



PROSPECT OF ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT IN THE BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY: A STUDY ON THE MISING INHABITED AREA

Dr. Ranjit Kaman

Asstt. Prof., Dept Of History Chaiduar College, Gohpur

ABSTRACT

The economy of India is agrarian and socio-economic development of the mass of the majority of the state depends on agriculture. Presently, in India most of the states are gradually moving away from their traditional agriculture based on economy towards industry or service oriented sectors. However, the state of Assam is still mostly dependent on the agriculture sector. About 90 percent of populations of the state rely on the agriculture for their living hood and socio-economic improvement. The Mising mainly inhabited in the 9 district of Brahmaputra valley. Originally, Mising were tribe dweller of Arunachal Pradesh and migrated to the Brahmaputra valley in 12th century AD. Agriculture is the main living hood and major source of income. Till today, the Mising applied the aged old traditional system in the cultivation. So, production of agriculture is very less. In the field of business Mising are not so interested. Number of government and private company servicer is very less. There is enough scope of the development of economy in this area. In this study an attempt has been made highlight the prospect of economic development in the Mising inhabited area.

KEYWORDS : Agriculture, socio-economic, traditional system, business, prospect of economic development

Introduction:

The economy of India is agrarian and socio-economic development of the mass of the majority of the state depends on agriculture. Presently, in India most of the states are gradually moving away from their traditional agriculture based on economy towards industry or service oriented sectors. However, the state of Assam is still mostly dependent on the agriculture sector. About 90 percent of populations of the state rely on the agriculture for their living hood and socio-economic improvement. Because of the suitable agro-climatic condition with good fertile lands, the state has immense scope for enhancing farm output and agri-business. The major two rivers Brahmaputra and Barak supported the favourable agro-climatic condition of the state. Assam is already well known for good production of crops like Tea, sugarcane, oil seeds, pulses, jute, paddy, maize etc.

The Mising mainly inhabited in the 9 district of Brahmaputra valley. Originally, Mising were tribe dweller of Arunachal Pradesh and migrated to the Brahmaputra valley in 12th century AD. In plain, they settled themselves in the bank of river mighty Brahmaputra and its tributaries. Despite, the Mising belongs to hill tribe of Arunachal Pradesh they assimilated with the wetland environment of Assam. The Mising has very cordial relation with water as dwellers of river bank area. They regarded water as mother goddess and worship her in different occasion. They drink water from river; take bath in the river, wash their cloths in the river. Moreover, rivers supply the fire hood, fish, communication and maniar to the cultivated field.

Objective of objective:

The main objectives of the study are-

- 1) To study the economic activities Mising community.
- 2) To study the prospect of economic development of the Mising tribe.
- 3) To highlight developmental activities taken by the cummuinity.

Methodology of the study:

Methodology is one of the important aspect of the social science research. The research is done by using the behavioural and empirical research method to understand the economic activities of the Mising tribe in the micro level area. Not much secondary information about the prospect economic activies of the Mising is available. The study is done on primary sources of information, although the secondary sources are applied whenever it is required. For the study, the primary sources of information are collected through structural questionnaire administrated at the household level. Field survey is conducted in the Mising villages scattered in the Brahmaputra valley. For the secondary sources of information, the relevant books, research journals, magazine, News papers periodical are review

The Mising inhabited area from Sadiya to Jia-Bharali is very fertile for cultivate different Kinds of crops. There is great scope of economic development through various ways. We can classify the prospect of economic development in to the following heads:

Economic development through agriculture:

