

# INSPIRING STORIES OF PROGRESSIVE FARMERS (ASSAM)



The State of Assam is endowed with abundant water resources. The two major river systems - the Brahmaputra and the Barak along with numerous tributaries constitute the rich surface water resources of the State. The groundwater availability in the State falls under the safe category. But in spite of the rich resources of water in the State, irrigation has become highly essential because of adverse and unpredictable weather condition including flood, erosion and drought like situation etc.

Out of the total geographical area of 78.44 lakh Ha, the gross cropped area of the State is 40.87 lakh Ha and the net area sown is 27.74 lakh Ha. The ultimate irrigation potential of the State is estimated at 27 lakh Ha. It is planned to irrigate 17 lakh Ha through Minor Irrigation Schemes and 10 lakh Ha through Major & Medium Irrigation Projects. Moreover, out of the 17 lakh Ha area planned to irrigate through Minor Irrigation Schemes an area of 10 lakh Ha through Minor Irrigation Schemes taken from surface water resources and the rest 7 lakh Ha from ground water sources.

There are three types of Irrigation Schemes classified on the basis of command area. Those are Major Irrigation Scheme, Medium Irrigation Scheme and Minor Irrigation Scheme. When the Culturable Command Area(CCA) is more than 10,000 Ha it is called a Major Irrigation Scheme, when CCA is between 2000 and 10,000 Ha it is a Medium Irrigation Scheme and when CCA is below 2000 Ha. It is a Minor Irrigation Scheme.

Expansion & Introduction of irrigation Components to non-irrigated fields & crops with emphasis on Oil seeds & Pulse Crops is helping farmers double their income.

In a certain case, for instance, it has been observed that before irrigation facilities were made available, a farmer could produce 1.6 QTL/Bigha of Mustard @ Rs. 35/Kg to Rs. 45/Kg in the last year, thus, making a lower limit income of  $3500 \times 1.6 =$  Rs. 5600 (approx.). Now, with irrigation facilities under PMKSY being made available, the farmer produced 2.8 QTL/Bigha Mustard, earning  $2.8 \times 3500 =$  Rs. 9800 to Rs. 12600 (approx.). This is a best case example of doubling farmers' income.



## LOWER ASSAM

Lower Assam is a region situated in Western Brahmaputra Valley encompassing undivided Kamrup and Goalpara regions. Lower Assam division comprises 9 districts, namely Dhubri, South Salamara, Bongaigaon, Goalpara, Barpeta, Bajali, Nalbari, Kamrup, and Kamrup Metropolitan. According to 2011 census, Lower Assam has total population of 11,253,550; out of which urban population accounting to 1,959,707 while rural population is 9,293,843.

A total of 19 Divisions of Irrigation falls under this district.

Barpeta, Dhubri, Bongaigaon, Goalpara, South Salmara, Kamrup & Kamrup Metropolitan districts, falling under Phase I has achieved 100% implementation.

While works in Nalbari and Bajali districts, falling under Phase II is still in progress and is steadily moving towards 100% implementation of the scheme.

The Capital of Assam, Guwahati falls under Kamrup Metropolitan Region and is known as the Gateway of North East.

Rice, Jute, Potato, Oil Seeds, Pulses, Mustard, Lemon, and various seasonal vegetables are grown in this region of the state of Assam.

