CHAPTER-2

PROFILE OF KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT

Assam is situated in the North-East region of India – bordering seven states viz.- Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal and two countries viz. Bangladesh and Bhutan. Assam being the biggest of the North – Eastern States of India is located in between the longitudes 89°45'/E and 96°0'/E and latitudes 24°0'/N and 28°0'/N. The state is broadly divided into two natural divisions – (i) The Plains area and (ii) The Hills area. The plains area of the State consists of two valleys viz., (i) The Brahmaputra Valley and (ii) The Barak Valley. Out of 28 districts in the state, there are two hill districts namely Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills (1). Both these districts cover a total geographical area of 15,222 sq. km. (19.3% of the State’s area) and a total population of 9,32,943 (3.5% of the State’s population) as per 2001 Census. The two hill districts were previously two sub-divisions of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hill districts which was inaugurated on November 17, 1951 (2) with some parts of Sibsagar (new Golaghat), Nagaon, Cachar and United Khasi and Jayantia Hills district of present Meghalaya. Then, on February 2nd 1970, the whole of North-Cachar Sub-Division of the Cachar district was declared as a separate civil district while the remaining portion i.e. Mikir Hills Sub-Division formed ‘Karbi Anglong’ on 14th October, 1976 (3). The then Mikir Hills Sub-Division was created by curving out the areas with high concentration of the Karbis i.e., 4421 sq. km from Nagaon district, 4382 sq. km from Sibsagar district and 1543 sq. km from Khasi and Jayantia Hills district (4). The portions taken from Nagaon and Sibsagar district were partially excluded areas of the two districts and were called Mikir Hills Tract. On the other hand, the portions taken
from United Khasi and Jayantia Hills District were also known as excluded areas, mainly inhabited by the Karbis.

**Geographical Location:** The district of Karbi Anglong, blended with hills and plains, is situated in the central part of Assam. The district is bounded by Nagaon and Golaghat district in the North, Meghalaya and North Cachar Hills in the South, Golaghat district and the State of Nagaland in its East and to the West, it is bounded by the State of Meghalaya and Nagaon district. The total geographical area of the district is 10,434 sq.km, which accounts for about 13.53% of the state’s total geographical area of 78,438 sq.km. It is the largest district of the state comprising 2633 villages. The district with dense tropical forest covered hills and plains is situated between 25°33′ and 26°35′ North Latitudes and 92°10′ and 93°50′ East Longitudes. The district is mostly rugged and hilly being part of an Archean plateau. The plateau in Karbi Anglong comprises of two parts, viz., the East and the West Karbi plateaus (5).
Fig. 2.1: Karbi Anglong District in the Map of Assam
Climate: This hill zone experiences different climates in different parts due to variation in the topography. The winter begins from October and continues till February. During summer, the atmosphere becomes sultry. The temperature in summer ranges from 23\(^0\)Celsius to 32\(^0\) Celsius, while in winter, it ranges from 6 degree Celsius to 12 degree Celsius. The rainfall is not uniform throughout the district. Blocks like Lumbajong, Samelangso, Langsomepi and Nilip receives rainfall between 1000-2500 mm. The area between Kheroni to Dhansiri is a main shadow area and receives even less than 1000 mm rainfall. Mailoo, Hawaipur, Doyangmukh and the entire Howraghat plain experience semi-dry condition during April and May and continues even upto June in some years (6).

Administrative Set-up: The Karbi Anglong district is one of the Autonomous Hill District of Assam, constituted under the provisions of Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The pattern of administration in the hill district is somewhat different from that of the plains district of Assam. There is an Autonomous Council in the district which came into existence on 23\(^{rd}\) June, 1952 under the provisions laid down under para-2 of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian constitution namely “Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council” (KAAC). Almost all the development departments of the district are under the control of the KAAC.

The Karbi Anglong Autonomos Council consists of 30 (thirty) members, of which 26 (twenty six) are to be elected and 4(four) are to be nominated. The tenure of the District Council is for five years. The powers and functions of the District Council may be broadly divided into 4(four) categories – legislative, executive, financial and judicial.
The district is divided into three sub-divisions namely Bokajan and Hamren with its headquarters at Bokajan and Hamren respectively and the Diphu Sadar Sub-Division with its head quarter at Diphu. The names of eleven Development Blocks in the district with its sub-division and headquarter is given IN Table. No.2.1.

Table No. 2.1
Name of Development Blocks with its Head Quarter and Sub-Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Name of Block</th>
<th>Head Quarter</th>
<th>Sub-Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lumbajong</td>
<td>Manja</td>
<td>Diphu Sadar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Howraghat</td>
<td>Howraghat</td>
<td>Diphu Sadar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Samelanglo</td>
<td>Samelangso</td>
<td>Diphu Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Langsomepi (New)</td>
<td>Denka</td>
<td>Diphu Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bokajan</td>
<td>Bokajan</td>
<td>Bokajan Civil Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nilip</td>
<td>Chokihola</td>
<td>Bokajan Civil Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rongmongue</td>
<td>Rongmongve</td>
<td>Bokajan Civil Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chirthong</td>
<td>Hamren</td>
<td>Hamren Civil Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rongkhang</td>
<td>Conkamokam</td>
<td>Hamren Civil Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Amri</td>
<td>Ulukunchi</td>
<td>Hamren Civil Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Socheng</td>
<td>Zirikinding</td>
<td>Hamren Civil Sub-Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.karbianglong.nic.in
Fig. 2.2: Blockwise Map of Karbi Anglong District
Population Characteristics: Karbi Anglong, being the largest district of Assam ranks 16th in respect of population among the 27 districts of Assam and 451th among the 640 districts in India as per 2011 Census (Provisional). In regard to area, Karbi Anglong ranks as the 1st largest district in Assam and 56th largest in India (7). As per 2001 Census, the total population of the district was 8,13,311 comprising of 4,22,250 male and 3,91,061 female population. Out of the total population of 8,13,311, the number of persons resided in the rural areas was 7,21,381 and 91,930 in urban areas. But as per 2011 Census (Provisional), the total population of the district increased to 9,65,280 (comprising of 4,93,482 male and 4,71,798 female population) of which 8,51,158 (i.e., 88.18%) resides in rural areas and 1,14,122 (i.e.,11.82%) in urban areas. The average density of population per sq.km. was 78 as per 2001 Census which increased to 93 persons per sq.km as per 2011 Census (Provisional) (8).

