

Chapter-4

The Setting

The setting for any research presents a set-up within which research subjects dwell, behave, interact and display. Every setting is basically an ecological framework, having both structural and functional dialectics.. Unless we elucidate the setting properly, our research process has to face both inadequacy and errors.....

In any social science research, it is hardly possible to conceptualize and perceive the data and interpret the data more accurately until and unless a clear understanding of the characteristics in the area and attitude or behavior of people is at command of the interpreter who intends to unveil an understanding of the implications and behavioral complexes of the individuals who live in the area under reference and from a representative part of the larger community. The socio demographic background of the local people in a rural setting has been critically administered in this chapter. A research setting is a surrounding in which inputs and elements of research are contextually imbibed, interactive and mutually contributive to the system performance. Research setting is immensely important in the sense because it is characterizing and influencing the interplays of different factors and components. Thus, a study on Perception of Farmer about the issues of Persuasive certainly demands a local unique with natural set up,

demography, crop ecology, institutional set up and other socio cultural milieus. It comprises of two types of research setting viz. Macro research setting and Micro research setting.

Macro research setting encompasses the state as a whole, whereas micro research setting starts off from the boundaries of the chosen districts to the block or village periphery. The notion behind this form of presentation is to internalize the study environment in terms of broader perspectives with state as reference frame and district, block profile as units for in-depth study.

The present study was taken up at the Ghegirghat village, at Coochbehar Sadar Block-1, Karola village, at Dinhata -2 Block in Coochbehar district of West Bengal. A brief description of the Coochbehar district in general and the block and village in particular is given below.

Area of study

The area of investigation of this study is situated in the state of West Bengal located in the north-eastern part of India. The state of West Bengal has a unique social, cultural and ecological background, which influences the living standard and behavioural patterns of the people in many ways. The area of investigation belongs to Deonhat Gram Panchayat of Coochbehar Sadar Block-1, Nayarhat Gobarachara Gram Panchayat of Dinhata-2 Block of Coochbehar district. The study was conducted in Ghegirghat and Karola village.

Profile of the State West Bengal

West Bengal was created as a one of the constituent state of the Indian union among the 29th states in India on 15th August, 1947 as the result of

partition of the undivided British Indian province of Bengal into West Bengal. West Bengal is situated in the northeastern part of India and lies between 21°37'-27°10' north latitude and 85°51'- 89°53' east longitude.

It is flanked by the Bay of Bengal on the South, Sikkim on the north, Assam on the east and Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa on the west. It also has common borders with the three neighbouring countries viz. Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Bangladesh in the east. The tropic of cancer runs across the middle of the state and passes through four districts viz. Bankura, Burdwan, Nadia and Purulia. The state has a total geographical area of 88,752 sq. km. representing only 2.7% of the total area of India. It is territorially divided into 19 districts like Coochbehar, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Hoogly, Howrah, Nadia, Birbhum, Burdwan, Bankura, Purulia, 24 Pargana(N), 24 Pargana(S), Purba Midnapur, Pashim Midnapur and Kolkata. There are more than 341 Community Development blocks in West Bengal. There are 3354 Gram Panchayats and more than 42000 villages in West Bengal.

In 1947, when India became independent Bengal was partitioned between India and Pakistan. India's share came to be known as West Bengal and Pakistan's share was called East Pakistan. Later, the state of Cooch Behar, French enclave of Chandranagore and some parts of Bihar were added to West Bengal. Bengal represents the lands that possess a distinct culture with its indigenous art and crafts and make it an important part of the Indian Union.

