/मृत्यु आदि)-2, चिकित्सा-3, अनाज-4, घरेलू कामकाज का सामान-5, व्यवसाय हेतु पूँजी-6, अन्य(विवरण दें)-7 क्या ब्याज की राशि (3) भुगतान की गयी हाँ-1, नहीं -2

६.१ कूल जमीन बासगीत जमीन को छोड़कर = स्वामित्व (स्वयं)+पट्टे पर ली गई+पट्टे पर दी गई+बंधक ली गई जमीन+बंधक रखी गई जमीन+कब्जे की जमीन+अन्य (विवरण दें)

6.कूल जमीन बासगीत जमीन को छोड़कर						6.1.पट्टे की जमीन			
1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4
स्वामित्व का प्रकार	जमीन का क्षेत्रफल (एकड़ में)	जमीन उपयोग करने का प्रकार	सिंचाई सुविधा I	सिंचाई के साधन	जमीन का मूल्य (लगभग)	जमीन का क्षेत्रफल (एकड़ में)	पट्टे का प्रकार	किराए का प्रकार	किराया I
कोड 6 के लिए (1) स्वामित्व का प्रकार— स्वयं का -1, पट्टे पर -2, पट्टे से बाहर-3, बंधक में -4, बंधक से बाहर- 5, कब्जे का जमीन-6 अन्य(विवरण दें)7 जमीन उपयोग करने की विधि: मौसमी खेती -1, बाग-बगीचा -2, चरनोई -3, विल्कुल नहीं - 4, अन्य(विवरण दें)-5 (2) सिंचाई सुविधा : सिंचित -1, असिंचित- 2, बंजर -3, अन्य(विवरण दें)-4 (3) सिंचाई का साधन : नहर -1, टैंक - 2, नलकुप - 3, कुँआ -4, पारंपरिक साधन -5, अन्य सम्मिलित साधन (पहले वर्णित करना) -6, अन्य(विवरण दें)-7(4) पट्टे का प्रकार :बटाई-1, पूर्व निर्धारित किराया -2, अन्य (विवरण दें)-3 (5) किराए का प्रकार : नगद-1,नगद एवं वस्तु मिश्रित-2 अन्य (विवरण दें)-3अगर किराया किसी वस्तु आधारित है तो उसका स्थानीय मूल्य की जानकारी दें।									

6.2. खेती का तरीका एवं उपज

1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
अनाज कोड	क्षेत्रफल (एकड़ में)	जमीन पर स्वामित्व का प्रकार	सिंचाई के साधन	सिंचाई के साधन पर स्वामित्व	उत्पादन (क्वींटल में)	खपत घर में (क्वींटलमें)	कितना बिक्रय हुआ (क्वींटल में)	भविष्य में विक्रय के लिए भंडारण (क्विंटल में)	मूल्य अपेक्षित मूल्य (क्विंटल में)	खेती करने में कुल खर्च	बिक्रय करने स्थल

7-8 परिवार में खाद्य सेवन हेतु खर्च एवं खेती से होने वाले आय के साधन

7. परिवार में खाद्य सेवन हेतु खर्च						8.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3
क्रमांक	सेवन एक सप्ताह में	कितना खपत (कि०ग्रा० / लीटर)	खपत की आवृत्ति	प्राप्ति का स्रोत	मूल्य प्रति नग / कि०ग्रा०	क्रमांक	आय का साधन (पेषा)	
1	चावल							
2	गेहूं							
3	दलहन							
4	फल							
5	सब्जीयों							
6	आलु							

7	प्याज							
8	चीनी							
9	दुग्ध एवं दुग्ध							
10	खाद्य तेल							
11	मांस, मछली अण्डे							
12	अन्य (विवरण दें)							

9. मुख्य व्यय के कारक

1	2	3	1	2	3
क्रमांक	कारक	कुल व्यय	क्रमांक	कारक	कुल व्यय
1	अनाज घर में (पिछले महीने)		8	पशुपालन	
2	अनाज खरीद बाहर से (पिछले महीने)		9	मद्य, तम्बाकु ईत्यादि (पिछले महीने)	
3	स्वास्थ्य		10	मोबाइल (पिछले महीने)	
4	सामाजिक कारण (विवाह, मृत्यु ईत्यादि)		1	यातायात (पिछले महीने)	
5	शिक्षा (पिछले महीने)		12	ब्याज भुगतान (पिछले महीने)	
6	कृषि/खेती		13	टेलीविजन/डिस/केबल (पिछले महीने)	
7	बिजली बिल (पिछले महीने)		14	प्रसाधन(साबुन, पैम्पु,तेल ईत्यादि (पिछले महीने)	

10. खेती में प्रयोग होने वाले तकनीकी संसाधन

क्रमांक	मशीन	हाँ —1	नहीं—2	स्वयं—1, किराये पर—2	अन्य(विवरण दें)—3	कोड
1	ट्रेक्टर/ हस्त चलित ट्रेक्टर					बीज: खरीदी हुई उच्च उत्पाद—1, स्वउत्पादित/पुनः उपयोग, दुसरो से उधार लिया हुआ (विवरण दें) —2, पारंपरिक —3, अज्ञात प्रकार—4, मिश्रित विभिन्न पारंपरिक —5, अन्य(विवरण दें) —6 खाद : जैविक—1, रासायनिक—2, जैविक रासायनिक मिश्रित—3, खाद के बिना—4, अन्य(विवरण दें) —5
2	जोत करने वाला ट्रेक्टर					
3	बीज रोपण यंत्र					
4	बीज डील					
5	पौधा रोपण यंत्र					
6	छिड़काव					
7	ड्रिप सिंचाई यंत्र					
8	छिड़काव करने का यंत्र					
9	हारवेस्टर					

	(संयुक्त)						
10	बीज का प्रकार						
11	रासायनिक / जैविक खाद						

11. पलायन की स्थिति

कार्य विवरण	मजदूरी कितना	मजदूरी वितरण के तरीका				काम के घंटे	कार्यस्थल पर सुविधा	सामाजिक सुरक्षा	खादय सुरक्षा	स्वास्थ्य लाभ	बीमा
		प्रतिदिन	सप्ताहिक	15 दिन में	मासिक						

12. आपकी दैनिक भोजन में मुख्य रूप से क्या क्या शामिल है?

.....

भोजन की इन वस्तुओं को आप घर में कितनी मात्र में सुरक्षित रखते हैं? (वस्तुओं को किलो की हिसाब से उल्लेख करें)

.....

आपको समाजीक सुरक्षा का क्या क्या लाभ मिलता है?

(वृद्धा पेंशन / विधवा पेंशन / विकलांग पेंशन / लाल कार्ड / पीला कार्ड / आम आदमी बिमा योजना / स्वास्थ्य बिमा योजना / मनारेगा जॉब कार्ड)

.....

.....

क्या किसी स्रोत से अग्रिम ऋण आकस्मिक स्थिति में किसी के द्वारा दिया जाता है ?

.....

13. ऋण चुकाने हेतु कहीं और जाकर कार्य करना पड़ता है ?

.....

14. खेती बारी में जब कम नहीं होता तब स्थानीय स्तर पर क्या रोजगार उपलब्ध होता है? रोजगार उपलब्ध नहीं रहने पर क्या पलायन भी करते हैं?

.....

15. अगर पलायन करते हैं तो निम्न बातों का उल्लेख करें.

कहाँ जाते हैं	कब कब- हैं जाते	कबकब- घर वापस	क्या रोजगार करते हैं	कितना दैनिक / मजदूरी मासिक हैं मिलता	प्रति दिन कितने घंटे काम मिलता है	कार्य किसी पर स्थल- या शोषण का प्रकार समस्या
---------------	-----------------	---------------	----------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--

		हैं लौटते				
--	--	-----------	--	--	--	--

16. बट्टाईदार

बट्टाईदार												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
क्रमांक	जोत की जमीन	स्वयं का खेत	बट्टाई का खेत	सरकारी योजना का लाभ	सरकारी नौकरी	सरकारी ऋण	सिंचाई के साधन	उत्पादित अनाज	उत्पादन का मूल्य	जमीन मालिक को दिया हुआ लाभ	समझौता का प्रकार	जमीन मालिक से सहयोग

17. आप कितने समय से बट्टाई पर खेती करते हैं?

.....

18. पूर्व में भी इसी किसान से ही बट्टाई पर खेत लिए थे? (हाँ / नहीं)

.....

19. आपकी पूर्वज लोग भी बट्टाई पर खेत करते थे? (हाँ / नहीं).....

20. यदि हाँ तो किसके खेत लिया करते थे?

.....

21. यहाँ बट्टाई का खेत लेने पर मालिक के साथ क्या समझौता होता है?

.....

22. बट्टाई के एवज में मालिक को क्या क्या देना होता है?

.....

बट्टाई के खेती करने में मालिक से क्या क्या सहयोग मिलता है?

.....

23. पूर्व के तुलना में बट्टाई के खेती के समझौता में क्या क्या बदलाव आया है?

.....

24. आपको बट्टाई के खेती के सम्बन्ध में विशेष कोई परेशानी होता है तो उल्लेख करें.

25. सीमान्त किसान

सीमान्त किसान							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
क्रमांक	जोत की जमीन	खेती के प्रकार	कुल आय	पारिवारिक खर्च	खेती के अलावे कोई काम	सरकारी ऋण	...

26. आप अपने जमीन के अलावा बट्टाई पर भी खेती करते हैं? (हाँ / नहीं)

27. यदि हाँ तो कितने जमीन बट्टाई पर लिए हुए हैं?

28. आप कितने समय से बट्टाई पर खेती करते हैं?

29. पूर्व में भी इसी किसान से ही बट्टाई पर खेत लिए थे? (हाँ / नहीं)

30. आपकी पूर्वज लोग भी बट्टाई पर खेत करते थे? (हाँ / नहीं)

31. यदि हाँ तो किसके खेत लिया करते थे?