The population of the district is predominantly tribal and Karbi is the major tribe. The other ethnic groups of the district are Bodos, Kukis, Mizos, Dimasas, Hmars, Garos, Rengma, Nagas, Tiwas, Man (Tai speaking’). Besides, a large number of non-tribals like Bodo, Bengalis, Biharis, and Nepalese etc. also live together in this hill region. Indigenous Assamese are conspicuous in Howraghat and Bokajan Blocks.

The Table No.2.2 highlights some important features of population of Assam and Karbi Anglong and the Table. No.2.3 shows the town-wise population of Karbi Anglong district.

Birth and Death Rate: According to the data obtained from a sample Registration Bulletin published by the Registrar General of India and Director of Census, both the Birth Rate and Death Rate were found to be higher in the district in most of the year.
from 1991 to 2001. In 2001, the birth rate and death rate per thousand of population in Karbi Anglong were 21.00 and 9.00 respectively.

**Sex Ratio:** The sex ratio of the Karbi Anglong district seems to be improved as per 2011 Census (Provisional) as compared to 2001 Census. The sex ratio of the Karbi Anglong district as per 2001 Census was 926 females per 1000 males whereas it is 956 females per 1000 males as per 2011 Census (Provisional), even higher than the state i.e., Assam sex ratio of 954 females per 1000 males and the country’s sex ratio of 940 females per 1000 males.

**Table No. 2.2**

**Some Important Features of Population of Assam and Karbi Anglong District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>As per 2001 Census</th>
<th>As per 2011 Census(Provisonal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>Karbi Anglong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Number of Persons</td>
<td>2,66,55,528</td>
<td>8,13,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decadal Growth</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>18.85</td>
<td>22.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density</td>
<td>Per Sq.Km</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>Female per 1000 male</td>
<td>932</td>
<td>926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>63.25</td>
<td>57.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Population</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>12.90</td>
<td>11.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Population</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>87.10</td>
<td>88.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.C. Population</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>6.85</td>
<td>3.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.T. Population</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>12.41</td>
<td>55.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Census of India – 2001 and 2011 (Provisional).
Table No. 2.3
Town-wise Population of Karbi Anglong District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Name of the Town</th>
<th>As per 1991 Census</th>
<th>As per 2001 Census</th>
<th>As per 2011 Census (Provisional)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Diphu (C-Class III)</td>
<td>39,551</td>
<td>1,366</td>
<td>20,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bokajan (D-Class IV)</td>
<td>11,008</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Donkamokam (E-Class V)</td>
<td>8,147</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>5705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dokmoka (F-Class VI)</td>
<td>4,091</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>2177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hamren (F-Class VI)</td>
<td>3,771</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>6233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Howraghat (F-Class VI)</td>
<td>3,718</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.karbianglong.nic.in

**Education:** Education is the sword through which one can fight against the evil effects of illiteracy. In Karbi Anglong, there are fourteen (14) Degree Colleges and eleven 11 Higher Secondary School besides large number of High Schools, Middle Schools, Primary and Pre-Primary Schools. But these number of schools and colleges cannot commensurate the change in demand of the entire region. Primary Education in Karbi Anglong is under the direct control of District Council. The District Council has constituted the PSLC Board to improve the quality of education in the district. Diphu Govt. College, Diphu, is the only Government Degree College in the district which imparts education not only for degree courses (Arts, Science and Commerce) but also for Higher Secondary Courses. Besides, there is Assam University Diphu Campus which offers Post Graduate Degree in Arts, Science and Commerce, Diphu Polytechnic Institute and Industrial Training Institute. In nearly 75% of the villages, a primary school is at 1 km distance. Again, in more than 60% villages, the distance from the nearest secondary school is at 5 km or more.
There is considerable increase in the literacy rate in the Karbi Anglong district. However, the vast difference between its male and female literacy rate calls for urgent steps to be taken for encouraging female education in the region.

**Table No. 2.4**
**Statement Showing Comparative Literacy Rate of India, Assam & Karbi Anglong**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Karbi Anglong</th>
<th>Assam</th>
<th>India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male Literacy Rate (in Percentage)</td>
<td>Female Literacy Rate (in Percentage)</td>
<td>Total Literacy Rate (in Percentage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>25.56</td>
<td>06.87</td>
<td>16.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>26.93</td>
<td>10.29</td>
<td>19.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>55.55</td>
<td>34.34</td>
<td>45.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>68.11</td>
<td>48.65</td>
<td>58.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 (Provisional)</td>
<td>82.12</td>
<td>64.62</td>
<td>73.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>32.95</td>
<td>44.28</td>
<td>18.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>33.94</td>
<td>43.72</td>
<td>22.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>62.39</td>
<td>43.70</td>
<td>53.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>71.93</td>
<td>56.03</td>
<td>64.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 (Provisional)</td>
<td>78.81</td>
<td>67.27</td>
<td>73.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>40.40</td>
<td>15.30</td>
<td>28.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>46.00</td>
<td>22.00</td>
<td>34.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>63.90</td>
<td>39.40</td>
<td>52.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>75.38</td>
<td>54.16</td>
<td>65.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 (Provisional)</td>
<td>82.14</td>
<td>65.46</td>
<td>74.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Development Scenario of Karbi Anglong District, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Guwahati, 2004 and www.planassam.info

There are number of schools working in the Karbi Anglong District along with number of Centres and Institutes imparting education on different activities. The following table depicts the number of different types of Schools, Centers and Institutes set up in the district.
Table No. 2.5
Number of Schools / Centres / Institutes in Karbi Anglong District (2005-06)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Types of Centres</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>1,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Higher Secondary School</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Industrial Training Institute</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Basic Training Centre</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nurse Training Centre</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hindi Training Centre</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Adult Education Centre</td>
<td>10,732</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Joint Directorate of Economics and Statistics (Hills), Diphu.

