MEANINGS OF LOCAL TERMS USED

Adhi. Sharecropping system for rented land.
According to this system half of the total produces must be given by the tenants to the landowners. The word adhi means half.

Ahu. Spring and summer rice.

Amabasya. The day in which there is no moon

Ambubasi. A weeklong period in the first part of June when the monsoon bursts with heavy rainfall. The last three days of this week is observed by the Assamese peasants with rites and rituals. They believe that Mother Earth attains menstruation during these days. Brisk agricultural activities follow this period.

Arahar. A variety of pulses

Asara. A method of sowing winter rice in low land areas. When ratoons of seeds come out, then these are broadcast in the already ploughed wet land.
Baideu. Elder sister.

Bao. Lowland winter paddy standing in the field for about ten months from the time of its broadcast in the months of March or April.

Basti. Homestead of rural family where varieties of trees like banana, betel-nut, bamboo, etc. are grown besides vegetables in the kitchen garden.

Beel. Small lakelet.

Beopari. Traders or middlemen between the producers and the consumers.

Bihu. One of the most important festivals of the Assamese society.

Bindha. A rake type agricultural implement made of wood and bamboo and used for weeding out and thinning crops.

Boro. Spring rice.

Char. Temporary or semi-permanent riverine islands and plains on the banks of the Brahmaputra river which are formed by the deposits of river-borne sediments.
**Chukani.** An agreement between the tenants and the landowners according to which the tenants must give the landowners a share of their total output or an amount of cash money fixed at the time of agreement as rent for the land they cultivate.

**Dalal.** A person who earns money by convincing the producer-seller to sell his produce at a low price and the consumers to purchase at a high price. Thus he helps the traders or beoparies from whom he gets commission.

**Dao.** Big knife.

**Dolimari.** A wooden piece with a wooden or bamboo handle by which the hard pieces of soil left out after ploughing are broken to dust particles by striking these exerting force by hand and thus the ploughed soil is smoothened.

**Don.** An indigenous unit of measurement equivalent to 4.67 kg.

**Dong.** Channel made by manual labour for flowing of water in the paddy field.
**Eri/Endi.** A kind of warm cloth woven by the indigenous women from the threads derived from the latex of a kind of worm known as Eri.

**Ekadashi.** The eleventh day after the full moon day or no-moon day is called Ekadashi which is observed by the Hindu people by observing fast during the day time. They do not do any agricultural work on that day.

**Hat.** A market place in the rural areas where weekly or bi-weekly free market takes place.

**Hulabari** A pointed bar made of bamboo with a length of 5' or 6' used for carrying the bundles of paddy stalks with grains after harvest from the fields to the homes.

**Id.** An important holiday of the Muslims observed by them at the end of the Roza month during which they do not take any food during the day time.

**Kacha.** Ungravelled road.

**Kanchi.** Sickle

**Kepoa-bao.** A special variety of bao paddy which has the resistance capacity to survive with the rising level of water during high flood.
Khanti. A piece of flat iron blade with wooden handle used for clearing weeds and other particles of land near the roots of the crops.

Khabani. A wooden rake.

Kharif. Summer season.

Khesari. A kind of local pulses.

Kor. Hoe or spade used for digging soil.

Mahajan. Rural rich man.

Mahal. An area in the forest demarcated by the Forest Department in which a person called Mahaldur is allowed to capture elephants for sale.

Moi. An agricultural implement made of bamboo for levelling the ploughed soil before sowing the seeds of crops.

Marwari. A business class of people who have come from the Marwar district of Rajasthan. But the local people call all the people coming from Rajasthan as Marwari in common parlance.

Masur. Lentil.

Maund. An indigenous unit of weight of a commodity almost equal to 37.32 kilograms.
The day of the martyrdom of Hassan and Hussain, the grand sons of Hazarat Mohammad, celebrated by Muslim people to memorise the great sacrifice of their lives.

Moong.

A variety of pulses

Muga.

A kind of special type of cloth woven by the indigenous women from the threads derived from the latex of a kind of worm known as muga.

Pacca.

Metalled and pitched road

Palla.

An indigenous unit of weight equivalent to 4.67 kg.

Ram.

A temporary camp for pamua peasants.

Pamua.

Peasants who live in a temporary camp for carrying out agricultural activities in places away from their homesteads. After the harvest of crops, they return to their permanent homes.

Purnima.

The day of full-moon.

Pura.

An indigenous unit of weight equivalent to 18.68 kilograms.

Habi.

Winter season
Roza. One month-long fasting observed by the Muslim people. According to their religious belief, one cannot be a real Islam without observing Roza.

Sali Transplanted winter paddy

Ser An indigenous unit of weight equivalent to 0.9331 kg

Sraddha It is a religious rites of the Hindu people observed in the memory of the deceased persons after some days of the day of their deaths. In earlier days, all the non-Brahmins observed Sraddha after one month from the day of the death of a person. But now-a-days, because of religious reform, some non-Brahmins observe the Sraddha ceremony after eleven days, some after twelve days and some others still after one month. But the Brahmans still continue to observe it after eleven days.

Zamindari. A land tenure system under which settlement of land is held permanently by the landlords and the land revenue is fixed in perpetuity. Under this system, the holders of land are the intermediaries between the state and the actual cultivators for collection of land revenue.