

# **Poverty Eradication / Alleviation in North East India : An Approach**

## **SUMMARY REPORT**

*Sponsored by*  
**THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL**  
**Shillong**

*Prepared by :*  
**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NIRD)**  
**NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL CENTER (NERC)**  
**JAWAHAR NAGAR, KHANAPARA,**  
**GUWAHATI – 781 022**

## P R E F A C E

The NEC Shillong has assigned the National Institute of Rural Development, North Eastern Regional Centre (NIRD-NERC), Guwahati to prepare a report on "Poverty Eradication in the North Eastern Region" with the following objectives-

1. To identify the factors constituting the poverty.
2. To examine poverty eradication policy initiatives.
3. To understand the status of and dimensions of poverty.
4. Recommendations and suggestions.

The terms and conditions among other things included that the study to be undertaken under the supervision of the two full-time members of the NEC viz. Shri P P Shrivastav and Dr. (Smti) I K Barthakur.

Accordingly, NIRD-NERC has accepted the ToR and prepared the report. The report is based on the 25 years of NIRD-NERC's field experience in the region, interaction with the state rural development departments, State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRD), NGOs / VOs, financial institution like NABARD, RGVN, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Small Farmers Agro-business Consortium (SFAC). The recommendations of a number of seminars and workshops conducted by the institute in the recent past have also been given due consideration. In addition, the institute organized interactive meets with experts and implementing agencies and their views are also noted (list given in *Annexure-I*).

The analysis done and recommendations / suggestions made in the report are restricted to the above objectives only. Vision-2020 for the North Eastern Region, Eleventh Plan Documents and India's Look East Policy are kept in mind while preparing the report.

# CONTENTS

## *Preface*

	<b><u>Page No.</u></b>
1. Introduction to North East India	1
Regional Peculiarities	1
Physiographic Profile	1
Socio-cultural Profile	2
Demographic profile	3
Resources profile	5
Economic profile	6
2. The status and dimensions of poverty	7
Facets	7
Status of poverty	8
Profile of the Poor	10
Trend of poverty	10
3. Factors contributing to poverty	12
4. Review/Highlights of the poverty alleviation policy initiatives	14
5. Recommendations and suggestions (relating to)	18
Definition of poverty	18
Basis of poverty assessment	19
Basis of Planning	19
Sectoral Development Strategies	20
Agriculture and Allied Activities	20
Small and Marginal Farmer	21
Secondary Sector Activities	25
Rural artisan and handloom weavers	25
Tertiary Sector Activities	26
Small businessmen and service providers	26
Unskilled workers in the labour Market	26
Social and Infrastructure Sector Activities	26
Other Areas Requiring Intervention	
Recognition to customary land tenure system	28
Problem of Credit Delivery System	28
Empowerment of Local Government	29
Social / Community Mobilisation	29
Approach: Cluster development	29
<b>Annexure – I:</b> List of experts participated in the interactive meet	32
<b>Annexure – II:</b> Land tenure system in North East India	33
<b>Map – 1:</b> Soil pH Map of North East India	34

# 1. Introduction to North East India

## Regional Peculiarities

- Eight political units of the union of India namely; Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura constitute North East India. They together commonly known as North eastern Region (NER).
- The hallmark of the eight political units is the diversity on account of terrain, climate, ethnicity, culture, institution, land system, language, food habits, dresses and so on.
- These states have evolved in different time and function under different provisions of the constitution of India.
- The regional identity of eight states as NER is a concept based on extreme intra-regional diversity.

## Physiographic Profile

- The total area of NER is 2.62 lakh sq. km (7.98 % of India's total).
- Divided into discrete plains encompassed within hills (>70%).
- Hills are generally rugged and vast areas are inaccessible.
- **Relief** varies from less than 50 m to more than 5000 m above mean sea level (amsl) and falls in high **seismic** zone.
- Four **physiographic divisions** – 1. Active Flood Plains, 2. Flood-Free Plains and Valleys, 3. Low Hill Areas (100 to 1000 m amsl) and 4. High Hill Areas (>1000 m amsl).
- **Soil** mostly acidic. pH value ranges from 4.5 to 6.0 in the plains and from 4.3 to 7.0 in Hills resulting in low calcium content which adversely affect both animal and crop productivity (Map-1).
- **Climate** is characterized by heavy precipitation (226mm to 602mm) during the four monsoon months (June to September).
- Located in the threshold of sub-tropics and has six **agro- climatic zones**.

## **Socio-cultural Profile**

### ***Social composition***

- Home of over 140 major tribes out of 573 in the country besides non-tribal with diverse ethnic origin and cultural diversity (2001 Census).
- The ST population (2001 Census) is 12.41% of India's ST total. It is 26.93% of NER's total population and is dominant in Arunachal Pradesh (64.22%), Meghalaya (85.94%), Mizoram (94.46%) and Nagaland (89.15%). The group is quite large also in Manipur (34.20%), Tripura (31.05%), Sikkim (20.60%) and Assam (12.41%).
- SC population is 1.49% of India's total. It is 6.40% of NER's total population. Maximum concentration is in Tripura (17.37%) followed by Assam (6.85%) and Sikkim (5.02%).
- The dominant religion group is Hindu (57.27%), followed by Muslim (22.82%), Christian (16.12%), Others (2.28%), Buddhist (1.35%) and Sikhs (0.08%) and Jain (0.08%).

### ***Local Governance System***

- The modern and traditional system of governance co-exist in the region.
- The age old traditional but unrecognized local bodies exist and functions (ex. *Kebang* among the Adis in Arunachal Pradesh, *Mei* among the Karbis of Assam, *Khullakpa* among the Kaboi in Manipur, *Durbar Shong* among the Khasis and Jaintias in Meghalaya etc.).
- PRI functions in Arunachal Pradesh (GP- 1747; PS- 150 and ZP -15) and Sikkim (GP- 159 and ZP -4) as on April, 2005.
- Both PRIs and Autonomous Council (AC) function in Assam (GP- 2489; PS- 203 and ZP -20 and AC- 5); Tripura (GP- 537; PS- 23 and ZP -4 TTAADC - 1) in Manipur (GP- 166 and ZP -4 and AC- 4); as on April, 2005.

- Autonomous Council functions in entire Meghalaya (AC-3). In Mizoram, both Village Council (702) and AC (3) function while in Nagaland only Village Council (1029); as on April, 2005.
- The Autonomous Councils while act for preservation of tribal identity and heritage; the Village Council (recognized and unrecognized) acts as administrator, justice provider and custodian of land and other resources.
- The PRIs acts as development agent.

### ***Land tenure system***

- Two broad types of land tenure systems operate in the region: (i) Revenue administration under government operates in the plains and valleys of Assam, Tripura, Manipur and in the hilly state of Sikkim and (ii) Customary land tenure system under Village level authority operates in the hilly states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland and in the hilly parts of Assam, Manipur and Tripura.
- Cadastral survey is not done in these areas (Annexure-II).
- Land is held almost by all. Landless people is negligible. Marginal (<1 ha) and small farmers (1.0-2.0 ha) are the two dominant categories (78.92 %) (Agricultural Census, 2000-01).
- Distribution is largely egalitarian rooted in the principle of community way of living and sharing.
- Operational availability of land is a small fraction of total availability in the hills.

