


PROMOTING BARBATTI CULTIVATION WITH PVTG'S IN RAJMAHAL HILLS OF JHARKHAND



An Insight into
the lives of the
PVTG's benefitted
through Barbatti
cultivation:
A short Survey

JHARKHAND TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare
Department, Government of Jharkhand

Introduction

“Empowering the individual means empowering the nation and empowering is best served through rapid economic growth with rapid social change”

Atal Bihari Vajpayee

According to World Bank “Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well being and comprises of many dimensions. It includes low incomes and inability to acquire basic goods and services necessary for survival and dignity”. The incidence in poverty was estimated in Jharkhand was 46% in which it was observed that 60% of SC and ST are below poverty line. Rural India has been facing the daunting challenge of poverty, estimated at 41.8% (2011) . Jharkhand Tribal Development Society (JTDS) has adopted the “community demand driven” approach, based on the concept of P4 (Private-Public-People-Partnership) since the community’s response is encouraging when interventions are relevant to their needs & aspirations and aptly fits in their lives. JTDS is implementing The Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Project (JTELP)supported by IFAD since 2007. JTDS is focusing on the concept of 5 J’s Jal (Water), Jangal (Forest), Jamin (Land), Janwar (Animals) , Jan (People) . Besides strengthening community based institutions and improving natural resource management, the project emphasizes productivity enhancement and up scaling of proven, market-oriented production activities to break down poverty. The overarching goal of JTELP is to improve the living conditions of tribal people in general and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in particular. This is sought to be achieved by organizing and enabling the communities to adopt sustainable and productive natural resource management regimes, adopt market-oriented production systems and learn the skills and gain the experience of planning and implementing development plans relevant to their villages. Supporting the vulnerable to come out of the vicious circle of poverty is a major concern in context of the PVTG’s. The reach to these communities is difficult yet not impossible. JTDS took the initiative to reach these communities who are residing in the interiors of the jungles with minimal life support just to survive. The villages are so interiors that people are confined to that area and don’t have any ray of hope to make their life much more improved and sustainable.



Abbreviations

- » DPMU- District Project Management Unit
- » FNGO- Facilitating Non Government Organization
- » IFAD- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- » JTDS- Jharkhand Tribal Development Society
- » JTELP- Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Project
- » PVTG- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
- » SC- Scheduled Caste
- » ST- Scheduled Tribe
- » TSA- Technical Support Agency
- » HH- House Hold
- » PVTG HH- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups House holds
- » ST HH- Scheduled Tribe House Hold



Acknowledgement

It was a great learning experience to do this research study and a situational analysis towards developing this study report among the PVTG's in Godda and Pakur District of Jharkhand. It was pleasure learning on various aspects which is showing a major change in the life of PVTG's.

The credits of the outcome of this report are to Jharkhand Tribal Development Society DPMU units of Godda and Pakur that includes the entire team that includes beneficiaries, FNGO's, TSA.

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Concept of Barbatti cultivation and JTDS intervention

Barbatti (cow-pea) is being in cultivation since generations on the hills of “Santhal Pargana” by the “Paharia Community”. The cultivation follows the traditional method of JHOOM CULTIVATION. The whole chain is dominated by the traditional practices and the money lenders play an important role right from support for bush cutting and clearing to ultimately selling of produce. Barbatti cultivation is crucial for the livelihood of “Paharia Community” as this is one of the major food security and income generation activities. Survival is the basic component of every human being and Barbatti being the lifeline for this community. The concept of Barbatti cultivation is from the ancient times. Barbatti is the staple food for this group makes it much more necessary for production.

The intervention is very promising and under the JTELP intervention, following broad strategies are kept in mind:

- » Hand holding support in term of support in bush cutting and seed arrangement to restrict falling into the hands of money lenders.
- » Focus on production enhancement through better packages of practices and
- » Forward linkages for better return

