



Socio Economic Conditions of the Tribes in Vizianagaram District - A Case Study

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Abstract: *The Scheduled Tribe Groups who were identified as more backward communities among the tribal population groups have been categorized as 'PTG Groups (PTGs) by the Government at the Centre in 1975. So far seventy-five tribal communities have been identified as 'PTG groups' in different States of India. The main objective of the project was to foster self-reliant household food security by increasing food production and raising the income of tribal families, with specific focus on households practicing podu agriculture. The main focus of the study is laid on to analyze the agricultural practices in the interior tribal areas of Vizianagaram district against the background of implementation of different agriculture development programmes like check dam and land development programmers initiated by ITDA Parvatipuram under A.P. Tribal Development Project (APTDP) with the assistance of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) in the scheduled areas of Vizianagaram District.*

Keywords: Tribe Communities, Food Insecurity, Sub-Plan strategy, Social Change.

Introduction:

In India out of the total Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of 67.8 million, about 80 per cent are found in central India, 12 per cent in the north eastern states and the rest in southern India. Since the President of India issued the first notification to recognize the STs in 1950, India had no policy to deal with indigenous and tribe peoples of the country. The STs constituted about 8.61 per cent of the total population according to 2011 census and remain in the lowest ladder of the society in all respects. The government of India identified all STs as primitive races. In the Hindi text of the constitution of India, the Scheduled Tribe is translated as Adimjati, literally meaning "primitive races".

Dr Rajendra Prasad, first President of India suggested *Adimajati* as a translation for the Scheduled Tribe as a compromised text by stating that it was used in Bihar. Mr Jaipal Singh and Mr.

A V Takkar insisted on the use of the word "Adivasi" instead of "Vanjati" to describe the Scheduled Tribe during the debates at the constituent assembly. Article 366 of the constitution of India has defined the scheduled PTGs as such of those PTGs or tribe communities which have been so declared by the constitution order under Article 342 for the purpose of the constitution. There are 461 ST groups [Singh.K.S1994] who were identified as STs. They were earlier described as aboriginals, primitives, adivasis and some other names such as Vanajathis and Girijans. Various tribal groups of our country are at different stages of economy starting from food collection stage to settled agriculture.

Basic Features of Tribal Economy of India:

The most disadvantaged groups who are at food gathering, hunting and fishing stage are facing multifarious problems in modern times in their own habitats. The question of taking the problems of

more backward communities has received the attention of various commission and study teams connected with tribal welfare. The Scheduled Areas and PTGs Commission (1961), popularly known as the Dhebar Commission classified the Scheduled PTGs of our country in to the following four different groups. i). those that are living in the remotest corners and for that reason are almost in a Primitive Stage, ii). those in the Jhum (shifting) Cultivation stage, iii) those who have taken to regular agriculture and iv) those who have already been assimilated.

The study team on Tribal Development Programmes (1969) (Shilu AO Team) discerned marked imbalance development among the tribal communities and a large number of tribal communities continuing to be extremely backward, some of them still in the primitive food gathering stage. They reiterated the view of the Dhebar Commission that the 'Lowest Layer' needed the utmost consideration and should be made the special concern of the state government. They suggested that state governments and administrations of union territories should make an objective study of the extent to which each of the tribal development programmes and select on the basis of such a study the really backward communities that need special attention. Further, separate schemes for imparting education and economic uplift should be framed and treated as central schemes, including special provision in the plan for the purpose.

At the time of review of tribal development programmes on the eve of the Fifth Plan, it was recognized that special programmes for the extremely backward tribal groups known as primitive groups, should be taken up on the basis of proper identification on the lines suggested by the Shilu A O Team. It was also envisaged that the

programmes would be financed entirely by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The important guidelines for identification of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) are: pre-agricultural level of technology, low level of literacy and stagnant or diminishing population.

The Scheduled Tribe Groups who were identified as more backward communities among the tribal population groups have been categorized as 'PTG Groups (PTGs) by the Government at the Centre in 1975. So far seventy-five tribal communities have been identified as 'PTG groups' in different States of India. These hunting, food-gathering, and some agricultural communities, who have been identified as more backward communities among the tribal population groups need special programmes for their sustainable development. The PTGs are awakening and demanding their rights for special reservation quota for them. The thirty articles presented in this volume give a sample idea about the situation prevailing among the PTGs in India.