Labour and Employment Scenario: Employment plays a drastic role in the nation building. The economy of the Karbi Anglong in particular and the nation as a whole is very much dependent upon the employment status of its masses. There are three (3) employment exchanges in Karbi Anglong. According to 2001 Census, the percentage of working population to total population of the district was 40.63 against 42.8 in the 1991 Census. The worker population ratio for male was 48.98 against 31.62 for female. More than half of the population have been registered as non-workers. Again, among the total workers, marginal workers constitute 12.15% and the main workers constitute 28.48%.
Table No. 2.6
Distribution of Workers in Karbi Anglong, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Main Workers</th>
<th>Marginal Workers</th>
<th>Total workers</th>
<th>Non-Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Person</td>
<td>8,13,311</td>
<td>2,31,638 (28.48%)</td>
<td>98,842 (12.15%)</td>
<td>3,30,480 (40.63%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4,22,250</td>
<td>1,73,045 (40.98%)</td>
<td>33,763 (7.99%)</td>
<td>2,06,808 (48.97%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3,91,061</td>
<td>58,593 (14.98%)</td>
<td>65,079 (16.64%)</td>
<td>1,23,672 (31.62%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The population of cultivators amongst all the main workers in karbi Anglong District was 58.67 percent, agricultural labourers accounted for 13.76 percent, household and industries workers accounted for 3.70% and other workers 23.86%. The number of female workers engaged as agricultural labourers (20.14%) was more than the male agricultural labourers (9.94%).

Table No. 2.7
Economic Classification of Workers in Karbi Anglong District, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Total Workers</th>
<th>Cultivators</th>
<th>Agricultural Labourers</th>
<th>Household and Industries Workers</th>
<th>Other Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Person</td>
<td>3,30,480</td>
<td>1,93,879 (58.66%)</td>
<td>45,462 (13.76%)</td>
<td>12,275 (3.71%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2,06,808</td>
<td>1,22,555 (59.26%)</td>
<td>20,550 (9.94%)</td>
<td>3521 (1.70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1,23,672</td>
<td>71,324 (57.67%)</td>
<td>24,912 (20.14%)</td>
<td>8754 (7.08%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Man Power Supply and Demand:** Unemployment is a major threat to the economic development of a nation. The most alarming feature of Karbi Anglong district is the
growing unemployment. The number of job seekers specially educated job seekers are increasing day by day. The total job seekers stood at 10983 at the end of December 1990 which increased to 11,170 at the end of December 2000, 13,024 at the end of December 2001, 14,700 at the end of December 2002, 15,249 at the end of December 2003, 16,176 at the end of December 2004, 15,101 at the end of December 2005, 13,825 at the end of December 2006 and further increased to 14,665 in the year 2007 respectively as per the live register of the employment Exchange of the district\(^9\).

**Employment in Organised Sector:** The combined employment of both men and women in the public sector was 15,836 which increased to 17,198 at the end of March, 2007. In regard to private sector, the combined employment of both men and women was 4364 at the end of March, 1998, but decreased to 2187 at the end of March, 2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Public Sector</th>
<th>Private Sector</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-1998</td>
<td>12,082</td>
<td>3,754</td>
<td>15,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-1999</td>
<td>12,151</td>
<td>3,821</td>
<td>15,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>12,475</td>
<td>3,845</td>
<td>16,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>14,791</td>
<td>2,564</td>
<td>17,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>14,086</td>
<td>2,248</td>
<td>16,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>13,981</td>
<td>3,253</td>
<td>17,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>13,942</td>
<td>3,279</td>
<td>17,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>13,894</td>
<td>3,316</td>
<td>17,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>13,868</td>
<td>3,310</td>
<td>17,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>13,857</td>
<td>3,341</td>
<td>17,198</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Deputy Director of Employment Exchange, Diphu, Karbi Anglong.
Forest Resources

The hill area of Assam forest covers about 34% of the total geographical area of the region against the regulated forest coverage of 60% as fixed by the National Forestry Policy, 1952\(^{(10)}\). As per the State of Forests Reports (SFR), 2001, published by the Forest Survey of India, the total area under forests in Karbi Anglong district was 7,97,200 hectares constituting 76.4% of its geographical area. The forest of Karbi Anglong is rich in bio-diversity. Different varieties of timber like teak, sal, tita champa, bansum, gamari, nahor, bhelu, jam hollock, koroi etc. are found in karbi Anglong. Besides, bamboo, cane, fire-wood, thatch, patidoi, dhuna, medicinal herbs like Neem, Chalmugra, Chandan (Sandal), Agaru, Atar, Tulsi, Citronella, Amla etc. are also found in the forest of Karbi Anglong. The district is also rich in varieties of wildlife such as wild buffaloes, elephants, tigers, wild bears, deers, monkeys, green pigeons, mynas, great hornbills, wild duck, wild pigs etc. Some rare species of reptiles such as lizards, pythons and pangolin are also found in Karbi Anglong. The hilly areas of Karbi Anglong adjacent to the Kaziranga National Park, provides shelter to the wild life during flood and rainy season.

The forest area of the district is managed by the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council through its territorial divisions namely – (i) Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu (ii) Karbi Anglong West Division, Diphu (iii) Hamren Division, Diphu. Physiographically, the district can be broadly divided into two parts viz. Hills and Plains.
Mineral Resources

Karbi Anglong district is rich in mineral resources. Varieties of minerals like coal, limestone, feldspar, muscovite, mica, china clay (Kaolin) etc. are found in abundant quantity in different regions of the district.