Objectives of the Study

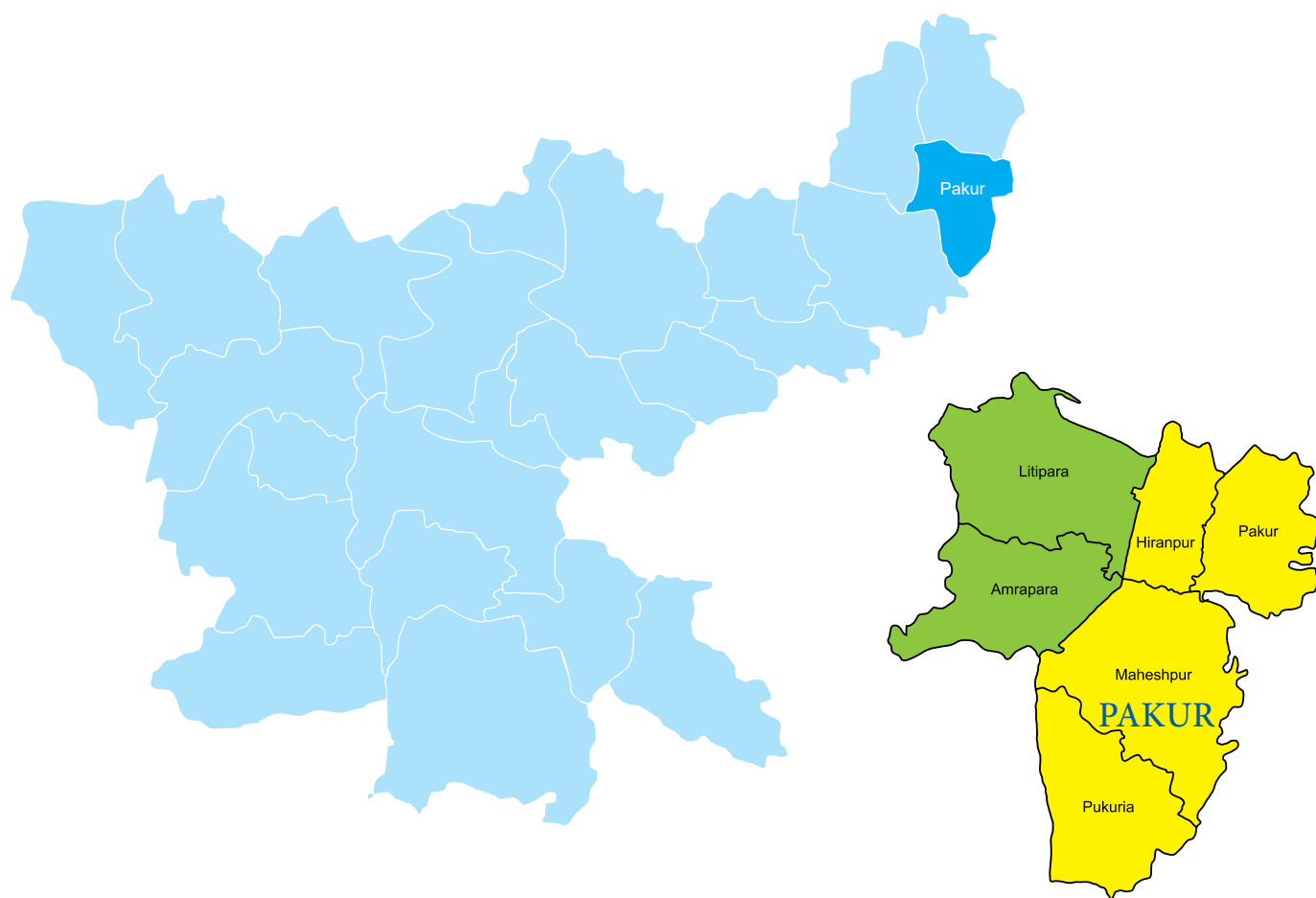
- » To know the proportion of growing Barbatti as per other crops.
- » To know the status of barbatti cultivation previous year and its production estimate along with current year status of cultivating barbatti.
- » To know the major area of contribution in barbatti cultivation.
- » To know process of cultivating barbatti.
- » To understand the problems faced by them during barbatti cultivation and role of JTDS in it.



District Demographic Profile

» Pakur

According to 2011 Census, Pakur district has a population of 900,422. The SC population is 28,469 while the ST population is 379,054. Traditionally, Pakur has been the land of Santhal and Paharia Adivasi people. However, over a period of time, demographic composition has gradually changed and the local folks have come to the mainstream of the Indian society. JTDS' work is spread in Littipara and Amrapara blocks of Pakur district.

