

CHAPTER 3

PROFILE OF THE STUDY DISTRICTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION:

Staying within the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF), it has been attempted to have an understanding of the profile of the two hill districts and this in turn has helped to analyze variable access to all the livelihood capitals from which people can draw upon their livelihoods. These assets interact with policies, institutions and processes in shaping the choice of livelihood strategies. These in turn shape the livelihood outcomes. Each of them is composed of elements which are discussed below.

Table 3.1
Hill Districts at a Glance

ITEM	Karbi Anglong	Dima Hasao	Assam
Area in Sq. Km.	10434	4888	78438
Towns	7	4	214
Villages (Inhabited)	2712	676	25425
CD Blocks	11	5	219
Revenue Circle	4	4	184
Population	956313	214102	31205576
Population Density	92	44	398
Sex Ratio	951	932	958
Rural Population (%)	88.19	70.8	85.9
Households	177646	42252	6406471
Railways	NA	133.25 Km	NA
Roads:			
a) National Highway	170	211	3740
b) State Highway	337	380	3134
c) Main District Highway	561	199	-
d) Other district & rural roads	70	444.79	-
e) Surfaced (Black topped)	-	150	23747
f) Un-surfaced	3341	970	21753
Communication			
a) Telephone connection	NA	4494	96166
b) Post offices	45	7	4013
c) Mobile	NA	7299	1280869
Bank Branches			
a) Scheduled Commercial Banks	56	19	1861
b)RRBs	32	8	408

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2014

3.2 POPULATION:

This section tries to discuss about those characteristics of the population which have a direct impact upon the livelihood strategies of the hill districts. These include education, skills, knowledge, capacity to work, and health status that together enable people to pursue different livelihood strategies. In Karbi Anglong, according to Census 2011, the total population of 9.65 lakhs with 1.77 lakhs households is mostly rural (88.19%). The total population of Dima Hasao stands at 2.14 lakhs with 0.42 lakhs households, mostly (70.80%) residing in rural areas.

The decadal growth rates in both the districts show a declining trend since the last two decades. Similarly, the population of children in the age-group of 0-6 years stands at 151681 for Karbi Anglong and 30807 for Dima Hasao which is 15.86% and 15.14% respectively of the total populations of the districts (far below the national figure of 17.68%) shows a gradual decrease in the category's population proportion in the total population as compared to 2001 (Census, 2011). Another negative indication is the widening of sex ratio in the Child (0-6 Years) category in Karbi Anglong district. The density of population in Karbi Anglong district (92 persons per sq. km) and Dima Hasao (44 persons per sq. km) is significantly lower than the Assam figure (398 persons per sq. km.) (Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Assam, 2015).

3.3 EDUCATION:

Education status shows that literacy in Karbi Anglong district (69.25%) is lower than that of the state (72.19%), while that of Dima Hasao is relatively higher (77.54%). Literacy among females is considerably low as compared to their male counterparts.

Table 3.2
Literacy rate by sex in Hill Districts

District	Total	Male	Female
Karbi Anglong	69.25	76.14	62
Dima Hasao	77.54	83.29	71.33
Assam	72.19	77.85	66.27

Source: Census'2011

Table 3.3
Profile of Educational Institutes in Hill Districts

	Dima Hasao			Karbi Anglong		
	No. of Institutes	Enrolment	Teachers	No. of Institutes	Enrolment	Teachers
Lower Primary Schools	777	22627	2678	1787	106250	3791
Upper Primary School	200	11255	1349	434	47951	2945
High School	85	7775	666	291	31892	2008
Higher Secondary	9	1558	180	20	5349	367
Junior College	4	1315	92	12	7442	231

Source: Statistical Hand Book of Assam 2014

Table 3.4
GER¹, NER² and Drop-Out Rate in Govt. / Prov. Primary and Upper Primary Schools

	Lower Primary			Upper Primary			PTR ³	
	GER	NER	Dropout	GER	NER	Dropout	LP	UP
Dima Hasao	99.0	79.5	7.8	97.7	87.3	8.6	8	7
Karbi Anglong	96.5	84.8	9.7	95.5	89.8	1.8	28	13
Assam	98.8	92.2	6.3	97.9	89.9	7.3	28	17

Source: Statistical Hand Book of Assam 2014

In Karbi Anglong, the GER, NER rates are considerably lower than that of the overall state's figure. In case of Dima Hasao, although GER is marginally more than the state figure, the NER figure is significantly low as compared to the state figure. This reveals the fact that children are not studying in standards corresponding to their age. This means that children enrol in schools at a higher age. Dropout rates in both the districts are high in the Lower Primary level itself in spite of similar or better PTR with that of the state. The age group which corresponds to this category of students fall in the '6-10 years' group. This is a concerning information as it shows that despite presence of required educational infrastructure the education system has failed for some or the other reason. Also, it is

¹ GER is the percentage of the population who were at a school at a level of education (regardless of age) to the number of school age population corresponding to the level of education.

