



Agriculture

Presented by

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Overview of Agriculture in Assam

- Agriculture plays a very important role in the socio-economic development of Assam
- It is the backbone of the state's economy and holds the key to the overall development of the economy.
- It provides main source of occupation and livelihood support to 70% of the rural population.
- At present, Assam agriculture contributes about 21.94% revenue to the GSDP.
- 85% farmers are either small or marginal with average land holding of just about 0.36 hectares.
- Agriculture census data 2015-16 reveals that total land under cultivation was 29.77 lakh hectares



Land Holding Pattern



- Assam is maintaining a diversified pattern of land utilization
- Total area of the state is divided into (i) Forest, (ii) Land not available for cultivation, (iii) Other uncultivated land excluding fallow land, (iv) Fallow Land, and (v) Cropped Land

Land Utilisation Pattern

Description of land and p.c. to reporting area	(in lakh hectares)		
	1950-51	1970-71	2001-02
Forest (%)	28.20 (32%)	21.15 (26.9)	19.32 (24.5)
Land not available for cultivation (%)	30.85 (35%)	21.81 (27.8)	25.33 (32.2%)
Fallow Land (%)	4.65 (6.1%)	2.88 (3.7%)	1.64 (2.08%)
Land under cultivation (%)	23.01 (26%)	27.04 (34.4%)	27.74 (35.33%)
Uncultivated area (%)	60.31 (74%)	51.47 (65.6%)	50.76 (64.66%)
Cultivable waste land	3.80 (5.3%)	1.80 (2.3%)	0.76 (0.96%)
Total crop area	18.13 (23.1%) (in 1980-81)	23.21 (30.7%)	39.84 (50.73%)




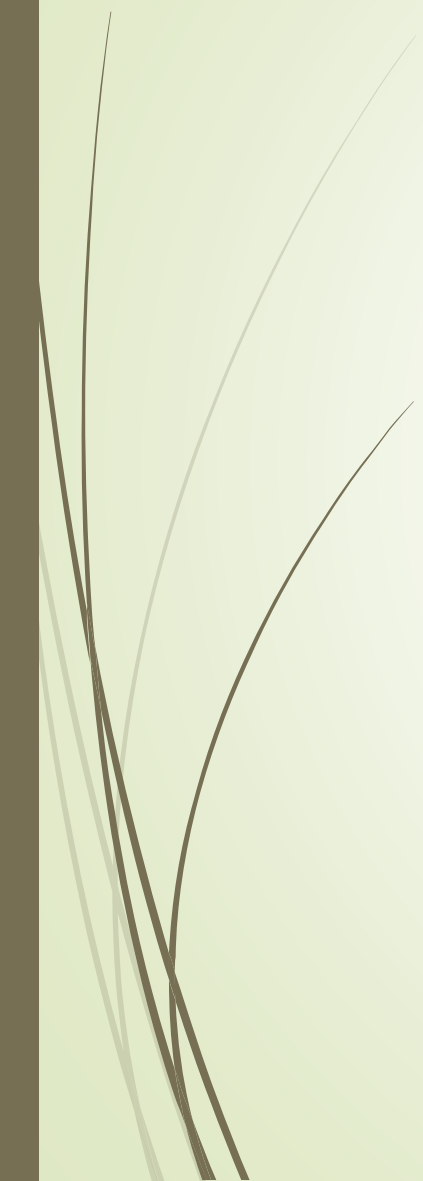
Role and Importance of Agriculture in Assam's Economy