The important areas of the district where coal seam are located are Kaliajan, 25 km West-North-West of Dimapur, Silvetta, Longboi, Shemda, Kaliani etc. Limestone of high grade occur in the eastern part of Karbi Anglong. Among all the occurrences, Koilajan is the largest, covering a deposit area of 12 sq.km having 5 different limestone bands. The limestone in Dillia Hills is being used for manufacturing cement in Bokajan Cement Plant. Limestone found here is also used in production of many chemical substances. Copper in limited quantity is found in border area of Karbi Anglong. Good quality of sand for construction is found in Manja, Bokulia etc. Clay is found in abundant quantity in Karbi Anglong for making bricks, glass, and pottery. China clay - the basic raw material for the pottery industry is found in the Silvetta area of the district. It is also used in manufacturing crockeries. Hard granite or gneiss, extremely good stone for making road boulders, metals, chips etc. are found in the Hamren Sub-Division particularly in Baithalangso and Dankamokam areas of the district. Soil for the manufacture of bricks and earthen wares is found in bordering area of the district. Gypsum used in manufacturing cement is also found in Karbi Anglong. The occurrence of oil and natural gas has been reported from near Koilajan.
Agriculture

Agriculture is the main source of income of this region. The economic development of the district is highly dependent on agriculture and allied activities. The hill district with topography of hills, plains and valleys has its own peculiarities in the system of cultivation. Roughly 30% of the total area of the district falls either in the plains or valleys. The type of cultivation of crops varies from place to place according to the variation of relief, rainfall, soils etc. Temperature ranges from about 21°C to about 25°C on average which is adequate for the major and common crops. The system of agriculture in plain areas in the district is similar to the system that is practiced in the other plain districts of the state.

The people living in the hill areas practice terrace cultivation. This system helps in soil, moisture conservation and results in better plant growth, greater yield and better quality of the produce. This system gives a regular and assured crop production with possibilities for improved agricultural practices. The people living in the plains practice flat system of common cultivation but their methods of cultivation are not improved. Most of the cultivators do not even use fertilizers and plough only once or twice in the field and then transplant the seedlings.

The people of this district generally cultivate single crops. They rarely follow the double/multiple cropping systems. The principal crops grown in this district are maize, paddy, rape, cotton, mustard, sugarcane, jute, ginger etc.

Agriculture, being the single largest contributor to the DDP accounts for about 44.91% of the total DDP of Karbi Anglong. Moreover, this sector engages 73% of the total working force, 59% as cultivators and 14% as agricultural labour (12). The
number of cultivators along with the number of agricultural labourers has been increasing over the decades. As per 1971 census, the total number of cultivators were 91,036 and agricultural labourers were 8,111 whereas the number of cultivators has increased to 1,93,879 and the number of agricultural labourers to 45,462 according to 2001 Census. The total number of persons engaged in agricultural sector is 2,29,341 out of the total population of 8,13,311 persons.

Out of the total geographical area of the district only 11.8% of the land was put to agricultural uses in 1991-2000 which increased to 14.6% in 2005-06. During 2000-01, the per – capita food grains production was 251 kg as against 279 kg in 1990-91. Rice is the largest crop in the district in regard to both production and area (13).

The area under food grain crops in Karbi Anglong District is comparatively lesser than other plain districts of Assam. In this district, the area under food grains was 54,000 hectares in 1970-71, increased to 96000 hectares in 1974-75, 99000 hectares in 1975-76, 1, 81,277 hectares in 1999-2000 and 2, 01,957 hectares in 2003-2004(14).

**Wet-Cultivation:** In Karbi-Anglong, wet cultivation is extensively carried out in Howraghat, Samalagnso, Bokajan, Lumbajong and Rongkhang Development Blocks. It is also carried out along the narrow valleys of perennial streams known as Dongakhok. Such valleys are usually irrigated by the cultivators from stream itself(15).

**Shifting Cultivation:** Shifting Cultivation is an age old practiced traditional cultivation. Out of the total geographical area of the North East i.e. 25.50 million hectares, Jhum cultivation account for 2.70 million hectares. About 4.50 lakh tribal
families survive on Jhum cultivation in North East (16). In Karbi Anglong district, about 65% of the people are dependent on Jhum cultivation (17). The people cultivate on the same plot of land after an interval of 8-10 years. So, the people have to move from 1 hillock to another in search of new plots of jhum land. But at present, due to population pressure on land, the jhum cycle has been reduced to 4 to 5 years and even in some areas, the jhum cycle has been reduced to 2-3 years.

Irrigation: Due to hilly terrains in much of the areas irrigation has not been possible to the required extent. The climate of the Karbi Anglong district is dependent upon monsoon. The production of food grains decreases when there is no monsoon. Nearly 75% of the total irrigation potential is covered under Minor Irrigation Segment (18). In Karbi-Anglong the areas where medium and minor irrigation projects are available are Kollanga, Hawaipur, Horgut, Honkram, Japaraj, Bokajan, Jaradubi, Tumpreng, Sikari, Pathar etc. (19). As per the data available from the Joint Directorate of Economics and Statistics (Hills), Diphu, the total area covered under irrigation in Karbi Anglong district was 31,867 hectares in 2005-06.

**Horticulture**: The agro-climatic condition of Karbi Anglong and its altitude favours growth and production of fruit crops like orange, lemon, pine-apple, banana, pomegranate, papaya etc. Species such as ginger, chillies, cardamom, turmeric etc. are also produced in large quantities in the interior hills. Horticultural crops are extensively grown in Nilip, Chinthong, Amri and Socheng development blocks of the district.

**Sericulture**: Sericulture is a very old and indigenous cottage industry among the tribal people of the region. It comprises in the culture of Eri (or Endi), Muga Mulberry and Oak Tassar. Eri culture has been traditionally practiced by the people as
household occupation and particularly the Karbis, Dimasas, Kacharis and Tiwas have been using its clothes in various forms from very olden times. During the Ahom and the British periods, Karbi Anglong was the only major supplier of Eri cocoons in the entire North-East India \(^{(20)}\). Muga culture has also been recently introduced in a few foothill areas bordering Nagaon and Golaghat Districts for production of Muga Cocoons, especially Muga seed cocoons.