32. बट्टाई का खेत में क्या क्या फसल उपजाए हुए हैं?

33. यहाँ बट्टाई का खेत लेने पर मालिक के साथ क्या समझौता होता है?

बट्टाई के एवज में मालिक को क्या क्या देना होता है?

34. बट्टाई के खेती करने में मालिक से क्या क्या सहयोग मिलता है?

पूर्व के तुलना में बट्टाई के खेती के समझौता में क्या क्या बदलाव आया है?

35. आपको बट्टाई के खेती के सम्बन्ध में विशेष कोई परेशानी होता है तो उल्लेख करें.

36. बट्टाईदारी पर कानून बनाने पर आपका क्या राय है?

बट्टाईदारी पर अगर कानून बनता तो उस कानून में आपकी मतानुसार क्या क्या बातें आना चाहिए?

दिनांक सर्वेक्षणकर्ता का नामहस्ताक्षर.....

Annexure 5: Status of Sharecropping in Samastipur District

FGD with Sharecroppers

Ten sharecroppers from five villages of Kalyanpur and Pusa blocks of Samastipur district participated in Focus Group Discussion. Names of the villages are Ladaura of Kalyanpur block, Thahra Gopalpur, Kejia Vishnupur, Chakle Waini and Patepur Gopinath of Pusa block.



Among the ten sharecroppers who participated, two are landless, two are marginal farmers owning agriculture land between 1 & 2.5 Bigha, four are small farmers owing between 1 to 5 *Kattha* and one owning 14 *Kattha* land. Profiles of the sharecroppers are as follows:

A. Ladaura village of Kalyanpur block

1. Mulchand inherited 1.5 Bigha land from his father and purchased additional 1 Bigha land. Apart from farming on his 2.5 Bigha land he borrows 10 *Kattha* land for sharecropping '*batai*'.
2. Sushil Kumar Singh son of Ram Chandra Singh owns 1 Bigha and does share cropping on 1.5 Bigha land.

B. Thahra Gopalpur village of Pusa block

1. Pagaldas son of Mangaldas owns 2 *Kattha* land and in addition borrows 10 *Kattha* land on annual rent '*Theka*' and 05 *Kattha* for sharecropping.
2. Vibha Devi owns 2.5 *Kattha* land and borrows 15 *Kattha* for sharecropping
3. Sita Devi owns 1 Bigha and borrows 10 *Kattha* on *Batai*.

C. Kejia Vishnupur of Pusa block

1. Sriram Kumar son of Joginder Paswan is landless farmer. He borrows 20 *Kattha* land on '*Theka*' and 10 *Kattha* for sharecropping.
2. Suresh Paswan son of Ramashish Paswan owns 14 *Kattha* and borrows 4 *Kattha* (*Bharna*) on mortgage.

D. Chakle Waini village of Pusa block

1. Rajesh Ram son of Aghnu Ram is landless and borrows 12 *Kattha* for sharecropping
2. Bablu Ram son of Ramchandra Ram owns 1 *Kattha* and borrows 10 *Kattha* for sharecropping.

E. Patepur Gopinath village of Pusa block

1. Minti Devi owns 05 *Kattha* land and borrows 2.5 *Kattha* for sharecropping
2. Shiv Kumari is landless and borrows 20 Bigha (15 *Kattha* on *Theka* and 05 *Kattha*) for sharecropping.

Land measurement in Samastipur

20 *Kattha* = 1 *Bigha*

Credit Needs

The sharecroppers said agriculture is the primary reasons behind borrowing loan other than medical treatment, marriage & rituals, emergency etc. However they said more than 70 percent sharecroppers and marginal farmers borrow loan for agriculture purpose since they do not have any savings or ready cash in-hand when required. For five to six months across the year they require credit for agriculture purpose usually thrice a year; January-February, June-July and October-November.

During January-February sharecroppers need credit to rent boring pump sets to irrigate their agriculture land, purchase fertilizers and support weeding process for wheat & potato cultivation. Again during June-July the farmers need money to start plowing process, purchase of seeds, fertilizers for paddy cultivation which is estimated between Rs 700-900 per *Kattha*. By the year end around October-November farmers need credit for paddy harvest, wheat, maize & potato cultivation which is estimated to be around Rs 1500 per *Kattha*.

Between June-July, August-September and December to February they borrow money for medical treatment.

Source of loan

6. **Mini KCC through group loan:** Although this loan facility is not a regular source among sharecroppers however few mentioned availing it mostly as a group loan for 4 to 5 members. In a group each member presents as a guarantor for other members by submitting his identity proof for the group loan. They group gets a loan amount ranging between Rs 30,000 to 50,000 at 4% interest rate. Mulchand and few of the sharecroppers shared their experience of borrowing loan previously when they had to pay a bribe of Rs 3000 to 5000 for every Rs 20,000 borrowed. Hence they actually pay a higher interest rate which is between 14 to 20% that includes bribe to the agents and staff.
7. **DRDA loan to SHG through Banks:** Banks provide loan to the SHG and the loan amount ranges between Rs. 5000 to 10,000 which is considered based on repayment assessment and past experience of the group usually assessed under three categories. The rate of interest is Rs 2 to Rs 3 on every Rs 100 borrowed per month. The sharecroppers borrow money from SHGs primarily for agriculture, purchase of livestock, renovation of house and medical treatment.

8. **Private money lenders ‘Mahajan’:** Majority borrow amount between Rs 5000 to Rs 10,000 from private money lenders at an interest rate of Rs 5 on Rs 100 per month every year during paddy, wheat and potato cultivation. Sriram Kumar from Kejia Vishnupur of Pusa block shared last year in the month of August he borrowed loan of Rs 20,000 from private money lender in and additional Rs 5000 from SHG loan for potato cultivation. Unfortunately his potato crop failed and he had to repay Rs 14,000 to the *Mahajan* and Rs 700 to SHG just as interest rate with the principal amount. Sriram lamented saying although he borrowed Rs 25,000 with a hope to earn but instead had to repay total Rs 39,700 accruing a crop failure. Sriram Kumar had to work as wage labour additionally to return the loan amount.
9. **Loan by Mortgaging Assets:** Mortgage of livestock, gold and silver ornaments, land as a security is common phenomenon among several poor landless and marginal farmers. They are subjugated to social exploitation losing their valuable assets as there is no written agreement between borrower and lender. The rate of interest is usually between Rs 2 to Rs 5 on every Rs 100 per month i.e. 24 to almost 60 percent annually. The lenders are mostly influential landowners or traders who are available to provide easy access to credit on heavy interest rate. It was shared almost 80 percent of the landless and marginal farmers cultivate on 5 to 10 *Kattha* agriculture land who need to borrow loan on heavy interest rate during agriculture peak season. Among them about 30 percent mortgage their assets who mostly belong to EBC & SC community subjected to different forms of economic, social and physical exploitation & suppression. Those among them are fortunate to borrow lesser amount repay the loan amount and interest after 4-5 months from sale of agriculture produce, wages earned from labour or family members migrating outside. But most get trapped in the repayment cycle losing their assets and family savings like ornaments, livestock, land etc.
- 9.1 **Jeweler ‘Sonar’:** Terms and condition while borrowing loan from a jeweler is in lieu of silver and gold ornaments or any valued household assets which can be mortgaged in return for the loan value which is more than the principal amount borrowed in cash. The duration of repayment is also decided on the day and time the amount is borrowed and the rate of interest is Rs 3 to Rs 8 on every Rs 100 per month. For instance a sharecropper borrows Rs 10,000 from a jeweler and assures to repay the amount before 5 months, his interest amount after 5 months will be Rs 5000 (Rs 5 on every Rs 100 per month). He will have to mortgage either his ornaments, portion of land or any capital asset valued more than Rs 15,000. After 5 months if the borrower fails to repay the borrowed principal with interest amount, the jeweler will claim his ownership right on the items mortgaged.
- 9.2 **Mortgage of livestock & land:** The borrower mortgage their milch livestock like cow, buffalo, goat etc to borrow cash amount. In this case the lender cannot sell the animal till the borrower repays the entire amount with interest but has the right on the milk produced by the mortgaged animals and also half the cost of goat kids or calf sold till he receives the full loan amount. Beyond the agreed period if the borrower does not return the loan amount and interest the lender sells the animal to gain more than the amount he had lent. But in case of mortgage of land, the lender has the right on the full harvest and gradually

extends the period of the loan repayment to finally take full possession on the land. Thus in the end the end the poor borrower loses the ownership of his land or livestock.

10. **Friends & Relatives:** Loan amount usually depends on the financial situation of friends and relatives and their paying capacity. The repayment terms is flexible and informal.

Nature of Sharecropping Practiced

1. **Annual fixed rent ‘Theka’:** A sharecropper borrows agriculture land on annual rent and does not have to share any produce with the land owner. The prevailing rent is Rs 1000 per *Kattha*. Usually for vegetable and tobacco cultivation land is borrowed on fixed annual rent however in some instances paddy is also cultivated on fixed rent.
2. **Sharecropping ‘Batai’:** The sharecropper borrows agriculture land and has to invest all the cost including seeds, irrigation, fertilizer, pesticide etc and in return has to share 50 percent of the total produce irrespective of the quantity of total produce.
3. **Mankhap:** It is similar to ‘batai’ but in this a sharecropper borrows land for one year tenure and invests on all the agriculture related cost. Instead of 50 percent of the total produce he has to share a fixed 40 kg of produce in the month of May and June. The 40 kg share can be either one crop or also combination of crops like paddy, wheat & pulse.

Impact on Sharecroppers

It was shared by the sharecroppers maximum EBC, SC and BC are engaged in sharecropping. Among them about 40 percent are small and marginal farmers in the area owning between 1 to 3 *Kattha* land but borrow additional 2 to 3 *Kattha* land for Paddy, Wheat, Potato, Cauliflower and Turmeric cultivation. Since few years there are businessmen from outside the district and 5 percent local large landowners are investing ample amount to borrow 1-3 Bigha agriculture land from 5-6 village clusters for 3 years tenure primarily for tobacco cultivation on large scale commercial purpose. They hire total 50-80 Bigha land and also pay better annual rent to the landowners. This is adversely impacting specially the landless and small farmers who find it difficult to borrow land for *Kharif* and *Rabbi* cultivation affecting their domestic food security basket.