Agriculture is main living hood and major sources of income of the Mising tribe of the area. It is found from the field study and secondary sources of information that paddy is the most dominant crop grown by the Mising people. The low land area is very suitable for different kinds of paddy. Misings of this area grown mainly three types of paddy- Ahu, Sali and Bahu. In some area it is found that people cultivate Baro Paddy. Apart from paddy, the other crops grown are Mustard oil seeds, pulses, potato, ginger, garlic, pea, turmeric, chilly and different type of vegetable. The cultivated land of this area is sandy loam soil. This type of soil is very suitable for cultivate the above mentioned crops. Among the vegetable grown by people are- reddish, cucumber, gourd, cabbage, beans, brinjal, ladies ginger, pomp kin, lentils etc. The low land is great scope of cultivating jute and wheat. It is found from the field study that the above mentioned crops except musterd seeds and pulses are cultivated for own consumption. The vegetables are also cultivated for own consumption. There is great scope of cultivate these crops as commercial crops. It is revealed from the study that very few number of youth began to cultivate these vegetable in commercial basis and they are highly benefitted from it.

It is revealed from field study that every Mising family planted various types fruits like Gauva, pinapple, plum, mango, orange, banana, peach, jackfruit and coconut. These produced fruits are used for own consumption, not for sell in the market. There is scope of cultivate these local fruits in commercial basis. Because, these are very popular among the people. Further, the soil of these area also very suitable to cultivate these fruits. It is high time to make these fruit as a market fruit.

Recently, a trends of cultivating small scale tea garden is emerged among the Mising in Golaghat, Sonitpur, lakhimpur, Jorhat Tinsukia, Sibsager districts. Very few number of Mising family began to planting scale tea garden in their own area and able to earn huge profits. It is very good sign of the Mising society. Apart from these, there are good potentialities of cultivating pinapple, orange and betelnut in commercial basis. Already, some families of Dhemaji, Sonitpur, and Golaghat districts set up pinapple, orange, banana and bettelnut garden. It is proved to be very profitable. There is great prospect of economic development by cultivating these crops in commercial basis.

The river bank area is very suitable for cultivate bamboo. By

cultivating bamboo the Mising can be benefitted in three ways- this cultivation may fill the domestic necessity bamboo. Bamboo is highly necessary for Mising tribe because their houses are built of bamboo. Moreover, in agricultural purpose also it is highly necessary. The cultivation of bamboo in the river bank helps to prevent erosion of soil and flood. They can be earned income by it in the market. It is noteworthy to mention that the plantation of bamboo also help to maintain eco-friendly environment in river bank area.

It is noticed from the field study that the sandy loam soil is proved to be very fertile for sugarcane cultivation. Some non-Mising farmer had already proved it very profitable. So, the Mising youth could take sugarcane cultivation as their profession and would be benefitted.

There is a great prospect of Dairy farming in the riverine area. The riverine huge vacant grass grazing space from Sadiya to Jia Bharali is main centre for breeding cattle and buffalo. Moreover, there are huge number Char-Chapori (sand bar) in this area. Very few number of Mising had been rearing cattle and buffalo in commercial purpose. In fact, they sold their produced milk to non-Mising milkman in less price. But they have not sold it in the market themselves. So, they deprive from the real profit. There is lot of scope for the Mising people to establish dairy farm in these area. It is high time for the Mising youth to learn how to produce different type sweet from the milk. It is very profitable business at the present time. The new generation must be take business as their profession.

The low land riverine area is suitable for farming fishery. Different types of fishes are hugely found in the rivers, pond, lakes of Assam. The Mising catches fish for own consumption; not for sell in the market. They can catch fish in these area for commercial purpose. It is easy to make arrangement for farming fishery in the low land riverine area. It is noteworthy to mention that during the period of September to October fish is available in the rivers of Assam. More fish can be collected in this time and it can be preserved by dry and smoke in large scale. Dry fish can be sold in the markets of North eastern state. Among people of North East India dry fish is very popular. The Mising can occupy the dry fish market of North Eastern state.