### **Demographic profile**

- Total population is 388.58 lakh and is 3.79% of India's total (2001 Census). Within region, Assam has 266.56 lakh (68.60%) followed by Tripura (8.23%), Meghalaya (5.97%), Manipur (5.58%), Nagaland (5.12%), Arunachal Pradesh (2.83%), Mizoram (2.29%) and Sikkim only 5.51 lakh (1.39%).

- The projected population of the region stands at 423.01 lakh in 2006, 429.35 lakh in 2007 and will be 435.63 lakh in 2008 according to Census of India estimate.
- Rural Population is 327.71 lakh and accounts 84.34% as against all India percentage of 72.20.
- Mizoram is highly urbanized (49.63%) followed by Manipur (26.28%) and Sikkim is at the bottom (11.07%)
- The population density is 149 per sq. km as against 324 at all India level. The highest is in Assam (340) followed by Tripura (304). All the hill states have dispersed population with lowest density in Arunachal Pradesh (13).
- Decadal growth rate (1991-2001) is 21.61 % as against 21.54% at all India level. Within NER, growth rate is highest in Nagaland (64.53%) followed by Sikkim (32.98%), Meghalaya (29.94%), Mizoram (29.18%) and Arunachal Pradesh (26.21%), Growth rate is lower than all India level in Assam (18.92%) and Tripura (16.03%).
- Sex ratio (2001 Census) is higher (937) as against all India level (933). It is highest in Manipur (978) followed by Meghalaya (975), Tripura (950), Mizoram (938) and lower than all India average in Assam (932), Nagaland (909), Arunachal Pradesh (901) with lowest in Sikkim (875).
- The potential work force (15-59 years) constitutes 56.97% as against all India total of 56.93%. It is highest in Manipur (59.45%) followed by Sikkim (59.34%), Mizoram (59.09%) Tripura (58.96%), Nagaland (58.62%) and lower than all India level in Assam (56.63%), Arunachal Pradesh (55.02%) and Meghalaya (52.90%).
- Literacy rate is marginally higher (65.83%) compared to all India level (64.80%). It is highest in Mizoram (88.80%) followed by Tripura (73.20%), Manipur (70.50%), Sikkim (68.80%) and Nagaland (66.60%). The rate is below all India average in Assam (63.30%), Meghalaya (62.60%) with lowest in Arunachal Pradesh (54.30%).

- Female literacy is higher in all the states (56.03% in Assam to 86.13% in Mizoram) as against all India level (54.16%) except in Arunachal Pradesh (44.24%).

### **Resources Profile**

- Forest (2004-05) is 56.93% of reporting area as against 22.83% at all India level (2004-05). The percentage area is high in all states with highest in Arunachal Pradesh (93.75%) followed by Manipur (86.10%), Mizoram (76.79%), Tripura (57.78%), Nagaland (54.48%), Meghalaya (42.29%), Sikkim (39.35%) and Assam (24.62%).
- Agricultural land including fallow (2004-05) is 22.20% as against 54.47% at all India level. It is much lower in all NER states with highest in Assam (37.43%) followed by Nagaland (29.45%), Tripura (26.86%), Sikkim (21.72%), Nagaland (19.15%), Mizoram (15.76%), Manipur (12.14%) and lowest in Arunachal Pradesh (4.40%).
- The mineral reserve (2000-01) include coal – 327.26 million MT, limestone – 181.28 million MT, clay – 0.59 million MT and iron ore - 3.61 million MT among the important.
- Oil and gas (2004-05) reserve is 2323 million MT. Annual production of crude petroleum is 4.786 million MT which accounts 14.08% of India's total. Gas is 2786 million CM which accounts 8.7% of India's total.
- Tea production (2004-05) is 4.47 lakh MT and 49.78% of India's total (8.98 lakh MT) which is done in 2.86 lakh hectares with an average yield of 1557 kg per hectare.
- NER is the largest bamboo reserve of India with about 89 species out of 126 in India under 16 genera having shelter here. Bamboo, one of the fastest growing utility plants in the earth accounts about 66% of India's bamboo resource.
- Vegetation types vary from tropical rain forest in the foot hills to alpine meadows and cold desert up in the hills.



- NER is very rich in flora (7500 flowering plants, 700 orchids, 58 bamboos, 64 citrus and others) and fauna (541 birds, 236 fishes, 3624 species of insects, 50 molluscs etc) and is regarded as part of one of the 25<sup>th</sup> bio-diversity hot-spots.

## **Economic Profile**

- Agriculture is the dominant employment provider (2001 Census) in the region. Cultivators (41.61%) and agricultural labour (13.07%) together constitute the majority of the workforce. The corresponding categories comprising 31.65 % and 26.55% at all India level are the position opposite to NER.
- The cultivators in percentage is highest in Nagaland (64.74%) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (57.84%), Mizoram (54.87%), Sikkim (49.9%), Meghalaya (40.14%), Manipur (40.17%) and Assam (39.11%). It is lower than all India level only in Tripura (21.07%).
- Agricultural labour is 13.07% in the region and is maximum in Tripura (23.81%) followed by Meghalaya (17.70%), Assam (13.25%), Manipur (12.02%), Sikkim (6.46%), Mizoram (5.73%), Arunachal Pradesh (3.90%) and lowest in Nagaland (3.64%).
- With soil testing lab – 29, NPK consumption of 130.5 kg/ha in Manipur, 46.6 kg/ha in Assam, 29.4 kg/ha in Tripura, 17 kg/ha in Meghalaya (consumption in other states is very low), plough as main implements (95.66%), irrigation in 11% of net sown area, area under HYV paddy- 19.50 lakh ha (35%), very low HYV seed replacement rate and 4.31 lakh farmers with KCC (August, 2006), cropping intensity 131 % (2004-05), agriculture has reasons for poor performance.
- Household industry as employment provider plays relatively smaller role as it absorbs only 3.66 % of total workers.
- The share of handloom and handicraft in the monthly average income of the artisans according to NCAER Survey data, 1995-96 is highest in Mizoram (97.57%) followed by Manipur (91.73%), Assam (79.58%),

Nagaland (77.11%), Tripura (70.99%), Meghalaya (67.68%), Sikkim (55.80%) and lowest in Arunachal Pradesh (48.84%).

- As high as 60.42% of artisan households depend on handloom and handicraft as source of livelihood in NER and earn more than 90% of income from the avocation (NCAER Survey data, 1995-96).
- In the GSDP at current price in 2002-03, the share of primary sector is 33.53%, secondary sector 11.85% and tertiary sector 54.61%.
- The percentage share of agriculture in NSDP (at current prices) declined from 39.47% in 1993-94 to 32.77% in 2002-03.
- During the same period, the percentage share of agriculture in GSDP (at current prices) declined from 36.80% to 32.64%.
- The per capita gross state domestic product of Rs. 18,027 in 2004-05 is less than all India average of Rs. 25,968 by 31% (NER Vision 2020).
- The GSDP of the region will have to grow at 11.8 per cent per year on an average to reach all India level by 2020 (NER Vision 2020).
- The regions' per capita income at current price was lower than the country average by 31% in 2004-05. The per capita income will have to grow at 10.5% to reach all India level by 2020 (NER Vision 2020).

## **2. The status and dimensions of poverty**

### **Facets of Poverty**

- **Definition** of poverty line is uni-dimensional. It considers the expenditure criterion only at 1973-74 price and fixed at Rs. 49.09 for rural and Rs.56.64 for urban areas per capita per month to get access to 2400 and 2100 K Cals respectively per day per capita (Planning Commission Estimates).
- The determination of poverty in 1992 and 1997 in the NER was estimated by NSSO only for Assam and applied the same as benchmark to all NE states.
- The per capita expenditure per month for rural and urban area is Rs. 387.64 and Rs. 378.84 respectively (as estimated by NSSO, 2004-05).