Most often it is on the mercy of the landowner to extend rent agreement to the sharecropper beyond one year. The sharecropper can be evicted after one year if he does not provide the agreed share of produce irrespective of the quality and quantity of yield.

Investment & Productivity in Sharecropping

Investment in Paddy cultivation on 01 *Kattha* land

Sl	Details	Amount
1	Plowing & tilling of land	Rs 900
2	Cost of Paddy seeds	Rs 100
3	Wage labour	

	Spade work (wage +b'fast +lunch)	Rs 25
	Transplantation of paddy seedling	Rs 100
	Weeding (2 labour)	Rs 200
	Paddy harvest - 1/10 th of total produce or (15 kg paddy x Rs 8)	Rs 120
4	Irrigation with diesel pump (3 times x Rs 155)	Rs 465
5	Fertilizer during transplantation: (Urea 2 Kg x Rs 9) + (DAP 4 Kg x Rs 27)	Rs 126
6	Fertilizer during weeding: (Urea 3 Kg x Rs 7) + (Potash 1 Kg x Rs 18)	Rs 165
7	Organic manure (cow dung) – ½ tractor trailer	Rs 700
	Total cost	Rs 1535

Net productivity & Earning from Paddy Cultivation

Total production of Paddy from 01 *Kattha* land is 80 Kg worth Rs 1500 i.e. (80 x Rs 8 per kg) and Rs 700 from Paddy husk. However in sharecropping a landless or marginal farmer saves about Rs 1000 to 1200 on wage labour component of Rs 350-500 since the family members are engaged, organic manure is around Rs 250 and 50 percent cost on fertilizer and in some cases on irrigation by the land owner. Therefore for a sharecropper after sharing 50 percent of the produce with the land owner his net earning from 01 *Kattha* land is around 40 kg Paddy worth Rs 750 of market value.

Similarly on wheat cultivation the cost of investment for a sharecropper is between Rs 500 to Rs 700, Potato Rs 850 to Rs 1000 and for Maize is between Rs 900 to Rs 1000. They do not engage tractor for plowing and tilling and use less quantity of organic manure.

Monthly food consumption with cost by a family member of a sharecropper

Sl	Details	Total	Cost
1	Rice (250 gram per day x 30 days)	7.5 kg	Rs 150
2	Wheat dough (300 gram x 30 days)	9.0 kg	Rs 198
3	Pulse (50 gram x 30 days)	1.5 kg	Rs 180
4	Edible oil (500 grams)	0.5 kg	Rs 60
5	Green vegetables, spice etc		Rs 200
	Total:		Rs 788

Issues of Sharecroppers

14. Sharecroppers are not provided any written agreement hence are not able to avail any government benefits such as credit, subsidized seeds, fertilizers, or PACS minimum support price for their produce.
15. Due to lack of agriculture related resources the sharecroppers have to make their own arrangements by borrowing loan at heavy interest rate. They expect all agriculture support such as credit, subsidized tools, equipments, fertilizers, seeds etc from block office. For credit requirement there is no benefit from government for the sharecroppers. In KCC subsidy provided to the farmers, only few among them are fortunate to avail by paying

bribe of Rs 5000 for Rs 20000 loan amount paid to agents and staff which actually increases their rate of interest.

16. During crop failure there is no crop insurance coverage or wage compensation for the physical labour invested by the sharecroppers. The landowners are unsympathetic about their concerns and do not extend or transfer any benefits availed by them from the government. They are least affected and also enjoy twofold gain. The sharecroppers suggested there should be on the spot crop loss verification by the village level extension worker '*krishi-salahkar*' and accordingly compensation decided.
17. Cost of agriculture investment has increased four times making irrigation and fertilizers expensive. They either get duplicate inferior quality of seeds & fertilizer or pay higher rates than what government offers. The cost of 50 Kg DAP bag in the month of June 2016 is Rs 1200 but when they go to purchase in the month of October and November it is priced at Rs 1800.
18. They are either charged higher rates if they go to store their seeds in cold-storage or given inferior quality of seeds of same quantity when they go to collect.
19. In sharecropping, a poor farmer is often exploited '*begari*' by the land owners to provide free service like cutting hey, provide free physical labour in land owner's agriculture land and house, attend to land owners domestic needs, provide free supply of vegetables, milk, poultry etc. If in case there is any dispute between a sharecropper and a landowner in a *panchayat* meetings most often the resolution is in favour of the influential land owners only.
20. The sharecroppers fail to negotiate on the quality of land with the landowner. They usually are given small section of inferior quality land which is mostly unproductive, infertile, non-irrigatable, grassy and low lands. If the land productivity is very low yet they are expected to provide 50 percent share of the total produce with the landowner.
21. The oral agreement is only for one year hence sharecropper is not encouraged to invest much on organic manure which turns agriculture expensive. If the productivity of land increases there is possibility the landowner may himself start cultivating by engaging labour, possibility of increasing the rent next year or may also ask another sharecropper who can afford to provide better returns. Hence the only investment a sharecropper can make is his hard physical labour.
22. The sharecroppers voiced their concern there are no 'unions' or collective forum of sharecroppers to discuss and voice their issues as a result they are unable to engage communally to support their own or individual cases of harassment, exploitation and distress.

23. The sharecroppers shared, similar to Punjab, there should be provision of easy credit for landless and small farmers to support agriculture. If written agreement title '*parcha*' is issued to the sharecroppers by the landholders they will not be compelled to go to the private money lenders to borrow amount at heavy interest rate. Banks could be good options.
24. Both landowner and sharecroppers should share the cost, produce and subsidies provided by government. During crop loss failure the landowners should also share the government compensation with the sharecroppers.
25. Most of the problems of the farm sector start and end with agricultural markets in some way or the other whether it is to do with the purchase of farm inputs or sale of produce. The Model Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC Act 2003) provided a road map for States to amend their APMC Acts in order to provide a choice of channels to farmers for sale of produce in the form of direct purchase and contract farming.

In Bihar farmers could not afford to take their produce to faraway APMC markets both in terms of time as well as cost of transport hence Bihar is the only State that abolished the APMC Act in 2006. As a result in semi-urban and rural areas private unregulated wholesale markets of a different kind have come up. They may be providing easy access to small farmers who wanted to sell directly on the roadside from 7 am to 10 am. But at the other end small and marginal farmers are now forced to sell their produce at a throw away price to these private traders and middle men. Once they sell their produce they become mute spectators when their own produce already sold at double the price.

26. Sharecroppers are the ones who get most affected due to the impact of natural and manmade calamities and adversities. Lack of and expensive irrigation facility makes them depend on monsoon and due to poor monsoon their crop productivity gets severely effected compelling them to borrow loan at high interest rate or migrate for 4-6 months. To repay the amount they are compelled to migrate for wage work. During such distress and lean periods government should implement 100 days wage work for the benefit of the landless and marginal farmers. Wage employment schemes like MGNREGA should be better implemented between two crop cycles when there is no agriculture work.

Annexure 6: Status of Sharecropping in Banka District

FGDs were conducted with group of landless and marginal sharecroppers in Kharna & Karwamaran villages of Chanan block and Tulsibaran village from Katoria block of Banka district. Two villages were selected on account of their comparable distances from block offices; Kharna being farthest 36 kms from Chanan Block and Tulsibaran is closest 2 kms from



Katoria block. Kharna and Karwamaran villages are close to 57 kms while Tulsibaran is 32 kms from Banka district headquarter. In Kharna village discussion were held with SC (Turi) community and in Tulsibaran SC (Das) sharecroppers participated in the FGD.

Land holding Ownership

It was mentioned by the sharecroppers total land area '*rakba*' is approximately 1800 Bigha of which close to 1300 Bigha was originally owned by only one Bhumihar joint family of 3 brothers; late Bahadur Rai, late Duduhu Rai and late Chethru Rai about 50 years back. The village community alleged they had forcibly acquired land from their ancestors years back.

Today the land area is owned by 15 members of the same family genealogy. Late Sanjiv and Manish are sons and Tuntun, Jhuna, Chunchun, Bablu, Tiblu are grandsons of late Chethru Rai. Similarly Khokha Rai and 3 brothers are sons of Dudhu Rai. Remaining approximate 400 acres is owned by Yadavs (250 Bigha), Barhi (75 Bigha), Pergha (60 Bigha) and Dom (15 Bigha). Majority of the landowners 'Bhumihars' reside in Deoghar and few in Simultala and manage their agriculture activity by visiting the villages during cultivation season. It was mentioned about 200 Bigha is *Khataini* and *Gair Marjuara*.

Interacting with Chunchun Rai (Rajiv Nayan Rai) son of late Brij Kishore Rai who stays in Deoghar shared he owns close to 800 Bigha land around Kharna, Fatehpur, Goriamma, Haria Kura, Chanan, Gujhora, Gaura villages and gives his land to 50 sharecroppers. Close to about 300 *Bigha* land is barren '*prati*' uncultivable located in Jhuryiya Math also known as Ram Krishna Math, Haria Kura, Fatehpur etc.

Land measurement unit in Chanan & Katoria blocks

- 20 *Kattha* = 1 *Bigha*
- 1 Bigha 07 *Kattha* or 27 *Kattha* = 1 Acre

There are total 90 houses in Kharna village

- Schedule Caste: 10 (Turi -Dom)
- Extremely Backward caste: 20 (Rana- Barhi & Pergha)
- Backward caste: 45 (Yadav)
- General: 15 (Rai - Bhumihar)

In Kharna village discussion was held with group of sharecroppers from Turi and Yadav community. Among the 10 Turi families, 09 are small & marginal farmers owning between 02 to 05 *Kattha* agriculture land and only one Turi family is landless. Among the 09 Turi families 07 women members



are engaged in share cropping and they and their men are engaged as agriculture wage laborers on other's land. They cultivate Paddy, Grams, Pulse (*Arhar*) and Maize. The landowner shares half the market price of seed and fertilizer and the sharecropper shares half of their total paddy produce and husk.

