

## **Wooden Traditional Agricultural Tools of The Boros**

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### **1.0 Introduction:**

The Boro community is one of the largest scheduled tribe (ST) of north-east India and they are the aboriginal people of Assam, racially they are coming from the greater Mongoloid race. The Boro people inhabiting under the great Mongolian have recognized under different names in different places, i.e. Kiratas, Mache (Mech), Kocharis, Bodo or Boro and as a linguistic community the Boros are belonging to the Tibeto-Burman sub-language family. The Boro peoples are generally cultivator. Their livelihood mainly depends on cultivation. They cultivate different crops in different seasons and they use a variety of tools as per their requirement and make those tools at home by themselves from natural resources. They make their agricultural tools generally from bamboo, wood and iron. With these tools, they cultivate the crops from time immemorial. The Boros are very rich in material culture.

But at present, the used of traditional tools are decreasing due to the influence of technological devices and tools. Technological devices are influencing on traditional agricultural tools also, for which the uses of traditional tools are decreasing day by day. The using of traditional tools is a part of the culture. If it is to be preserved traditional culture then one must keep alive the traditional agricultural tools.

**1.1 Aims and Objectives of the Study:** The main aims and objectives of the study are as follows

1. The study targeted to identify the traditional wooden tools of the Boros.
2. To highlight their wooden traditional agricultural tools.
3. To describe the features and structure of the wooden traditional agricultural tools.

**1.2 Significance of the study:** This is an attempt to bring out the wooden traditional agricultural tools of the Boros. The Boro people cultivate crops by using their own home-made tools and they have no authentic written documents in this view, but they had been maintaining their food by cultivating with these indigenous traditional tools from times immemorial. But the uses of traditional agricultural tools are decreasing in the Boro society due to the influence of technological devices and tools. This has been studied in this present study which has a great identity of traditional materials' value of the Boro society.

The present study titled “Wooden Traditional Agricultural Tools of the Boros” is a study on such matters: the Boro peoples traditionally use their own homemade wooden tools in the purpose of agriculture. They use a different kind of tools for the purpose of different cultivations. The six (6) principal traditional agricultural wooden tools are founded which are mainly operated by the Boro people, these are *Nangal* (Plough), *Jungal* (Yoke), *Beda* (Rake), *Hasini* (Small rake), *Dongphangni Hathura* (Wooden Hammer), *Roina*. The material culture of Boro plays a very important role in their life.

**1.3 Methodology:** In this present study on the “*Wooden Traditional Agricultural Tools of the Boros*” Descriptive and Analysis, methods have been applied.

**1.4 Sources of Data:** In this study, the data has been taken from primary and secondary sources. The primary data and information have been collected from the Boro farmers in the Boro villages of B.T.C. Assam, India by using different methods such as – Focus Group Discussion (FGD), Observation and Participation. And the secondary data and information have been collected from various published and unpublished Books and Articles.

**2.0 Result and Discussion:** The wood also plays an important role in the everyday life of tribal people in India which is not an exemption of Boro community. The Boro people use woods for different activities such as house construction, agricultural tools, making furniture, musical instruments, etc. They live in the midst of nature and utilize varieties of wooden tools in their day to day life. Traditionally their main source is agriculture and they use various tools for agricultural works. The six (6) principal traditional agricultural wooden tools are founded which play a very important role for the agricultural work of the Boros.

Such wooden tools are:

1. *Nangal* (Plough)
2. *Jungal* (Yoke)
3. *Roina* (Collector tool)
4. *Beda* (Big rake)
5. *Hasini* (Rake)
6. *Hathura* (Wooden Hammer)

The mentions above agricultural wooden tools are described below:

**2.1 Nangal (Plough):** It's one of the most common tool for the farmers of Boro community. They use it in tilling the soil to make a favorable condition for seed placement and plant the *Khwthiya*<sup>1</sup>. This is done with a pair of bullocks or buffalos. It's made of wood (mainly Sal wood) and fitted with a share in the lower part of the plough. The basic components of the plough are a body with handle (Boro people called it *Nangal Muthi*), a beam *Dila* and a *Phal* (share).

The body of the plough is around 4-5 ft long, 1.5 ft thick in the middle, and its small thick size of the handle and in the lower part also small and flat size fitted with around 1ft long and around 1.5-inch width share. *Dila* (Beam) also made of wood it is around 3-4 m long 1.5 inches wide and 2.5 inches thick and it is fitted with the middle body of the plough to connect with *Jungal* (Yoke). (Fig: 1, *Nangal*).It needs some skill in tilling with bullocks or buffalos hence operated by male farmers only. The use of life implement is based on the user of the tool and the cost is Rs. 1,200 – 1,500. It is found at market and the Boro farmers of the rural area have still used this tool<sup>2</sup>.



<sup>1</sup>**Khwthiya:** After placement the seeds (*Majili*), when it grows then unearth and plant, its call *Khwthiya*.

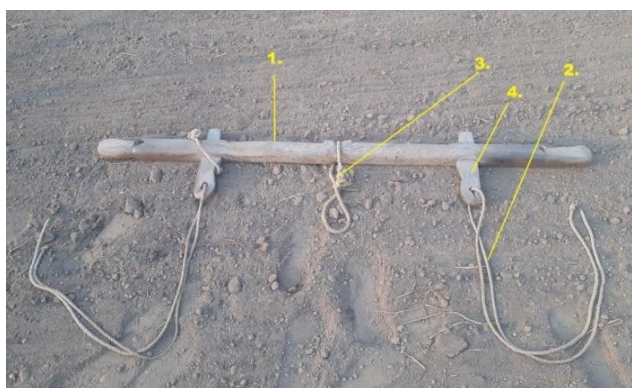
<sup>2</sup>Review of Research Vol.-8, Issue-6, March 2019, P. 90

Fig: 1, *Nangal* (Plough)

The components of *Nangal* are as follows:

1. *Nangal*
2. *Dila*
3. *Phal*
4. *Muthi* and
5. *Khila*.