The majorities of the PTGs in India is in perpetual poverty and stands much below the poverty line, suffering from an alarming malnutrition and high illiteracy. The government must take initiative more seriously, sincerely, and effectively to create sustainable development programmes among them. The 10th plan of the government of India lucidly describes the problems of these vulnerable communities: A decline in their sustenance base and the resultant food insecurity, malnutrition and ill-health force them to live in the most fragile living conditions and some of them are even under the threat of getting extinct. This information reveals that there are certain communities in the PTGs who are identified as PTGs, who are at a much lower level of development even as compared to the other ST communities. As a consequence, these under- privileged STs were left

out of the process of development (Ministry of Tribe Affairs-2002). An attempt has been made to list out PTGs in India by P.K.Mohanty in his book "Development of PTGs in India" (2002-03) where in it was mentioned that the identification was made during the census 1931 itself. These tribal people are in the state of extreme poverty and are subjected to exploitation and are in the lowest level of literacy.

The scenario of the tribal economy of Andhra Pradesh can be explained with the help of statistical information relating to the STs in AP. The demographic statistics of scheduled tribes in India and Andhra Pradesh state reveal that the decadal growth (2001-2011) of STs in India is recorded as 23.7 per cent, in case of Andhra Pradesh it is recorded relatively low at 17.8 per cent At the all India level the proportion of ST population in total population in 2011 is recorded as 8.61 per cent while in case of AP it is recorded relatively lower at 7 per cent. Andhra Pradesh is having 5.68 of total ST population in the country. The decadal growth rates of ST and general population from 1961 to 2011 both in the Indian economy and in AP state shows that both incase of the growth of general population and ST population (except in the case of 1991 over 1981) the five decadal rates are relatively recorded higher at the national level. Another important aspect is that all the five decadal rates of ST population both at national level and state level are recorded very higher when compared to the decadal growth rates of general population.

In case of ST population growth during 1991 over 1981 the decadal growth rate of AP state is relatively recorded higher compared to national level. The information relating to the growth of ST population in proportion to total population from 1961 to 2011 reveal that from decade to decade the ST population in AP is increasing continuously

during different decades. A significant increase can be noticed in between the decades of 1971 to 1981 when compared to other census. The decadal growth difference is very low in between 1961 to 1971 and 2001 to 2011 census.

The sex-wise proportional growth of ST population during different census shows that the proportion of both ST male and female has shown an increasing trend during different decades. In between ST male and female the growth ST male has relatively recorded higher when compared to the growth of ST female during different decades. Regarding both ST male and female the growth is recorded higher in between 1971 to 1981 when compared to the other decades. The rural urban classification of ST population during different decades reveal that among the STs in AP more than 90 percent of them are still living in rural areas. However, one noticeable trend is that from decade to decade the proportion of STs living in rural areas is gradually declining. Also it can be observed that inspite of the intensive implementation of development programmes towards development of tribal communities, the decline in the rural population recorded very marginally during 2001 to 2011 census.

The information relating to comparative literacy rates of STs and general population in AP during different census periods shows that the literacy rates of STs in AP during different census periods are recorded very low. However the female and male literacy rates of the STs are showing a little bit improvement during last two census periods. Still the female literacy rates of the STs are recorded very low when compared to male literacy rates. The state of low female literacy rates of STs in Andhra Pradesh necessitates the further intensification of female literacy programmes in the agency areas of Andhra Pradesh. The information

relating to the number of ITDA, MADA pockets and Tribal Groups in A.P shows that AP is having 8 ITDA, 41 MADA Pockets, 17 Clusters and 12 PTG Groups.

The state of Andhra Pradesh consists of 33 PTGs with a population of 6.59 percent of its total population. In Andhra Pradesh the scheduled area comprises of 29,683 square kilometers, which forms 10.7 per cent of the total geographical area of the state and 11.00 per cent of the total scheduled area of the country. The tribal villages are inhabited by different variety of PTGs. The important PTGs are Gonds, Andhs, Thothis, Kolanes in Adilabad district, Koya, Konda Reddies, Naikpads in Khammam, Warangal and Godavari District, Bagatha, Valmiki, Savara, Gadaba, Konda Dora and Kondhs in the District of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Chenchus in Mahabubnagar, Kurnool and Prakesam District. A large chunk of tribe population in the state is mainly concentrated in the nine District: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam, Warangal, Adilabad and Kurnool.