Investment in Paddy cultivation in 01 *Kattha*

Sl	Activity	Cost
1	Plowing by tractor: Rs 10 per minute (1 <i>Kattha</i> -15 minutes x Rs 10)	Rs 150
	Cost of plowing by bullocks is Rs 400 per Bigha	
2	Seeds: 500 gram @ Rs 150 per kg	Rs 75
3	Transplantation: 02 labour x Rs 250 with food (b'fast & lunch)	Rs 500
4	Sowing of paddy seedlings: 01 labour x Rs 120 with food	Rs 120
5	First use of fertilizer:	
	DAP- 3 kg xRs 27 per Kg (Rs 81) + Urea- 2 Kg x Rs 9 per kg (Rs 9) + Potash- 1 kg x Rs 18 per kg (Rs 18)	Rs 108
	Second use of fertilizer: 1 Kg DAP – Rs 27 + 1 Kg Urea – Rs 9	Rs 36
6	Paddy weeding (Rs 300) & thrashing (Rs 120)	Rs 420
	Total	Rs 1409

Due to lack of irrigation facility in the area farmers have to depend on good monsoon. A small farmer is able to save about Rs 1000 on the wage labour component since the family members are engaged in sowing, transplantation, weeding, thrashing, storing etc. Paddy production in 01 *Kattha* is between 60 to 80 kg maximum (30 to 40 kg rice) which is worth Rs 600 to Rs 800 of market value.

Availability of work in the village

Agriculture wage work

Landless and small farmers get approximately 20-25 days of agriculture wage work during Paddy cultivation season. They get 8 to 10 days wage work during paddy sowing in the month of July & August, 04 days in the month March-April to spread organic manure in the agriculture field and 08 to 10 days in the month of October-November during harvesting of Paddy. Male labours earn between Rs 200 (with meals) to 250 and women are paid Rs 120. For spreading of manure both men and women earn Rs 100 per day.

Non-agriculture work

6. **Brick making:** The sharecroppers said they get work in local brick kilns for 08 to 10 months. They make bricks for 03-05 months between January to May and are engaged in carrying baked bricks for 3 months between August to October. To make 1000 clay bricks a labour is paid Rs 500 and for carrying and stacking 1000 bricks a labour earn Rs 200. In a day a labour makes 250 bricks to earn Rs 125 and for carrying 500 bricks earns Rs 100 per day.
7. **Transportation of sand:** Few in the village are also engaged for 2 months in September and October (*Aghan & Pus*) to transport sand from river bed in tractor trolley. One labour is paid Rs 25 to load and unload sand earning between Rs 50 to Rs 100 per day.
8. **Construction work:** Some are engaged as daily wage workers in construction work in Simultala, Chadan, Katoria, Jamua Mor, Bhairavganj etc for four months between November to February (*Magh, Fagun, Chait & Baisakh*) and earn Rs 200 per day.
9. **Migration:** About 100 male members from surrounding villages like Kharna, Karwamaran between 16 to 55 years old migrate to Kolkata as wage labour and Meson work for 2-3 months. In a month they get 20-25 days of work and are paid Rs 300 per day earning between Rs 6000 to Rs 7500. 18 years old Sonu works as a support labour with a Masson in Kolkata.

Around Kharna village there are about 60 men between 16 to 45 years like 29 years old Raju who migrates to Bangalore for almost 01 year to work in a private company canteen. They are paid Rs 6000 per month with breakfast and meals. If they work for 11 months they get 01 month leave with 50 percent salary. 28 years old Pampu shared like there are about 20 to 25 men between 25 to 45 years old who work in a plastic company in Gujarat for 01 year. They are paid monthly salary of Rs 8000 excluding food. The migrants send between Rs 5000 to 6000 home every month.

10. **Bidi making:** The sharecropper women shared women from the village like Gulabi, Anita, Dropadi Devi time permitting are engaged in Bidi making at home in their free time. They earn Rs 20 for making 1000 bedis. A Muzaffarpur based trader Titullal comes once in 1-2 month and collects the finished bidi's and makes the payment.

Share-Livestock Rearing

Similar to share farming there is practice of sharing of livestock in this area. The Turi women sharecroppers' said apart from sharecropping they also rear livestock (buffalo, goat, & poultry) owned by the livestock owner usually the same general caste landowners. At no point while rearing they can sell owner's livestock but if the animal or bird produces one calf, goat-kid or a chick they have to continue rearing the offspring with the mother till the second issue is born so that there is equal sharing of offsprings. The shareholder has to immediately inform the owner in case of death or sickness of the animal, poultry, calf, goat kids and chicks.

Case Study of a Landless SC Family

Sunita Turi age 33 years and wife of Narayan Turi is a landless family of 5 members. They do not have any land to reside and cultivation. Sunita has two daughters Muskan age 11 & Babli 10 years studying in class 07 and a son Banti aged 8 years studying in class 04 in government primary school.



Till a year back her husband Narayan was engaged as wage labour locally and attempted sharecropping on 2 *Kattha* land but agriculture turning expensive and unproductive with no irrigation facility he could not meet family's monthly expense. Finally Sunita had to borrow Rs 3000 in June 2014 at an interest rate of Rs 10 for Rs 100 per month to manage home. Till date she has been able to pay the interest rate and the principal loan amount of Rs 1000 only. She

has to pay the remaining Rs 2000 and the recurring monthly interest rate.

Fortunately her husband got work in the private company Inpochis in Electronic city Bangalore a year back. He sends Rs 5000 every month and comes home only for month in a year. Having no home Sunita stays in one of her neighbors' house since her relatives in the village had asked her to vacate. With great difficulty without her husband around she is managing her home along with her three young children. Sunita gave an account of her monthly expense of Rs 5000 that she receives every month from her husband:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Rice: (2 kg per day i.e. 60 kg per month x Rs 25) | Rs 1500 |
| • Children's tuition fees, books etc: | Rs 600 |
| • Vegetables, oil, soap, detergent, spices etc | Rs 1500 |
| • Medical treatment | Rs 1000 |
| • Miscellaneous: | Rs 400 |

She shared her inability to save any amount to repay the loan and the compound interest rate which is accumulating every month.

Case Study of a woman Sharecropper

Parwati Devi, age 50 years wife of Sukhdeo Turi has a family of 09 members. She owns 10 *Kattha* agriculture land and borrows 15 *Kattha* from Munna Rai for sharecropping. Munna Rai owns 500 acre land. Parwati provided her expenditure details for sharecropping on 15 *Kattha* land.

Expenditure on Paddy cultivation

Sl	Activity	Cost
1.	Plowing by bullock	Rs 400
2.	Paddy seeds: 8 kg x Rs 150 = Rs 1200 (Half)	Rs 600
3.	Fertilizer: (First – Rs 108 x 15 <i>Kattha</i> = Rs 1620) + (Second: Rs 36 x 15 <i>Kattha</i> = Rs 540) + (Organic manure: Rs 244) = Rs 2260 (Half the expense)	Rs 1130
	Total:	Rs 2130

Paddy productivity and earning from sharecropping

Total productivity of Paddy from 15 *Kattha* land is (900 kg x Rs 8 per Kg) Rs 7200 from which 450 kg or Rs 3600 is sharecropper's share after 50 percent of the produce is shared with the land owner. Net earning from sharecropping is (Rs 3600 – Rs 2130) Rs 1470 worth of food grain which will last for 5-6 months for a family of 9 members.



Parwati's family's daily food consumption and expense is 2 Kg rice, 1 Kg wheat flour, Rs 10 on cooking oil & spices and Rs 20 on vegetables etc. For the remaining 6 months Parwati gets 14 kg wheat, 21 Kg rice and 2.5 liters of kerosene oil for 6 months under Antodaya scheme (yellow card) instead of 12 months which she regrets.

Agriculture wage work

Other than sharecropping Parwati and her husband does farming on her 10 *Kattha* agriculture land and also agriculture wage labour work. Both she and her husband earn Rs 7360 from agriculture wage work during paddy cultivation season.

Parwati and her husband together gets 15 days of wage work during sowing season to earn Rs 4800 (Rs 200 x 15 days + Rs 120 x 15 days) together. Men are paid Rs 200 and women earns Rs 120 per day. Again during paddy harvest season during November-December and both together get 8 days of wage work together earning Rs 2560 (Rs 200 x 8 days + Rs 120 x 8 days).

Non-agriculture wage work

Brick kiln: Between April to June (*Chait, Baisakh & Jeth*) both Parwati and her husband works in a local brick kiln to make bricks. They get about 80 days of work in 03 months and paid Rs 125

to make 250 bricks. Hence in a day together the couple makes 400 bricks earning Rs 200 per day. Their total income from 80 days of engagement in brick kiln is Rs 16,000.

Between December to March (*Aghan, Pus, Magh & Fagun*) they get minimum 100 days of work for carrying & loading of bricks. Together they carry and stack 500 clay bricks and paid Rs 100 per day earning Rs 10,000 in the entire season.

Credit Need of Sharecroppers



The sharecroppers borrow loan before every Paddy season from the private money lenders at interest rate of Rs 10 for Rs 100 per month or the landowners at Rs 5 for Rs 100 per month. The private money lenders mortgage 'bandhak' their ornaments, livestock, piece of land etc till the sharecroppers repay the amount by selling their harvest or working as wage labour.

Last year before Paddy cultivation in the month of June 2015 Parwati required credit hence borrowed Rs 1500 at an interest rate of Rs 10 on Rs 100 per month from a private money lender named Kanu Modi located in *Telwa Bazar*. She has returned the interest amount of Rs 1650 in the month of May 2016 (Rs 150 per month x 11 months). However she has still to repay the principal loan amount of Rs 1500 till date.