The lower rate for urban areas appears to be a deviation from general perception.

- The simple yardstick (economic poverty) may not be able to capture the multiple deprivations of people adequately. Therefore, four facets have been considered in the study namely;
  - Economic Poverty (expenditure deprivation), 1993-94 & 2004-05
  - Human Poverty (health, education and income deprivations), during 1981, 1991 & 2001 (projected based on two previous years)
  - Nutritional Poverty (deprivation to required K.Cals i.e. 80% of 2700 /person/day during 1993-94 & 2004-05.
  - Basic Amenities Poverty (Deprivations to basic amenities-not having /possessing of safe drinking water, electricity, housing (pucca) and sanitation) during 1991 & 2001.

## **Status of Poverty**

### *Economic Poverty (2004-05)*

- As many as 7.90 million persons live below poverty line in the NER (2004-05) as against 280 million in India (HDR, 2003, UNDP).
- BPL population as per Planning Commission, Govt. of India is 19.1% in NER as against 27.5% at all India level.
- In rural areas in the same year, the BPL population is 22.3 % and in urban areas 3.3 % as against all India average of 28.3 % and 25.7 % respectively.
- High poverty ratios are found in Sikkim (20.1%) followed by Assam (19.7%), Nagaland (19.0%), Tripura (18.9%) and Meghalaya (18.5%) within NER states. The lowest is in Mizoram (12.6%). It is 17.6% in Arunachal Pradesh and 17.3% in Manipur.
- The reduction of poverty in the NER is found to be encouraging (from 51.9% in 1973-74 to 19.1% in 2004-05) compared to all India level (from 54.9% in 1973-74 to 27.5% in 2004-05).

- The incidence of poverty among various social groups and religious groups could not be considered separately for non availability of related data.

#### *Human Poverty (2001)*

- Human Poverty in rural areas is higher than all India level (36.3%) in Arunachal Pradesh (45.4%) followed by Assam (45%), Tripura (43.8%), Nagaland (39.8%), Manipur (38.2%) and Mizoram (37.4%). The same is lower in Sikkim (28.6%) and Meghalaya (12.6%).
- In urban areas, it is higher than all India level (16.8%) in Arunachal Pradesh (19.2%), Manipur (18.5%) and Nagaland (17.7%) and lower in Tripura (15.2%) Meghalaya (12.6%), Assam (10.2%), Sikkim (7.5%) and Mizoram (5.2%).

#### *Nutrition Poverty (2004-05)*

- Calorie gap in rural areas is lower than all India level (30.6%) in Arunachal Pradesh (28.6%), Mizoram (27.3%), Assam (24.7%), Nagaland (24%) and Manipur (8.1%). The gap is higher in Tripura (43.9%), Sikkim (41.4%) and Meghalaya (40.1%).
- During the same period, the gap in urban areas is lower than all India level (33.4%) in Assam (23.5%), Manipur (7.1%), Mizoram (30.2%), Nagaland (14.7%), Sikkim (30.2%) and Tripura (22.7%). The gap is higher than national average in Arunachal Pradesh (41%) and Meghalaya (42.2%).

#### *Basic Amenities Poverty (2001)*

- The BAP in urban areas is higher than all India level (17.5%) in Assam (21.1%), Manipur (23%), Meghalaya (19.1%) and Nagaland (20.7%) and lower in Arunachal Pradesh (16%), Tripura (13.9%), Mizoram (11.2%) and Sikkim (6.1%).

- In rural areas, BAP is higher than all India level (52.6%) in Meghalaya (70.8%), Assam (59.5%) and Tripura (53.1%). The same is lower in Nagaland (51.9%), Manipur (51.8%), Mizoram (49.1%), Arunachal Pradesh (45.9%) and Sikkim (38.9%).
- Urban areas within the region are found to have received more attention than rural areas.

### **Profile of the Poor (2004-05)**

- The poor in rural areas are from among the self-employed in agriculture (SE Ag.), agricultural labour (AgL), non-agriculture labour (NAL), self-employed in non-agriculture (SE NAG) and others. In urban areas, poor are from among the regular wage earners / salaried (RWE), casual labour (CL) and others.
- Rural poverty is found to have high concentration among the self-employment in agriculture in Mizoram (93.1%), Manipur (77.3%), Sikkim (67.7%), Arunachal Pradesh (66.8%), Meghalaya (63.6%) and Assam (33.6%) and among the non-agricultural labour in Tripura (51.6%). Data of Nagaland is not available for rural areas.
- Urban poverty is concentrated among the regular wage earners in Nagaland (49.7%) and Sikkim (55.8%); among casual labour in Manipur (67.8%), Tripura (51.5%) and Assam (38.0%) and among others in Arunachal Pradesh (70.1%).

### **Trend of Poverty**

#### *Economic Poverty (1993-94 and 2004-05)*

- Occupation wise, trend of poverty indicates high reduction among the NAL (from 62.5% in 1993-94 to 51.7% in 1999-00), SE Ag (from 35.1% to 23.9%), almost no change among Ag L (61.7% to 61.2%) and increased among SE NAG (30.9% to 32.0%).
- State wise, the reduction of poverty (during 1973-74 and 1999-2000) is highest in both Meghalaya and Mizoram (30.85%) as against all

India level of 28.78%. It is lower in AP, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura (between 16.56% and 21.42%) and lowest in Assam (15.12%).

#### *Human Poverty (1981, 1991, 2001)*

- Human poverty between 1981 and 2001 declined by 1.59% in rural areas and 1.91% in urban areas per annum at all India level.
- All NER states also experienced reduction both in rural and urban areas.
- Reduction per annum in rural areas was higher than all India level in Sikkim (2.31%) and Manipur (1.64%) and lower in Mizoram (1.56%), Arunachal Pradesh (1.34%), Nagaland (1.30%), Assam (1.26%), Tripura (1.03%) and Meghalaya (0.69%).
- In urban areas, human poverty reduced by higher percentage rate per annum in Mizoram (4.12%), Sikkim (3.53%), Assam (3.47%), Meghalaya (2.31%), Manipur (2.27%), Tripura (2.03%) and lower than all India level in Arunachal Pradesh (1.80%) and Nagaland (1.56%)

#### *Nutritional Poverty (1993-94 and 2004-05)*

- Nutritional poverty between 1993-94 and 2004-05 increased at all India level by 1.45% per annum in rural areas and 2.41% per annum in urban areas.
- In NER during the same period, nutritional poverty per annum in rural areas reduced in Manipur (5.33%) followed by Assam (1.89%), Arunachal Pradesh (1.77%), and Sikkim (0.98%) and increased in Nagaland (4.64%) followed by Meghalaya (4.17%), Tripura (0.32%) and Mizoram (0.14%).
- In urban areas, it reduced in Manipur (6.16%) followed by Nagaland (4.03%), Tripura (2.78%), Assam (1.38%) and Sikkim (0.38%), and increased in Arunachal Pradesh (9.73%) followed by Mizoram (4.92%) and Meghalaya (4.71%).