In Andhra Pradesh, Government of India has identified Chenchus of Ranga Reddy, Kurnool, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Prakasam and Guntur District in the year 1975-76 and Kolams of Adilabad and Konda Reddies of East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam District in the year 1980 as PTGs. The central sector schemes for the development of PTGs are being implemented through Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA). At present in Andhra Pradesh there are 12 PTG Groups (PTGs) namely: Chenchu, Bodo Gadaba, Gutob Gadaba, Dongiria Kondh, Kutiya Kondh, Kolam, Konda Reddi, Konda Savara, Bondo Poraja, Kondh Poraja, Parangi Poraja and Thoti. These PTGs settlements are mostly found on hill tops and slopes of interior forest areas of

Eastern Ghats. They relatively live in isolation of interior forests and hills. Still these PTGs are largely depending on food gathering, hunting, non-timber forest produce collection and shifting (*Podu*) cultivation for their subsistence and survival. In general the tribal economy in Eastern Ghats is agro-forest based and largely considered as subsistence economy. The PTGs population is mostly concentrated in the nine scheduled District. All these District fall in the Sub-Plan areas of Andhra Pradesh.

Tribal Development Strategies Implemented in India:

About the implementation part of the tribal development strategy there are different views among the researchers. Some argue that what was happened to tribals in India during the last 50 years is agonizing. The approach to tribal development from the Fourth Plan onwards had found that actual benefits trickling down to the tribals have not been consistent with promises we have made. The gap between tribals and non-tribals has been widening and tribal exploitation has become more effective and increased after the implementation of developmental plans. A.K Sharma pointed out that, Government of India has not only failed to encourage the development of tribals but has actively maintained their under development. He also stated that the laws and programmes have failed because of the attitudes of the powerful feudal elitist groups and non-involvement of tribals in the development process.

Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute, Hyderabad and Agro Economic Research Centre, Waltair etc., have corroborate the views of earlier committees such as Malayappan, Ray, Dhebar commission etc., regarding the exploitation of tribals by non-tribal traders-cum-money lenders

even after passing of protective legislation and introduction of agencies such as GCC, ITDA etc. In spite of huge investment outlays, the implementation of the tribal development programmes is not a story of success. Approach to tribal development in the Sixth Plan states that the benefits accruing to the tribals were inconsistent with huge investment. The Working Group on tribal development for Eighth Five Year Plan also observed that tribal Sub-Plan strategy has yielded results but these do not commensurate to the expectations and investments made so far. The area based and individual based programmes did not have desired impact.

However some micro level studies of which focused mainly on the impact of development programs on tribal households indicate a mixed pattern. There were many reasons for the failure of tribal development programs. There were delays in the implementation of the programs. Coordination at various levels was absent, the state Governments did not ensure a reasonable share of benefits from the general development programs to the tribals. The developmental efforts increased the differences between tribal groups. The performance of the administrative machinery is very unsatisfactory. The remarks of the Planning Commission in this regard about the need of fresh look on the tribal development are worth mentioning.

Statement of the Problem:

Improvement in the agricultural practices and levels of socio-economic conditions of tribals are sought to be examined in terms of endogenous and exogenous factors. At low levels of growth or stagnation traditionalism perpetuates itself and internal growth impulses are very weak or non-existence. Hence in tribal societies extraneous (non-economic) factors play a significant role.

Social change was the consequence of non-economic factors, but over a period of time in causation with the other proximate causes the internal growth impulses may be internalized in the tribal economy. All these factors work as prime movers of change in the matrix of analysis as part of the process of cumulative causation. The analysis reveals that the improvement in the agricultural practices in the tribal areas is having the complexity of process. The improvement in agricultural practices may occur out of the simultaneous efforts of all the exogenous (non-economic) and endogenous (economic) factors.

To resolve the structural problems underlying the tribal economy the Andhra Pradesh Government evolved Tribal Development Project (APTDP) with the assistance of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). The main reason involved in the implementation of the APTDP was the history of socio-political unrest in the coastal tribal region of A.P. During the 1970s and 1980s, the project area witnessed a period of turbulence as the epicenter of the Naxalite revolt, a radical insurgency movement. The initiation of the project represented a bold move on the part of both the Government of India and IFAD and provided the opportunity to assess the relationship between a grass-roots-led protest movement and the operation of a participatory tribal development project.