Bimla Devi age 45 years wife of Kamdeo Turi has a family of 6 members. She owns 2 *Kattha* and does share farming on 5 *Kattha* land. Fortunately her husband is driver and earns Rs 5000 per month. Bimla has borrowed Rs 8000 from the landowner Lalan Rai three years back at an interest rate of Rs 5 on Rs 100 per month. Bimla shares she is trapped and has been repaying the loan amount by providing both cash amount and free labour service at his residential premise. Today she has to still pay Rs 4000 from the total loan amount.

Anita Devi age 38, wife of Jalim Turi with a family of 06 family members. She has a small portion of land and does share farming in 02 *Kattha* land. She borrowed Rs 15,000 from the landowner Uday Rai in 2015 for paddy cultivation and daughter's marriage. Anita and her husband both are providing free labour service on Uday Rai's agriculture land, rears and manages his livestock, carry out all domestic work etc. Till now she has been able to repay 50 percent of the principal amount with interest rate as a bonded labour continues. She attempts to repay some cash generated from other wage labour work from elsewhere.

Parwati shared if she had borrowed from the landowners in the village then the rate of interest would have been Rs 5 on Rs 100 per month but in return she had to provide him free labour service to adjust the loan and interest amount which she wanted to avoid.

SHG Bank loan: In 2008-09 the village SHG consisted of 12 women members (Parwati, Anita, Bimli, Chameli, Ahilya, Draupadi, Prema, Rama, Madhiya, Chinta, Sunila and Chandrawati Devi). The SHG received group loan of Rs 25,000 in 2010 from SBI Bhairavganj. The members repaid Rs 15,000 within a period of 6 months and Rs 10,000 was subsidy amount. In 2011 the all the SHG members instead of cash amount got 04 months old calf from SBI Bhairavganj. Presently only Parwati, Chameli, Sunila and Prema Devi have 5 years old cow. Two cows have given birth twice and other two will deliver this year. After 2011 there has been no credit support from any financial institution.

In the year 2014, Parwati and her husband along with other villagers Meghlal, Kishun Turi were engaged to construct a pond close to a jungle for 1 month under **MGNREGA** but till date they have not received the due wages.

Medical expense

Common cold, cough & fever are some of the ailments for which they seek treatment locally. Only when the illness or infection does not get cured they take the patient to Deoghar and minimum expense is Rs 1000 on tests, medicines, doctors consultation fee, travel, refreshment etc.

Tulsibaran village

Tulsibaran village is 02 Kms from Katoria block and 32 kms from Banka district. There are total 100 houses of all SC (Das) with a population of 600 spread across 4 localities *tola's*. Close to 50 percent of the village population reside in the last '*Antim-tola*' are landless owning only residential plots. Names of some of the landless who participated in the FGD are; Ramrup, Mantu, Anil, Sarlo, Bikram, Sibub, Bhubaneshwar, Nuneshwar, Gauri etc.



About 50 years back Rajputs owned about 500 Bigha land in Katoria Mauja. Gradually they kept selling their land to the SC families who cultivated their land at Rs 1500 to Rs 2000 per *Kattha*. Today about 45 Rajput families reside in Jamua Mor who provide their 100 Bigha land to Tulsibaran villagers for sharecropping. One of them Bikram Singh contested for Mukhiya election this year. Hence total land area of the village under Katoria *Mauja* is little more than 100 *Bigha* as mentioned by the villagers. Presently cost of 1 *Hatta* (1.5 feet) is between Rs

40,000 to Rs 60,000 and cost of 1 *Kattha* land is between Rs 1 to 5 lakh depending on the quality and locality of the land.

Among the Tulsibarn village landowners the landholding patterns is as follows:

- 1 to 1.5 *Bigha* land: 10%
- 10 to 15 *Kattha* land: 20%
- 5-10 *Kattha* land: 50%
- Less than 5 *Kattha* land: 20%

Source of livelihood

Majority of the villagers are engaged with daily wage labour work in Katoria block which is just 2 kms from the village. Men earn Rs 230 and women Rs 200 per day. During non-agriculture season they work in brick kiln, construction work sites, Katoria market etc. About 40 to 50 youth migrate to Delhi, Kolkata, Gujarat for 3-5 months for drive auto rickshaw, pull carts, daily wage labour earning Between Rs 250 to Rs 300 per day. They return to village after 2-3 weeks and go back again.

Status of sharecropping

From the 100 SC households about 55 families are engaged in sharecropping depending on availability of their savings and surplus credit. If there is no credit arrangement then they prefer to go for wage labour work than borrowing easily available being in close proximity to Katoria block.

Nand Kishor Das owns 10 *Kattha* land and borrows 1 *Bigha* land from his relative Sildhar Das who stays in Kathaun panchayat and does not cultivate. Similar to Nand Kishor, Madan, Chotan, Babulal, Bharan, Jageshwar, Gori, Sudhir, Jaldhar, Kittu does sharecropping between 1 to 1.5 *Bigha* land.

They do not borrow money from private money lenders like Kharna villagers since they have realized they will lose their ornaments, land and assets in the process. Lack of irrigation is a major problem in the area for agriculture hence wheat and maize is not cultivated. However 5-8 years back both the crops were grown in the area. Hence those who own land and willing to cultivate themselves grow mainly grow paddy and potato.

Expense on Paddy cultivation in 1 *Bigha* land

Sl	Activity	Cost
1	Labour in plowing & sowing	Rs 5200
2	Seeds – 10 kg x Rs 50	Rs 500
3	Fertilizer – Rs 30 for 750 gram	Rs 30
4	Labour for harvesting – 10 Katni x Rs 220	Rs 2200
5	Bundling & tying of paddy – Rs 250 x 10 labour	Rs 2500
	Total:	Rs 10,430

Production in 1 Bigha: 30 *Mann* (1200 kg or 12 Quintal) and 700 kg rice worth Rs 15,400 value of market rate. The net earning for the farmer is Rs 4970 and rice will be used for 5-7 months for a family of 6-8 members.

Expense on Potato cultivation in 1 *Kattha* land

Sl	Activity	Cost
1	Seeds- 10 kg	Rs 300
2	Irrigation – 3 times	Rs 300
3	Plowing	Rs 300
4	Harvest	Rs 300
	Total:	Rs 1200

Production in 1 *Kattha*: 90 kg Potato worth Rs 1080 (90 kg x Rs 12)

Case study of a landless from Tulsibaran village

Gulo Das age 50 years has a family of 6 members. He shared sharecropping is not productive for a landless since it requires investment but does not guarantee returns. Hence for last 15 years he is working in a brick-kiln between June to October. In those months he gets 20 days of work earning average (Rs 200 x 20 days) Rs 4000 per month. Between November to May Gulo Das goes to Katoria market 2 kms away from the village as daily wage labour to assist construction work, loading and unloading etc. During these days he gets 25 days of work earning Rs 5000 per month.

Gulo Das's monthly expense

Sl	Items	Cost
1	Rice: Rs 23 x 1.5 kg daily x 30 days	Rs 1050
2	Wheat dough: Rs 22 x 1 kg x 30 days	Rs 660
3	Pulse: Rs 100 x 1.5 kg x 30 days	Rs 150
4	Edible oil: Rs 100 x 1.5 kg x 30 days	Rs 150
5	Vegetables: Rs 25 x 1 kg x 30 days	Rs 750
6	Spices:	Rs 100
7	Other domestic expense, medical treatment etc	Rs 500
	Total:	Rs 3360

Gulo Das's average monthly income is between Rs 4000-5000 and his monthly expenditure is Rs 4000. Since there is easy availability of wage work Gulo Das does not need to borrow credit from any source unless there is any emergency.

Nature of Exploitation

8. Lack of livelihood opportunities especially in Kharna village locally compel the poor landless and marginal farmers to depend on landowners for sharecropping, wage work and credit needs. Although they get tempted for agriculture but unfortunately it turns out to be expensive and uneconomical livelihood proposition. At one end there is no support from

the government and at the other landowners exploit their distress rather than being sympathetic and supportive. The landowners are reluctant to share expense on sowing, transplanting, thrashing, transportation cost.

9. Agriculture does not suffice even 6 months of food security for a sharecropper's family. They have to depend on other source of livelihood such as non-agriculture wage work and migration to repay heavy interest loan borrowed. Instead of sending their children to schools they are engaged in agriculture and wage labour work for the family.
10. There is severe irrigation problem in the area and the farmers have to fully depend on monsoon for agriculture. The landowners do not share irrigation expense and nor do they wish to share the wage labour expense during agriculture.
11. The landowners do not want to issue any land receipts and written agreement '*parchi*' as a result the sharecroppers cannot avail crop loss compensation, credit from bank, subsidized paddy & pulse seeds, diesel & fertilizer from the block office. The landowners do not want to transfer or share the benefit to the sharecroppers which they claim from the government.
12. Instead the landowners threaten them if 50 percent of the produce is not shared they will transfer the land to another sharecropper who is willing to provide better share than him . The sharecroppers want instead of 50 percent the landowners should ask for 40 percent of the produce deducting 10 percent towards their labour investment which is not accounted.
13. Due to untimely credit they are not able to purchase of Paddy, Arhar and Maize seeds. They need minimum Rs 2000 but there is no arrangement and have to borrow from private money lenders at high interest rate. The private money lenders and landowners who provide loan are exploitative. When sharecroppers are unable to repay the loan amount they forcibly take their food grains, livestock, assets and force family members to provide free service.
14. There is no collective union of sharecroppers to voice their concerns in any forum therefore the poor are subjected to repeated exploitation.

Exploitation by Block Staff & Officials:

Poor have to face several difficulties due to lack of empathy by the government staff and officials in block and circle office. Ramdeo Rana son of Narayan Rana narrated about his case since last two years he has been running to Bhairavganj Circle Office to rectify name of his grandfather written incorrectly. Till now he has spent Rs 4000 (Rs 3000 in court and Rs 1000 to CO) but till date nothing has been done.