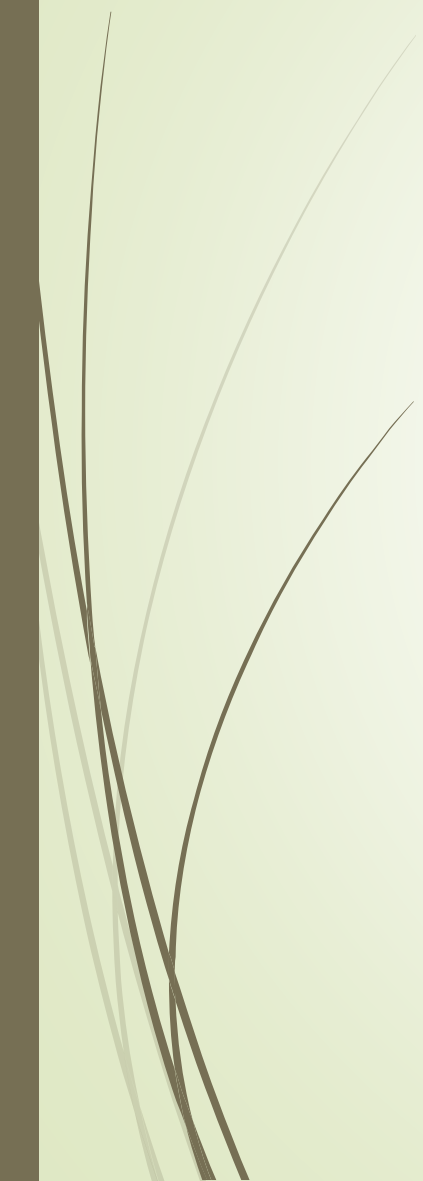
- Contribution to state income
- Source of livelihood
- Source of food supply
- Role of agriculture for industrial development
- Commerce importance
- Source of govt. revenue
- Reduction of inequality and agriculture
- Role of agriculture in economic planning



Land Tenure System in Assam

- ▶ It locate the owner of land, influences the productivity of land and the social organization prevalent in the area.
- ▶ In colonial period, state ownership of land was the rule in Assam.
- ▶ Three types of land tenure exists- (a) Lakhiraj Grantees i.e. Revenue free land (b) Nisf-kirajdars i.e. half revenue paying land (c) Land on annual lease basis
- ▶ Among these lakhirajdars enjoys higher status from British and were known as 'proprietors'.
- ▶ Lakhirajdars had permanent, heritable and transferable rights in their land
- ▶ These include Zamindars of Goalpara and Karinganj districts and the tea estate owner.

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- Nisf-Khirajdars include landholders with periodic lease or revenue paying tea tenures. All other land which enjoyed revenue free status during Ahom rule were also included except 'Devottor Land'
 - The third category included the settlement holders with just provision for annual lease of land.
 - Excluding Goalpara and karimganj district, all other land remain under the rule of temporary settlement and thereby governed by the Assam Tenancy Act, 1935. (1948, 1953, 1956)
 - Tenant indicates a person holding land under another person i.e., known as landlord and there liable to pay rent to the landlord for the tenancy rights.
 - Proprietors other than those of a permanently settle estate and landholders are known as landlords as they are possessing the right of sub-letting the land

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- ▶ The act has recognized four distinct classes of tenants or raiyats- (i) Privileged Raiyats (ii) Occupancy Raiyats (iii) Non-occupancy Raiyats (iv) Under-Raiyats
 - ▶ To acquire the rights of privileged raiyats, one has to hold the land continuously for 12 years and more so under condition that the rate of rent must not exceed revenue rate.
 - ▶ In case of Occupancy Raiyats, the only condition is that land should held continuously 12 years.
 - ▶ In respect of Under-Raiyats, the tenancy is established by an agreement between tenant and landholder
 - ▶ Owing to historical reasons, Zamindari system was prevalent in Assam like Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.
 - ▶ Under Zamindari system, one or more persons owned a village and were responsible for paying land revenue.
 - ▶ Permanent settlement in Goalpara and in the Karimganj sub-division of Cachar district.



Drawback of Land tenure system in Assam

- It robbed the state of its due share
- Making the landlords absentee parasites, Zamindari tenure proved harmful to the cultivators
- Discouraged all enterprise on the part of cultivators due to frequent enhancement of rent and fear of ejection
- Agriculture sector suffered as zamindars contributed nothing for agricultural progress

These evils makes way for the abolition of zamindari system, bringing the huge number of tenants into direct relationship with the state.