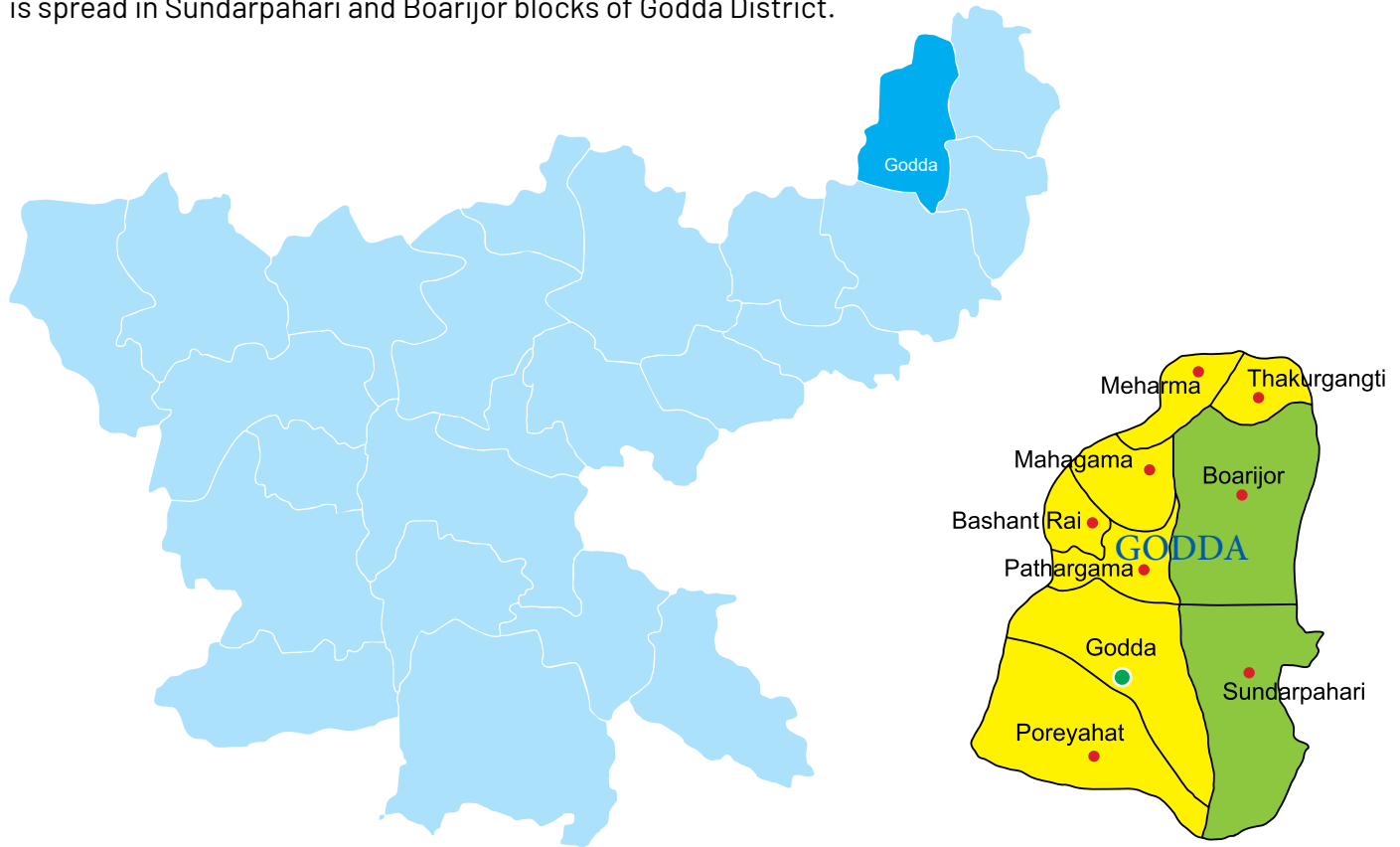


Barbatti Cultivation 2019 with PVTG at Pakur

Sl. No.	Name of crop	No of Farmers	Area under crop (in Acre)	No of villages	Expected Production (in MT)	Expected Productivity (MT/Ha)
1.	Cow pea (Barbatti)	3100	1550	79	314	0.5

» Godda

Since 1855, Godda has been a sub-division of Santhal Pargana. More than 80% of the population in the district directly depends on agriculture and allied works to earn their livelihood. The average land holding is 1.5 hectares; but the percentage of marginal farmers having less than 1 hectares of land is around 60%. Poor land quality, lack of irrigation facilities, limited penetration of technologies and market and lack of credit facilities, all contributed to the stagnation of agriculture development in the communities. The subsistence level of agriculture being practiced by a large portion of these communities, could offer food security for the individual household barely for 6-8 months. Very often they have to migrate to west Bengal to work in agriculture field. As per census 2011 the actual population being 1,313,551. JTDS' work is spread in Sundarpahari and Boarijor blocks of Godda District.