² NER is the number of children of official primary school age who are enrolled in primary education as a percentage of the total children of the official school age population.

³ PTR means Pupil-Teacher Ratio

reported that in nearly 75% of the villages in Karbi Anglong, a primary school is at 1 km distance. Again, in more than 60% villages of the district, the distance from the nearest secondary school is at 5 km or more (Kanoi, 2011).

3.4 OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN:

As regards, work participation of population in both the districts, it is observed that there is only a marginal change in the proportion of total workers¹ to total population during 2001 and 2011. However, the participation rate is higher than that of the state figures.

Table 3.5
Trend of Work Participation

Year		Total Worker	Total Population	Percentage
2001	Assam	9538591	26655528	35.78
	Dima			
	Hasao	70199	188079	37.30
	Karbi Anglong	330480	813311	40.63
2011	Assam	11969690	31205576	38.36
	Dima			
	Hasao	85028	214102	39.71
	Karbi Anglong	383441	956313	40.10

Source: Census of India 2001, 2011

Further probing may reveal reasons for underperformance in the education sector. When we see the break-up of worker population it shows that among main workers and marginal workers, majority are engaged in the agricultural sector⁴. It is observed from the Census, 2011 data that majority of the 'main workers' are cultivators in the hill districts. About 66% of the Karbi Anglong is hilly which is ideal for jhum cultivation and 70% of total cultivated area in Dima Hasao is under jhum cultivation. Shifting cultivation require relatively much more man-days per hectare vis. a vis. in plain area. Moreover, productivity enhancing support services are also not adequate in the hill districts. For e.g. in Karbi Anglong only 2% of the cultivated land has been brought under irrigation. This makes

⁴ Main Workers and Marginal Workers classified by the four broad industrial categories, namely, (i) Cultivators, (ii) Agricultural Labourers, (iii) Household Industry Workers, and (iv) Other Workers and also Non-Workers.

agriculture all the more labour intensive and leaves its impact in the form of low enrolment and drop-out figures.

The Household Industry contributes marginally as both ‘main’ and ‘marginal’ workers in both the hill districts. There is, however, a considerable contribution from the ‘Others’ category as ‘main’ and ‘marginal’ workers in both the hill districts. As per the definitions of ‘household industry’ and ‘others’, non-farm enterprises, depending upon their nature and characteristics are categorised under either ‘household industry’ or ‘others’ category. However, details of the actual type of enterprises under these categories are reflected in the Census data. .

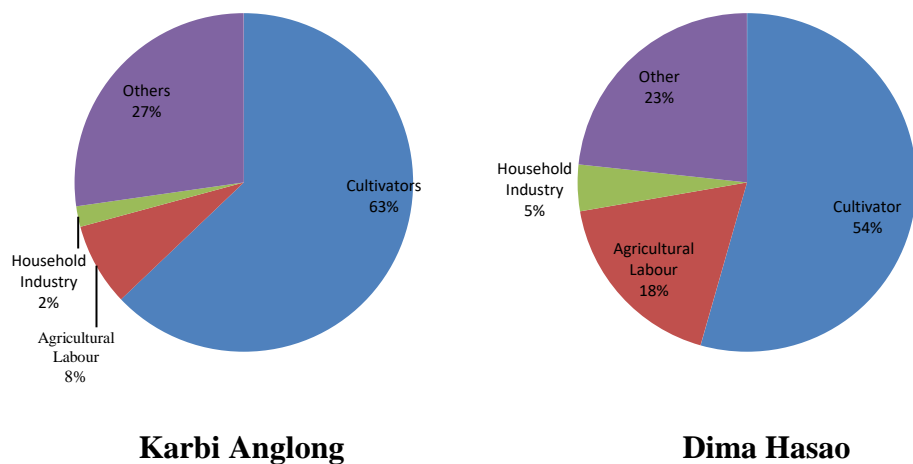


Figure 3.1
Industry wise break-up of Main Workers
Source: Statistical Hand Book Assam 2014

Skill and traditional knowledge, however, have compensated considerably the livelihoods of the population. In Dima Hasao, an estimated 14 thousand weavers work in part time basis and about 250 weavers in full time basis (Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development: Guwahati, 2009). Studies have reported that livestock rearing, poultry and fishery have also been traditionally practiced in hill areas (Das, 2007).