The Andhra Pradesh Tribal Development Project (APTDP) was appraised by International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) in December 1990. The loan became effective on 27 August 1991 and closed on 31 March 1999. The total project cost was US\$ 46.5 million, funded by the Governments of India/Andhra Pradesh (US\$ 19.5 million), IFAD (US\$ 20.0 million) and The Netherlands (US\$ 7.0 million). The cooperating institution was the United Nations Office for

Project Services. The Tribal Welfare Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh was the executing agency, with overall responsibility for project implementation.

The project area is located in the north-eastern regions of the state of Andhra Pradesh. The project was implemented in four contiguous Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA), with a high concentration of families engaged in *podu* (shifting/slash-and-burn) cultivation: Seethampeta (Srikakulam district), Parvathipuram (Vizianagaram district), Paderu (Visakhapatnam district) and Rampachodavaram (East Godavari district). The project area comprises wide plains, hills and narrow valleys. The altitude ranges from 200 m to as high as 1600 m in some areas of Paderu, and the area contains a wide range of microclimates. The areas where *podu* cultivation is practiced often have steep slopes in excess of 28 degrees. Rainfall averages about 1100 mm per year, with around 80% of precipitation occurring during the south-west monsoon (June-September). The project area is endowed with a generally good climate, productive soils and rich biodiversity and is subject to less demographic pressure than exists on the plains.

At the time of project appraisal, the entire project was inhabited by Scheduled PTGs who are about 70 per cent were engaged in *podu* cultivation, and the majority of the remainder relied on rainfed crop production. The degree of poverty was greatest among the 13 percent of households with only *podu* land, and average incomes per year, including off-farm income. A stripped peak suffering from deforestation and soil erosion in the project area. The target group comprised all 63370 families living in the 2 077 villages of 16 selected watersheds.

The main objective of the project was to foster self-reliant household food security by increasing food production and raising the income of tribal families, with specific focus on households practicing *podu* agriculture. The project strategy included several elements:(a) planting the hill slopes with tree crops to provide food and cash income, as well as utilizing soil conservation measures to restore the ecological equilibrium; (b) improving the productivity of food crops through expanded irrigation and improved farming technology; (c) formulating a community development strategy to ensure the sustainability of economic development; and (d) identifying measures to address the chronic indebtedness among tribals by strengthening credit and marketing systems and, in particular, by building up the assets and capacities of the GCC.

The APTDP had the following components:(a) community and women's development (6 per cent of project cost), (b) health and education (9 per cent),(c) natural resources and agriculture development (70 per cent), (d) credit and marketing support (9 per cent), and (e) project management support, including monitoring and evaluation (6 per cent). The Tribal Welfare Department had the overall responsibility for project implementation, with the commissioner for tribal welfare as the project coordinator. Project activities were implemented through the regular ITDA channels. The respective ITDA project officer was designated as project director and was responsible for day-to-day management of the project.

The APTDP implemented with the assistance of IFAD focused its attention towards natural resource and agriculture development in tribal areas and allocated 70 per cent of its project outlay towards development of horticulture activity, construction of checkdams and minor irrigation tanks and

different land development programmes towards agriculture development in the interior tribal areas. In terms of natural resource management, the most significant activity of the project has been the attempt to use settled irrigated agricultural systems to replace the traditional methods of shifting (podu) cultivation. The aim is to improve household food security through the cultivation of high-yielding paddy rice and horticultural crops, as well as to protect the environment against deforestation and soil erosion. This necessitates radical changes in patterns and methods of farming and the introduction of farming systems of which the girijans have in general little or no experience. The project 'package' in this respect thus includes training programmes and expert supervision, as well as inputs such as seeds, fertilizer and saplings. Though the APTDP implemented with the assistance of IFAD is completed by March 1999, the ITDA in the vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh are continuously implementing follow up policies to intensify the agricultural practices of the tribal farm households in its Sub-Plan areas.

Need of the Present Study:

Against this background, the researcher, felt the relevance of examining the agriculture practices of the selected areas in the light of the agriculture development programmes implementing by ITDA of Vizianagaram district (Parvatipuram) through APTDP with the assistance of IFAD and its follow up post project programmes in the scheduled areas of Vizianagaram District. The present day tribal situation differs from tribe to tribe. Their way of life and thinking are considerably influenced as result of various forces of change. A section of tribals become conscious about their rights and are organizing movements. Since independence tribals are spread throughout India with their racial differences, region-wise study assumes importance.

Hence there is need for more and more micro level studies covering selected tribal areas of the country to throw light on the efficacy of tribal development programmes in bringing considerable change in the economic status of the specific interior areas.