### *Basic Amenities Poverty (1991 and 2001)*

- During 1991 and 2001, annual reduction of BAP in rural areas is higher than all India level (2.08%) in Arunachal Pradesh (2.86%), Manipur (2.68%), Mizoram (2.88%) and Sikkim (2.37%) and lower than the same in Assam (2.01%), Meghalaya (1.38%), Nagaland (1.80%) and Tripura (1.88%).
- During the same period, the annual reduction of BAP in urban areas is higher than all India level (3.22%) in Assam (3.41%), Manipur (4.50%), Mizoram (6.57%), Nagaland (4.62%) and Sikkim (5.58%). The reduction rate was similar in Arunachal Pradesh (3.22%) and but lower in Tripura (3.02%) and Meghalaya (2.48%).

### **3. Factors contributing to poverty**

- The poverty and under development in the NER primarily lies in the self- content subsistence mode of production of the indigenous people. It is aggravated by lack of enabling environment for growth.
- The higher concentration of poor among the **Self-Employed in agriculture** is the reflection of the poor performance of agriculture economy in six out of the eight NER states namely; Arunachal Pradesh (66.8%), Assam (33.6%), Manipur (77.3%), Meghalaya (63.6%), Mizoram (93.1%), Nagaland (NA), Sikkim (67.7%) and Tripura (15.5%). Poor performance of agriculture has reasons to continue and among many, the most important factors include-
  - The size of the techno-managerial unit of majority of the farmers is tiny.
  - The land has difficult problems of rugged terrain and inaccessibility in the hills and flood and water stagnation in about one third areas of the plains.
  - High acidity in the soil and less sunny hours that are adverse to better growth.

- Technology in use by tradition was both land and labour using and the same has made very little change over the years as is evident by less area under assured irrigation (11%), less area under HYV seeds, least replacement rate of HYV seed, least application of modern machineries and implement.
- Productivity of food grains per unit of land is low except for Manipur and some pockets of Assam and Tripura.
- The subsistence mindset continues as food security oriented diversified production system has found very little scope for commercial production.
- Surplus production in the case of certain vegetable, fruits and spices crops has problem of conversion of products into remunerative money value.
- Access to formal credit is major hurdle of the poor.
- Concentration of poor among the **Agricultural labour** reveals that-
  - Labour market in rural areas with low concentration of poor Agri. labour in Sikkim (7.9%), Arunachal Pradesh (2.7%), Manipur (1.2%), Mizoram (negligible) and Nagaland (negligible) has minimum problem of demand and wage rate.
  - With considerably high concentration of poor among the agricultural labour in Meghalaya (28.8%), Assam (20.7%) and Tripura (16.3%), there is problem of surplus and low wage rate in the agricultural labour market.
- In the case of **non-agricultural labour**, the concentration of poor is highest in Tripura (51.6%) followed by Assam (22.1%) and Sikkim (15.5%) and in other states it ranges from 1.5% to 8.9%. The factors that contribute adversely include the following –
  - The supply side of non-agricultural labourer is higher as compared to the demand.
  - The low wage rate affected by higher supply.
  - The investment on generation of rural infrastructure involving skill labour is low.



- The poor among the **self-employment in non-agriculture** comprises of the rural artisans, the handloom weavers, small traders and businessmen, service providers etc. Assam has the maximum concentration (19.5%) followed by Manipur (17.1%) and Tripura (13.2%). The percentages in other states range from 2.4 to 6.1%.
- The factors that are inherent with rural artisan include are for meeting –
  - The tools, implements produced by **rural artisan** as per local demand and products have low market value.
  - The handicrafts that are produced by the rural artisan lack design and finish as wanted in the modern market.
  - The operational units are tiny, highly manual and thrive in unorganized market.
- **Handloom Weavers suffer** from following problems-
  - The handloom products lack attractive design and finish that have demand in the modern market.
  - The scale of production being very small fails to attract outside buyers.
  - Lacks pre-loom and post-loom processing facilities.
  - Low labour Productivity and depends on outside supply of yarn.
- The poor engaged with **small and petty business** are far and few. Entrepreneurial mindset and skill is largely absent. Access to formal credit is a major hurdle.
- Use of modern machineries and equipments is not very common in rural areas and as such the **repairing and servicing activities** are very few among the rural poor.

#### **4. Review/Highlights of the poverty alleviation policy initiatives**

- In all NER states, centrally sponsored programmes have been under implementation from Sixth Plan onward.

- The implementation of self-employment programme through **IRDP** following individual family approach resulted the following-
  - It was able to alleviate 15% to 20% of the poor above poverty line.
  - The method and procedure of identification and selection of poor deviated from the programme guidelines and subsidy became center of attraction.
  - The assets / schemes remain under-financed even where there was bank and in unbanked areas, the scheme size reduced to the size of subsidy component.
  - Capacity building mostly remained women centred in the trades like tailoring, knitting, embroidery and weaving.
  - A poor family unit stood too weak to find access to the (i) assets and inputs (physical and financial) arranged through delivery system (DRDA, Block, Bank and Line Depts.), (ii) technology and skill, (iii) market opportunities of their products.
- The self-employment programme through **SGSY** following group approach (SHG)
  - SHGs have shown strength to overcome the vicious cycle of poverty.
  - To upscale the movement, there are weaknesses in the areas of social mobilization and group building process.
  - The attitude, behaviour, skill and time available with the implementing machineries of the government are inadequate for social mobilization and group building process.
  - They implementation failed to involve NGOs participation in the process.
  - Key activity planning following cluster approach is a non-starter.
  - Initiative made through other agencies is by and large successful.
  - The approach of SIRD, Assam is worth mentioning. They adopted social mobilization followed by capacity building, credit

linkage to the SHG and their schemes, linkage to market and repeated financing in steps.

- Implementation of **wage and infrastructure development programmes** (NREP, RLEGP, JRY, EAS, JGSY, SGRY) reveals that
  - The implementation of all the previous programmes except NREGP was able to provide wage employment in the range of 20 to 35 person days per worker family per annum.
  - The achievement of employment generation which was the primary objective had problem of implementation in the hilly states as manual labour in individual form fitting to the requirement of muster roll was not available.
  - The secondary objective to create rural infrastructure was partially fulfilled due to high construction cost in scattered hilly settlements.
  - Involvement of Panchayats and local level institutions in the planning and implementation of the programme was highly partial except in Tripura and Nagaland.
  - The technical staff in most of the hilly states is less to look after the technical aspects of the schemes.
  - Infrastructure is rather than wage employment being the primary need in the hills, the same is to be built through community labour participation.
- Implementation of **land resource development programme** (IWDP and Hariyali) reveals a number of encouraging results in majority of the project.
- The project that were implemented ensuring community participation resulted-
  - Tangible improvement in the quality of wastelands in the plain areas.
  - Tangible development of plantation and horticulture in hill states.

- Formation of groups (SHG/UG) has demonstrated organizational strength leading to sustainability.
- The projects that ensured less community participation revealed very less success to count.
- Success of safe **drinking water and sanitation programme** is of mixed type.
  - In the hills, coverage is high and quantity available is adequate to a greater extent.
  - In the plains, coverage is very poor.
  - The programme suffers most in maintenance.
  - Lack of people's participation is an area of concern.
  - Quality is a problem – mostly turbidity. In some pockets, concentration of metals like arsenic, fluoride etc. is reported.
- The **rural housing programme** (IAY) to provide about 20 sq.m. Plinth area is a mix of success and failure.
  - The common structure provided under the programme is a misfit to the housing structure evolved traditionally over the years.
  - The cost of construction using the same materials is very high in the hill regions.
  - The achievement is encouraging particularly in the plain areas.
- **Rural connectivity programme** (PMGSY) is most important for NER to bail out its human settlements from the serious problem of inaccessibility.
- The achievement made under the programme is poor in the region.
- Due to unfavourable topography and scattered settlement pattern in the hills, the cost of construction is very high.
- Many villages which have attained the threshold population by 2001 are still remaining unconnected under the programme.
- The basic objectives of the programme to provide free and fast flow of goods, services and people to support rural economy still remains many a miles to go.