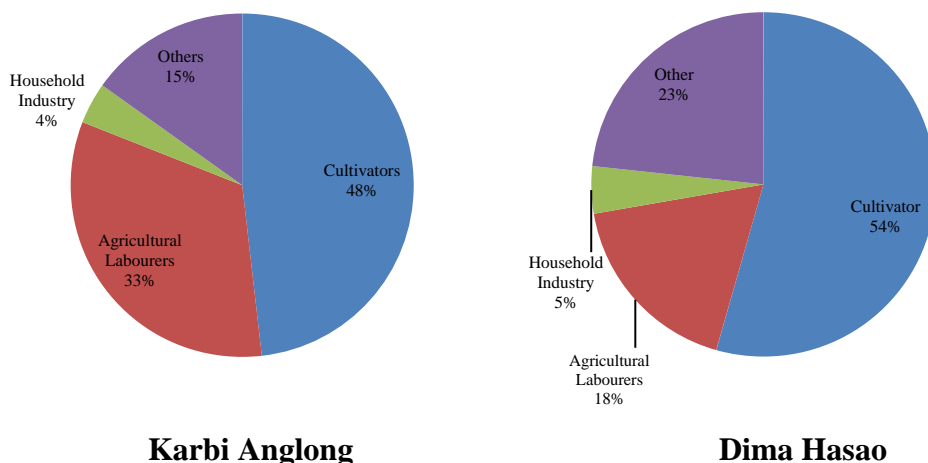


Figure 3.2
Industry wise breakup of Marginal Workers
Source: Statistical Hand Book Assam 2014

3.5 AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION:

Any addition to paddy (407712 MT) production, other agricultural products in Karbi Anglong include, pulses, jute (16761 MT), and cotton (485 MT). High value oilseeds such as mustard (17061 MT) and sesame (2515 MT) are also produced in Karbi Anglong. Sugarcane, ginger, black pepper and turmeric are other products with commercial importance in the hill districts. In some of the plain belts of the districts, coconut and areca nut production contributes to the rural economy. Similarly, ginger, turmeric, chillies play an important role in Dima Hasao district.

Various horticultural crops such as pineapple, orange, papaya, and banana production has shown growth over the last decade and has become a promising income generating activity in the districts. Bamboo too plays an important role as a source of income as there is a constant demand for it from the paper mills, especially Hindustan Paper Mill, Jagiroad.

3.6 INDUSTRY:

District level statistics of the studied area shows that the performance of the sector is not very satisfactory. Although the government has provided support in the form of infrastructure to various industries, they have failed to function sustainably. In Karbi

Anglong, out of five sheds allotted in Bokajan Industrial Estate, only three units are functioning. In Hamren Industrial Estate, out of four sheds constructed, none were allotted to any party. Similarly, in Umrangso Industrial Estate of Dima Hasao, none of units out of six allotted are currently functioning.

Table3.6
Status of Infrastructure for supporting industries (Industrial Estate)

District	Name of Industrial Estate	Total Area (Sq. m)	Total No. of Sheds	Number of Sheds Allotted	Open Area Allotted (Sq.m)	No. of Units functioning
Karbi Anglong	Bokajan	80266	5	5	4000	3
	Hamren	20066	4	0	0	0
Dima Hasao	Umrangso	2400	8	6	0	0

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2014

Similar is the situation in case of other infrastructures (industrial areas and growth centres) constructed in the hill districts. This is evident from the following tables. Such unused structures only show failure in approach and implementation.

Table3.7
Status of Infrastructure for supporting industries (Industrial Area)

District	Name of Industrial Area	Total Area (Sq. m)	Total No. of Sheds	Number of Sheds Allotted	Open Area Allotted (Sq.m)	No. of Units functioning
Dima Hasao	Umrangso	9600000	0	0	0	0

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2014

Table3.8
Status of Infrastructure for supporting industries (Growth Centre)

District	Name of Industrial Area	Total Area (Sq. m)	Total No. of Sheds	Number of Sheds Allotted	Open Area Allotted (Sq.m)	No. of Units functioning
Karbi Anglong	Bokulia	803	2	2	0	2
	Manja	803	2	0	0	0
	Sarihajan	6689	4	1	0	0
Dima Hasao	Maibong	12000	2	0	0	0

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2014

The distribution of factories in the hill districts show that in Karbi Anglong, most factories are related to manufacture of food products. However, highest employment is provided by factories involved in manufacture of wood and wood or straw products. In Dima Hasao, maximum employment is provided in factories involved in manufacture of non-metallic mineral products such as coal, limestone etc.