Quite a number of studies on tribal agricultural patterns brought forth the acute problems faced by the tribals. However, in most of the empirical studies the impact of non economic factors on economic behavior is not clearly brought out. In the present study an attempt is made to know the influence of demographic (Family size), socio cultural factors like value orientation on the utilization of different agricultural development programmes like Check- dam scheme and Land development programmes of ITDA in interior tribal areas. The study proposes to examine the variations as well as interrelationship between socio cultural behavior and utilization of institutional development activities in the interior tribal areas, small tribal communities economy cannot be completely differentiated from social life. An attempt is made to study the agricultural patterns in the interior tribal areas of Vizianagaram district in the light of the different agriculture development programmes like check dam and land development programmes conducted under the IFAD project.

Objectives and Hypotheses of the Study:

The main focus of the study is laid on to analyze the agricultural practices in the interior tribal areas of Vizianagaram district against the background of implementation of different agriculture development programmes like check dam and land development programmes initiated by ITDA Parvatipuram under A.P. Tribal Development Project (APTDP) with the assistance of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) in the scheduled areas of Vizianagaram

District. Towards this end the specific objectives outlined are:

1. To analyze the resource base and features of tribal Sub-Plan area of Vizianagaram District and to outline in brief activities of the ITDA of Parvatipuram.
2. Socio-Economic conditions of the selected Tribal Farm Households.
3. Impact of Land development Programmes on the Agricultural Practices of the Tribal Farm Households.
4. Impact of Check Dam Scheme on the Agricultural Practices of the Tribal Farm Households.
5. Different Farming Systems Followed by the Selected Tribal Farm Households and Adoption of New Agricultural Practices in the study area

On the basis of the above objectives and the inferences drawn from the review of earlier studies the following hypotheses are proposed.

The state of the agriculture economy of the selected farm households in the study area of the Vizianagaram District of Andhra Pradesh are in the transitional stages. The agriculture economy of the selected farm households from the G.L. Puram mandal area are relatively poor when compared to the farm households living in the Komarada mandal. The farm households living in the G.L.Puram mandal area need much intensive development policy package for their fast transmission process of their agriculture economy.

Methodology:

The discussion on the methodology, indicate sampling method used, how the data is ascertained, the statistical tools used for analysis and to sort out the limitations of the study. Multi stage stratified random sampling method is used in the present study. There are four stages in which sampling process is carried out. The first stage is selection of district, the second stage consists of selection of mandals, the third stage consists of selection of villages and the fourth stage is of selection of households.

Out of the nine District of Andhra Pradesh which have concentration of tribal population Vizianagaram District is selected due to the fact that the District have drawn worldwide attention through the tribal participation in the political upheaval of 1969-71. Another weighty reason is that this District was covered under AP Tribal Development Project (APTDP). Similarly the studies so far undertaken on agricultural patterns in the region are confined to review the activities of GCC, ITDA and tribal revolts but no study is undertaken about the comprehensive conditions of tribal agrarian economy of this region.

The second stage of sample consists of selection of mandals. The selected G,L,Puram and Komarada are the tribal concentrated mandals. Also G.L. puram and Komarada mandals are covered under AP Tribal Development Project (APTDP) and these mandals are having a high proportion of tribal population. The heavy concentration of tribal population is the main reason for selecting these two mandals for the study. The tribal population concentration is considered in the selection of villages. With a stratification procedure based on the tribal population concentration the panchayats are taken into account. Tribal population with 80 per cent and less than 90 per cent in the respective panchayats are considered as criteria for selection.

After identification of tribal concentration in the panchayats from the G.L. Puram mandal, interior hilltract panchayats five villages are selected and simileraly from the Komarada mandal five villages from the plain areas are selected for the study. As a hole 10 villages are selected for the in depth study. For final selection of villages the extent of coverage or implementation of ITDA programmes under AP Tribal Development Project (APTDP) is given weightage. Village-wise and year-wise programme implementation lists are obtained from ITDA office from which the sample villages are selected, bearing in mind the above point.

The final stage in sampling consists of selection of household from whom primary data are collected. For the purpose of selection of households, village-wise and scheme-wise beneficiaries lists covered under APTDP (IFAD) are obtained from ITDA offices. This formed the population from which the beneficiary households are selected. The beneficiaries in each programme are stratified into three strata, Marginal Farmers (MFs), Small Farmers (SFs) and Medium Farmers (MDFs) based on the extent of land owned by each household. Households with less than 2.50 acres of land are marginal farmers, households with more than 2.50 acres and less than 5.00 acres the small farmers and households with more than 5.00 acres medium farmers. While selecting the sample, sufficient care is taken to see that each category is represented in the sample in the same proportion as in the total population.