Barbatti Cultivation for PVTG's – project Coverage

PAKUR **1400**

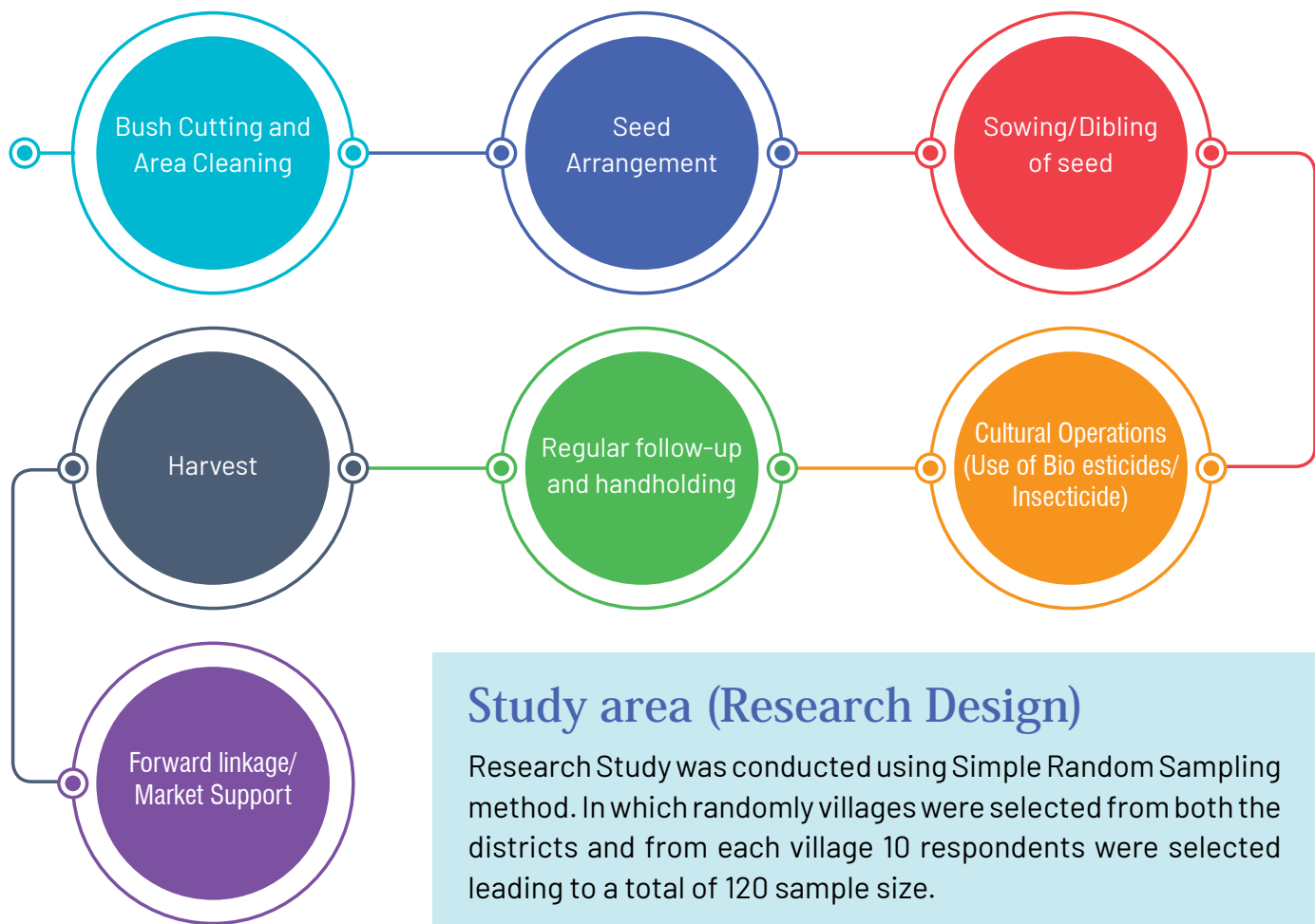
GODDA **1200**

4000
beneficiaries Focused in
Phase-I

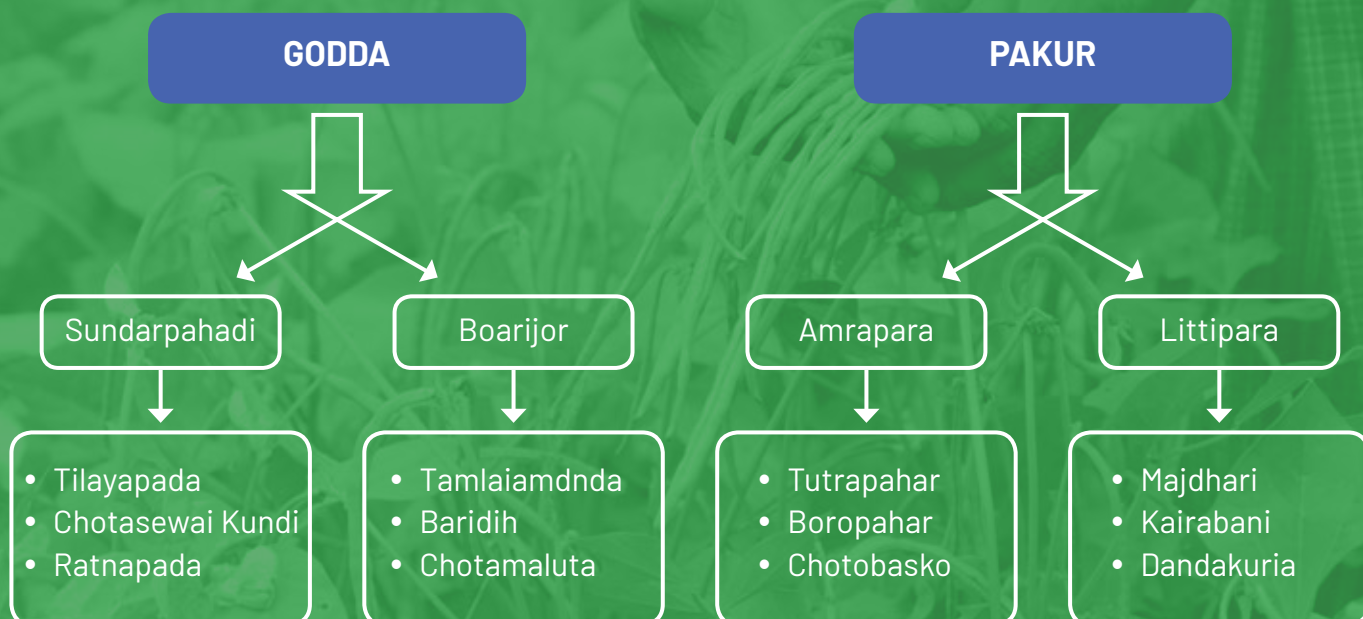
SAHIBGANJ **1000**

DUMKA **400**

Process under Barbatti Cultivation



Study was conducted in 6 villages of two blocks at Godda and Pakur district of Jharkhand.



Village Profiles

Godda

Sl. No.	District	Block	Village	Panchayat	HH	PVTG HH	ST HH
1	Godda	Sundar Pahadi	Tilayapada	Badasindri	56	39	9
2	Godda	Sundar Pahadi	Chotasewai	Chotasewaikundi	65	65	0
3	Godda	Sundar Pahadi	Ratnapada	Ratnapada	30	30	0

Sl. No.	District	Block	Village	Panchayat	HH	PVTG HH	ST HH
1	Godda	Boarijor	Tamlaiadanda	Devipur	45	26	19
2	Godda	Boarijor	Baridih	Devipur	100	55	45
3	Godda	Boarijor	Chotamalbitha	Devipur	25	7	18

Pakur

Sl. No.	District	Block	Village	Panchayat	HH	PVTG HH	ST HH
1	Pakur	Amrapara	Tutrapahad	Pachuwara	124	124	0
2	Pakur	Amrapara	Boropahad	Jaraki	113	113	0
3	Pakur	Amrapara	Chotabasko Pahar	Singarsi	164	160	4

Sl. No.	District	Block	Village	Panchayat	HH	PVTG HH	ST HH
1	Pakur	Littipara	Majdhari	Karmatanr	23	23	0
2	Pakur	Littipara	Kairabani	Karmatanr	48	30	18
3	Pakur	Littipara	Dandakuria	Kunjbona	37	37	0

Data Analysis

Crop Diversification

The Figure below shows that most of the beneficiaries at Pakur and Godda are involved in barbatti cultivation. Mostly all the beneficiaries are growing some or the other crops but barbatti being the major production and common among all. The three major purposes of cultivating barbatti first being for consumption, then keeping the seeds for next year and lastly for selling. Barbatti being the major staple food for Santhal Pargana its production is highest among all the other crops and irrespective of the hard work required people cultivates barbatti. Previously as they were trapped in the hands of moneylenders they cultivated barbatti but in lesser amounts, they also could not go for other crops as their whole saved money would on buying or repaying from the moneylenders.