Table 3.9
Distribution of Registered Factories in Hill Districts, 2013 (As per NIC, 2008)

NIC ⁵	Type of Industry	Karbi Anglong		Dima Hasao	
		Factory	Worker	Factory	Worker
10	Manufacture of food products	19	324	4	105
11	Manufacture of beverages	1	100	-	-
16	Manufacture of wood and products of wood and cork, except furniture, manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting material	9	377	8	44
23	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	7	338	9	305
24	Manufacture of basic metals	1	50	-	-

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2014

3.7 SERICULTURE:

Sericulture is a very old and indigenous cottage industry among the tribal people of the region. In both the districts more than 6,000 households from about 1500 villages are involved in sericulture. While *eri* silk (80-96 MT) is the major product in the hill districts, marginal amount of *muga* and mulberry silk is also produced (0.5-1.75 MT).

In spite of the fact that the districts have sufficient number of weavers, it is observed from reports that support for such activities under handloom and textile department has not been utilised which is reflected from the fact that all the ten Handloom Training Centres in Karbi Anglong and four in Dima Hasao did not have any trainee (Government of Assam, 2015).

⁵ National Industrial Classification (NIC), prepared by the Central Statistical Organisation, evolved out of efforts for a common industrial classification which could be used by different agencies. Since, the first such classification in 1962, it has been revised a number of times as per national needs and finally, following UN Statistical Commission's recommendation NIC 2008 version was prepared.

3.8 HEALTH AND HYGIENE SITUATION:

Evaluation of the health status of the population can be done by analyzing the facilities available and also through indicators such as Infant Mortality Rates. Owing to its highly sparse population, medical services suffer because of the fact that the average area covered by a doctor is about 47 sq. km. in Karbi Anglong and about 54 sq. km. in Dima Hasao, whereas in the overall picture of the state the area covered is about 20 sq.km. Although the IMR of the district is similar to that of the state, the figures corresponding to female child is remarkably higher in Karbi Anglong and marginally higher in Dima Hasao than that of the state. Moreover, in case of male child, IMR in both the districts is lower than that of the state figure (Registrar General India, 2011). This reflects gender disparity in case of child health care.

Table 3.10
Status of Health Infrastructure in Karbi Anglong

Facilities	Karbi Anglong	Dima Hasao
Civil Hospital	1	1
SDCH ⁶	1	0
PHC ⁷	51	11
CHC ⁸	5	2
Sub-Centres	145	65
Doctors	222	90
Nurse	118	79
Mid-wives	227	157

Source: Statistical Hand Book Assam 2014

In spite of Government of India focus on provision of safe drinking water since the 5th Five Year Plan, unhygienic water sources remain the principal source of drinking water for nearly 77% of the villages in Karbi Anglong. In Karbi Anglong, 35.2% of the households have drinking water sources within premises and 33.4% have sources which are near premises. The corresponding figures for Dima Hasao are 17.8% and 35.7%. These reflect a grimmer situation as relative to Assam figures (54.8% and 26.7%) (Government of Assam, 2015). Incidence of high percentage of fluoride content in water in some parts of

⁶ S.D.C.H- Sub-Divisional Civil Hospitals

⁷ P.H.C- Public Health Centres

⁸ C.H.C-Community Health Centres

the district and fact that only 17% of the villages have been blessed with pipe water supply reflect the overall pathetic situation in the district (Kanoi, 2011). The overall human development indexⁱⁱ of Dima Hasao is low and stood at 0.363 (11th ranking) which is lower than the state average of 0.407 (Assam Human Development Report, 2004).

3.9 NATURAL RESOURCES:

Both the hill districts together occupy the central position of the state. They cover more than 18% of the state's total forest cover. As Bordoloi (1972) had described the Karbi Anglong district, during the 1970s, tropical vegetation grew abundantly throughout the hills and plains because of sufficient rainfall. The district was rich in bamboo and other timber varieties such as Teak and Sal. Wild animals like elephants, deer, bears, buffaloes, leopards etc. were found abundantly in the jungles of the Karbi Anglong. A study by Sarkar (1993), on the herbaceous plants of the Karbi Anglong district revealed direct dependence of its population on a wide variety of plants for various uses. Profuse utilization and commercial exploitation has made about 9 species vulnerable to existence. The study also identified 164 species of medicinal plants and 58 vegetable species enriching the district. Similar studies in Dima Hasao have also revealed abundance of wild edibles in the district (Medhi & Borthakur, 2011). Besides, Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in the form of dyes, resins, fruits, leaves for rituals, firewood etc. play a vital role in sustaining various needs of the locals (Bauri, Palit, & Mukherjee, 2015) (Singha & Timung, 2015). Other natural resources available in Karbi Anglong are limestone, china clay, field spar and coal. In Dima Hasao, Limestone and coal in small quantity are found in the Garampani area. Carbonaceous shale is available in Baga area. Good quality of limestone, low in magnesia and suitable for cement manufacturing is also available. The plain areas of Karbi Anglong consist of valleys of the Jamuna, Kapili and Dhansiri Rivers lying in its eastern part. Beside these three major rivers of Karbi Anglong, other minor streams include Kaliani, Barapani, Patradisa and Dikharu (MSME, 2014). The China clay of Karbi- Anglong district is a vital input for the Ceramic industries (MSME, 2015).