**Plantation**

The sub-tropical and temperate climate of Karbi Anglong is congenial for growing plantation crops like tea, coffee, rubber, cashewnut, muga etc. In Karbi Anglong, plantations have been promoted under the Government initiative in the post independence period. Plantation of rubber and coffee was introduced in the mid 1950s.

**Tea Plantation:** Tea is planted in different parts of the Karbi Anglong district. The area covered under tea plantation in Karbi Anglong district was 1866.12 hectares and the total production of tea was 76,57,064 kg during the year 2000-2001. At present, there are 14 tea estates in the district giving employment to 4531 labourers and employees other than labourers \(^{(21)}\). The registered area for tea cultivation by small tea growers in the district was 2058.39 hectares and total number of small tea growers was 302 as on 31st March, 2007 \(^{(22)}\).

**Coffee Plantation:** Presently 543.24 hectares of land is under coffee plantation in Karbi Anglong District. The yield of coffee in Karbi Anglong is 120 kg per hectare which is very low as compared to all India average yields of 800 kgs per hectare \(^{(23)}\).

**Rubber Plantation:** The total area covered under rubber plantation in Karbi Anglong district, at present, is around 1121.11 hectares. The Assam Plantation Crop
Development Corporation and the Soil Conservation Department together covers 982.7 hectares of rubber plantation. The current yield of latex is 1200 kg per hectare which is 250 kg per hectare less than that of India\textsuperscript{(24)}.

**Bamboo Plantation:** The geographical location and the climatic condition of the Karbi Anglong district favours bamboo plantation and it has the potential to be the largest bamboo growing district of Assam. In Karbi Anglong, the total area under bamboo cultivation during 2004-05 was 1325.05 hectares and area per grower was 0.010 hectares with 5,35,718 number of bamboo bushes in total and 3.84 number of bamboo bushes per grower\textsuperscript{(25)}.

**Citronella Plantation:** Since late 80’s citronella plantation has been gaining popularity among the local farmers in the upland areas. Large areas which have been abandoned after one or two Jhum cycles are found to be suitable for citronella plantation. Local people are interested in citronella plantation as it is eco-friendly. In fact, Karbi Anglong contributes a substantial share to the total citronella oil production in the state. There is ample scope for tea, rubber and citronella plantation in the district with institutional credit support.

**Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Facilities**

Animal rearing plays a vital role in the day to day economic and social life of the tribal people of the region. Most of the people rear pigs, buffaloes, goats as well as fowls as their source of income and for self consumption of animal protein, creating self employment avenues. Moreover, availability of good fodder through out the year makes the rearing of livestock easy in this region. Damp climate, plenty of open space with natural grasses, marshy lands, perennial rivers, great demand for meat and social functions etc. are the chief factors creating congenial atmosphere for rearing of buffaloes, pigs, fowls etc. in this region. There are 21 numbers of veterinary
dispensaries, 42 numbers of veterinary sub-centers and artificial insemination sub-centers and 8 numbers of livestock and poultry farms.

**Dairy farming:** Diary farming occupies an important position as an income generating factor in the eye of tribal people of the region. There is an Intensive Cattle Development Project (ICDP) to upgrade the local Non-descriptive cattle population and Cattle Demonstration Farm at Manja. A Buffalo Breeding Farm is located at Silonijan. The Regional Insemination Centre at Sarihajan near Bokajan alongwith 20 numbers of Artificial Insemination (A.I.) Sub-centres established by the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department facilitates breeding of improved quality of cattles. As per 2003 Livestock Census, Cattle population in the district is 3,78,106 (including indigenous cattle – 3,56,721) and that of Buffalo is 50,342 respectively.

**Poultry:** Poultry is largely confined to backyard rearing due to low percentage of improved hybrid stock. There is one breeding (broiler) farm at Khatkhatiar Bokajan, two government poultry farms at Diphu and Hamren, one government demonstration farm at Kheroni and one government duck breeding farm at Phuloni. There is only one government feed mixing plant at Diphu and not even a single in the private sector. As per Livestock Census, 2003, the total number of fowls and ducks in the district is 7,23,456 and 1,00,234 respectively.

**Sheep and Goater:** Small backyard goatery units are generally maintained by most of the tribal as well as non-tribal people in the plain areas of the district for sustenance or as a supplementary occupation. The famous Assam Hill Goat, a good variety is available only in this district. There are two sheep and goat breeding farm at Diphu and Khanduli (Hamren sub-division). As per 2003 Livestock Census, the total number of sheep and goat in the district was 1,432 and 1,50,398 respectively.
Piggery: Pig farming is the most popular and traditional activity of the tribal people of this region, in particular. The district is self-sufficient in production of both crossbred and local piglets. There are two government breeding farms at Diphu and Dokamokam and one Govt. Feed Mixing plant at Diphu (29). As per 2003 Livestock Census, the total number of pigs in the district is 1,26,342.

Table No. 2.9
Veterinary Facilities Available in Karbi Anglong District (2005-06)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Type of Veterinary Facilities</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dispensary</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mobile Dispensary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Block Dispensary</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>I.C.D.P</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Livestock Farm</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Poultry and Duck Farm</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Goat Farm</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pig Farm</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sheep Breeding Farm</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Bull Rearing Farm</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cattle Demonstration Farm</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Gosadan</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sub-Divisional Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer, Diphu, Karbi Anglong.