Percentage of beneficiaries involved in different crops

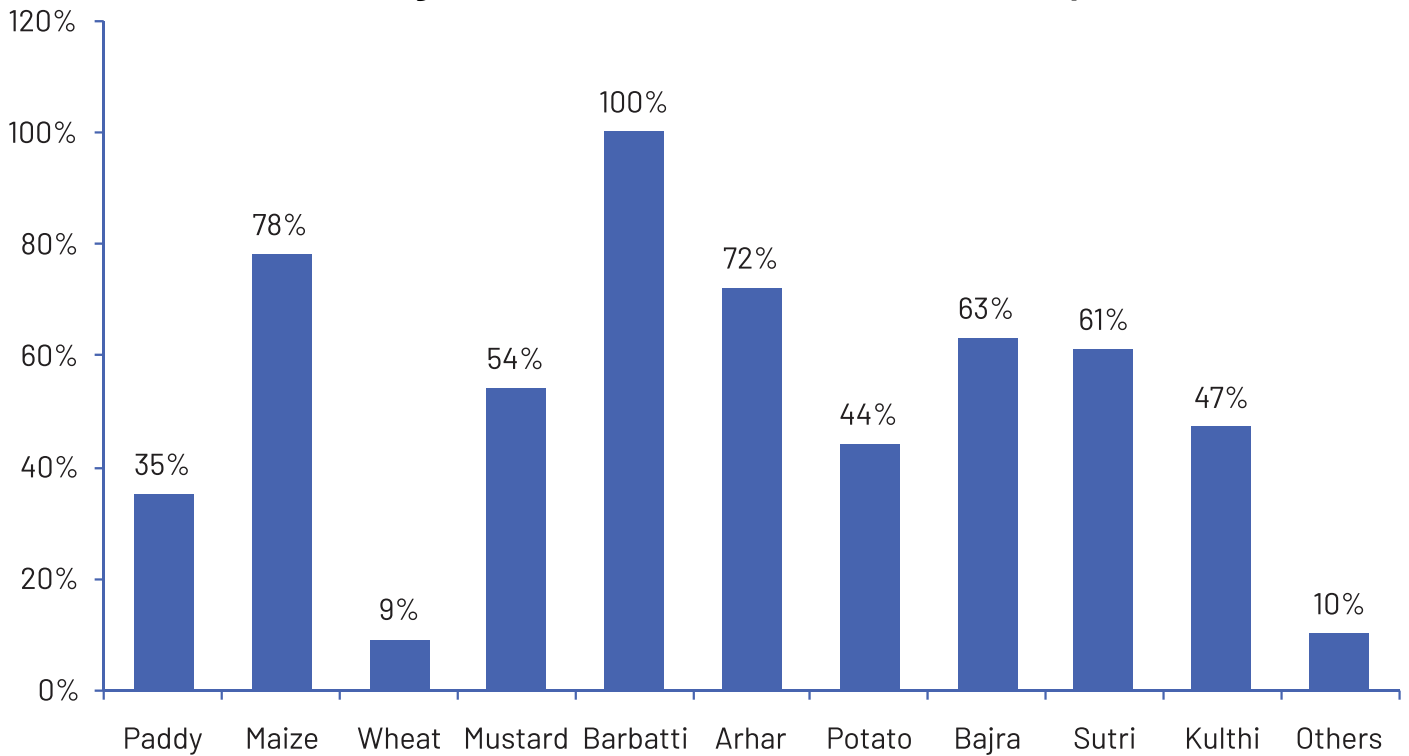


Figure 1 Showing different variety of crops sown by the beneficiaries

Status of Plantation of Barbatti Seeds

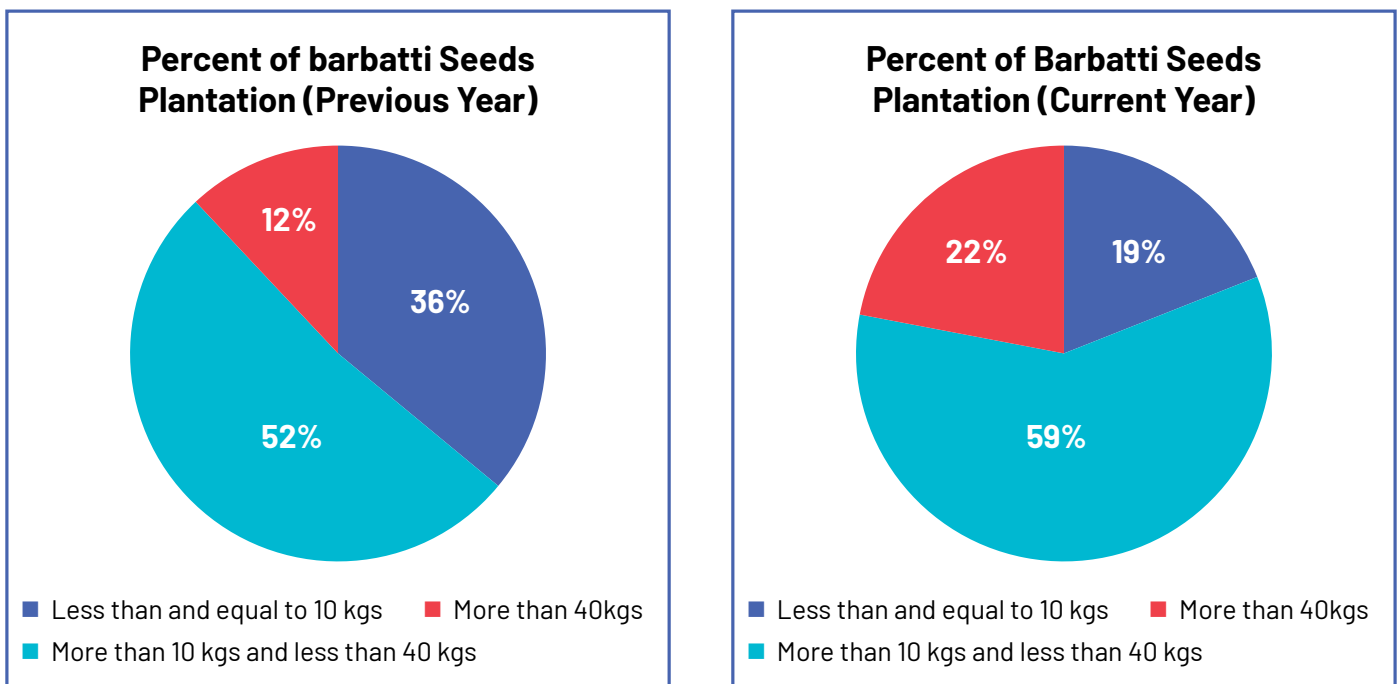


Figure 2 Percentage of barbatti seeds planted by the beneficiaries previous year and current year

The above figure depicts the comparison of the sowing of barbatti seeds in the previous year with current year. It can be observed that Previously 36% of the beneficiaries sowed less than 10 kgs of barbatti seeds and less amount of them sown more than 40 kgs but during current year as people are

becoming more aware and getting much of benefits they are now trying to sow more amount of seeds and in current year around 22% of the beneficiaries sown more than 40 kgs of barbatti seeds. People are now keeping seeds for sowing it in next year. Previously they were under the control of Mahajan (Money lender) who in return of the seeds took same or more amount of seeds in return irrespective of the production which the beneficiary had. They used to plant less of seeds earlier as they were not sure about the production they could get in return and had to pay off the money of the money lenders. But as now after the intervention of JTDS the concept of money lender has totally been removed and they can keep the full amount of production with them and use it as per their requirement.