## 5. Recommendations and suggestions - relating to

Based on the status, dimensions and factors of poverty and also the review of the poverty alleviation policy initiatives, the following recommendations / suggestions are made to enhance the performance of the ongoing initiatives.

*The planning commission seeks to step up economic growth rate to 9% during 11<sup>th</sup> Plan (2007-12) from 7.6% recorded in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. In the case of agriculture sector, growth rate to increase to 4.0% from 2.13% in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. In the industry and service sectors, growth rate is envisaged between 9 - 11%, which remained 8.74% and 9.28% during 10<sup>th</sup> Plan.*

*The 11<sup>th</sup> Plan targets reduction of poverty by 10% and generation of 70 million new employment opportunities and ensuring electricity connection to all villages. Major thrust is on social sector including agriculture and rural development with 74.67% allocation from 55.22% in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan.*

### Definition of Poverty

- There is multiple deprivation factors associated with poverty. Income poverty although is one critical factor, nutrition poverty, human poverty and basic amenities poverty are also important equally.
- Since there is a separate Expert Group constituted by Planning Commission dealing with the issues relating to measurement of poverty, we refer here the following aspects -
  - Poverty in India is not merely an economic phenomenon but a social one as well.
  - Poverty is multidimensional and there is heterogeneity of the poor.
  - Poverty is also region specific.
- The above aspects are essential to address poverty in the region.

## **Basis of Poverty Assessment**

- Due to variations in topography, socio-economic condition, culture, tradition and agro-climatic conditions, assessment of poverty by using single poverty line for all the eight states needs re-examination.
- Data may be generated by using stratified random sampling method. Stratification is to be done following four physiographic divisions in each state.
- National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) may be approached to enlarge the sample size in all the NE States according to four physiographic divisions so as to make poverty estimates more representative.

## **Basis of Planning**

- The extra-ordinary ethno-geographic and bio-geographic diversity of the region precludes uniform solution as different communities are at varying stages of growth.
- Digital information bank covering natural resources and their use, connectivity infrastructure, public and private institutions and services to be developed as a decision support system.
- The bio resources that are available in plenty need to be benchmarked and its value to be assessed.
- To frame development strategy for the region as a whole, intra regional cooperation among the states is prerequisite.
- The physiographic character and the endowment in nature being highly diverse, physiographic divisions can be the ideal basis of planning at regional, state, district and block level.
- Ethno-geographic and bio-geographic diversity being very high, participatory planning at grassroot level is recommended.
- Poverty alleviation/ eradication initiatives in NER should be based on a four-fold development perspectives as detailed below-

- Economic development perspective envisages optimal use of resources through participatory growth process at the grassroots level.
- Human Resource Development Perspective concerns with the issues of health and nutrition security, augmentation of human capital and enabling all poor to live decent lives with human dignity.
- Institutional Development Perspective focuses on creating and strengthening of institutions for enlarging the social capital and making the formal delivery and support systems accountable to the community and to be effective.
- Infrastructure Development Perspective lays emphasis on development on necessary socio-economic infrastructure for providing backward and forward linkages for production, value addition/processing and marketing of rural products and thereby integrating the rural community with the rest of the society.
- Sector wise recommendations / suggestions made in the following pages are based on the above mentioned four-fold development perspectives.

## **Sectoral Development Strategies**

### **Agriculture and allied activities**

#### *Economic Development Perspective*

- The region is deficit in food grain production. The productivity of land as compared to potential is low except for few pockets in Manipur, Assam and Tripura. Food grain deficit has to be bridged by raising farm productivity only.
- The pattern of use of land in the plains and hills of NER is different. To improve performance of agriculture, separate strategies need to be adopted for hills and plains.

- Remedial measure to be taken up for neutralization of soil acidity through **judicious application of lime**. A simple tool kit for soil testing is to be made available in the Farmer School.
- The size of farms of high majority is small, less productive and most of the poor belong to the **marginal and small categories**. The operational holdings of the farmers are to be made economically viable and profitable. The crop calendar in practice with long crop duration needs to be reduced through introduction of short duration HYV seeds. Diversified agricultural production which is in tradition needs to be commercialized. This may be achieved through
  - Formation of farmers SHG on cluster basis.
  - Introduction of suitable area specific crop combination after making detailed cost benefit analysis
- To increase food grain production in the flood prone and flood free areas, replication of two cluster development models is recommended - (i) ABITA Gramin Krishi Unnayan Prakalpa implemented in ten locations of Assam and (ii) NEC's pilot project implemented by NERIWLM at Biswanath Chariali, Sonitpur, Assam and the pilot project implemented by Agriculture department in Tripura.
- Selected farmers may be encouraged for **production of quality seeds locally**.
- Farming practice particularly in the hills is organic by default. Since organic products fetches high market price, the opportunity available by default need to be tapped. Recommended **detailed plan of action for organic product development** involving skill orientation followed by production and market linkage.
- Despite shifting cultivation is based on the principle of clear forest, use land and rebuild forest to regain soil fertility and also the production tools and techniques that are in use inflict minimum damage; the reduction of shifting cycle forced by population growth signals need for alternative path. NEPED project of Nagaland has come up as a model showing the path of producing cash and horticulture crops using forest



as the basis. On environmental and profitability counts, there is soundness proved and therefore, **NEPED model is recommended for replication in other shifting cultivation areas.**

- The potential of **non-traditional and high value crops** like aromatic and medicinal plants, flowers, spices and condiments that are endemic to the region is very high. Need for focused initiatives for popularizing cultivation of such high value crops is recommended.
- The region is deficient in **animal products** mainly milk, meat and eggs even though livestock population is ubiquitous. Therefore, plans are to be prepared on cluster basis to increase the production involving poor in the form of SHG.
- Recommended replication of the **Milk Village Model** of SitaJakhala Milk Producers Cooperative Society, Morigaon district of Assam. For meat production, development of **Pork Village** similar to the Milk Village Model is recommended particularly for the hills.
- In fish production also, the deficiency is high despite there are domestic ponds and natural water bodies like beels, rivers and various wetlands. Attempts to be made to develop domestic ponds on cluster basis to make them viable commercially. Recommended replication of **Fishery Cluster** of 344 existing small domestic fisheries involving unemployed youth, women, fisherman community, the small and marginal farmers. The model is implemented by the Sipajhar Diamond Club Community Centre (SDCCC), Sipajhar, Darrang district, Assam.
- Ornamental fishes endemic to the region have tremendous potential for export. **Area specific plans for ornamental fish** be prepared and introduced through the involvement of unemployed youth and fishermen community.
- Most of the sericulture production is in the hands of poor and concentrated in some traditional pockets. **Promotion of indoor muga culture; integration of plantation and rearing of eri** is recommended.

