Glossary

Char: Chars are low-lying islands and sand bars within rivers

Mouza: Comprising one to a few villages is the smallest administrative-cum-revenue unit of the Indian union.

Panchayets: The lowest tier of democratically elected bodies of the Indian union and consist of a number of mouzas, which have administrative and judicial power.

Beel: Low-lying areas with water/swamps

Aman Paddy: The variety of paddy grown during rainy season (Jul- Aug)

Aus Paddy: The variety of paddy grown during winter season (Dec-March)

Boro paddy: The variety of paddy grown in Pre-winter period (Nov-Dec)

Gher Bunds: After the Permanent Settlement introduced in 1793, prompted by barely localised interest, the landlords in the Rarh constructed embankments to protect their own areas against regular floods. These structures are locally called gher bund.

Zamindari system: The system of land ownership in which Indian landed proprietor had to pay land-tax to the British Colonial Office. Following Permanent Settlement they were converted into landlords to act as the agents of the Govt. collecting land revenue from the ryot. The landlordship or zamindari system was abolished from West Bengal in 1962.