Last year Anita during wheat cultivation filled application for 25 kg packet of subsidized wheat seeds and Rs 250 for diesel subsidy from block office. The officials took bribe of Rs 200 and assured her the benefits but she could not avail them even after 1 year.

Suresh Yadav, Boltu and Mahendra from Kharna village had applied for agriculture group loan of Rs 99,000 from SBI Bhairavganj. Suresh Yadav owns 3 *Bigha* land and borrows 10 *Bigha* land from Tuntun Rai for sharecropping. Mahendra Yadav owns 15 *Bigha* land and takes 15 *Bigha*, and Boltu owns 6 *Bigha Khatiani* and borrows 10 *Bigha*. The bank sanctioned their loan amount in September 2015 but each of them had pay bribe of Rs 15,000 to bank agents to get only Rs 35,000. The bank also did not provide any acknowledgement indicating receipt of Rs 35,000 only instead of Rs 50,000 each. They had to go to Chanan Circle Office 9 times and spent Rs 4000 to get their land receipt which was required to issue Land Possession Certificate (LPC) for sanctioning of the loan amount by the bank.

The block office does not provide subsidized Paddy, Wheat, Gram & *Masur* seeds. Timely availability of good seeds is important which can provide better yield in less water which is the need of the hour.

Names of women sharecroppers from Kharna village who participated in FGD

Parwati Devi age 50 wife of Sukhdeo Turi, Bimla Devi, age 45, wife of Kamdeo, Anita Devi, age 38 wife of Jalim, Gulabi Devi age 60 wife of Kishul Turi and Vimpla Devi age 35 .

Annexure 7: Case Study on Collective Sharecropping in Nalanda District

Interaction with Marginal Landowners from Raita & Bhojpur villages of Nalanda

An endeavor is being attempted in 13 villages of Giriyak Block of Nalanda district where the marginal landowners who do not cultivate themselves on their land and give their land to men and women sharecroppers through written agreement. The nine villages as mentioned are Dariyapur, Shobhnagar, Adampur, Shankarpur, Beldariya, Kalibigha, Muhamadpur, Muhamadpur Mushari, Eshua, Markatta, Tarokhar and Bhadar etc

Landowners from Raita & Bhojpur villages under Raita panchayat participated in the FGD to share their experience. Raita village & Panchayat is 06 km from Giriyak Block and 15 km from district head quarter Bihar Sharif.

Landowners with total land holding and land left with them

Sl	Name of landowners	Total Land Owned	Land Left after giving for Sharecropping
1.	Rajkumar Prasad	2.5 Bigha	10 Kattha
2.	Babita kumara, w/o Harinandan Paswan	02 Bigha	All land
3.	Gita Devi, w/o Raghunandan Mistri	10 Kattha	03 Kattha
4.	Ramrati Devi, w/o Ganga Prasad	2.5 Bigha	05 kattha
5.	Dulari Devi, w/o Late Kishori Prasad	02 Bigha	02 Kattha
6.	Rina Devi, w/o Pappu Mistri	1.5 Bigha	03 kattha
7.	Girja Devi, w/o Naresh kumar Sharma	10 Kattha	02 Kattha
8.	Sunina Devi, w/o Alok Mistri	01 Bigha	10 Kattha
9.	Kasmira Devi, w/o Bijendra Sharma	01 Bigha	10 Kattha
10.	Ashok Kumar	10 Bigha	02 Bigha
11.	Dharmendra Kumar	05 kattha	05 Kattha
12.	Rita Devi, w/o Chotelal Prasad	03 Bigha	1.5 Bigha

Perspective of Landowners:

The landowners shared five years back they had apprehensive if they could continue to give their land to the same sharecropper. They could lose their land ownership hence kept rotating sharecroppers in every 1-2 years. Since last 02 years they are



issuing written '*Parcha*' an agreement signed by both the landowner and the sharecropper in presence of 10 village witness. The handwritten agreement has mention of plot number, land

area given for sharecropping and duration on lease as mutually agreed. Most of the small landowners keep 01-03 Kattha land with them and give the rest for share-cropping. As per the agreement they share half the cost of seeds, plowing, irrigation, fertilizer, pesticide, any subsidy & benefit received from government, crops loss compensation. In return they receive 50 percent of the total produce like Paddy, Wheat, Maize, Pulse (Mung), Potato & vegetables etc.

According to the landowners, 90 percent landless Harijan women sharecroppers are the most who are availing most of the benefits from the government with submission of a copy of voter ID card, bank pass book, land receipt and agreement. They said 37 women sharecroppers from Raita, 28 from Shankarpur & 28 from Adam village have till date availed the government benefits and subsidies due to the support of *Mahila Adhikar Morcha* an entity facilitated by NBSPK a Nalanda based NGO supported by Actionaid under DA programme.

The marginal landholders shared the Block Agriculture Officer, Block Development Officer, Circle Officer, local Police station all have been providing altruistic support to this endeavor due to the efforts of *Mahila Adhikar Morcha*. Also there is involvement and support from all



caste groups. The landowners shared last year due to this effort the sharecroppers have availed following benefits from the block office:

1. Diesel subsidy of Rs 300
2. Drought '*Sukhar*' crop loss compensation - Rs 150 for 10 Kattha land
3. Flood '*Dahar*' crop loss compensation - Rs 5000 for 01 Bigha low land area
4. 50 percent Paddy seed subsidy at the rate of Rs 300 per Kg upto maximum 06 kg Paddy seeds where government credits Rs 600 in the account. They mentioned about availing full subsidy of Rs 96 for 4 Kg Maize seeds, Rs 1800 for 06 Kg Wheat seeds, and Rs 96 for 4 Kg Pulse (Mung) seeds.
5. Other social welfare schemes along with technical support from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Harnaut such as Organic Manure, Vermi Compost, inputs on SRI technique and Mushroom seed from ATMA etc

Productivity on 01 Kattha agriculture land: 80 kg Paddy, 15 kg wheat (loss), 20 kg Pulse (Mung), 20 kg Maize and 200 kg Potato.

The effort of marginal landowners agreeing to issue written agreement for 3-4 years is undoubtedly a positive initiative however the mutual agreement on white paper between a landowner and the sharecropper somehow lacks legal legitimacy. Perhaps it needs to be acknowledged and certified by *Gram Kutchery* or Village Mukhiya or *Kisan Salahkar* (village level agriculture extension worker) at panchayat level and then endorsed by the Block Agricultural Officer.

Interaction with Women Sharecroppers from Shobhnagar Village, Nalanda

It was informed approximately 8000 women are engaged with 27 SHGs in 14 villages of Nalanda of which 05% are directly involved with agricultural. 02 villages namely Chorsua & Koiri Bigha are being developed as model village to demonstrate



agriculture as a sustainable livelihood activity for women farmers. The effort is to acknowledge women sharecroppers as farmers, bring landowners and sharecroppers at one platform to discuss issues of concern and establish linkages with Block, Krishi Vigyan kendra, ATMA etc. Shobhnagar is one of the village where women members have started practicing collective share farming barely nine months back with support of few male farmers like Brijnandan Prasad, Kishori Prasad, Bijay Kumar etc.

Shobhnagar village is 1.5 km from Pokharpur panchayat, 07 km from Giriyak Block and 21 km from Nalanda district head quarter. About 25 women are engaged as collective sharecroppers participated in the FGD. Among them almost 90 percent are landless and 10 percent are small farmers. They are cultivating vegetables on 65-80 *Kattha* or approximately 04 Bigha agriculture land. The women sharecroppers have borrowed land as a group from 04 villages; Daulachak, Jenedi, Pokharpur and Dharampur from 10 landowners.

Oral Agreement

As was mentioned by the landowners in Raita & Bhojpur villages about issue of written agreement to the sharecroppers the same was not mentioned by the women sharecroppers in Shobhnagar village. They said the arrangement with the marginal landowners owning 15-20 *Kattha* land is still oral in nature and for one year duration only. Most of the landowners are settled and employed outside, hence do not want to cultivate. The next generation of the landowners family have been born and brought-up in an urban setup. Hence they are not

inclined to come and settle in their village. However they desire to remain connected with their ancestral land & property and to maintain land productivity they give their land to the sharecroppers.

The sharecroppers suggested the agreement should be extended for longer periods atleast for 03-04 years. Efforts are being made by *Mahila Adhikar Morcha* to organize a common interface between sharecroppers and the landowners either in the Block or Revenue office so that there is transparency in the arrangement.

The group mainly cultivates cash crops such as Potato, Gourd, Nenua, Chilies, Onion etc since Nawada and Bihar Sharif are key markets closeby.

Cost benefit Analysis from Cash Crop Cultivation

A. Investment in Potato cultivation in 1 Kattha

Sl	Items	Cost
1.	Seeds (40 kg Rs 16 per Kg	Rs 640
2.	Fertilizer: Sulphate (10 kg x Rs 140) + Phosphate (10 kg x Rs 90) + Potash (05 kg x Rs 90)	Rs 320
3	Uria (05 kg) + Enzyme (300 g) + Pesticide (Rs 35+Rs 12+Rs25)	Rs 72
4.	Irrigation - 08 times at Rs 10/Kattha	Rs 700
	Total	Rs 1732

Production of Potato in 1 *Kattha* land is approximately 400 kg, i.e. Rs 3200. One packet of 50 kg Potato is sold at Rs 400, hence the margin of profit is (Rs 3200 – Rs 1732) Rs 1468

B. Investment in Gourd (Louki) Cultivation in 1 Kattha

Sl	Items	Cost
1.	Seeds : 02 packets of 10 gram of Rs 32	Rs 65
2.	Fertilizer (03 times after Germination) DAP+Zinc+Puradon (03-04 kg) total 15-16 kg (Rs 30/kg+ Rs 95/kg+ Rs 100 kg)	Rs 450
3.	Irrigation : 10-12 times @ Rs 10	Rs 120
4.	Pesticide: Rs 25 x 07	Rs 175
	Total	Rs 810

Production of Gourd is 08-10 Mann (400 Kg) in a season and 40 to 50 kg one day in week. The market rate of 400 Kg is Rs 4000 at Rs 10 per Kg. The margin of profiet is Rs (Rs 4000-810) Rs 3000

C. Investment in Onion Cultivation in 1 Kattha

Sl	Items	Cost
1.	Seeds: 300 gram (Rs 2500/kg)	Rs 360
2.	Fertilizer: 04 Kg x 1 time - total 25 kg	Rs 700
3.	Pesticide spray: 03 times	Rs 500

4.	Irrigation: 15 times x Rs 10	Rs 150
	Total	Rs 1710

Production of Onion in 1 Kattha is approximately 10 Mann i.e. 400 kg. It is sold at Rs 350 per Mann i.e. (Rs 8.75 x 400 kg) Rs 3500. Net profit from Onion cultivation in 1 Kattha is Rs 1790. Presently Onion is sold at Rs 06 per kg since there is no demand and it is difficult to store.