### *Human Development Perspectives*

- NER although fares well in literacy, it lacks scientific job skill resulting in poor productivity of their goods.
- The farmers for improvement of productivity in agriculture and allied activities need to be empowered with techno- managerial skill to switch over from subsistence mindset to commercialization.
- The participation of women in agriculture is higher than male. Overall productivity of agriculture is also low. Therefore, there is great need for skill up-gradation of women for better performance of agriculture.

### *Institutional Development Perspective*

- The technology in use in the region is primarily land and labour using resulting into less profitability. To increase profitability, land and labour saving technology is to be adopted.
- Farmers to be encouraged to practice organic farming and a branch of **organic farming certification agency** at Guwahati to be started immediately.
- **Specialized R & D facilities** particularly for disease treatment in Muga and development of seed bank for both eri and muga are recommended.
- The export potential of ornamental fishes is very high. To take advantage of the available resource, the Fishery colleges, Central Fishery Research Institute (CFRI) and Export Promotion Council of Ornamental Fish are to be made partners of development and hence institutional network is recommended.
- The NER is a storehouse of many valuable minor forest products. It is reported that Arunachal Pradesh alone has more than 500 species of aromatic and medicinal plants. Exploitative informal market system in operation and absence of **farmers' friendly forest policy** are major causes for depletion of the resources. Recommended liberalization of legal aspects encouraging community participation in the line of JFMC

of Tripura, Assam (Hojai) and Girijan Cooperative Corporation of Andhra Pradesh.

- NER being the India's store house of bamboo (66%), the fastest growing utility plant in the earth, is integral part of the cultural, social and economic traditions of the people. Small scale cultivation in the backyard of the homestead is the tradition for self-consumption. Bamboo handicraft as well as cane is ubiquitous. According to CBTC, the raw stock of bamboo conservatively valued stands at Rs. 5000 crores and with a modest target of two-fold value addition through suitable local scheme, the annual turn over may stand at Rs.10,000 crores for the region. Since the proposal is to benefit large number of rural poor, it is recommended that the ***bamboo plan as envisaged be executed through a farmer friendly regional policy.***

#### *Infrastructure Development Perspectives*

- Empowerment of farmers to be achieved through introduction of **Farmers School** at the block level. Such Farmer School could be made a change agent to provide technology, extension services, market, information, impart skill and management up-gradation training and agent for social mobilization.
- The value addition of farm products is almost absent. The post harvest processing like – sorting, grading, cleaning, packaging is also absent. Basic infrastructure by way of **common facility centre** needs to be created at the cluster level.
- **Micro and small irrigation facilities** be encouraged within each cluster with application of measured amount of fertilizer, and to popularize rain water harvesting.
- Hills area highly suitable for production of fruits, vegetables, flowers and spices. The value addition of these products is very low for not having post harvest facilities. Therefore, enabling **product and area specific rural infrastructure** is to be created to add value to the product. References may be made to passion fruits cultivation in

Senapati district of Manipur, Anthurium in Aizawl district, Mizoram, Strawberry cultivation under horticulture mission in Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya, Apple Cultivation in Arunachal Pradesh.

### **Secondary Sector Activities**

- The poor among the self-employed in non-agriculture is high. The category constitutes **rural artisan and handloom weavers** both in rural and urban areas.
- Handloom weaving is mainly in the hands of every rural women and the skill is inherited through generation. Handicraft is the domain of male. The operational units are tiny, highly manual and thrive in unorganized market. While the products of both have high demand, they suffer from setbacks like - stiff competition, design upgradation, product diversification, low labour productivity, absence of pre and post loom processing facilities and marketing platform. All these weaknesses need to be addressed. It also suffers from low volume of production and lacks continuity in supply. It is recommended:-
  - To organize artisan and weavers in group for production.
  - To create yarn bank / raw material bank.
  - Product diversification and packaging according to market demand;
  - Improvement of looms / tool kits;
  - Introduction of computer aided design (CAD);
  - Participation in trade fares / exhibitions and ultimately;
  - Adopt **common region specific brand name**.
- The development plan is to be prepared for product specific cluster.
- Recommended replication of two models (i) Model Craft Village of Majlishpur of West Tripura district, Tripura for development of handicraft and (ii) Hand loom Cluster developed by the women NGO- Macha Leima (Manipuri Chanura Leishem Marup) in Imphal (W) district of Manipur.

### **Tertiary Sector Activities**

- Poor among self-employed in non-agriculture representing **small businessmen and service providers** both in rural and urban areas are quite large.
- To make tiny business and service sector remunerative and attractive to unemployed youths and women, enabling environment relating to access to formal credit and up gradation of development / management skill need to be created. Recommended group approach.
- The SHG movement and the proposed restructuring of the formal credit and other delivery agencies, the state policies to empower the socially and economically disadvantaged etc. need to be built into the framework for poverty alleviation / eradication.

### **Unskilled workers in the labour Market**

- Limited reach of wage employment benefit to the agriculture labour or unskilled manual worker from wage and infrastructure programmes was evident. The benefit remained between 20 to 30 days of wage employment.
- With NREGA Schemes now extended to all districts, the guaranteed wage benefit of 100 days is expected to take care of the income gap.
- The implementation of NREGS should take special care so that unskilled manual workers get assured employment benefit of the programmes.

### **Social and Infrastructure Sector Activities**

- Deprivation to education (knowledge and skill) and health is the reflection of human poverty. Although, NER fares well in literacy, it lacks jobs skill required in the modern market resulting in poor productivity of goods and services. It is recommended that the existing **curriculum of ITIs be made more job oriented** fitting to the present day need.

- Farmer's school to cater to the needs of farmers and entrepreneurs has been already recommended. The farm management institute at Rani, Guwahati be revived.
- Upgradation of skills among the poor is an important need for productive participation of the poor in the development programmes. It is recommended that the ***promotional institutions*** like IIE, SIDBI, NABARD, KVIC, Jute Development Corporation, Coconut Development Corporation, Spices Board, Rubber Board, Central Weavers Institute, State Medicinal Plant Board etc. play their active role at cluster level.
- ***Nutrition*** (required calorie intake) being a common problem of the poor irrespective of their location and occupation, the alleviation of nutritional poverty is to be treated in a holistic manner. The PDS system be made more transparent and location specific mechanism be introduced to reach the unreached specially in the hills region. The other supplementary nutrition programmes for the children and also for the pregnant and lactating mothers like ICDS and Mid-Day Meals Scheme be made more successful.
- The quality of life is influenced by the access to and utilization of ***basic amenities*** like safe drinking water, electricity, housing and sanitation.
- The BAP in NE states although has declined during 1991 and 2001 both in urban and in rural areas, the deprivation index however, is still considerably high in the rural areas.
- It is recommended that the poor not having access to or possession of these facilities need to be benchmarked, gaps to be identified by involving community and necessary actions be taken to bridge the gaps. The ongoing programmes are to ensure to accommodate community participation.
- The basic amenities need to be ***communitized for sustainability as introduced in Nagaland.***
- Development needs ***roads*** for people to move, goods to flow, services, technology, information to enter and share. All weather

roads in NER are far and few affecting free and fast movement and affecting adversely the development of rural economy.

- It is recommended that the **villages attaining threshold population by 2001 Census be provided with all weather road under PMGSY** within a time frame of five years to support the economy of poor in the rural areas.

