The economy of the North Eastern Region (NER) is dependent on agriculture. Rice is the staple food grain of the people of this region. Assam, the largest state among the northeastern states, is also the largest rice growing state in the northeast.

There are two principal rice growing regions in Assam – the Brahmaputra valley in the northern part, and the Barak valley in the southern part. Barak valley comprises three districts – Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi. Barak valley is almost entirely dependent on agriculture for its livelihood as it does not have an established industrial base. Paddy cultivation is the principal agricultural activity of all the three districts of Barak valley.

Agriculture is the primary source of income of the people of Hailakandi District. Industrialisation is very low in Hailakandi District. As a result, the majority of the people directly or indirectly depend upon agriculture for their livelihood. Therefore, agriculture plays a vital role in the economic development of the district.

The unusually high growth of population has made it all the more necessary to increase the food production, in order to feed the rising number of population. Agriculture takes the responsibility of supplying the food grains to such an unusually high proportion of population, which necessitates an increase in the agricultural production. But since there is a little scope to increase agricultural production by expanding land due to the limited availability of land, agricultural productivity takes the dominant role in supplying food to the growing population. As the present productivity of agriculture is very low in Hailakandi district, improving the agricultural productivity can be a very useful solution towards supply of food and creation of meaningful employment and in the long run supporting agro based industries in the district.

Since the economy of Hailakandi district is agricultural dependent, building a strong agricultural bases is of outmost important. Relative geographical isolation, weak industrial base vis-à-vis low agricultural productivity necessitate in undertaking studies relating to formulation of a strong agricultural sector.
Thus, a study of agricultural productivity in the context of Hailakandi district is relevant to identify the factors that are responsible for lower agricultural productivity in the district.

The present research work entitled, “A STUDY OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN HAILAKANDI DISTRICT OF ASSAM” has been undertaken to analyse the trend and development of agricultural productivity, nature and problems of increasing agricultural productivity. In this connection, the study measures the productivity of rice and its determinants in Hailakandi district of Assam on the basis of primary data and analyses the trend of productivity of rice on the basis of secondary data. The study also examines the relationship between productivity (yield rate) of rice and the farm size, irrigation, fertilizer, HYV, technology by applying regression analysis. The present study is useful for gathering the broad overview of agriculture in Hailakandi district.

The outcome of the study may be greatly useful to economists, policy makers, planners, researchers, students, Govt. Authorities, Banks, agriculture scientists, workers, Agricultural Department and other related organisations to help the farmers to increase productivity of the district and financial institutions to take policy decisions on investment in agrarian change in the District for economic development.

Finally, assessing the reality at the grass root level, the present research work has drawn some policy implications to remove a number of prevailing fictions of the rural society and to pave the way for healthy and strong agricultural development in Hailakandi.

I shall consider my efforts meaningful if the present work, in the form of Ph.D. thesis, helps the policy-makers and planners to make their policy smooth and vibrant.

Date:
Place: 

Fakar Uddin Mazumder