D. Investment in Nenua Cultivation in 1 Kattha is between Rs 700 - Rs 800 and the net production of Nenua is 06 Mann i.e. 240 kg. It is sold at Rs 15 per kg worth Rs 3600. Net profit margin from Nenua cultivation is Rs 1890

Problems shared by Sharecroppers:

5. There is frequent nuisance from Nilgai in the vicinity destroying their crops extensively. Although there are instructions from government to shoot them till November 2016 but no one is willing to kill as they associate the animal with God (Mother cow). Local farmers make all attempts to scare them but everything has failed.
6. Even variety of insects destroys crops overnight which is total loss to the farmers.
7. Over the years due to excessive use of ground water used for irrigation has resulted in depletion of ground water level. Now borings and pump-sets are of no use and farmers have to depend on monsoon.
8. Although farmers sell their produce in Nawada & Bihar Sharif which are nearby two wholesale market but it is controlled by the traders. Farmers have limitations to competitive market outside to sell the produce.
9. Even to avail seed subsidy farmers have to pay commission of Rs 240 to local agents to get Rs 600 and there is no guarantee when the subsidy amount will be credited in the bank account. Farmers find no valid reasons why government delays to transfer subsidy amount, credit, crop loss compensation and other benefits.
10. If farmers want any agriculture tools and equipment as support from the government they are forced to purchase one with another tool as has been with Rota Vetar a agriculture tool used for plowing.
11. Government instead of supporting individual farmers it should support collective farmers and sharecroppers. For instance without land receipt they cannot sell paddy in PACS at Rs 1400 quintal (Rs 14 per kg) and are forced to sell it at much lower price in the open market at Rs 420 Mann or Rs 10.5 per kg.

Annexure 8: Status of Sharecropping in Patna District

FGDs were conducted with the sharecroppers and small farmers from two villages of two blocks – Bihta and Bikram of Patna district. The objective was to understand the profile of landowners being settled in state capital, relationship between real tillers and landowners in terms of their investments in



agricultural activities, cost & profit sharing, source of credit, terms and conditions, support & benefits from government, productivity, nature of exploitations, landholding patterns etc. The two villages were Mustafapur village in Bihta block where 88 families are landless from total 150 and Mahajpura village panchayat of Bikram Block where 243 landless families from total 450 are engaged with sharecropping and different forms of agriculture wage labor work.

Mustafapur Village:

Mustafapur village is 06 km from Bihta block and 26 km from Patna district headquarter. Discussions were held with group of sharecroppers consisting of both men and women. The village is resided by about 150 families of different cast community and about 58 percent (88) households among them are landless. About 40 houses own between 05-10 Bigha and 07 own between 03-05 Bigha agriculture land. Almost 60 houses own between 01-10 Kattha land, majority being in the category of 01 to 05 Kattha ownership.



Total area (*Rakba*) of the village since 1940 has been more than 350 Bigha from which about 50 Bigha was sold. Recently about 25 Bigha land have been purchased by outsiders. Most of the landowners owning 5-10 Kattha land do not cultivate themselves since some stay outside the village while marginal landowners do not find agriculture viable and profitable. For instance Rekha Devi shared she owns 04 Kattha land but she does not cultivate since last 3 years. She has given her land

to fellow landless villager Hemanti Devi. Similar to Rekha Devi there are 15-20 small landowners who give their land for sharecropping. It was mentioned close to 90 households are doing sharecropping in the village under two categories:

1. Annual rent paid in cash known as *Nagdi*. The sharecropper pays rent between Rs 2000 to Rs 6000 depending on the quality of land.
2. The second category is share-cropping known as *Batai*. The sharecropper has to share 50 percent of the total produce which includes Paddy, Wheat and Pulse (*Masoor*) with the landowner. It was mentioned the landowners shares 50 percent cost of only fertilizer and to some extent irrigation (not seed).

Table: Caste wise household breakup in Mustafapur Village:

Sl	Caste	No. of houses	Agricultural land ownership
1.	Dangi	40	All have agriculture land
2.	Koiri	16	08 does not own land
3.	Thakur	40	25 does not own land
4.	Kurmi	05	Most have 1.5-2.5 Bigha land
5.	Lohar	14	12 does not own any land
6.	Mali	10	08 does not own land
7.	Paswan	20	15 does not own land
8.	Ravidas	15	Do not own any agricultural land
9.	Kahar (Rawani)	05	Do not own any agricultural land

Land holding Ownership in the Village:

Sl	Amount of land	Household
1.	05-10 Bigha	40 HH
2.	03-05 Bigha	07 HH
3.	00-02 Bigha	20 HH
4.	05-10 Kattha	20 HH
5.	01-05 Kattha	40 HH

Investment in Paddy Cultivation in 01 Bigha land:

Sl	Items	Cost
1.	Seeds: 08 kg required (Rs 420/06 kg)	Rs 560
2.	Pesticide	Rs 60
3.	Plowing (Rs 50 per Kattha)	Rs 1600
4.	Irrigation (Rs 100 per Kattha)= Rs 2000 of which 50% shared by landowner	Rs 1000
5.	Fertilizer: Rs 1000 of which 50% shared by landowner	Rs 500
6.	Sowing (07 plantation x Rs 100)	Rs 1000
	Total	Rs 4720

Total production of Paddy in 01 Bigha land is 640 kg. After sharing 50 percent of the produce with the landowner, the sharecropper is left with 320 Kg. The market price of Paddy is Rs 1100 quintal (Rs 11 per Kg) hence the cost of 320 Kg Paddy is worth Rs 3520 of market value incurring a loss of Rs 1200. However it will provide food security of 5-7 months for the family.

Investment in Wheat Cultivation in 01 Bigha Land:

Sl	Items	Cost
1.	Seeds: 40 kg required (Rs 25 per kg)	Rs 1000
2.	Pesticide	Rs 100
3.	Plowing (Rs 500 per Bigha)	Rs 1000
4.	Irrigation: Rs 1200 (03 times@ Rs 400 per Bigha) of which 50% shared by landowner	Rs 600
5.	Fertilizer: Rs 400 (Rs 400 per 50 kg) of which 50% shared by landowner	Rs 200
	Total	Rs 3900

Total production of Wheat in 01 Bigha land is 520 kg. After sharing 50 percent of the produce with the landowner, the sharecropper is left with 260 Kg. The market price of Wheat is Rs 1500 quintal (Rs 15 per Kg), hence the cost of 260 Kg of Wheat is worth Rs 3900 of market value (with no profit-no loss). The Wheat will last for 5 to 6 months.

The sharecroppers shared they do not get any food grains under PDS or Antodaya, hence for the remaining 5-6 months they have to purchase food grains from the open market. They purchase Wheat for 05-06 months at Rs 16 per kg wheat or Rs 22 per kg wheat flour (*Atta*) and Rs 20 per kg rice.

Source of Credit for Agriculture:



The sharecroppers shared 90 percent of the sharecroppers work as wage laborer locally in the block or Patna for 08-09 months. Male get 15-18 days of work per month and earn Rs 250-300 per day. While women are paid Rs 100 per day and they mostly work locally in the villages during agriculture season in sowing, transplantation,

weeding, harvesting, thrashing etc. Since wage work is available hence just before agriculture season they are able to save some amount to start with agriculture work.

However at a later stage they have to borrow loan between Rs 2000 to Rs 6000 for 01 Bigha land at an interest rate of Rs 10 on Rs 100 per month. They repay part of the loan amount after 4-5 months from the produce and the remaining principal and interest amount from wage labour work. Rekha Devi shared she borrowed Rs 6000 last year and repaid Rs 600 as total monthly interest for 5 months and Rs 2000 after 05 months. Total amount she finally repaid was (Rs 6000+ Rs 3000) Rs 9000.

Finding timely credit is a major bottle neck for most of the sharecroppers. Among the small and marginal farmers about 15 of them had taken KCC loan of Rs 45,000, 03 years back from Punjab National Bank, Bihta. They had to pay bribe 10-12 percent (Rs 5000) to the staff and agents to avail the loan amount which actually increases the rate of interest.

Ganesh Prasad owner of 01 acre land and like him about 09 small and marginal farmers had taken 40 Kg wheat seed from the Block, however they did not find Paddy seeds of good quality last year. For Diesel subsidy earlier the sharecroppers could get the benefit by submission of paper signed by Panchayat Samity but now the officials insist for land receipt hence could not get the Diesel subsidy of Rs 300.

Mahajpura Village

Mahajpura village Panchayat is 05 km from Bikram Block and 35 km from Patna district headquarter. The village has total 450 houses of which 243 are landless. It was mentioned in the village close to 300 households are practicing sharecropping in the village which includes both landless and small landowners. Both borrow between 02-05 *Bigha* of land for share cropping. Only 2 percent General caste (Bhumihar) are directly involved with farming by engaging agriculture wage labour.