### **Other Areas Requiring Intervention**

#### *Recognition to customary land tenure system*

- Major obstacle confronted by banks is the land tenure system prevailing in the hilly states/ districts, which is customary in nature. The system does not issue land possession certificate or if cultivating someone else's land, they do not have any proof of that effect. In certain cases, where the farmers do not have the clear title of land holdings, banks while issuing KCC /lending finance are found to be insisting on security/ margins. Due cognizance of the customary land tenure system is to be given for effective credit delivery.
- The land records are very old and access to it is highly time consuming.
- No specific system of updating land record has been evolved in any of the states except in Assam where computerization is in progress. Updation of land record is to be urgently augmented in the revenue administered areas.

#### *Formal Credit Delivery System*

- Access to formal credit by the poor has remained as the single biggest problem. Banks to play pro-active roles to finance the poor. Recommended increased coverage of farmers with KKC to facilitate growth of agriculture and allied activities.
- Banks may link up with insurance companies for providing insurance product suitable to the region.

- SIDBI, NEDFi and NABARD may sponsor rural industries programme in areas having identified clusters and in areas having concentration of other non-farm activities for training of weavers, artisans, and small entrepreneurs.
- Banks may identify and support strategic investment in horticulture, bamboo processing, fisheries, poultry, animal husbandry, honey production/ marketing and organic farming.

#### *Empowerment of Local Government*

- NER is the store house of institutional varieties by tradition. PRIs function in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, major parts of Assam, plain areas of Tripura and Sikkim. The Village Council functions in Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura. The institution Village Headman function in Khasi hills of Meghalaya.
- The strength of these institutions has been used to large extent only in Nagaland and Tripura.
- Participation of these institutions for decentralized development is a prerequisite. The empowerment of the institution with funds, function and functionaries is recommended for active participation in the decentralized development process.
- There is problem of continuity of the institutions affecting adversely in the participation of development process and it is recommended to ensure continuity in the constitution as par the terms of office.
- Similarly, for development of urban areas also, there is great need for empowerment of urban bodies.

#### *Social / Community Mobilization*

- Many of the evaluation studies have enlisted weakness in the social / community mobilisation activities resulting into poor programme performance as well as sustainability of development. The aspect need serious consideration both at policy and implementation level. For



improving effectivity and efficiency of the programmes like SGSY, NREGP, IWDP/Hariyali, Sanitation and Safe Drinking Water programme, Education and Health programmes etc, it is recommended to make social mobilization as a mandatory component with adequate funds and persons.

### **Approaches: Cluster Development**

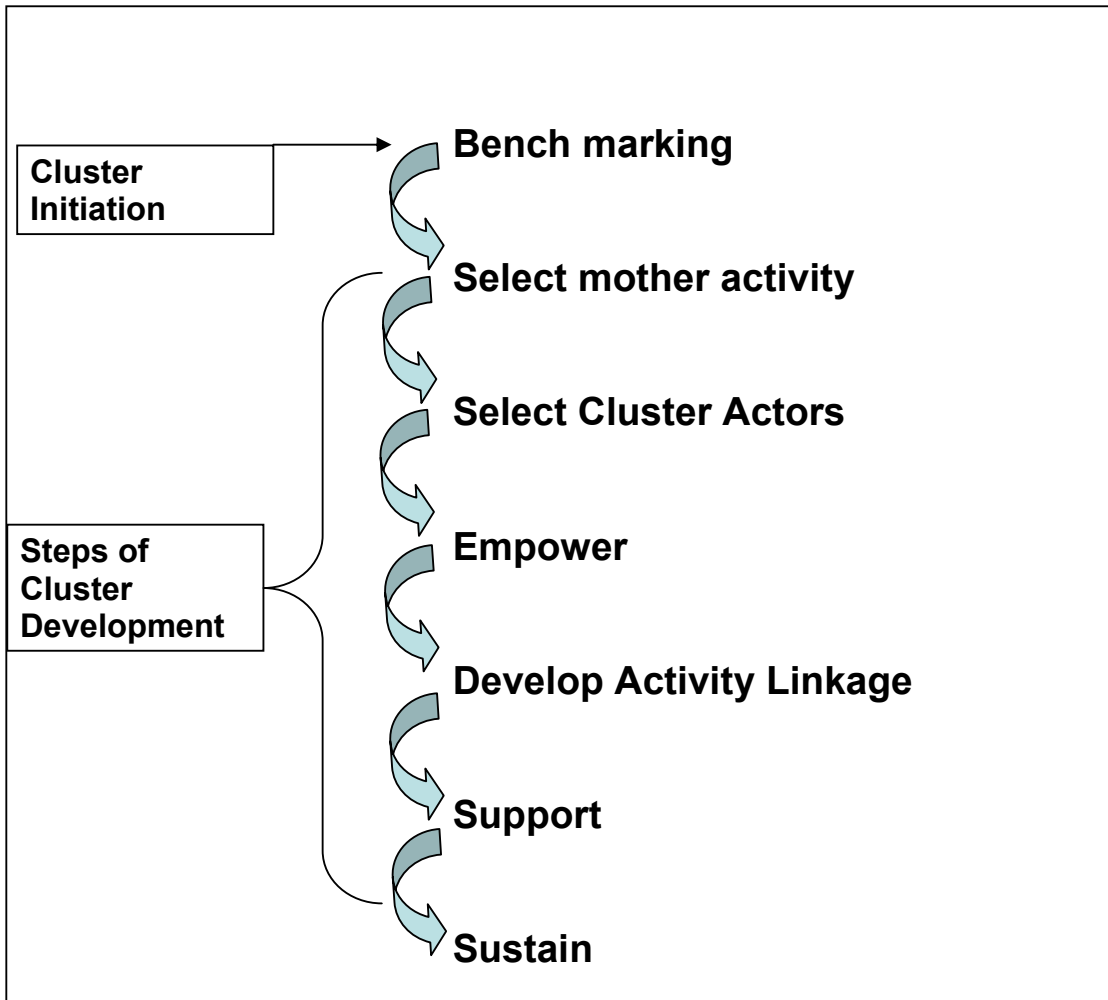
Approaches to cluster development have been emphasized under various self-employment programmes initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India. Therefore, it is recommended that the cluster approach is implemented in the region in right earnest to bring better success in poverty alleviation.

The cluster model is conceptualized keeping in mind the historical and socio-cultural characteristics of the people of the region. It follows win-win philosophy and building of mutual trust among the cluster actors (producers and service providers) in participatory frame.

It would operate on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode within the cluster.

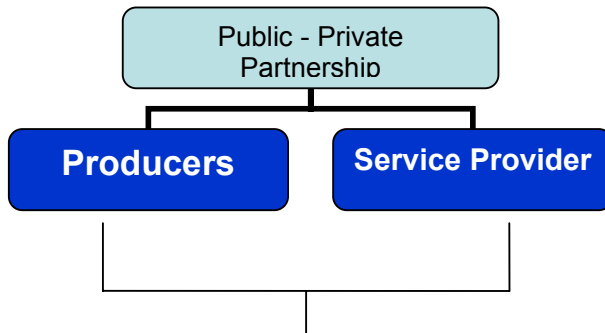
A diagrammatic presentation of the model is given below –