The agro-climatic condition of Karbi Anglong and its altitude favours growth and production of fruit crops like orange, lemon, pine-apple, banana, pomegranate, papaya etc.

Species such as ginger, chillies, cardamom, turmeric etc. are also produced in large quantities in the hills. Horticultural crops are extensively grown in Nilip, Chinthong, Amri and Socheng development blocks of the district (Kanoi, 2011).

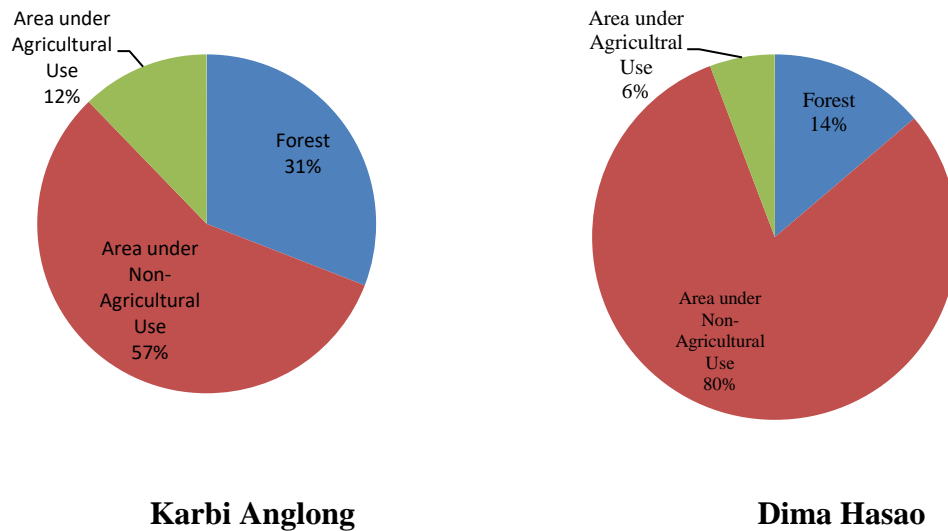


Figure 3.3

Classification of land in the hill districts

Source: Statistical Hand Book Assam 2014

As per the State of Forests Reports (SFR), 2001, published by the Forest Survey of India, the total area under forests in Karbi Anglong district was 7,97,200 hectares constituting 76.4% of its geographical area. However, only 31% of the total area is classified as forest area. Area under agricultural use is only about 12% of the total area. The remaining 57% comprises of various categories such as water logged land, social forestry, barren and uncultivable land which are not available for agriculture. In Dima Hasao, barren and uncultivable land and unclassified forest areas all together constitute about 80 percent of the areas of the district. Classified forest areas constitute about 14 percent of the total geographical areas and total area under agricultural use is only 6% of the total land resource.

3.10 FINANCIAL ACCESS:

It is the financial resources that people use to achieve their livelihood objectives. Different types of Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Assam Co-operative Apex Banks are in operation. At present, Karbi Anglong has a banking network of 71 branches out of which Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank (LDRB) has 49 branches. Similarly, in Dima Hasao, out of 24 Scheduled Commercial Banks, LDRB has 10 branches. The SBI is the lead bank in both the hill districts.