Process used for planting Barbatti seeds

The above figure represents that as barbatti cultivation is done since ancient times by the people living in Santhal Parganas. During plantation people after cleaning the hills just spread away the barbatti seeds to germinate as it can be seen from the above data that still 59% among the beneficiaries selected use the traditional practices of planting the barbatti seeds by dibbling. Some of them use the broadcasting techniques which gave them better inputs as it was sown with a technique which reduces the seed loss and helps in better production. While in dibbling the seeds are thrown here and there which increases the chance of loss of seeds and the proper production output could not acquired. The reason behind not opting the dibbling method is requirement of lot of manpower and extra

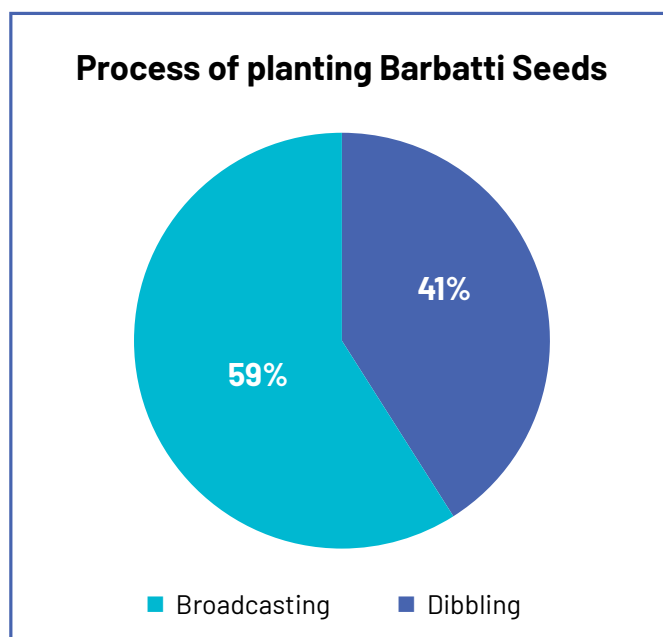


Figure 3 Process of planting Barbatti

money. Dibbling is done by placing each seeds in a line by digging which requires lot of working hands, which they don't get. The labors involved are also to be paid which becomes an extra expense for them.

Status of Barbatti production

The above figure shows the production data of the beneficiaries surveyed which shows that in previous year 43% of beneficiaries had production in between 41 kgs to 80 kgs and only 5% had production more than 200 kgs. This year it can be seen that around 38% of the beneficiaries had production in between 81kgs to 200 kgs and around 14% had more than 200 kgs production. People have started planting more amount of barbatti and the production quantity is also increasing as per their interest and hard working. Previously they could not get so much amount of production and if they get also they had to give it to the moneylender. After getting support and handholding from JTDS they could get better results which act as a motivating factor for them to cultivate more and more of barbatti and get good amount of production return. In some cases the production could not be high due to lack of proper rain and lack of appropriate and available place. In some cases there is a lot of problem related to eating away the seeds by animals like Monkeys and Cows; people have to be guarding in the field to save there crops.

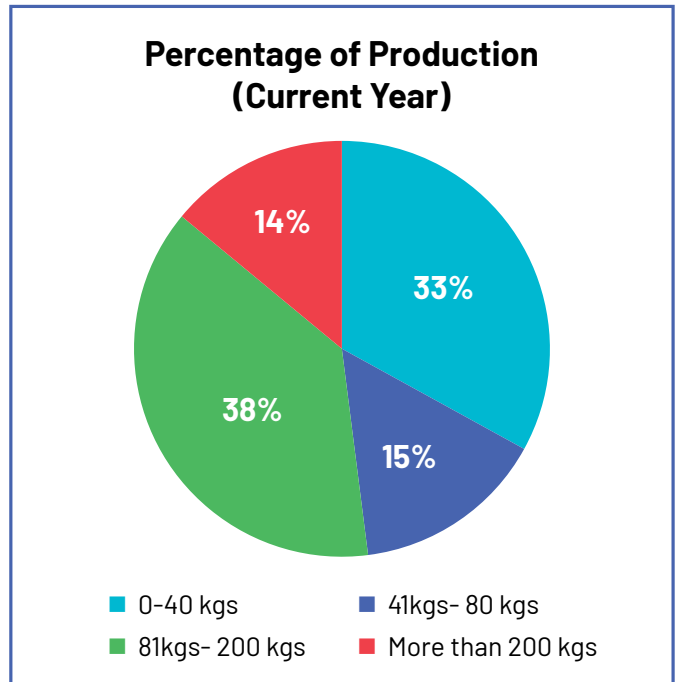
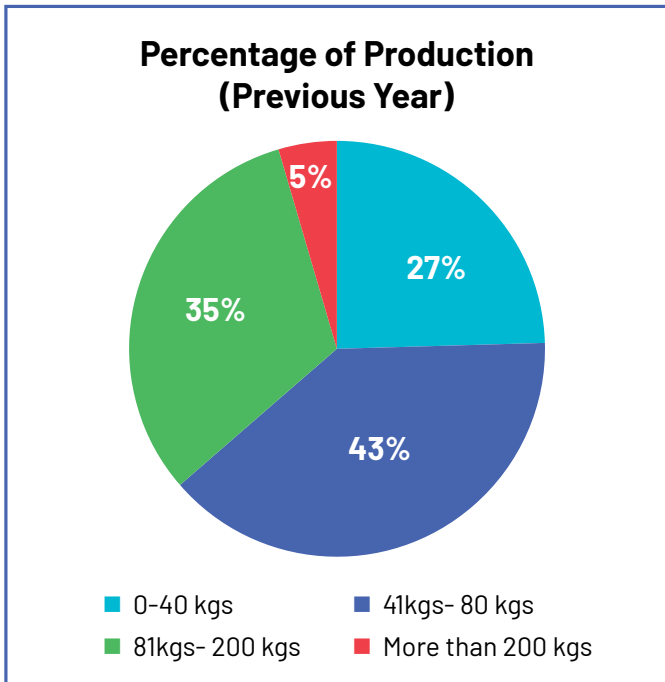