Fishery Development: The hill district, Karbi Anglong is not a major producer of fish. It is generally practiced by the people residing at the foothill areas of the region. The varieties of fish available in the district are Fry (Puthi), Shoal (Magur, Shrimp (Singi), Climbing Fish (Kawoi), Mud Fish, Rohit, Hilsa, Eel and Hag fish, Dighalpani, Arikati Beel, Batisa Beel, Lutumari Beel, Barganga Beel as well as rivers
like Dikharu, Jamuna, Kopili and Langpi are the most important natural fisheries of Karbi Anglong \(^{(30)}\). There are 12 fish farms in the district out of which 4 farms are managed by Fishery Department, 2 are leased out and the remaining are not in operation since long \(^{(31)}\). The water resources available for development of pisciculture in Karbi Anglong district has been shown below -

### Table No. 2.10
**Types of Water Resources for Fishery in Karbi Anglong District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Types of Water Resources</th>
<th>Name of Sub-Divisions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Diphu</td>
<td>Bokajan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unregistered Beels</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Channels &amp; Rivers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ponds &amp; Tanks (Private)</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fish Farms (Government)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fish Farms (Private)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Potential Linked Credit Plan, 2006-2007, Karbi Anglong District, NABARD.*

**Industries**

The industrial sector of the district is not yet developed as compared to other districts of the state. Its backwardness is due to lack of infrastructure, entrepreneurial motivation and demand. Inspite of huge potential in the form of natural resources, there is only one large scale industry i.e. Cement Corporation of India (CCI), Bokajan and 14 tea estates in the district. The existing industrial structure of the district mainly comprises of the small scale industries like ginger units, citronella oil extraction units, dairy food production units, rice and flour mills, cotton ginning mill, coal mining,
limestone mining, bricks, and potter making, saw mill, plywood making, handloom and textile, gur khandsari manufacturing, fruit preservation and processing, carpentry, basketry, blacksmith wire netting, RCC pipe and well ring making, ice-cream manufacturing units, wooden furniture manufacturing units etc.

The industrial sector in the district as a whole employs only 3.19% of the total workforce. The manufacturing industries which form the core of this district employ 1.91% of the total workforce (32). In Karbi Anglong, the District Industries & Commerce Centre, Diphu have been playing an efficient role in the industrial growth of the district. The total number of Small Scale Industries registered in Karbi Anglong District under the Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Diphu, up to 31st March 2007 was 554 units. The number of units registered with the DICC in 2002-03 was 53 units and during 2006-07, it increased to 56 units. The number of small scale industries (554) registered with the DICC are involved in various types of economic activities such as Food Processing Units(140), Textile/ Handloom Units(73), Steel Fabrication Units(70), Wooden Furniture making Units(47), Printing/ DTP/ Offset/ Books(44), Battery / Inverter Units(33), Engineering Works Units(20), Citronella Oil Units(17), Stone Chips making Units(14), RCC Hume Pipe Factory(13), Barbed Wire making Units(13), Cement Pipe/ Bricks Units(10), Sawn Timber Units(9), Tyre Repairing Units(8), 7 Units each of Candle making and Electrical repairing, Poultry/ Cattle Feed making Units(6), Rubber Units(4), 3 Units each of Automobile Repairing, Chemical and STD/ISD, Black Tea Units(2), Pharmaceutical Units(1) and 7 Miscellaneous Units. The following table gives the details of Small Scale Industries (SSIs) registered with DICC, Diphu in the last few years.
Table No. 2.11
Position of SSIs Registered with the DICC in Karbi Anglong District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of SSIs registered during the year</th>
<th>No. of Units</th>
<th>Cumulative Total of SSI Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Working</td>
<td>Non-Working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-78 to 1984-85</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-86 to 1989-90</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91 to 1994-95</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-96 to 1999-00</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 to 2001</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Industries& Commerce Centre, Karbi Anglong, Diphu, 1977-78 to 2006-07.

Assam Hills Small Industries Development Corporation (AHSIDC): The Assam Hill Small Industries Development Corporation, Diphu, set up in the year 1968 started functioning in the year 1974. The Corporation has limited its activities due to shortage of fund. Its fruit preservation unit at Hawaipur and sugar mills at Kellonga and Manja have remained unutilised for long. At present, the Citronella distillation plant at Manja is the only functional unit.

Khadi and Village Industries: The Khadi and Village Industries are promoted in the state by the Assam Khadi and Village Industry Board with financial support received from the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Government of India. The main thrust of this Board is on economic upliftment of rural areas. The Khadi and Village Industries of the district have been implementing number of village industries
activities through out its boundary. These activities are implemented directly through its 26 numbers of Khadi and Village Industries (Khadi Cotton – 9 and Village Industries – 17) of which 9 are composite centers, 5 are Ghani, 1 is Saranjam, 1 is Bamboo and Cane, 9 are Bee keeping, and 1 Fibre Industry but at present, only four Khadi Production Centres are in operation. The Board has achieved production of worth of Rs. 1.90 lakh of cloth and Rs. 0.70 lakh yarn during the year 2000-2001.

**Handloom and Textiles:** Handloom and Textile Industry is the most commonly and widely practiced cottage industry among all the tribal people of this region. Handloom weaving, next only to Agriculture in terms of impact and coverage, provides both sustenance and satisfaction of artistic endeavour to more than 80 thousand people in the two hill districts. Handloom and Textile Industry holds great potentiality in the district as it does not require huge block of capital investment rather it can provide employment to the local people particularly the women. Handloom and Handicrafts units constitute the mainstay in the small scale industrial units. This group constitutes 46.88% of the total units under Small Scale Industry. In fact, this sector not only creates more employment opportunities but also uses local resources and traditional skills. At present, there are 129 numbers of Primary Level Handloom Co-Operative Societies and one District Level Handloom Co-operative Society. Besides, there are 7 numbers of Weavers Extension Service Units, 2 numbers of Handloom Production Centres and 20 numbers of Handloom Training Centres.

**Trade and Services**

The population of the district as per 2011 Census (Provisional) is 9, 65,280 with 4, 93,482 male and 4,71, 798 females. Besides Karbis, a large number of tribals and non-tribals live together in this region. Majority of the people engaged in trade and business in this district are non-tribal people migrated from Bihar, U.P.,
Rajasthan, West Bengal etc. Of late, due to the pressure on land and unemployment, local tribals have started venturing into the business sector. In Karbi Anglong, any person belonging to a non-tribal community has to obtain permission in the form of trade licence from the Autonomous Council to start their venture. A competent authority has been appointed by the Council to issue the trade licences. There are four Revenue Circle Offices in the district which deals with the process of issue of trade licences viz. Diphu, Phuloni, Hamren and Bokajan.