### **Activity Linkages for Cluster Development**

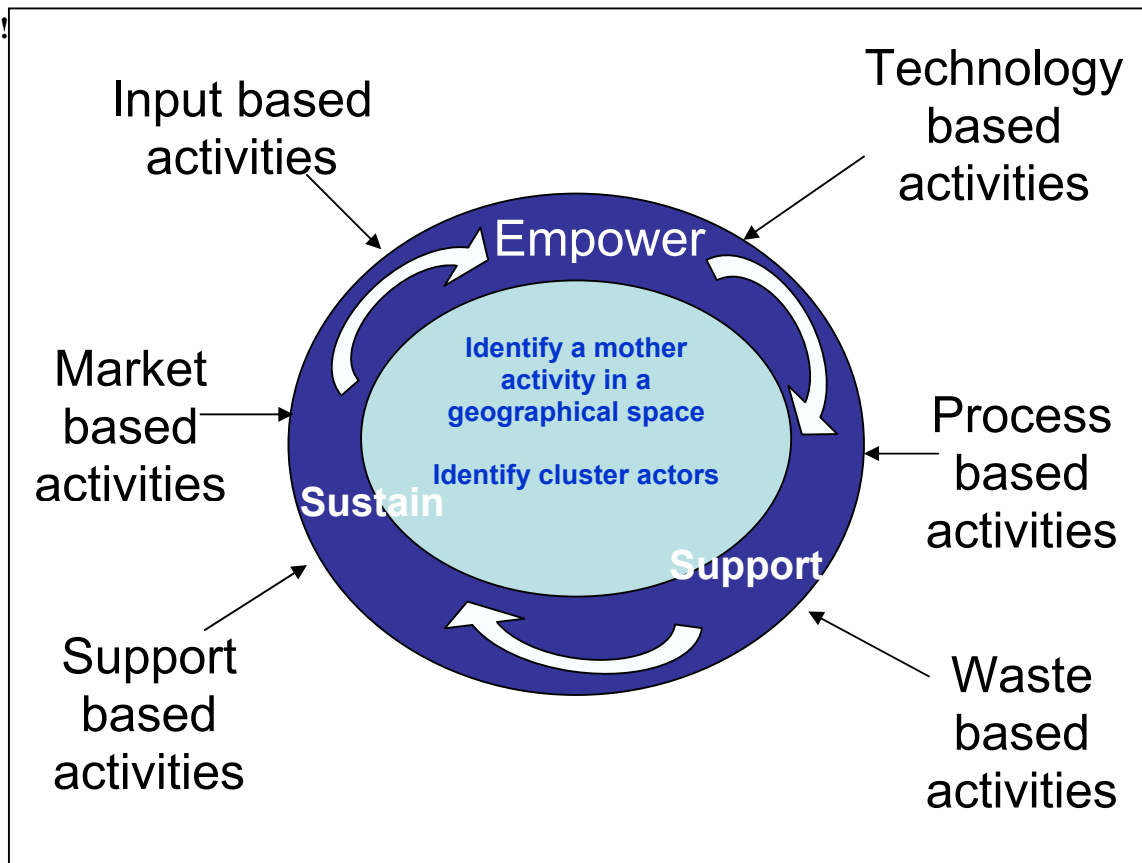


The clusters formation may preferably be restricted within a district / block with an average watershed size of 500 hectares for farming and 500 producers engaged in functionally related to farm and non-farm activities for operational convenience.

### Operational Model for Cluster Management



Error!



**Annexure –1**

**List of experts participated in the interactive meet**

1. Dr. S. V. Ngachan  
Director, ICAR, NEH Region, Barapani, Shillong, Meghalaya
2. Dr. Prabin Chandra Acharjee,  
Director, ABITA Gramin Krishi Unnayan Prakalpa, Guwahati
3. Dr. Amiyo Kr. Sarma  
Executive Director, Rastriya Grameen Vikas Nidhi (RGVN), Guwahati
4. Dr. N. K. Mohan,

- Regional Project Coordinator,  
Small Farmers Agri. Business Consortium (SFAC), Guwahati
5. Mr. K. Ahmed  
Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati
  6. Dr. Avadesh Kumar  
AGM, NABARD, Guwahati
  7. Dr. Prasanta Kalita  
Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Assam
  8. Dr. Harshajyoti Borooh  
Director, Dept. of Horticulture, Govt. of Assam
  9. Mr. R. Zotawna,  
Joint Director, Horticulture, Govt. of Mizoram
  10. Mr. H. Lalthanpuia,  
Deputy Director, Agriculture, Govt. of Mizoram
  11. Mr. D. Shijo,  
Deputy Director, SIRD, Govt. of Nagaland
  12. Mr. Rabindranath  
Chairman, Rural Volunteer Centre, Lakhimpur, Assam
  13. Dr. P. P. Nageswara Rao  
Director, North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC), Umiam, Meghalaya
  14. Mr. K. Kalita  
Director, SIRD, Guwahati, Assam
  15. Mr. M. M. Zakir,  
Deputy Director, SIRD, Guwahati, Assam

**Annexure – II:**

**Land tenure system in North East India**

State	Geography	Cultivation Pattern	Legal Position	Transferability of land out of the community	Pattern of Ownership
1	2	3	4	5	6
Arunachal Pradesh	Terrain Hilly, Area 83.74 mn.	75% shifting, 25%	No land Tenure System with legal backing	Prohibited by Customary Law	Community and Private

	hectares, Population 10.91 lakh	settled			
Assam					
1. Plan Areas: Brahmaputra and Barak Valley	Area 63.12 mn hectares, Population 256.59 lakh	Settled	Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886	Permissible except in designated Tribal Belts	Mostly private
2. Hill Districts:					
(a) Karbi Anglong	Area 10.43 mn hectares, 66% Hilly, 34% Plain, Population 8.13 lakh	Both shifting and settled	Mikir Hill District Act 1959	Not possible except with prior permission of the District Council	Community and private
(b) North Cachar	Area 4.89 mn hectares, 85% Hill, 15% Plain, Population 1.88 lakh	Both shifting and settled	Only executive orders and Instruction	Not possible except with prior permission of the District Council	Community and private
Manipur	Area 22.38 mn hectares, 90% Hill, 10% Plain, Population 23.89 lakh	Settled in plains, both shifting and settled in hills	Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act 1960 (Not enforced in Hill areas so far)	Permissible in the plains but not in the hill areas	Community land, clan land, Village Chief / Council is the owner/custodian lands

1	2	3	4	5	6
Meghalaya	Area 23.43 mn, hectares, Terrain Hilly, Population 23.06 lakh	66% shifting, 34% settled	Meghalaya Transfer of Land (Regulation) Act 1972	Prohibited by law	Garos Hills: Clan Lands, Managed by Nokma (on behalf of Nokma) Khasi Hills: Ri Kyanti land is clan lands, Ri Raid land is: community

					land Jayantia Hills: Similar to Khasis
Mizoram	Area 20.08 mn. Hectares, Terrain Hilly, Population 8.91 lakh	Both shifting and settled	Lushai Hills District (Acquisition of Chief's Rights) Act 1954	Prohibited by law	All land belongs to State. Three kinds of Pattas: Temporary Pass, Periodic patta, land settlement certificate
Nagaland	Area 16.58 mn. Hectares, Terrain Hilly, Population 19.89 lakh	Both shifting and settled	Customary laws	Not possible	Common Village land, Clan land, Individual land, Morung land
Sikkim	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tripura	Area 10.49 mn. Hectares, Hills - 60%, Plains - 40%, Population 31.91 lakh	Settled in plains, both shifting and settled in hills	Tripura Land Revenue & Land Reforms Act 1960, Tripura Tribal Area Autonomous District Council Act 1979	Prohibited without the permission of Deputy Commissioner	In Hill Areas Community

Source: Report of the Committee on Financial Sector Plan for North Eastern Region, Reserve Bank of India, July, 2006.