Caste wise Household breakup in Mahajpura Village

Sl.	Castes	Number of houses	Land for agriculture
1.	Bhumihar	150	All own land
2.	Paswan	100	Majority do not own land
3.	Ravidas	100	Do not own land
4.	Sao 1	25	All own land
5.	Sao 2	20	All own land
6.	Ram (Kahar)	25	Do not own land
7.	Yadav	45	20 own land
8.	Barhi	35	30 own land
9.	Lohar	05	Do not own land
10.	Sonar	03	Do not own land

Total land area (*Rakba*) in the village is close to 2500 Bigha. In last 20 years additional land was both purchased and acquired in Rampur, Fatehpur, Fatpura, Baliaban, Uchauri and Muhamadpur villages by the Bhumihar community. From total 2500 Bigha, almost 2000 is fertile and rest 500 Bigha is barren. Almost 98 percent of the 2000 Bigha land is owned by 60

Bhumihar families of which 70 percent of them stay around Bikram, Naubatpur, Bihta, Paligang etc and rest reside outside in Patna, Delhi and elsewhere. Following are some of the prominent names of landowners, landholding owned by their descendants as mentioned by the sharecroppers:

Names of the Landholders and Landholding:

Sl.	Names of the landholders	Total landholding
1.	Late Balram Singh	85 Bigha
2.	Late Kedar Singh	100 Bigha
3.	Late Ramayan Singh	75 Bigha
4.	Late Sudama Singh	80 Bigha
5.	Late Ramdhari Singh	75 Bigha
6.	Late Mathura Singh	80 Bigha
7.	Late Channa Singh	65 Bigha
8.	Late Raja Singh	90 Bigha
9.	Gajendra Singh	80 Bigha
	Total	710 Bigha

Forms of Sharecropping:

The sharecroppers shared three formed of sharecropping are commonly practiced in this area depending on the fertility of the land. They borrow land on more than one form also. Teju Paswan said he borrowed 01 Bigha on *Manni* and 1.5 Bigha on *Batai* this year.

1. **Manni:** The landowner does not share any cost of cultivation and the entire investment is borne by the sharecropper. If the sharecropper invests in agriculture for one year on 1 Bigha land in return he has to provide 800 to 1000 kg (20-25 *Mann*) Paddy or 480 kg (12 *Mann*) Rice to the landowner.
2. **Patta:** The sharecropper has to pay an annual rent of Rs 8000 to Rs 12000 for 1 Bigha to the landowner as per the quality of the land.
3. **Batai:** The landowner shares half the cost of fertilizer and irrigation (no seeds) and in return the sharecroppers shares 50 percent of the total produce If the land is productive landowners prefer giving it on *Batai* or else orlese it on *Manni & Patta*.



Problems of Sharecroppers & Forms of Exploitation:

- It was mentioned about 45 years back about 100-120 Kurmi & Ravidas caste families had received land titles ranging between 10 Kattha to 02 Bigha each. They alleged since last one year the forest department without notifying them or even seeking their consent is planting trees on their agriculture land.
- In *Manni* form of sharecropping, the farmers are forced by the landowners to give 1000 kg (25 *Mann*) of Paddy irrespective of total production. The landowners are aware about the total productivity even if it is less than desired yet they keep demanding the required quantity. They threaten sharecropper to either provide balance produce next year or give the land to another sharecropper.
- Even in *Patta* and *Batai*, if sharecroppers fail to pay Rs 10,000 to Rs 12000 every year before cultivation or does not share 50 percent of the total produce he will lose land next year for cultivation.

Nature of Exploitation

- As availability of agriculture wage labour is getting scarce due to other better wage opportunities, the landlords find it difficult these days to find ready pool of workers. Hence by providing their land for sharecropping it provides them opportunity to engage and exploit the vulnerable sharecroppers.



- They demand to provide free physical labour whenever required. Due to their influential they even threaten the sharecroppers by informing the Circle Office not to provide them land for residential purpose.
- During marriages or rituals it was narrated by the women sharecroppers the general caste (Bhumihar) community's residence they are not served meals with others. They are deliberately made to wait till the end while some also mentioned about getting their own plates from home to be served food only after they provide free work.
 - When sharecropper fall short of the required quantity of produce, rent or unable to repay the loan amount borrowed they are subjected to deplorable and dismal forms of exploitation which are better explained through few case studies related to inability to repay debt.

Access to Credit

In the course of the discussion the sharecroppers shared for day to day credit requirement the male sharecroppers during non-agriculture season either work in brick kilns to earn Rs 140 per

day for 25 days a month for 4-6 months or as wage laborer in Patna 35 kms away to earn Rs 250-300 per day for 15-20 days a month for 04-05 months. About 25 percent of the village youth also migrate to Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Chennai and return between January to March before *Holi* festival. They return to work again in April and come back in November during *Chhat* festival around January. They send Rs 4000 to Rs 6000 in 02 months period.

They suggested during months of May, June & July there is no agriculture work hence they desired for MGNREGA wage work which can provide during these months when there is crisis of wages. However, when they need additional amount they approach the private money lenders or the landowners from whom they have taken land for sharecropping. The FGD revealed almost 90 percent of them are trapped into heavy indebtedness since last 02-05 years.



They borrow loan from private money lenders at Rs 10 on Rs 100 per month on collaterals mortgaging their ornaments, land, assets as to meet agriculture, marriages or medical expense ranging between Rs 5000 to Rs 20,000. When they require more amount beyond Rs 20,000 at a lesser interest rate i.e. Rs 5 on Rs 100 per month they approach their landowners such as Bharat,

Madan, Pappu, Sudama, Lala Singh etc. The benefit they perceive in borrowing loan from landowners is there is more leeway and longer horizon of settlement. But in this process the family does not realize the plodding trap getting them gradually entangled as bonded labour in providing incontestable free wage service.

Case Studies on Nature of Oppression:

Case 1: Landless bonded labour: Bedami Devi wife of Dukhan Paswan is mother of 08 years old daughter. When she got married her husband had 01 Kattha land but 03 years back for want of money they were compelled to sell his share of land for Rs 75,000. Bedami had to borrow Rs 30,000 from Jitendra Singh and has not been able to repay the amount till date. Since last one year her husband Dukhan Paswan stays fulltime at Jitendra's house and works fulltime as bonded labour taking care of his house, family, 04 cows etc. In return Jitendra Singh provides him free meals and country liquor. Bedami now stays alone with her daughter in the residential plot of 01 Kattha owned by Dukhan's two brothers. Since her husband is trapped at Jitendra's house not earning Bedami makes cow dung cake (*Goitha*) from 6 am to late night and earns one-fourth of the total output. During agriculture season she earns 02 kg of rice & Rs 50 per day.

Case 2: Radha Devi borrowed 2.5 Bigha land on *Manni* but failed to provide the required quantity to the landowner. She was not given land for farming next year and was asked to provide free labour service whenever needed during marriage rituals, support landlord's family members, domestic work etc. She urgently required loan in the month of April-May for her daughter's marriage and around October for festivals etc. With no land and no revenue to meet her essential expenses she had to borrow loan for Rs 10 per Rs 100 per month interest rate and as a collateral she mortgaged Rs 33,000 worth of Gold '*Mang-Tika*' close to 01 gram '*Bhari*' and Brass *Pital* utensils.

Case 3: Landless Shela Devi wife of Nil Kumar Paswan is a daily wage laborer with 2 daughters and 2 sons of 10 and 08 years old. She borrowed Rs 50,000 last year for her elder daughter's marriage from Madan Singh at an interest rate of Rs 05 for Rs 100 per month. She has not been able to repay either the interest or the principal loan amount. Her monthly interest amount is Rs 2500 and after one year she is expected return Rs 30,000 the interest amount and (Rs 30,000 + Rs 50,000) Rs 80,000 as full repayment of the loan. However after a year she failed to return anything til date compelling her to work as bonded labour for free in Madan Singh's agriculture land. Her husband keeps grouching saying his wife stays at Manan Singh's house from early morning to late evening but he too seems very helpless. Shela said for her free service no record for her daily service is maintained by Madan Singh. Shela is worried she has now her second daughter of 15 years whom she needs to get her married.



Case 4: Shambhu Paswan narrated he was cultivating on *Manni* on 12 *Kattha* land for last 05 years. Landlord kept demanding 1000 kg of Paddy even when the production is less. Last year when he failed to provide him required quantity of Paddy this year he was not given land for sharecropping.

Case 5: Phulla Devi, wife of Kapuri Paswan Mother of two sons and one daughter also borrowed Rs 50,000 three years back to purchase new motorcycle for daughter's marriage to gift her son-in-law for Rs 45,000 and Rs 15,000 for other marriage expenses. She says she has to pay Rs 3500 per month as the interest amount at Rs 5 per Rs 100 per month and for 3 years is Rs 1,26,000. Total payable amount is (Rs 1,26,00 + Rs 70,000) is Rs 1,96,00 of which she has been able to pay Rs 96,000.



Case 6: Manorama Devi wife of Bhusan Paswan borrowed loan of Rs 01 lakh for her daughter's marriage from money lender Jitendra Tiwary known as '*pandit*' about a year back. She is paying

the interest amount of Rs 5000 per month and till date has repaid Rs 20,000 as interest amount. Principal amount is still far away to be repaid.

Case 7: Another Shila Devi wife of Laxman Paswan borrowed Rs 70,000 for her daughter's marriage and has been able to repay the two years of interest amount of Rs 45,000. The principal amount has still to be paid. Similarly Gita Devi wife of Lalan Paswan borrowed Rs 30,000 four years back and she too her story to narrate like more women sharecroppers like Shanti Devi, Anita Devi, Manju Devi etc.



Fourth Dimension

+91 8986459632, +91 8294140504

www.fourthdimensionservices.in

✉ fourthdimension.mail@gmail.com

act:onaid

www.actionaidindia.org

  [actionaidindia](https://www.facebook.com/actionaidindia)

ActionAid Association

R-7, Hauz Khas Enclave

New Delhi - 110016

Phone: 91-11-40640500