Eco-tourism:

Eco-tourism is another prospect of economic development in the Mising area. Eco-tourism is new concept, developed around in idea of travelling to places of natural beauty, moving around and staying with the places of nature for couple of days. It has twin objectives of conserving environment and improving the welfare of local people. The riverine area has immense scope for eco-tourism for its scenic natural beauty and favourable climatic condition. The natural beauty of riverine area is very beautiful. Moreover, this area is virtually free from industrial pollution. Its green jungle, rivers, huge open grazing field, ponds are the basis on which the eco-friendly tourism could be developed. Different types of migratory birds come to region in different time. For the development tourism good quality tent, river cruising, water sports, birds watching tower etc have to be developed. These facilities are like to attract eco-tourist. It is worthy to mention that eco-tourism is yet to come fully take off stage.

Cultural tourism:

Assam is a home land of different ethnic groups. Each tribe having its own cultural heritage. The Mising tribe are one of the distinctive ethnic group of Assam. They possess some unique feature in its socio-cultural life including custom, religious beliefs, language, culture, way of life, festival, food habits, songs and dance which different from others. Moreover, Mising display colourful dresses, testing of non-vegetable dishes mark in their festival. It is tradition of Mising tribe to organize Po:rag (post harvesting) festival in the interval of five years. Po:rag is a post harvesting festival. A Murong Okum is constructed to observe it. Culture teams invited from the different villages. The invited cultural teams perform their

dance and song in the Murong house with traditional dress. At that time it become centre of cultural competition. Each and every team try show their best performance. Further, Mibu So:man (Mibu dance) is perform in the Po:rag festival. This dance is rare and it is performed in this occasion only. This festival is observed for five days. Through the cultural song and dance the tourist from national and international could be attracted. Business environment could be grown in the surrounding the Murong House.

Another Mising harvesting festival-**Ali-Aye-Ligang** may be source of economic development. It is observed on the first Wednesday of the Assamese month of Falgun every year. Ali Aye Ligang has some cultural peculiarity. In this festival, Gumrag So:man (dance) is performed with the colourful dress. Ligang Ni:tom, **Lo:le Lo:le Lo:le** is performed with the Gumrag So:man. The colourful dress of Mising boys and girls make environment very colourful. There is a special food items for Ali Aye Ligang Festival. The Poro Apong (rice beer), Purang Apin (rice), Angsan (dry meat and smoke fish), Oying etc are items of Ligang. These food items are very delicious and unique one. It is not served in the normal time. By demonstrating Gumrag So:man and Ligang Ni:tom we can attract tourist from our state and outside Assam.

Traditional food:

The traditional foods of Mising may provide good economic earning for the Mising. It is proved in food festivals held in the different place our state. The food item like Ra:nam (boil), a:mnam (drying), ba:nam (roasting), Pa:mnam (Steaming), Bajinam (frying), Asannam (drying) are very popular among the people. Moreover, the food processing system is hygienic and also eco-friendly. They use less oil and spice in cooking dishes. Dishes are half fried and boiled much. Their some traditional dishes namely-Pitang oying, **Pered oying, champa oying, ame:n oying, Yumrang oying** etc cook with meat and fish. It is very tasty and delicious. Two type of delicious rice beer the Mising prepared from the rice called- Poro apong and Nagin. It is prepared for own consumption. But it is popular among the non-Mising people. This traditional food could be given market value. The marketing of traditional food will give good income to the Mising community.

Traditional dresses:

There is a scope of set up weaving industry in the Mising inhabited area. The Mising have colourful traditional dress is very popular among the people. Their traditional dresses are already occupied a good position in national and international market. Presently, the Mising traditional dress reached in such a position that having a Mising dress is a issue of prestige. The woman folk are very expert in weaving. They weave clothes which necessary for domestic use. Very few numbe, woman weave clothes for commercial purpose. The prominent clothes are **Mosanam ege, Mibu galuk, dumer, Ribi gaseng, Ugon, Kibung, Tongali, segrek, Gero** etc. Moreover, the woman folk prepared one kind of Blanket called **Gadu (Mirizim)** from pure cotton. Observing the demands of people, there is scope of establishing weaving industry in commercial basis. For the sell of traditional dress the stall should set up in the different town of the state.