Different types of services are provided by different forms of trade units in the district. The most common trade units available in the district are Xerox Centre, Dry Cleaning, Homoeo Clinic, Pharmacy, Beauty Parlour, Saloon, Tailoring, Thela, Rickshaw, PCO, Radio/T.V. Repairing, Small Motors, Bus/Truck/Fridge repairing, Vehicle servicing etc.

The trade and services sector in Karbi Anglong always have been able to draw maximum credit support from financial institutions in the district. The faster growth of population, rapid expansion of urban and semi-urban centers, and improvement in the living standards of people are the major causes behind increase in the demand for bank credit in this sector. During the last decade there was rapid increase in the urban population but the district as a whole remained less urbanised than the rest part of the state. Besides, the six urban centres longwith some other fast emerging commercial centers, limited potential exists in the interior areas around the village markets. However with a density of population at 78 per sq.km \(^{(35)}\), the scope for development of the services sector is limited.

**Co-operation:** Karbis are the main inhabitants of the district. Like other tribal communities, the Karbis have also formed some traditional institutions of mutual help
and co-operation. The Youth Club of the Karbis, known as Somar or Jir-Kedam, is confined only to the young boys of the village. The leader of their club is known as KLENG-SHARPO and the deputy under – KLENG-DUN. They have their own Gramin Bank (KERUNG AMEI) (36) which assists the poor Karbi families by lending money at low interest rates and resists them from borrowing money from village money lenders. Three types of Gramin banks are in operation in the district.

As per the Co-operative Act, 1904, there are different co-operative societies in Karbi Anglong District which has been shown in the Table No. 2.12.

Table No. 2.12
Status of Co-operative Societies in Karbi Anglong District as on 31.03.07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Co-operatives</th>
<th>Diphu</th>
<th>Bokajan</th>
<th>Hamren</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Assam Co-operative Apex Bank</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Large Area Multi-Purpose Societies (LAMPS)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Transport Co-operative Societies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Marketing and Consumer Co-operative Societies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Wholesale Consumer Co-operative Societies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Farming Poultry, Piggery, Co-operative Societies</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Pisciculture Societies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Milk and Dairy Co-operative Societies</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Thrift and Credit Co-operative Societies</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Industrial Co-operative Societies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Housing Co-operative Societies</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Other Co-operatives</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Karbi Anglong, Diphu.
Infrastructure

Infrastructure refers to the facilities, activities and services which support operation and development of other sectors of the economy. They are useful in the daily life of the society. Infrastructure of an economy can be classified into economic and social infrastructure. Economic infrastructure consists of electricity, transport services and communications etc. while social infrastructure includes education, health, water supply, housing, sanitation etc. The economic infrastructure directly supports the process of production and distribution while the latter supports the economic system indirectly.

Power and Electricity: Power is the basic infrastructural requirement for the growth of industries in particular and economic development of the state as a whole. The region has vast potentiality of power ranging from hydel to natural gas including natural gas, but the progress of the district is not up to the expected mark. There still exists a gap between availability and demand for power in the district. In the hills, only 9% of the villages are electrified (37). Karbi Langpi Hydro Electric Project (100 MW) is the only major project of the Karbi Anglong district which was completed in the year 2006. Besides, there is Bordikharu Micro Hydel Project located at a distance of 18 km from Dokmoka in the Karbi Anglong district (38). The total numbers of villages covered by electricity in this district of Assam are 1380(39).

Transportation and Communication

Karbi Anglong bears a distinct hilly and rugged topography in Assam. Due to its geographical isolation, transport has been a major bottleneck for the economic progress of the district.

Roads: The district is well connected with other districts through various routes. On the North, it is covered by NH-37 and on the East by NH-39. The internal routes of
the district is under Public Works Department (PWD). For nearly 50% of the villages, the nearest bus stop is at a distance of 5 km. or more\(^{(40)}\).

Road transport is the most important means of communication for movement of goods and people in this economically backward remote hill district of Assam. The important nodal points of road linkages in the district are Diphu, Manja, Donkamokam, Baithalangso, Kheroni and Hamren\(^{(41)}\).

**Railways:** Rail transport occupies an important place in the transport sector of Karbi Anglong district. The rail route of the district constitutes only 3.76% of the state rail route. The N.F.R. passes through the district touching only a few points viz.- Hawaipur, Lamsakhang, Borlangphar, Langsoliet, Nilalung, Diphu, Daldali, Dhansiri, Rangapahar, Khatkhati and Bokajan.

**Airport:** There is no airport in the district. The nearest airport is at Dimapur, 54 km away from Diphu.

**Postal and Tele-Communication:** The Postal and Tele-Communication facilities particularly with the latest mobile network telephone sources have been spread throughout the district. The district has a wide network of post and telegraph facilities too. The Diphu sub-post office has been graded to Head Post Office from the Nagaon division with computer facilities to its customers. The Post office also provides Savings Bank facilities under different schemes like Post Office Savings Account (POSA), Post Office Recurring Deposit (PORD), Kishan Vikash Patra (KVP) etc.

Unlike Postal services, Telecom services in the district are also expanding in recent years with the installation of high power capacity machine and computerized system. At present, there 10 (ten) number of telephone exchanges are functioning throughout Manja, Balipathar, Sarihajan, Dillaipahar, Howraghat, Parokhowa and Dokmoka.
Moreover, internet facility is also available in the urban and semi-urban areas of the district. Besides, five daily newspapers are published within the district. More than 14 (fourteen) newspapers are circulated throughout the district. 15 (fifteen) computer training centers and 1 (one) radio station are in operation in the district. A local cable “KAT channel” is also very popular for its news coverage and local traditional entertainment programme.