Table 3.11
Aggregate Deposit and Gross Bank Credit of All Scheduled Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks (Rupees in Crores)

		As On 31st March 2015				As On 31st March 2017			
		No. of Reporting Offices	Deposits	No. of Reporting Offices	Deposits	No. of Reporting Offices	Deposits	No. of Reporting Offices	Deposits
All Scheduled Commercial Banks	Assam	2047	97378	35911	36.9	2328	119109	54285	45.58
	Karbi Anglong	66	1685.0	513.4	30.47	71	1573	628	40
	Dima Hasao	20	577.8	113.4	19.63	24	695	162	23.32
Regional Rural Banks	Assam	465	7878	4159	52.79	468	8543	4520	52.92
	Karbi Anglong	40	366.73	205.86	56.13	49	511	318	62
	Dima Hasao	8	77.90	19.95	25.61	10	108	49	45.31

Source: Statistical Hand Book Assam 2014, Assam SLBC Report (FY-2016-17)

The Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of the All Scheduled Commercial Banks in the state of Assam is low as compared to All India Figures. In hill districts, the figures reflect a depressing picture. RRBs play a very important role in the economy of the hill districts. Relatively better and faster growth of CDR in the hill districts show potential for growth of NFE. However, other SCBs have underperformed on their core deliverables.

Owing to limited access to credit, aspirations of potential entrepreneurs are nipped at the budding stage. In Karbi Anglong district, only 10 bank branches are providing Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) loans to entrepreneurs, which again are tainted with

issues of political interference, delayed processing and low moratorium period. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) or currently the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) has been able to provide financial services to some extent, although the success of SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP) is doubtful (Das, 2011). Ways to deliver other services such as remittances and insurances in the far-flung areas of the district need to be worked out. There has to be a collaborated effort of Banks as well as Government to spread financial information in order to increase financial inclusion in North East India (Bhanot, Bapat, & Bera, 2012).

Table 3.12
Details of purpose-wise position of Advances of LDRB (Amount in Laacs)

Sl. No.	Account Type	As on 31.03.2013		As on 31.03.2014		As on 31.03.2015		As on 31.03.2016	
		No. of Account	Amount	No. of Account	Amount	No. of Account	Amount	No. of Account	Amount
1	SHG/JLG/SGSY	2379	1344.24	2335	895.58	1866	893.44	1739	861.67
2	Retail Trade/ Small Business	118	105.11	153	93.65	144	102.46	827	335.52
3	SSI/ Cottage & Rural Artisans	45	187.11	46	189.31	52	203.86	61	196.94
4	Transport Operator	440	767.85	406	619.71	343	440.72	341	495.12

Source: LDRB Annual Reports (2013-14, 2015-16)

When we analyse the purpose-wise position of advances of LDRB, we observe that there is a decreasing trend in advances taken by SHGs, JLGs, or under SGSY. The amount of annual advance has come down from Rs 1344 lakhs during 2012-2013 to Rs 861 lakhs in 2015-16. However, advances taken for retail trade and small business have grown by about three times during the same period. While marginal growth is seen in case of advances taken for small scale industries, cottage industries and rural artisans, there is a fall in the number and amount of loans given to transport operators during the same period.

The overall demand and recovery position for advances under non-farm sector has shown a better picture as compared to the farm sector. While majority of the demand has

been for non-farm sector during the period 2011-2012 till 2014-2015, the recovery position also certifies non-farm sector as a better investment zone from the bank's point of view. The recovery percentage for non-farm sector has been close to 90% all through the period, while that of farm sector stand at around 64%.

Table3.13
Recovery position of LDRB Bank (as on 30.06.2015 and 30.06.2014)

Sector	Demand				Recovery			
	June'12	June'13	June'14	June'15	June'12	June'13	June'14	June'15
Farm Sector	2738.01	3558.08	4200.95	4696.03	1757.26	2398.79	2450.78	3050.42
Non-Farm Sector	4648.79	5265.79	6093.87	6281.35	4172.06	4708.40	5353.63	5677.17
TOTAL	7386.80	8823.87	10294.82	10977.38	5929.32	7107.19	7804.41	8727.59

Sector	Overdue				% of Recovery			
	June'12	June'13	June'14	June'15	June'12	June'13	June'14	June'15
Farm Sector	980.75	1159.29	1750.17	1645.61	64.18%	67.42%	58.34%	64.95%
Non-Farm Sector	476.73	557.39	740.24	604.18	89.75%	89.41%	87.85%	90.38%
TOTAL	1457.48	1716.68	2490.41	2249.79	80.27%	80.55%	75.81%	79.51%

Source: Annual Reports (2013-14, 2015-16)

3.11 PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE:

Since, this study is a macro-level analysis of the livelihood scenario; we consider only the economic infrastructures which directly support the process of production and distribution and directly impact livelihoods.