Figure 4 : Percentage of Barbatti production previous year and current year

Usage of the Barbatti seeds

The above figure shows that 92% of the beneficiaries surveyed stored seeds for the purpose of sowing the seeds next year. Though they have less production but inspite of selling it they keep it for next year. Most of them also sold the barbatti seeds some in the village itself and some at the market. It was also seen that in some cases they exchanged rice or oil for barbatti seeds. 77% of the beneficiaries sold the seeds either in the village itself or in the near by market. Selling is not compulsion to all when they have less of production. Around 60% of the beneficiaries use Barbatti seeds as a part of their regular meal adding nutritional value to their food.

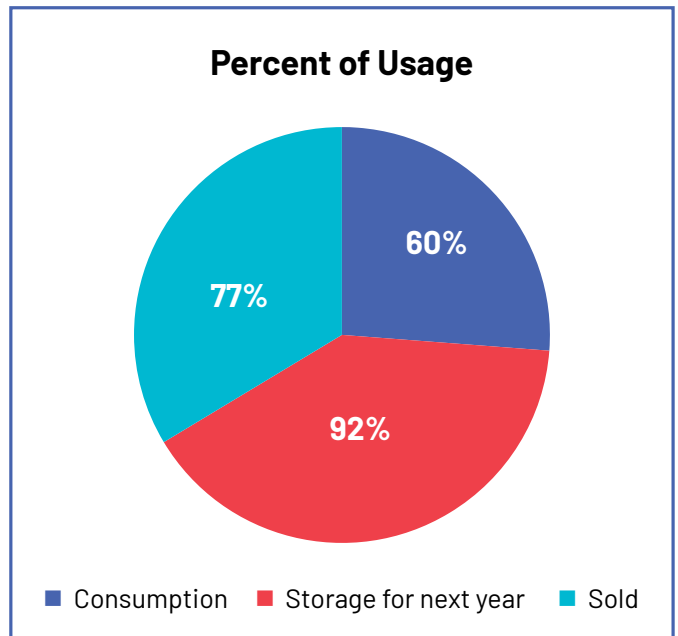


Figure 3 Process of planting Barbatti

Source of Selling the Barbatti seeds

The above figure depicts that when barbatti seeds are sold in the village they get less amount as compared to the amount sold in the market. The reason being selling in the village is the distance of market from the village, so it becomes difficult for them to transport the seeds to the market. For

this they had to sell the seeds to businessmen who come in their respective villages to buy the seeds. There is neither any proper channel nor mode to sell the seeds. It was seen that there is lot of margin which the businessman gets when they buy it from village and sells at a very high rate in the market. Due to improper transportation facility and improper marketing channels people are bonded to sell it to the businessman at the rate even lower. The rates of selling barbatti vary on certain factors being the harvested time and the quality of the seeds. If the seeds are sold at the beginning being in the month of January as the harvesting is done, the rates are higher and as the days passes the rates decreases.

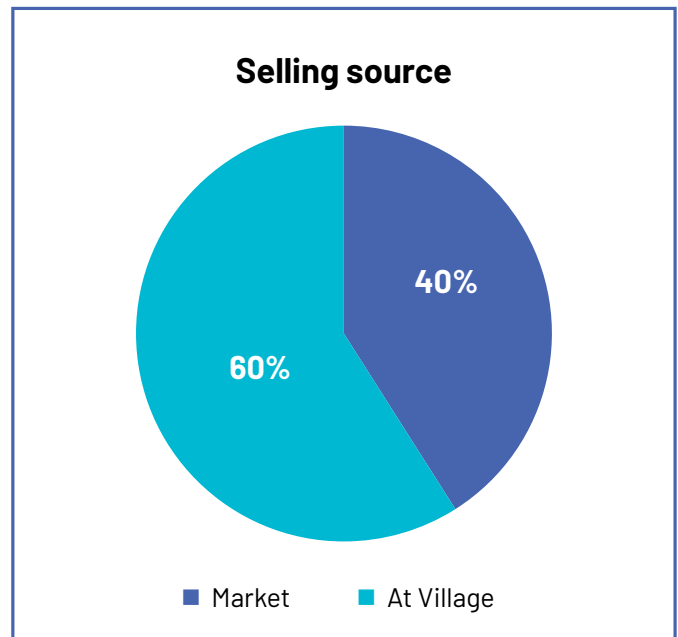


Figure 6: Source of selling barbatti seeds

Spending pattern of the amount received by selling barbatti seeds

The above figure depicts the spending the money received by selling Barbatti seeds. It was observed that most of the beneficiaries kept the money for children’s education and buying household goods. It was very interesting to observe that some of the beneficiaries also saved money to buy silver ornaments and also thought for future problems related to health issues. Previously they were in the hands of

