

Diversification of Agriculture and Unexplored Economic Opportunities in Bongaigaon District

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Abstract

In the context of government annual budget 2016-17, the concept of doubling farm income by 2022, diversification of crops along with advance innovation in the field of agriculture can be one of the main strategies. Diversification is also considered as a key enabler for achieving sustainability, given the current state of affairs on usage of water, agri-inputs and soil. The present study aims to discuss the unexplored economic opportunities for diversification of agriculture in Bongaigaon district where about 70 % of the population directly or indirectly depending on agriculture and allied sector. The present study also focuses on the challenges faced by most of the poor farmer in course of cultivation. The study also aims to increase rural farmers awareness of the principle of sustainable agriculture in the course of cultivation so that present environment is maintained or better off for future generation. The objective of the study is to highlight the scope of crop diversification on sustainable agriculture development, challenges faced by the farmers, policy adopted by the authority, to provide input for further research in this field.

Keywords: crop diversification; Bongaigaon; scope of diversification; economic opportunities.

Introduction:

Agricultural and crop diversification is viewed as an important strategy to alleviate risk and enhance income of farmers. Several studies specify that agricultural development diversification in general and crop diversification in particular (De Januy, 2010) can play role in poverty reduction. This is one way to address the problems of poverty and agrarian crisis. The concept of agricultural diversification indicates reallocation of resources in a large mix of diverse and harmonizing activities within agriculture. The method of crop diversification comprises a movement of the limited resources particularly cultivated area from low value crops to high value crops like fruits, vegetables and flowers. Literature shows that households which grow a diverse set of crops are less likely to be poor than households that specialize in their crop production (Michler, J.D. and Josephson, 2017).

Rational of the study:

Bongaigaon district is basically an agrarian economy with about 70 per cent of the population of the district directly or indirectly depends on agriculture and allied sector, Comprehensive District Agriculture Plan, (2009). But agriculture in the district is characterized by over dependence on rainfall, predominance of seasonal crops and traditional methods of cultivation. Agriculture is the predominant economic activity of the district. Paddy is the major crop of the district and covers 75 percent of the total gross cropped area. Net area under different crops in the district works out to about 38 percent of the total geographical area¹.

The Assam Human Development Report (AHDR), 2003 states that in respect of Human Development Index (HDI), Bongaigaon is one of the lowest ranked districts of Assam. The district ranks 21 in respect of HDI with an index value of 0.263 which is much lower than the state index at 0.407. The Human Poverty Index (24.03) shows that almost a quarter of the population in the district is in poverty. The Gender related Development Index (GDI) for Bongaigaon in 2001 is estimated to be 0.376, which is far less than the state average of 0.537.

Considering the poor condition of the district, much attention from every direction is urgent need. There are many unexplored economic opportunities in the district to boost the

¹District Report, Bongaigaon. Commissioned by Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, conducted by Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development: Guwahati, pp- 17

economy of the district by creating employment, enhancing income, increasing standard of living of the inhabitants etc.

Objectives of the study:

The broad objective of the study is to analyze the ample unexplored economic opportunities present in the district in the context of crop diversification.

The specific objectives are:

1. To highlight the fruitfulness of crop diversification
2. To study the potentiality of crop diversification in Bongaigaon district.
3. To examine the threats/ challenges in crop diversification in Bongaigaon district.
4. To study the role of crop diversification on sustainable agriculture development

So, the present study is to focus on how crop diversification can increase income of farmers, generate employment and eliminate poverty etc. along with intension to protect the environment, expand natural resource base and uphold and improve soil fertility.

Methodology:

The present study is descriptive in nature based on secondary data collected from various journal, Government report, statistical handbooks, economic survey etc.

Discussion:

There are ample unexplored economic opportunities from crop diversification in Bongaigaon district with potential of increasing both employment and income. To study the potentiality of diversification of crops in the district the following unexplored economic opportunities are listed below-

- i. **Landholdings:** The size of land holdings the farmers acquire plays an important role in the growth of agriculture of a country. The size of land holdings depends on the population pattern of the country. Since supply of land of land is fixed, with increase in population, average size of land holdings will decrease and number of land holdings will increase. The average size of land holdings in India has been reducing in every census over the previous census as shown in Table- 1.

