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SEASONAL PATTERNS OF LAND CROPSINHAZARIBA GHDISTRICT, JHARKHAND

Devendra Pratap Mishra
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, GEOGRAPHY, MMMPG, College, BhatparRani, Deoria (U.P.) India

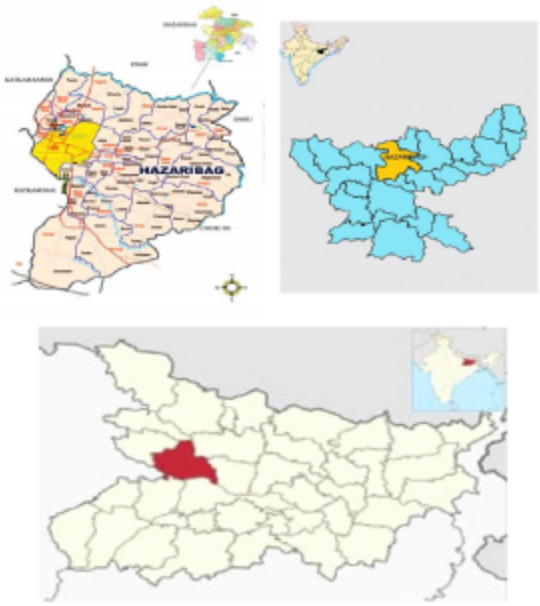
Received- 09.05. 2019, Revised- 20.05.2019, Accepted - 26.05.2019 E-mail: dpmishra2310@gmail.com

Abstract: Agriculture is the primary occupation of the mankind. In a sedentary society, it is the mainstay of the traditional human ecology. It determines the economy ofthe peasantry and the heritage of the culture. The district of Hazaribagh in Jharkhand is aplateau uplandwith alow level ofcultural landescape exhibiting traditional agricultural practices effluence by the red are laterite soils with sandy texture and natural blessings of water during rhythmic turns of seasons. This paper is an attempt to delineatethe featuresof cropping seasons, their spatial arrangements and crop distributions. Facts have beentreated through regional approach, qualitative method and cartographic techniques. Thefindings show that the district still creeps with low level of agricultural technology. The internal variations arenot remarkable.

Key Words: primary, occupation, mankind, sedentary, society, mainstay, traditional, ecology.

Agriculture is the primary economic activity to produce food, feed, fibresand other farm products through cultivating desired plants and raising the domesticatedanimals. It may be subsistence or commercial, intensive orextensive, traditional or modern. Itmay show mono cropping or inter cropping or multiple cropping. With variations in natural conditions and agricultural technology together with irrigational inputs, agriculture evinces various types, combinations of crops, crop-associations and divers ifications induced by the scale and varieties of product demands. Jharkhand is a state with mono croppedrice cultivation under rained condition. Frequent droughts at intervals, low rainfall, long dryspells during crop season compel the farmers to shift towards low water requiring crops, innovative cropping and crop divers ifications.

The district of Hazaribagh in Jharkhand state in India is a plateau under the tropical monsoon climate generatin gredand lateritesoilsover the parentrocks. Natural showers are the better hope for agriculture in any calendar year. The district islocated between 230301 and 240 301 N latitudes and 850 01 and 860 01 E longitudes in anarea of 4313 sq.km. at an average altitude of 609 meters above the mean sea level. It isbounded by Gaya, Nawada and Koderma district to the north, Giridih and Purulia districtsto the east, Ranchi district to the south and Chatra district to the west. Administratively itconsists of two subdivisions Hajaribagh and Barhiand 16 community development blocks-Hazaribagh Sadar Katkamsan di,Bishnugarh BarakagaonKere dari,Ichak, Churcha, Daru, Tati Jhariya, Katkamdag and Ladi in Hariaribagh subdivision and Padma, Barhi, Chavparan, Barkathaand Chalkusha, in Barhisub-division



Corresponding Author

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A griculture is the most favored occupational refuge of the population of Hazaribagh district.

The district with a population of 17,34,495 (2011 census) and the density of 400 P/Km2 has the rural in habitants of 14,59,188 persons (84.1%). Having a literacy rate of 70.48% in the district the people of villages are mostly (>80%) engaged in agriculture. The system of agriculture of the districtis characterized by regional differences.

