

SOILS OF SANTHALPARGANA

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ABSTRACT

Almost all the economic activities are directly or indirectly dependent on soil. The production of crops, exploitation of raw materials, construction of roads and railways and availability of sites for settlements, all these are related to soil. Thus soil is the backbone of agricultural and industrial development. In a country like India whose economy is primarily based on agriculture and where majority of the people are engaged in agricultural activities and are therefore, dependant on land for their living, soil is of primary significance.

Bastu or Bhita land (Santhali ora barge) is homestead land growing sugarcane, chillies, tobacco, maize, mustard and all kinds of vegetables. Saline soils which are unfit for agricultural purposes are called Usaar, Kharwa etc.

KEYWORDS: *The Solls, The Balsundar, Kalamati*

INTRODUCTION

Soil is one of the most important resources of a nation. It is the gift of nature of immense value. The most common use of the word soil is in the sense of a medium in which plants grow, although it has a different connotation at different connotation at different time and place and for persons engaged in different professions.

Almost all the economic activities are directly or indirectly dependant on soil. The production of crops, exploitation of raw materials, construction of roads and railways and availability of sites for settlements, all these are related to soil. Thus soil is the backbone of agricultural and industrial development. In a country like India whose economy is primarily based on agriculture and where majority of the people are engaged in agricultural activities and are therefore, dependant on land for their living, soil is of primary significance. It is the storehouse of nature and furnishes the sustenance of all plants, animals and men.

SOLLS

It is important to note that names of soils of the regions vary based on language in different parts. Hindi, Bengali and santhali names are being used in different areas. A heavy black clay is known as 'Krar' and when, yellowish in colour as 'Entel,' 'Chitalmati', or 'Jetang' Hasa,' the last being a Santhali words. It is sticky clay, becoming very hard when dry, and is poor in quality, producing only Arhar (Tur) kurthi, and bajara, but it improves after having been under cultivation for some time when it turns into good paddy land.

The typical clay soil of the region is variously known as 'Kewal', 'Kalamati' 'metal' and in santhali, 'HHendeHasa,. It is a black clay soil, which, though hard when dry is friable. It is, on the whole, very fertile and is chiefly used for growing paddy.

A clay loam is called 'Bindimati', and aloam is called 'Donasla,Ralthar, Balkasi and Bele are Sandy soils called by the Santhal is 'GritalHasa' which are useless for agriculture.

'Balsundar' is reddish sandy clay found on the banks of hill streans-a poor, soil, which, however, produces paddy under irrigation.

The 'Diara' soil on the banks of the Ganga, that receives a deposit of silt every year is known as 'Masin' or 'Masinamati' (Santhali, Palihasa). It is light, friable, rich soil used for 'bothi' 'Bhadai' and 'Rabi!! Crops.

Ankkoori' or 'Lal mati' (Santhali, Ara hasa or Dhirrihasa) is a reddish soil found near the hills. It is of an inferi or quality but not infertile, for it will grow Jowar, maize, Kurthi, Kodo and arhar besides Sabai grass

Bastu or Bhita land (Santhali or barge) is homestead land growing sugarcane, chillies, tobacco, maize, mustard and all kinds of vegetables. Saline soils which are unfit for agricultural purposes are called Usaar, Kharwa etc. The wet Saline soil Called Nunamati grows paddy, but the outturn is poor.

Since there no proper Soil survey has been conducted in the region. The Agriculture Department has fixed location of different types of soil in the region.

Type of Soil Location

- Lal mati (Red Soil)Dumka, Saraiyahat, Ranishwar, Narainpur, Godda, Poriyahat, Maheshpur.
- Baluari (Sandy Soil)Dumka
- Lal baluarigorandhi (Red Sandy Loam) Dumka, Ranishwar
- Kebal (Clayey Soil)Saraiyahat.
- GorandhiKebal(Loamy clay soil) Ramgarh
- Lal Kebal (Red Clay soil) Mohanpur
- Kali mitti (black soil)Mohanpur
- Lal mitti (Red Soil)Godda
- Kebaldhusbalsundari (Clayey Sandy Soil) Jasidih
- Pasrauti (Lateritic Soil)Dumka.

CONCLUSIONS

Regarding the crops grown on the different classes of land, first class Dhaniland, being low lying and moist is utilized for growing winter rice, for even in the driest year these fields accumulate and retain sufficient moisture for its growth. Gram, linseed, Khesari and other rabi crops are also sometimes raised on these first class rice lands and intracts where they from flat and extensive Bahiars as in those parts of Godds district which adjoin Bhagalpur,rabi is frequently grown.

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