Table- 1							
Average size of land holdings in India (in ha)							
Sl. No	Size of Land Holdings	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	2015-16
1	Marginal	0.40	0.39	0.39	0.40	0.39	0.38
2	Small	1.44	1.44	1.43	1.42	1.42	1.40
3	Semi-Medium	2.81	2.78	2.76	2.72	2.71	2.69
4	Medium	6.08	6.02	5.90	5.81	5.76	5.72
5	Large	18.10	17.41	17.33	17.12	17.38	17.07
	All Sizes	2.28	1.84	1.55	1.33	1.15	1.08
Source: Agriculture Census 2015-16							

Table- 1 shows that average size of land holding in India has reduced from 2.28 hectares in 1970-71 to 1.15 hectares in 2010-11 and reached at very small size i.e. 1.08 hectares in 2015-16 (All India Report on Number and Are of Operational Holdings, 2019)². Such a decline in average size of land holdings is owing to rapid population growth which lead to increase number of operational holdings. Moreover, the laws of inheritance which support equal division of property among heirs, in the absence of off-farm activities available to the surplus family members lead to division of land into small plots. As a result, excess population creates disguised unemployment in agriculture and marginal productivity of labour decline. In such tiny land holding some modern tools can not be used properly and even though some tools are used, it is unable to reduce cost of production to the extent it could in large size of land holdings. Again, there are numerous tenancy limitations in many states. These limitations are complete ban in some states as well as complete freedom of leasing in some states. Though, under the Indian Constitution, land administration falls under the state governments hence there is large variations across states (Sharma, 2008)³.

² Agriculture Census 2015-16, Phase- I, pp-13

³ Sharma, Vijay Paul (2008), "India's Agrarian Crisis and Smallholder Producers' Participation in New Farm Supply Chain Initiatives: A Case Study of Contract Farming".

Thus, the major problem facing the agricultural economies of the underdeveloped countries, including India, is the dominance of marginal and small farmers in agriculture. They constitute a important entity in terms of numbers as well as in terms of the areas cultivated. Also, these households constitute the majority of the rural poor in India. Because of the small operational base, it will not be possible to improve the incomes of these households by merely raising the yield of the existing crops on their holdings. Due to small land base, poverty of large number of these rural households could be mitigated with the introduction of the high value crops or enterprises on these holdings. That agricultural diversification is the fundamental contributing factor to reduce poverty in the rural areas has been supported by several studies (see, for example, Barghouti *et al.*, 2007; FAO, 2001).

The average size of land holding per household in Assam was only 1.10 hectares during the year 2014-15 and more than 85 percent of farmer families are either small or marginal farmers with average land holding of only 0.63 hectare (Economic Survey of Assam 2017-18).

The size class wiselandholding distribution in the district shows that 66 percent of the total landholdings inthe district are less than one hectare which means that most of the farmers havelandholding sizes less than marginal size class, 22 percent of the cultivators have marginal holdings and 12 percent have landholdings of more than two hectares

- ii. **Transportation:** Transportation, whether roads, railways, water or air is regarded as a crucial factor for the growth of agriculture in any country, developed, developing or underdeveloped. Only with the adequate means of transport various modern agricultural inputs can be implemented in the field and the produced output can be marketed to various places. Well-furnished transport network improves quality of life of the people creates market for agricultural input and output, facilitates interaction among various topographical and economic zones and opened up new areas to economic focus. Thus, better transport facilities inspires agriculturalists to work harder in the rural areas in order to increase production, add value to the products, reduce the deterioration of food and other perishable goods, empower the agriculturalists as well as having positive impact on their productivity, income, employment etc. Moreover, it will lessen poverty level in the backward regions

since it will be easier to move inputs/outputs and workers to farm as well as products to markets and agro-based industry.