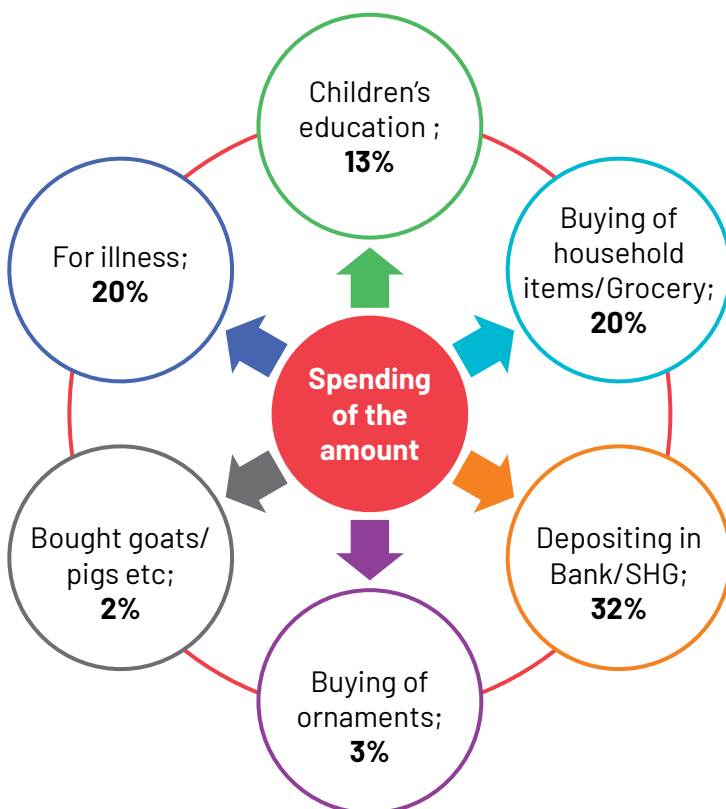


Figure 7: Spending of the amount received by selling barbatti seeds

moneylenders (Mahajan) who used to exploit them. They use to provide them with money or seeds and in return took same amount of money or seeds irrespective of the amount of production they had. This trapped cycle went on for years and years and some of them left planting barbatti due to such problems. Due to the problem in which they were trapped it became very difficult for them to even sustain basic needs of their life, as they had to spend away most of their saved money in paying away the debts taken from moneylenders. But after the intervention of JTELP situation became little better as slowly they were taken out of the trap of moneylenders and now they are highly motivated and is depended on self sustainability. They receive some support from JTDS and are now able to save money for their future stability. They are now also getting in the habit of storing much and much of seeds for next year cultivation.

Changes observed after JTDS Intervention

JTDS tried to intervene in the areas which were mostly vulnerable villages. Change is not a sudden act it develops with time and continuous mobilization. JTDS working for the PVTG's since last 7 years, it has intervened in various areas which was very difficult to work on. This population is placed in the interiors with no basic amenities. With the course of time people living in this are habituated with their living style. They cannot communicate with others with much of confidence; neither can they trust on outsiders. A feeling of fear develops in their mind of what must be the motive behind the visit of outsiders. It also becomes very difficult to communicate with them as they are not use to such kind of conversations with strangers. Rapport Building with the community is the first most priority in the course of bringing an overall change. A feeling of trust is to be derived from the community that development is for them. Before intervention lot of problems and hurdles came which was learning for setting up further goals. During the phase of work for 7 years lot of hard work was initiated to develop a trust and confidence among the people. Now people are getting interested and feels that lot of change has been seen in the village. Village people says that previously they were afraid of talking to strangers and discuss their problems with others, but after understanding the work of JTDS they themselves are highly motivated and also motivates others to be a part of this work. After JTDS intervention the most important change brought was removal of intermediary (Money lenders) under barbatti cultivation, for which beneficiary are now able to save money and gets good amount of production. Secondly most of them are associated with Self help groups now, which is a boosting factor for them in order to be confident on saving money and taking loan for emergencies. They are also now able to plant more number of crops as they could get help in the form of seed money. Some of them uses their own money to buy seeds for doing agriculture of other crops. They are now becoming self sustained in order to bring sustainability in their life.

Findings of the Study

- » After major intervention of barbatti cultivation and removal of the intermediary (money lenders) people have been cultivating more amount of barbatti along with other crops in order to improve their nutritional diet.
- » Barbatti cultivation is being increasing as per the increasing interest of the people and they are trying to cultivate more amount of barbatti.
- » Majority of the beneficiaries use the technique of broadcasting as they say that in dibbling more of manpower is required and payment is also to be done and they don't get much number of manpower so broadcast it, though it is seen that while broadcasting lots of seeds are wasted in compared to the method of dibbling it.
- » The production is also increasing as people are getting more interested towards the work and getting more benefits but in some cases production is very less due to major interferences of the animals in the field.
- » After getting a good proportion of production people are getting in habit to sell out the seeds but mostly they try to keep for the next year which increases the chance of more production with adequate conditions.
- » Due to lack of proper marketing channels they have to sell the seeds in the village at lower rates as compared to that in the market.
- » As people get some extra money by selling of the seeds they try to keep some part of it in bank and try to buy household consumption goods for family support.

Way Forward

Under Barbatti cultivation though lot of change has been brought but still some scope of work can be further done. Though people are having a large quantity of barbatti seeds production and they are now getting into the habits of selling the seeds in market and most of them selling to a businessman who comes in the village to buy the seeds at lower rates compared to the market rate. The reason that most of them sell in the village is the distance and improper transportation facility to the market, so they think to sell it at lesser price in the village. There is a much scope seen in marketing of the barbatti seeds and provide with better returns to the beneficiaries. It would also help to popularize the demand of barbatti seeds overall. As people would get the good variety of seeds and know about the benefits of the its consumption demand will increase leading to more production and developing a better market for buying and selling. The buying and selling of the seeds can be monitored through Self help groups and Youth groups.

Apart from this proper packaging and selling channels can also be initiated for making it a fruitful business further better sustainable outcome.





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