3.11.1 Power and Electricity:

Power is the basic infrastructural requirement for the growth of industries in particular and economic development of the state as a whole. The region has vast potentiality of power ranging from hydel to natural gas, but the progress of the district is not up to the expected mark. There still exists a gap between availability and demand for power in the districts. In the hills, only 9% of the villages are electrified. In Dima Hasao, NEEPCO has established “Kopili Hydel Project” at Umrangso which produces sizable quantity of electricity. Karbi Langpi Hydro Electric Project (100 MW) is the only major project of the Karbi Anglong district which was completed in the year 2006. Besides, there is Bordikharu Micro Hydel Project located at a distance of 18 km from Dokmoka in the Karbi Anglong district. The total numbers of villages covered by electricity in this district of Assam are 2256 (Government of Assam, 2015).

3.11.2 Transportation and Communication:

The hill districts bear a distinct hilly and rugged topography in Assam. Due to its geographical isolation, transport has been a major bottleneck for the economic progress of the district.

- i) **Roads:** The districts are well connected with other districts through various routes. The internal routes of the districts are under Public Works Department (PWD). In Karbi Anglong, for nearly 50% of the villages, the nearest bus stop is at a distance of 5 km or more (Kanoi, 2011). In Dima Hasao, the road length per 100 square km was 30 km (the state average is 48 km) (Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development: Guwahati, 2009). Road transport is the most important means of communication for movement of goods and people in the economically backward remote hill districts of Assam.
- ii) **Railways:** Rail transport occupies an important place in the transport sector of Karbi Anglong district and Dima Hasao district of Assam. The rail route of the Karbi Anglong district constitutes only 3.76% of the state rail route and that of Dima Hasao stretches just 133.25 kms.
- iii) **Airport:** There is no airport in the hill districts. The nearest airport for Karbi Anglong is at Dimapur, 54 km away from Diphu.

- iv) Tele-Communication:** Mobile telecom connectivity is very poor in both the hill districts. On 10.09.2014, the Government approved a proposal to implement a ‘Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North Eastern Region’. The estimated cost of implementation is 5336.18 crore. The Project was to be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). One of the schemes under the project is ‘Provision of mobile services in uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts of Assam’. This will be executed by BSNL on nomination basis (STT Section, Department of Telecommunications, GOI, 2015).

3.12 SPECIAL CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS:

It relates to the formal and informal social relationships (or social resources) from which various opportunities and benefits can be drawn by people in their pursuit of livelihoods. Although quantitative or qualitative data are not available to adjudge the access to social capital in the hill districts, the fact that both the districts were created under the provisions of Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution itself can be considered a social capital.

The pattern of administration in the hill district is somewhat different from that of the plains district of Assam. There is an Autonomous Council in each of the districts which came into existence under the provisions laid down under para-2 of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian constitution namely “Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council” (KAAC) and Dima Hasao Autonomous Council (DHAC). Almost all the development departments of the district are under the autonomous councils. The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council consists of 30 (thirty) members, of which 26 (twenty six) are to be elected and 4(four) are to be nominated. The Dima Hasao Autonomous Council consists of 28 elected members. The tenure of the District Council is for five years. The powers and functions of the District Council may be broadly divided into 4(four) categories – legislative, executive, financial and judicial.

3.13 CONCLUSION:

The attempt to unearth some macro level information regarding both the hill districts from data and information published reports and studies yielded that both the hill districts still provide very limited access to various livelihood capitals. There is a high school drop-out rate in both the districts. Majority of workers are engaged in the agricultural sector. Majority of cultivated area in the hill districts are under *jhum* cultivation. Alternate prominent skills include weaving, livestock rearing and sericulture. Status of industries shows that implementations were not proper. Lot of unused infrastructure is being created. Gender disparity is evident from IMR figures. Both the districts cover a large proportion of the state's forest cover and studies endorse that these tropical forests were rich in medicinal plants, edible vegetables, wild animals and other natural resources such as limestone, coal. Low CDR of all scheduled commercial banks in the hill districts is lower than the state and national figures. The success of PMRY and SBLP is also doubtful. Hence, there is a clear signal that prospective entrepreneurs face tremendous problems in matters related to finance. Still, in comparison to farm sector, advance to non-farm sector has shown much better demand and recovery position. Regarding accessibility to physical resources, reports and studies have shown that in spite of having power producing projects within the hill districts only 9% villages are electrified. Poor road access, very limited rail access, absence of airports, poor telecom connectivity adds to the woes of the common man. Administrative pattern is somewhat different as both the districts were created under the provisions of Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Therefore, the chapter gives us a preliminary idea of the study districts and the unique state of affairs that prevails in the hill areas, unlike plains region of Assam.

ⁱ Working Definitions (Census,2011):

1. Household (HH):

A 'household' is usually a group of persons who normally live together and take their meals from a common kitchen/common cooking unless the exigencies of work prevent any of them from doing so. The persons in a household may be related or unrelated or a mix of both.