The road network in Assam comprises of total 58202 km of roads consisting of 3900.44 km National Highways, 2530 km State Highways, 4379 km Major District Roads, 1615 km Urban roads, 37030 km Rural Roads and the rest are Panchayat Other Non PWD Roads approximately 6000 km and Municipal Roads 1087 km. At present 49454.44 km road network including 3900.44 km National Highways [of which 223.31 km under construction and 894.79 km newly declared NH Way] is maintained by the State PWD. Excluding the National Highways, 27003 km out of the total 45554 km road length maintained by the PWD is blacktopped. Most of the State Highways and Major District Roads are Single lane roads and hardly 6% of the State Highway is double lane and Major District Roads are intermediate lanes. According to the India road Congress Vision, 2021, the State Highways should be 100% double lane and 40% of the Major District roads should be doubled lane. Also the weak pavements and bridges should be strengthened to cope with heavy traffic. The effort of the State PWD helps to bring down the number of semi-permanent timber bridges from 5450 in 2001 to 1433 as on March 2017. In addition, construction of the number of RCC bridges has been increased from 309 in 2001 to 4563 in 2016. Presently more than 923 RCC bridges are at different stage of construction (Economic Survey of Assam 2017-18).

Rural roads are perceived to be a major solution to reducing rural poverty and promoting rural development. Roads play an important role in transportation of agricultural production from farms to the nearest market. It is good for short distance. The road networks availability in the district is moderate for transportation of agricultural product to nearest market. The scenario of road network in the district is depicted in table- 2

Table- 2				
Category-wise Length of Roads under P.W.D, 2013 to 2015 (in KM)				
Sl.NO	Roads Type	2013	2014	2015
1	State Highway	41	41	41
2	Major District Road	16	16	16
3	Rural Road	712	712	712
4	Urban Road	36	36	36
	Total	805	805	805
Source: https://databank.nedfi.com/content/bongaigaon-district , accessed on 28/10/2019				

It is seen in the Table- 4.3 that there is no improvement in the length of PWD road since 2013 to 2015.

The transport connectivity of the district comprises of mainly roads and railway. The road density in the district per lakh population which stood at 79.4 km. in 1991 has increased to 109 km in 2005. Per sq.k.m. road density in the district has increased from 25.5 k.ms. in 1991 to 39 k.ms. in 2005. The total road length in the district is 990 km, of which only 25 percent is surfaced. More significantly the total road length added during the period 1993-94 to 2005-06 is only 22 km. The district has a total of 100.80 km. of national highway and 41 km of state highways besides 603 km. of rural roads. This indicates that access and availability to good road connectivity in the district is fairly low. As per the estimate of 2001 census although 70 percent of the villages have paved approach road only 52 percent of the villages have bus connectivity which indicates that 48 percent of the villages have no availability or access to faster modes of transportation in the district. The district has three national highways viz. NH-31, NH-31(B) and NH-31 (C) passing through it (**Source:** District Report Bongaigaon, Commissioned by Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India).

The nearest railway station to the district headquarter Bongaigaon is New Bongaigaon Junction. The total railway route length in the district is 100 kilometers of which BG route length is 69 kilometers and meter gauge route length is 31 kilometers. Of course, at present there are no meter gauge route in the district. The district has no steamers service as there is no demand for the same. However, before

the construction of Naranarayan Setu⁴ in 1998, ferry services are available between Jogighopa to Pancharatna for transshipment of bulk goods as well as passengers⁵. With the help of railway facilities, there are high potential of transportation of agricultural production of the district to different part of state as well as the country as a whole.

iii. Power and energy:

Energy is one of the important inputs to agriculture production. It in the form of hydro-electric, thermal or solar reduce cost of agriculture production. Agriculture uses energy directly as fuel or electricity to operate various modern machinery and equipment, to heat or cool in greenhouse farming and for lighting on the farm and most indirectly in the production of various modern agricultural tools, fertilizers and chemicals requirement of the farm.

Thus, the rising trend in the consumption of energy is associated to the growth of the economy and modernization, urbanization and improvement of quality of life of the people living in any part of a State or a Country. As per data shown by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the North East states of India has hydro power potential of 63,257 megawatt or 43% of the total assessed hydro power of the Country (Economic Survey, Assam 2017-18). Assam alone has a capacity to produce 680-megawatt hydro power, among the other North Eastern states. The 18th Electric Power Survey of India was undertaken by CEA to forecast electric Energy Requirement and Electric Load and Power Station Bus Bars (Utilities only) for the Twelfth Five Plan (2012-13 to 2016-17) for all States/Union Territories of India. As per the Survey report by the end of 12th Plan period, the projected energy requirement for Assam is 8947 MU and Peak Electric Load is 1817 megawatt.

