

Socio-Economic Study of Chamba Gujjars



R. Swarup

Ranveer Singh

C. S. Vaidya

Y329G:1-6.242.N8
M4
205C06

AGRO ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE
(For Western Himalayan Region)
Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla-5 (INDIA)
July 1984

AGRO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE at the Himachal Pradesh University was established by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India to carry out research and investigation in the field of agricultural economics in the Western Himalayan Region consisting of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and U. P. Hills. After the initiation of the era of planned development in India, need was felt for carrying out studies for proper understanding of the changes occurring in the structure and functioning of village economy and other specific problems arising from time to time. With this background Agro-Economic Research Centres were established in various agro-climatic regions of the country. The broad functions assigned to this Centre are :

- i) to make a study of changes in rural economy by means of survey of a number of selected villages each year and resurvey of the same group of villages at an interval of say, five years;
- ii) to conduct ad-hoc investigations into problems of interest to the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India;
- iii) to carry on research work on fundamental problems relating to agricultural economics of the country; and
- iv) to give technical advice to the Government of India and concerned State Government on such issues as, with mutual agreement, may be referred to the Centre.

Enquiries be addressed to :
Dr. R. Swarup
Agro-Economic Research Centre
H. P. University, Simla-171005
Phone : 3608 Cables : AGROCOST

Socio-Economic Study of Chamba Gùjjars

Dhananjayrao Gadgil Library



GIFE-PUNE-205006



R. Swarup

Ranveer Singh

C. S. Vaidya

AGRO ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE
(For Western Himalayan Region)
Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla-5 (INDIA)
July 1984



PREFACE

It is generally held that Gujarat was the original homeland of the Gujjars and that they came to Himachal Pradesh in search of pastures for their livestock. The Gujjars in Chamba were driven by the growing inadequacy of grazing resources in the neighbouring parts of Jammu & Kashmir. Muslim Gujjars in general are staunch believers in the teachings of the Prophet but are not fanatics. Their economic activities revolve round the buffaloes, though in the herd there is a sprinkling of other animals too. So far no economic studies have been conducted about these people and hence this task was taken up by this Centre.

Shri Ranveer Singh S.A. and Shri C.S. Vaidya S.A. of this Centre collected the necessary information for the study. For this they stayed in Maingal and had discussions with the people for the purpose. Our most sincere thanks are due to the people of Maingal who provided the much needed information gladly. Their hospitality will be remembered pleasantly for long. The help rendered by Tehsildar Shri T.R. Negi, Patwari Shri Dharan Chand, and Shri Suneet Singh, the local school Teacher is acknowledged.

Suggestions received for improving the study would be most welcome.

July, 84

Officer Incharge

CONTENTS

Chapter		Pages
I.	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1 -7
	- Introduction	1
	- Selection of the Village	4
	- Study Methods	5
	- Difficulties	6
II.	<u>THE VILLAGE</u>	8 -19
	- Location	8
	- History	9
	- Climate	10
	- School	11
	- Public Health	12
	- Transport and Communication	13
	- Market	14
	- Veterinary Dispensary	15
	- Bank	15
	- Post Office	16
	- Religious Institutions	16
	- Electricity	16
	- Drinking Water	17
	- Village Panchayat	17
	- Gurdial Gujjar Milk Producers' Cooperative Society.	18
III.	<u>THE PEOPLE</u>	20 -32
	- Origin of Gujjars	20
	- Religion	21

	- Housing	22
	- Dress	23
	- Modern Durable	25
	- Food and Drink	28
	- Birth Customs	29
	- Marriage Customs	30
IV.	<u>DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE</u>	33 -45
	- Family Composition	33
	- Sex Ratio	34
	- Age Composition	35
	- Literacy	39
	- Workers and non-workers	43
V.	<u>VILLAGE ECONOMY</u>	46 -57
	- Occupational Pattern	46
	- Source of Family Income	48
	- Income of the Households	50
	- Indebtedness	53
VI.	<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	58 -77
	- Land Utilization Pattern of the village	58
	- Land Utilization by the Villagers	60
	- Cropping Pattern	62
	- Crop Rotation	65
	- Cropping Intensity	66
	- Yield Rates	68

-	Production Pattern of Different Crops in the Village	68
-	Use of Improved Inputs	70
-	Agricultural Implements	73
-	Calendar of Agricultural Operation	73
-	Storage	77
-	Marketing of Produce	77
VII.	<u>ANIMAL HUSBANDRY</u>	78 -106
-	Composition of Livestocks	78
-	Pressure of Livestocks	80
-	Breeding of Cattle and Buffaloes	82
-	Feeding	85
-	Housing	87
-	Veterinary Treatment	88
-	Subsidy on Livestock	89
-	Milk Yield	89
-	Production and Utilization of Milk and Milk Products	91
-	Marketing of Milk	94
-	Milk Products	96
-	- Ghee	96
-	- Khoya	98
-	Sheep Rearing	99
-	- Feeding of Sheep	101
-	- Shearing of Wool	101
-	- Wool	102

	- Skins	104
	- Mutton	104
	- Breeding	105
	- Goats	105
	- Poultry Keeping	106
VIII.	<u>MIGRATION</u>	107-110
	- Introduction	107
	- Causes and Places Visited	108
	- Articles Taken Along	109
	- Difficulties	109
	- Sale and Purchase of Livestock	110
IX.	<u>SUMMARY</u>	111-118

TABLE

No.		Pages
3.1	Use of modern durables in the village.	27
4.1	Age Composition of village population (1984).	36
4.2	Demographic Profile of the village (1984).	41
4.3	Distribution of literate population according to different age groups (1984).	42
4.4	Workers and non-workers in the village (1984).	44
5.1	Occupational Pattern of workers in the village (1984).	47
5.2	Per household employment pattern of workers in different activities,	49
5.3	Income from different sources in the village during 1982-83.	51
5.4	Indebtedness by causes in Maingal during 1961.	54
5.5	Amount borrowed from various sources by Gujjars for different purposes during 1984.	56
6.1	Land utilization pattern in Maingal.	59
6.2	Land utilization by villagers in Maingal during 1982-83.	61
6.3	Cropping pattern in the village.	64
6.4	Cropping pattern by villager in Maingal during 1982-83.	67
6.5	Productivity of different crops in village during 1982-83.	69
6.6	Production of different crops in the village during 1982-83.	71
6.7	Use of fertilizer by villagers in Maingal during 1982-83.	72
6.8	Agricultural implements in the village during 1984.	74
6.9.	Calendar of Agricultural operations.	76

7.1	Composition of livestock population in Maingal (1961 and 1984).	79
7.2	Proportion of different livestock (in standard cow unit) to total livestock in Maingal.	83
7.3	Livestock pressure in Maingal.	83
7.4	Number of Gujjar households according to land holding and Buffaloes possessed.	84
7.5	Subsidy availed by Gujjars on purchases of livestock.	90
7.6	Production and utilization of milk and milk products in Maingal during 1982-83.	92
7.7	Distribution of households according to utilization pattern of milk and milk products.	95
7.8	Utilization pattern of wool and eggs in village during 1982-83.	103

DIAGRAMMES

	Pages
1. LIFE TABLE POPULATION OF MAINGAL BY AGE AND SEX	37
2. DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF PER CAPITA INCOME (RS./ ANNUM) IN MAINGAL DURING 1982-83	52
3. UTILIZATION PATTERN OF MILK IN THE VILLAGE	93