2. **Housing Conditions:**

- i. Pucca:
 - a. Wall material: Stones (duly packed with lime or cement mortar), G.I/metal/asbestos sheets, Burnt bricks, Cement bricks, Concrete.
 - b. Roof material : Machine-made tiles, Cement tiles, Burnt bricks, Cement bricks, Stones, Slate, G.I./Metal/Asbestos sheets, Concrete
- ii. Buildings, the walls and/or roof of which are predominantly made of materials other than those mentioned above such as unburnt bricks, bamboos, mud, grass, reeds, thatch, plastic/polythene, loosely packed stone, etc., may be treated as Kutcha buildings

3. **Worker:**

A person is categorised as 'Worker' when she/he has participated in any economically productive activity at any time during the reference period. Having found out that a person is a worker, it has to be ascertained whether she or he has worked for 6 months or more or less than 6 months.

4. Main Worker and Marginal Worker:

A person who has worked for 6 months or more during the last one year is termed as 'Main Worker' otherwise she/he is a 'Marginal Worker'. Further, the Marginal Workers have been classified into two categories viz., (1) worked for 3 months or more but less than 6 months (2) worked for less than 3 months.

5. **Cultivator:**

Cultivator is defined by a worker who is engaged in cultivation of land owned or held from government or from private person(s) or institution for payment in money, kind or share. Cultivation also includes effective supervision or direction in cultivation. Please note that cultivation does not include plantation crops like tea, coffee, rubber, coconut and betel-nuts (areca). Cultivation involves ploughing, sowing, harvesting and production of cereals and millet crops such as wheat, paddy, jowar, bajra, ragi, etc., and other crops such as sugarcane, tobacco, ground-nuts, tapioca, etc., and pulses, raw jute and kindred fibre crop, cotton, cinchona and other medicinal plants, fruit growing, vegetable growing or keeping orchards or groves, etc. Cultivation will not include plantation crops like tea, coffee, rubber, coconut and betel-nuts (areca). The workers engaged in plantation crops will be recorded as 'Other Worker'.

6. **Agricultural Labour :**

An Agricultural Labour is defined by a worker who works on another person's land for wages in kind or cash or share. Agricultural Labour has no risk in the cultivation, but merely works on another person's land for wages. An agricultural labour has no right of lease or contract on land on which she/he works.

7. **Worker in Household Industry :**

Worker in Household Industry is defined by a worker who works in a Household Industry. Household Industry is defined as an industry conducted by one or more members of the household at home or within the village in rural areas and only within the precincts of the house where the household lives in urban areas. The larger proportion of workers in the household industry should consist of members of the household. The industry should not be run on the scale of a registered factory which would qualify or has to be registered under the Indian Factories Act. The main characteristics of the Household Industry are the following:

- i. One or more members of the household must participate and the component of hired labour should be minimum.
- ii. The activity should relate to production, processing, servicing, repairing or making and selling of goods. It does not include professions such as a Pleader, Doctor, Musician, Dancer, Waterman, Astrologer, Dhobi, Barber, etc., or merely trade or business, even if such professions, trade or services are run at home by members of the household.
- iii. The goods produced should not be for consumption by the household itself but should be wholly or partly for sale.

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- iv. In an urban area the industry must be carried out in the precincts of the house in which the household lives. In the rural areas, the industry may be carried out anywhere within the limits of the village.
 - v. The activity should not be on the scale of a Registered Factory (Where more than 10 persons with power or 20 persons without power is in use).

8. Other Worker :

All those workers who have been engaged in some economic activity during the last one year, but are not Cultivators or Agricultural Labourers or Workers in Household industry are categorised into 'Other Workers'. The type of workers that come under this category include all government servants, municipal employees, teachers, factory workers, plantation workers, those engaged in trade, commerce, business, transport, banking, mining, construction, political or social work, priests, entertainment artists, etc. Certain activities even though conducted by members of the same household will not constitute a Household Industry. These are indicated below and therefore the members of the family working in such industries will be classified as 'Other Worker' and not as 'Worker in Household Industry'.

- i. Plantation work.
- ii. Livestock maintenance and production such as cattle, goats, sheep breeding, poultry farms, bee-keeping, rearing of silk worm and production of cocoons and raw silk, production of milk, eggs, honey, wax, bones, etc.
- iii. Hunting, trapping and selling of the catch.
- iv. Forestry and logging: log, fuel, charcoal production, gathering and selling of fodder and other forest produce, etc.
- v. Fishing including rearing of fish, collection of pearls, shells, sea products, etc.
- vi. Mining and quarrying.

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