Thus, next to transport and communication power is the other basic infrastructure which is essential for economic growth of a country. Electricity is an essential source of implementing various modern tools of agriculture. Of the total

⁴Naranarayan Setu, a bridge over mighty river Brahmaputra, connecting Jogighopa of Bongaigaon district and Pancharatna of Goalpara district.

⁵District Report Bongaigaon, Commissioned by Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development: Guwahati, VIP Road, Upper Hengerabari, Guwahati 781036, pp-20.

villages in the district 95 percent are reported to have power supply (Statistical handbook Assam, 2006) with domestic connection for lighting available in all the villages with electric connection. Consumption of electricity for commercial and industrial purpose is not available while only one percent of the villages have electricity connection for agricultural use. The district has a total demand of 15mw of power while supply is only of 13 mw⁶.

The present scenario of electrification in Bongaigaon district is depicted in Table- 3 & Table- 4

Table- 3		
Year-wise Number of villages electrified in Bongaigaon District		
Year	No. of inhabitant villages in 2001 census	No. of villages electrified
2003-04	761	817 ⁷
2004-05	761	825
2005-06	761	839
2006-07	761	361
2007-08	761	361
2008-09	761	501
2009-10	761	545
2010-11	761	793
	No of inhabitant villages in 2011 census	No. of villages electrified
2011-12	1071	836
2012-13	1071	838
Source: Barthakur P. et al (2006), "A Comparative Study on Village Electrification of Assam", Handique Girls' College, Panbazar, Guwahati, Assam- 781001		

⁶District Report Bongaigaon, Commissioned by Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development: Guwahati, VIP Road, Upper Hengerabari, Guwahati 781036, pp-21.

⁷Bongaigaon Distribution Circle includes some portion of Goalpara District and Barpeta District also.

Table- 3 shows that number of villages electrified is 817 nos. in 2003-04, 825 nos. in 2004-05 and 839 nos. in 2005-06. It shows an increasing trend in number of village electrified. But in 2006-07 and 2007-08 number of village electrified has decreased to 361 in each year. However, in 2008-09 onward up to 2010-11 it has again shown an increasing trend. Again, in 2011-12 out of total 1071 inhabitant village only 836 nos. was electrified and in 2012-13 out of 1071 nos. of inhabitant village only 838 nos. was electrified.

In regard to number of consumers, table- 4 is depicted. Table- 4.5 shows that number of domestic use consumers has increased from 119950 nos. in 2012-13 to 151552 nos. in 2013-14 and again in 2014-15 it has increased to 201002 nos. it shows a 67.57 percentage increase. But in case of commercial use consumer the percentage of increase is only 17.78 percent.

Table- 4.5				
In Bongaigaon Number of Electricity Consumers, 2012-13 to 2014-15(P):				
Users/ Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (P)	% Change During 2012- 2015
Domestic	119950	151552	201002	67.57 %
Commercial	8511	8645	10024	17.78 %
<i>P= Provisional</i>				
<i>Source: Statistical Hand Book Assam 2015</i>				

Further, Govt. of. India's scheme like "Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana" launched in 2015 for rural electrification will encourage farmers to adopt new areas of cultivation.

Thus, the increasing trend of electrification in rural areas will definitely increase the interest of the farmers towards agriculture.

- iv. **Value addition:** Farmers in rural areas often suffer from low price of their produce either due to surplus produce or low demand. One way to get rid of this problem is to sell the surplus produce in low price and satisfied with whatever price they get or to preserve the surplus till price rise with additional cost of preserving. Another way is to process the surplus produce in different form, packaging them, upgrading the quality or other such method. The former is termed as value addition to agriculture product. Post harvest technology and management (food and agro-processing) plays a crucial role in value addition to agriculture.

Thus, value addition is a process in which for the same volume of a primary

product, a high price is realized by means of processing, packing, upgrading the quality or other such methods. The value of farm products can be increased in endless ways, such as- by cleaning and cooling, packaging, processing, distributing, cooking, combining, churning, culturing, grinding, hulling, extracting, drying, smoking, handcrafting, spinning, weaving, labeling, or packaging. Such value addition is helpful to increase profit of farmers, reduce risks of surplus produce, to empower the growers and other weaker sections of society especially women in the way of creating gainful employment opportunities. It is also helpful to provide better quality, safe and branded food to the consumers. Further, value addition reduces post-harvest losses of the farmers as well as reduces import and meets export demands and thus increase foreign exchange. Moreover, it also encourages growth of subsidiary industries creating huge employment opportunities in the economy. Overall, it increases farmers financial stability etc. Thus, value addition coupled with adequate marketing has enormous potential of solving the basic problems of agricultural surplus and produce wastage.