OBJECTIVES- This paper is meant to jot the physico human features of the district Hazaribagh and associate them with cropping preferences in different seasons of the year. It explores the spatial variations in crop distributions with the rhythms of seasons in thedistrict. Thes tudye valuates the agro-cultural gamut to indicate how the better cropassociations an ddivers ifications may brin gab out desired agricultural transformations.

LANDAGRICULTURE- The cultivable land of Hazaribagh district is largelyu sedfo rcrop growing. Other uses of land such as for forestry, pasture development, mining, industries, housing, transportation network etc. stand next to agriculture. Agriculture crops over landchange over time and space in consonance with the typical characteristics of the land surface, soils, climate irrigational facilities, agricultural technology, laws of the land and the level of economy of the society. As in ot he rdynamicregions, the sefactors have restricted the seasonal rhythm of crops, the iryield sand productions in the study area. The use of less agricultural technology by the cultivators has led to strong dependence on physical environment. The dominance of wet season crops are the sheer indications to wards it. The district of Hazari bagh is mainly dominated by two cropping seasons Kharifand Ravi, empirically defined and characteristically nomenclature.

The Kharif seasons begins with the advent of the South-west Monsoon every year and divides into Bhadai and Agahani on the basis of sowing and harvesting. Bhadai crops are sownwith the start of this season's rain and harvested in August-September (Bhado) crops, often paddy, that are harvested in November-December are A gahani crops. The Rabi season begins with the retreat of the south-west monsoon in October in the study are a. Such crops are harve sted from February to April each year.

The third season- Gorma or Jaid-extends from February to April. Owingto intense heat and the high rate of evapo-transpiration, crop coverage is lesss patial patterns of crops during the Kharif Season.

In the study are a Kharif crops dependenton the south-west monsoon rain define this season. Thes ecrops occupy the highe stnets own are apercentage(87.62%). Churchu development block located in the east-central part of Hazaribagh district has recorded the highest percentage (96.2% in 2018) among all the sixteen blocks the northern, north-eastern and north-western parts of the district register about 82.3% netsown area. The pre monsoon showers are fruitful for Kharif crops as seeds are broadcast earlier. The deceive of the monsoon is frequently experienced in Hazaribagh district. The upland Tanrs having a large share in the cultivable lands are often affected miserably. Hence the farmers in the upland grow early maturing Bhadai crops which include uplandpaddy, maize, ragi, urad, sakarkand, vegetables and pulses. As the area under the Tanrupland is unevenly distributed among the development blocks, Bhadai crops being grownwithout irrigation follow the acreage. In the level area Bhadai crops are less preferred. Oflate, the dryfarming technology is being popularised in Hazaribagh district. Agahan icrops as a part of the Kharif crops are grown with the helpof the traditional means of irrigation such as pynes, ahar sand seasonal canals filled every year by the rains. Hence the rain fed crops are grown. The low land locally called Dans are devoted to the Agahani crops. These crops are Rice, Jower, Bajra, Arhar, Groundnut, Kulthiand vegetables.

SPATIAL PATTERNS OF RABICROPS- The Rabi Season, being important next to the Kharif in the district,gives proper agricultural impact in the northern part of the studyarea. As the weather is dry in the major part of the season, Rabi crops depend on irrigation, with the lean hope ofeconomic returns. The inadequate water supply system to the farms has limited the area ofthe Rabi crops. While the Central and Northern parts of the district have more acreage under the secrops, the forests and rugged land have very less areato them. The Win derrain influences the Rabi Crops in the central western and eastern parts of the region. Since the northern sector has better irrigation system, the Rabi crops are grown in select are as with high in tensity. With the impact of the greenre volution and the dry farming technology the acreage under the Rabi crops has increased many times. The coarse sandy soils require more water supplies for Rabi crops that are why growing Rabi crops has become cumber some and costlyin the study area.

CONCLUSION- It is evident that agriculture is the main stay of the district. As a primary aoccupation it is practiced through out the district. The seasonal patterns of the land crops vary spatially with the physical setup, irrigational facilities and agricultural technology in use. The district of Hazaribagh still practices traditional agriculture with the compulsive hope on the natural rain fall.

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