Traditional platform house:

The traditional platform house of Mising itself may a source of economic development. Platform house Mising is unique one. No other community of state is built such a house. Traditionally it is built in ten layers. Their houses are built on bamboo platform raised about five or six feet above the ground with timber post. The walls are made off weeds and bamboo split. And other materials are cane, wood and thatch. Their villages are situated in river course in straight line. By making these houses as model village, the tourist from domestic and international can be attracted. Already a French tourist constructed Mising traditional house in Majuli and it is success to attract the tourist from our and foreign country. The Mising autonomous council also began to build such house in different corner of the state to attract tourist.

Establishment of organized market place:

There is scope of economic development by establishing market place in this region. It is already mentioned that varieties type of agricultural crops are produced. But there are no organized marketing facility and storage infrastructure sell and storage their crops. Market places are situated in distant from agricultural field. The government has not provided any facility to sell the produced crops. Under these circumstances, the farmer has to sell crops so early and low price. By establishing organized market places, the farmer could be sell their crops in appropriate price. Further, by building modern store room the farmer could be sold their goods whenever price is high in the market. These facility would give financial profit to the farmer.

Providing government facility:

The facilities provided by government are highly required to develop the economic condition of the people of Mising inhabited area. Majority of people of these area lives below poverty line. Due to shortage of economy they could not purchase their necessary agricultural tools. The farmer of these areas should be provided financial assistant since they could purchase their necessary tools in time. The government should establish financial institution like banks in these areas since the farmer and business could borrow loan from it. Apart from these, the government should provide irrigation facility to increase the production of agriculture. It will provide facility to cultivate multiple crops in a same plot. The Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana scheme should be implemented to develop the agriculture. The poor farmer should supply tractors, power tiller, pump set and seeds in low price. In order to increase production of paddy, oil seeds, pulses and other crops the National Food Security Mission should fully implemented since food grain are available in the area.

Motivate to entrepreneurship:

It is already mentioned that the Mising cultivated their agriculture with age old traditional system. They have not use science system to produce more. Further, the Mising has not developed the situation to cultivate crops for commercial purpose. That's why the farmer lost their profits. So far Mising people business is concerned, the number of business man is very less. Mising are not interested in the business. It is noteworthy to mention that world economy is changing. They must change their mind set. Public awareness programme should arrange to motivate new generations towards the business and entrepreneurship. For this purpose, training and technical education should impart them because there are lots of scopes to run business and entrepreneurship in this area. It is noticed that large number of unemployed youth wastage their valuable time without doing anything. They must take chance to develop the economy.

Conclusion:-

The Mising inhabited area of Brahmaputra Valley has enough scope of develop economy. The product agriculture crops is found satisfactory despite the area is frequently affected by flood and land erosion. There is enough scope to increase the production of agricultural crops by using modern technique. Rabi crops has more scope to produce more because in this time there is no chance of flood affect and erosion. The Mising farmer must cultivate their crops on the commercial basis. Further, the Mising youth specially must be come out to run different type of business which has scope to run business. As an example, there is a great scope of taking dairy farming as their profession. This area entire should be brought under the government agriculture policy. The government must take suitable measure to control the frequent flood and erosion because it is burning problem of this area.

As far prospect of the economic development is concerned, the Mising new generation must be given important on the business and entrepreneurship. It is noteworthy to mention that now a day tourism is very sources of income. Through eco-tourism, ethnic tourism, natural tourism and cultural tourism the tourist from

domestic and international could be attracted to the region. Tourist will make this region very important.

The economy is changing in the global. Due to globalization of economy goods from world country come to our country in large scale. Recently, our local product goods also begin to go to the market of other countries of the world. It is right time send our goods like traditional dresses, foods and culture to the world market. For this purpose we must produce international standard quality goods since it can occupy a in the international market.

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