Post-harvest agro-processing activities- present status in the district: Due to want of agro-processing and value addition, the farmers are compelled to sell their produce in the primary market a whatever price they get. Mini Rice mills are available in all the blocks for processing of rice. The information available on agro processing unit in the district is given in table- 4.6

Table- 5		
Post-harvest agro-processing activities- present status in the Bongaigaon district:		
Crop	Activity	Number
Food grains & Pulses	Wheat mills	3
	Rice/ rice husk/ rice bran mills	6
	Dal mills	2
	Oil mills	3
	Animal feed	2
Sugarcane	Sugarcane/ Gur/ Khandsari	4
Other crops	Ginger/ turmeric/ other spices	2
	Fruits & vegetables	1
Source: District Industries and Commerce Centre, District Agriculture Office, Bongaigaon, SRAE Plan of ATMA; 2012		

The present scenario of food processing industries in Bongaigaon district is very poor as depicted in table-4.6.

Table-6.			
<i>Distribution of Registered Factories and workers, 2014 (As per NIC, 2008):</i>			
NIC	Type of Industry	Factory	Worker
01	Crop and Animal Production, Hunting and Related service activities	1	6
10	Manufacture of Food Products	5	133
11	Manufacture of Beverages		
12	Manufacturing of Tobacco Products	4	146
17	Manufacture of Paper and Paper Products	1	383
22	Manufacture of Rubber and Plastics Products	6	36
31	Manufacture of Furniture	1	8
Source: Statistical Hand Book Assam 2015			

Looking into the matter of value addition to agricultural production seriously, Government of India (GOI) has recently approved a new Central Sector Scheme – **Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana** (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) with an allocation of Rs. 6,000 crore for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. The scheme will be implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana is a comprehensive package which will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. It will not only provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country but also help in providing better returns to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers income, creating huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

The implementation of these schemes will increase the interest of farmers to expand the cultivable area on the one hand and will diversify from cash crops to more valuable varieties like horticulture, fisheries, poultry, dairy, floriculture etc. on the other hand.

- v. **Market:** Agriculture marketing plays an important role in an economy like India. According to the National Commission on Agriculture – Agricultural Marketing is a process which starts with a decision to produce a saleable farm commodity, and it involves all the aspects of market structure or system, both functional and

institutional, based on technical and economic considerations, and include pre-harvest and post-harvest operations viz., assembling, grading, storage, transportation and distribution. A well organized and efficient marketing system is the pre requisite to bring reasonable returns to the farmers and to make goods available to consumers. Thus, marketing of agricultural goods in India is of no mean significance. Agricultural marketing has direct bearing upon the prosperity of the cultivator. The expectation and willingness of farmers toward expansion of their cultivable area, diversification of crops directly depends on well and adequate marketing system available near them. In broad sense, agricultural marketing, covers all the processes involved in the movement of agricultural productions from the ground to the ultimate consumer.

The National Commission on Agriculture has defined agricultural marketing as a “process that starts with a decision to produce saleable farm products that also includes pre and post-harvest operations, assembling, grading, storage, transportation and distribution”. Various theoretical and empirical studies show that transfer of agricultural produce from the hands of farmers to the hands of consumers takes place through a chain of middlemen or agencies. On the basis of this, markets are classified as primary, secondary and terminal or export market. These markets are operated through various channels: such as government channel, cooperative channel and private channel (Krishnamacharyulu. and Ramakrishnan, 2011, p 494-495)⁸.

According to Kohls, — “Marketing is the performance of all business activities involved in the flow of goods and services from the point of initial agricultural production until they are in the hands of the ultimate consumer”⁹

In Bongaigaon district, mostly agricultural produces, livestock, fish, dairy, forest etc. are marketed in the primary market available within the block area. Lack of storage facilities, farm organization, grading and standardization are the main features in the existing market system in the district. The information on market infrastructure in the district is depicted in table- 4.8.