**Health Services:** The office of the Joint Director of Medical and Health, Diphu has been functioning in this district since its inception. All the National Health Services, Registration of Birth and Death, T.B. Control, Leprosy Control, Goitr, I.C.D.S., Malaria etc. directly come under the control of the office of the Additional Chief Medical and Health Officer. In the district, health services are not adequately spread. Doctors are available only in 10% of the villages. In majority of the villages, traditional practitioners are the only health guides and the nearest Government. Health Centers are far away. But the position is comparatively better in the plain areas of the district. The position of the health facilities available in the district is shown in the Table No.2.13.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Facilities</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Hospital</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Health Centre</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Dispensary</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Centre</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Welfare Centre</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Beds</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Centre</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Joint Directorate of Economic(Hills), Diphu.*
**Water Supply:** Provision of safe drinking water in rural areas have been made the part of the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) from the 5th Five Year Plan. But as Unhygienic water i.e. open and untreated water from streams and ring wells / hand pumps are the principal source of drinking water for nearly 77% of the villages in Karbi Anglong. There is a high percentage of fluoride content in water in some parts of the district. Only 17% of the villages have been blessed with pipe water supply (42).

**Tourism:** Karbi Anglong, the enchanting hills district, is best known for its unique natural beauty and availability of rare flora and fauna. The district is divided into two parts – the Western part and the Eastern part. In the Western part, there is Hamren Sub-Division with its rolling hills, dense forests, waterfalls, rivers and streams and in the Eastern part, the Diphu and Bokajan Sub-Division is greeted with a combination of flat paddy lands and green hills interspersed with blue meandering rivers.

While in summer i.e., from June to August, the weather is hot and humid, the remaining parts of the year are pleasant and bracing. The peak season for the tourist to visit Karbi Anglong is from October to March. The most important sources of attraction of the tourists to this district is its wildlife and tourist resorts. Wild life like elephant, wild duck, sambar, bisor etc. are found in the forests of Karbi Anglong. The different tourist resorts are attracting tourists not only from the state but also from various parts of the country and abroad. The district is blessed with excellent picnic spots, enriched by natural beauty of the course of river Kopili and Amreng. The important tourist centers under Hamren Sub-Division are Amreng, Koka, Ponemur, Rongkhang, Rongbong (the traditional Karbi capital), Khanduli etc. under Bokajan Sub-Division, Kaziranga, Deopani, Garampani etc. while under Diphu Sub-Division, Silveta, Siloni, Lechunghat etc. are popular. Amreng has already been distinguished
itself as the best place for angling in the district. Singhason, the highest peak of the district with altitude of about 1800 meters, Tika, Taralangso, etc. are some of the other eye-catching area of the district. Khanduli, a tourist spot, looks like desert sand dune in the clear moon light.

Banking Institutions: Different types of Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Assam Co-operative Apex Banks are in operation in the district. At present, the district has a banking network of 54 branches consisting of 18 branches of 6 types of Commercial Banks, 34 branches of the only Regional Rural Bank (i.e. Langpi Achangri Rural Bank) and 2 numbers of Assam Apex Co-operative Bank. The SBI is the lead bank in the Karbi Anglong district (43).

Table No. 2.14
Block-wise Type of Banks in Operation in Karbi Anglong District
As on 31st March, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Block</th>
<th>Name of the Bank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lumbajong</td>
<td>1. SBI, Diphu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. SBI, Manja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. CBI, Diphu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. UBI, Diphu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Assam Co-operative Apex Bank, Diphu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6. LDRB, Diphu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7. LDRB, Dhansiri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8. LDRB, Dillaji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9. LDRB, Manja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10. LDRB, Borlangphar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bokajan</td>
<td>1. SBI, Bokajan, ADB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. SBI, Bokajan, CCI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Assam Apex Co-operative Bank, Bokajan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Bank of Baroda, Deopani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. LDRB, Silonijan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6. LDRB, Hidipi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7. LDRB, Balipathar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8. LDRB, Khatkhati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9. LDRB, Japarajan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10. LDRB, Dillai</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued in the next page
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Banks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chinthong</td>
<td>1. SBI, Hamren  2. SBI Amtreng  3. LDRB, Baithalangso  4. LDRB, Hamren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Langsomepi</td>
<td>1. CBI, Phuloni  2. LDRB, Bokulia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sochong</td>
<td>1. SBI Jirikinding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rongmongve</td>
<td>1. SBI, Kohra  2. LDRB, Hamren  3. LDRB, Baithalangso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nilip</td>
<td>1. SBI, Chowkihola  2. UCO Bank, Borpathar  3. LDRB, Deithor  4. LDRB, Chowkihola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Amri</td>
<td>1. LDRB, Ulukunchi  2. LDRB, Beltola  3. LDRB, Vokson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Samelangso</td>
<td>1. LDRB, Dentaghat  2. LDRB, Dengaon  3. LDRB, Dokmoka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Annual Credit Plan, 2005-06, Lead Bank, Karbi Anglong District and Annual Reports, Langi Dehangi Regional Rural Banks, Karbi Anglong District.

**Life Insurance Corporation (LIC):** The Life Insurance Corporation of India is performing a very encouraging business in Karbi Anglong district. The Diphu Branch of LIC opened in October, 1985, is the only LIC Branch functioning in the district. The Diphu branch of LIC covers an area of 4861.70 sq. km. In the North, the LIC,
Diphu branch covers Dokmoka, Langhin, Baghpani, in the East, Dillai, Hidipi, Barpathar, Silonijan, etc. Barlongphar in the South while Howraghat, Bokalia, Borbill, Rajapathar etc. in the West.

References


7. www.indiamapia.com

8. www.census2011.co.in

9. Deputy Director, Employment Exchange, Karbi Anglong District, Diphu.


13. Ibid., 49


15. Phangcho, Dr. P.C., op.cit., p.62.
38. Chief General Manager (RE), Assam, Published in Assam Tribune, 7th April, 2008, p.5.


42. Annual Credit Plan, Karbi Anglong District, 2008-09, Lead Bank Office, p.3.