**2.2 Jungal (Yoke):** The yoke is one of the most important and common tool for tilling the soil. It's used to join two bullocks or buffalos and make together with plough and yoke. The yoke is generally made of sal wood but now a day; Boros are made by bamboos also. It's around 5 ft length and 1 ft thick (Fig: 2, *Jungal*). The components of the yoke are *Soljuri* (one fair jute ropes at both sides the yoke) it's used to join the two bullocks or buffalos by tying, *Lengra* (round rope) it's also used to join plough and yoke. It is also operated by male farmers only. The average life of implement is about 8-10 years and the cost is Rs. 500 – 800 per one.<sup>3</sup> It is also found at market and the Boro farmers of the rural area have still used this tool because without this tool the tilling of the *Nangal* is impossible for the Boro farmers.



<sup>3</sup>Review of Research Vol.-8, Issue-6, March 2019, P. 90

**Fig: 2, *Jungal* (Yoke)**

The components are:

1. *Jungal*
2. *Soljuri*
3. *Lengra* and
4. *Soljuri gon*.

**2.3 *Roina* (Collector tool):** This tool is used to collect the seeds after thrashing and drying. *Roina* is made of wooden and bamboo handle. The design of the working area is semi-circle and flat made of wood. It's around 1 inch thick, 1 ft wide and 2 ft length and the handle is made of bamboo, it's around 6 ft long and around 4 inches thick (Fig: 3, *Roina*). This tool is operated by both male and female farmers and the average life of implement is about 10 years. It is not found at markets and the Boro farmers have still used this tool<sup>4</sup>.

**Fig: 3, *Roina* (Collector tool)**

The components are:

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<sup>4</sup>Review of Research Vol.-8, Issue-6, March 2019, P. 92.

1. *Roina* (Operation area) and
2. *Roina akhai* (Handle).

**2.4 Beda (Big rake):** This tool is used to remove the weeds from crops. It looks like *Hasini* (big rake) but it is used by the help of bullocks or buffalos. The operation area of *Beda* is *Dangur* with *Hathai* (Teeth). The *Dangur* is made of wood and having a horizontal portion and formed by teeth of bamboo thin or thick depending on usage made of bamboos. The wide of the *dangur* is around 6 inch and thick is around 4 inches and the length around 5 ft and the teeth are around 3 inches thick and 6-inch length (Fig: 4, *Beda*).



Fig: 4, *Beda* (Big rake)

And the *Dila* and *Muthi* are also components of *Beda*. These are also made of wood and the *Dila* is around 8 inches thick 6 ft length and the *Muthi* handle is also made by wood; it is 4 ft high and around 8 inches thick with the band at the end of the upper side. The Boro farmers are still used it to remove the weed from their crops. It is operated by male farmers only and the average life of implement is about 10 years. It is not found at markets, the farmers are made it at home as their required and the users of this tool are decreasing from the Boro society.

The components of the *Beda* are as follows:

1. *Beda dangur*
2. *Dila*
3. *Muthi* (Handle) and
4. *Beda hathai* (Teeth).

**2.5 Hasini (Rake):** The *Hasini* is also one kind of weeds or jungle remover tool. The Boro farmers are used to collect the weeds or jungle in the time of soil preparation seed placement. It is made of wood and bamboo. The operation area of *Hasini* is also *Dangur* with *Hathai* (teeth). The *Dangur* is made of wood and having a horizontal portion and formed by bamboo teeth thin or thick depending on usage made of bamboos. The wide and thick of the *Dangur* are around 3 inches and 2 inches and length are around 2 ft and the teeth are around 2 inches thick and 6-inch length. It has a *Bikhung* (Handle) made of bamboo or branch of wood it is around 4 inches thick and around 6 ft length (Fig: 5, *Hasini*). It is operated by both male and female farmers. The average life of implement is around 8 years and it is not available at markets. They made it themselves at home and the Boro farmers have still used this tool.



Fig: 5, *Hasini* (Rake)

The components of the *Hasini* are as follows:

1. *Hasini dangur*
2. *Hathai* (teeth) and
3. *Hasini bikhung* (handle).

**2.6 Dongphangni Hathura (Wooden Hammer):** This is a soil breaker tool. It is made of a piece of wood with bamboo or wooden *Bikhung* (Handle). The operation area is around 1 ft and around 10 inches thick and *Bikhung* is around 3 inches thick and length is around 3 ft length (Fig: 6, *Dongphangni Hathura*). It is also operated by both male and female farmers and this tool is not found in the markets.



Fig: 6, *Dongphangni Hathura* (Wooden Hammer)

The components of *Dongphangni Hathura* are:

1. *Hathura* and
2. *Hathura Bikhung* (Handle).

**3.0 Conclusion:** The study reveals that the Boro people use the six principal wooden traditional tools in their cultivation such as *Nangal* (Plough), *Jungal* (Yoke), *Roina* (Collector tool), *Beda* (Big rake), *Hasini* (Rake) and *Hathura* (Wooden Hammer).

All the above mention wooden agricultural tools are used by the Boros and these all are made by themselves at home from natural resources. In the past, Boro people had totally depended on traditional home-made tools as there was no technological advancement. The Boro Famers was cultivating the crops easily by using these tools. Without spending their money in buying technological tools or devices they can cultivate easily by their own home-made wooden traditional tools. But now a day used of wooden traditional tools are reducing from the Boros due to influence of technological tools or devices, less founded, pressure of labor shortages, a short span of time for cultivation it has become the challenge for the Boro people to use the wooden traditional tools.

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