⁸Krishnamacharyulu and Ramakrishna, (2011), *Rural Marketing*, Pearson. p 489-496.

⁹Kohls, R. L., 1976, *Marketing Agricultural Products*, Macmillan, London. P-9.

Table- 7					
Information regarding markets for the district Bongaigaon					
Sl. No	Name of Blocks	Name of Centre		Preiodicity (Weekly/ Daily)	Commodities handled
1	Manikpur	1	Patiladoha	W*	Vegetables
		2	Alukhunda	W	Paddy, jute, pulses
		3	Besimari	W	Paddy, jute, pulses
		4	Chakihali	W	Vegetables, pulses
		5	Dangaigaon	W	Vegetables, paddy
		6	Manikpur	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
2	Dangtal	7	Chipansila	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		8	Dholagaon	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		9	Bilashpur	W	Vegetables
		10	Dhantola	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
3	Boitamari	11	Kabaitari	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		12	Chalantapara	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		13	Kachudala	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		14	Pallirtar	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		15	Khagarpur	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy, fruits
		16	Ikrabari	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		17	Bajikpara	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		18	Dhaknabari	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		19	Chilaguri	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		20	Balapara	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		21	Haripani	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy, fish
4	Tapatari	22	Malegarh	W	Paddy, Vegetables
		23	Barjana	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		24	Koshbari	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		25	Lengtisinga	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		26	Rangapani	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		27	Kirtanpara	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
		Srijangram	28	Borghola	W
	29		Ambari	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
	30		Sidalsati	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
	31		Balarchar	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
	32		Alokjhari	W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy
	33		Abhayapuri	D**/ W	Vegetables, pulses, paddy, cattle
	*W= Weekly; **D= Daily				
Source: Comprehensive District Agriculture Plan, by District Agriculture Planning Unit, Bongaigaon February, 2009					

Moreover, details of regulated markets in the district is depicted in Table- 4.9

Table- 8				
Information regarding regulated markets for the district Bongaigaon				
Sl. No	Name of Blocks	Name of Centre	Preiodicity (Weekly/ Daily)	Commodities handled
1	Manikpur	Patiladoha	Bi Weekly	Jute, Vegetables
2	Dangtal	Bijni	Bi Weekly	Sugar, Jute
3	Boitamari	Bongaigaon	Bi Weekly	Rice, wheat
4	Tapatari	Abhayapuri	Bi Weekly	Jute, B. gram
		Lengtisinga	Bi Weekly	Wheat, Jute
5	Srijangram	Kabaitari	Bi Weekly	Jute, B. gram
Source: Comprehensive District Agriculture Plan, by District Agriculture Planning Unit, Bongaigaon February, 2009				

Table- 9				
STATEMENT SHOWING DETAILS OF NAME OF CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MARKET SHED OF EARMARKED FUND OF 2ND INSTALMENT OF FINANCE COMMISSION FOR GENERAL AREAS GENERAL BASIC GRANT OF 2012-13 UNDER 13TH				
Sl. No.	District	Name of AP	Name of GP	Name of Market
	Bongaigaon	Boitamari	Kabaitary	KabaitaryArdhaSaptahik Market
			Dhantola	BajitparaArdhaSaptahik Market
		Dangtol	Chiponchila	ChiponchilaSaptahik Hat
			Chaprakata	ChaprakataCharikhuti Bazar
		Tapattary	Rangapani	RangapaniDainik Bazar
		Srijangram	Srijangram	Borghola Bazar
			BalarcharMatraghola	Alokjhar Bazar
		Manikpur	Bhandara	Sarala Bhandara Hat
Source: Govt. of Assam, Finance(Economic Affairs) Department, No. FEA (SEC)133/2012/169 dated Dispur the February 19, 2013. accessed from				

Thus, the marketing infrastructure in the district suggest that though there is shortage of storage facilities in the district almost all agricultural commodities produced in the district can be marketed immediately to the surrounding market prevailing in the district. Once the produces sold at primary market, there are

various agencies to transport the produces to different part of the country for various uses within the country and abroad. In this connection road, water and rail transportation system prevail in the district plays important role. The New Bongaigaon junction is the only railway junction to connect the district to the entire economy of the country.

Conclusion:

Thus, the above mentioned unexplored economic opportunities need to be utilized fully so that the economy of the district moves faster.