From the selected villages from G.L. Puram mandal for each programme a total number of 75 farm households are selected as a whole a total of 150 households are selected from those five villages (from each village 30 households are selected). Similarly from the villages selected from the Komarada mandal total of 75 farm households

are selected for each programme and a total of 150 farm households are selected from 5 selected villages to cover two programmes. Total of 300 households are selected from the selected tow mandals of Vizianagaram District. As a whole the total of 300 households consisting of 160 marginal farms, 100 small farms and 40 medium farms are selected from the selected 10 villages of the selected two mandals of Vizianagaram District for undertaking in-depth study.

Primary data from households is collected with the help of structured schedule. Draft household schedule has been prepared and canvassed in the sample villages to collect the household data. Data are ascertained with the help of pre designed questionnaires. In this study three types of questionnaire are used to ascertain data from the sample households – (1) general questionnaire, (2) specific questionnaire for Check dam scheme and (3) specific questionnaire for Land Development scheme. Along with the questionnaires during the interviews with the sample lot of information relating to the significant changes taken place in their agrarian economy and social system are collected from them with their previous experiences for which they cannot express in quantitative terms and their field reports are noted in their respective questionnaires.

Apart from these, information is also elicited from officials, non-officials (mostly people's representatives) and village elders. As the tribal language is not easily understandable, the liaison persons and village elders help become inevitable in collection of field data from the two selected mandals. Besides the headman, the sarpanch and the priest of the village, reliable persons are selected representing the older generation as well as youth including those employed in the government departments as informants. The schedule has been

canvassed with 300 households to elicit information about the agricultural practices in view of the set objectives.

The Secondary data has been obtained from the annual reports, action plan and other documents of the ITDA office, Parvatipuram. The district handbook of statistics of different years is obtained from the Chief Planning Officers, Vizianagaram. The mandals information has been obtained both from MRO and MDO offices. Relevant literature, information and reports have been collected from the Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute, Hyderabad. Relevant information is also collected from GCC offices and census documents are used to collect population data.

Tabular analysis is, in general, adopted in this study. Primary tabulation is first done and then analysis tables are drawn from primary tables. Simple averages and percentages are used. For more convincing and appealing presentation of data apart from tabular analysis with averages and percentages, different statistical techniques are used at appropriate places. Tabular analysis with averages and percentages are generally used to explain the general profile and their agriculture patterns. Multiple regression analysis is used to identify the factors determine the adoption of new agricultural practices of the tribal households.

Conclusions

1. The inferences drawn from this study identifies that the important reason for the inability of tribes response to continuous efforts of the governmental agencies agriculture development programmes is due to these groups cultural heterogeneity, low level of awareness and indifferent attitude of the tribes households.. Hence, the heterogeneity and lack of mutual interaction between these groups and developmental agencies has to be reduced by

official policy so as to accelerate agriculture development in the interior villages.

2. The findings of the study reveal that social and economic levels of the tribal communities are not homogenous. But they are at different levels of variability, tribal agriculture development cannot be uniform. The agriculture and horticulture development schemes have to be devised in the light of socio-cultural factors and economic needs of the tribals in each region and sometimes each community.

3. To develop the tribal agriculture and horticulture government is already implementing schemes like checkdam scheme irrigation and land development scheme need to be integrated with other agricultural development schemes. The strategy must be package deal approach. The beneficiaries of both agriculture and horticulture development schemes are to be supported with the supply of agricultural implements, inputs. This helps the farmers to increase double-cropped area which improves the crop intensity and crop output.

4. The analysis points out that to reduce the intensity of problems associated with the improvement in the agriculture and horticulture practices of tribes, the government should focus special attention to the creation of basic infrastructure facilities on a priority basis. In this regard to ensure a proper agriculture and horticulture development in the study area, it is essential to remove its existing deficiencies.

5. Emphasis needs to be given to preliminary research concerning the choice of horticultural crops in particular areas. Although the project in theory at least – left the final choice of crop to the villagers, it is clearly vital that the alternatives offered should include only those crops that have proved successful in the particular soil, altitude and

climate conditions. Since they have no experience in the cultivation of these crops, the farmers will inevitably be influenced by agricultural officials in this respect.

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