General Information of West Bengal

Total population	91,347,736
Male	46,927,389
Female	44,420,347
Population growth	13.93%
Sex ratio	947
Population density	1029/ km ²
Literacy rate	77.08%
Male	82.67%
Female	71.16%

No. of Sub divisions	66
No of Blocks	341
No of Gram Panchayats	3354
Inhabited Villages	37945
Area (Sq. Km.)	88752
% of Electrified Villages	83.6

Climate of the state

In terms of the standard climate types, tropical climate viz. humid, sub humid, semi arid and arid occurs over different regions of the state. Its climate is very much influenced by monsoon rains which, in turn are of two types (I) South-West monsoon during the rainy season and (II) North-East

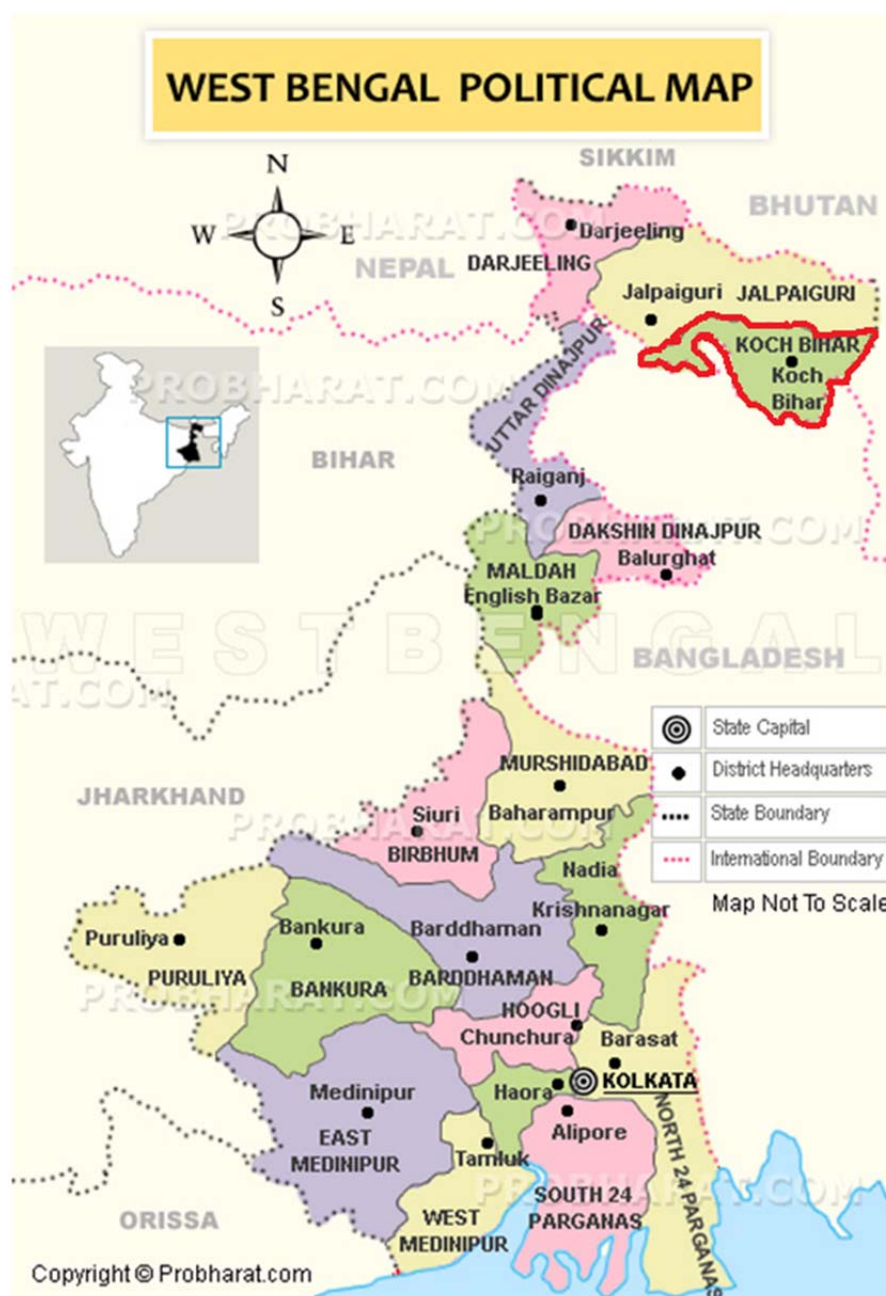
monsoon during the winter season. Rainfall in West Bengal averages about 1750 mm, ranging from 2500 to 3500 mm in Dooars and Tarai regions to 1200 to 1800 mm in the plains. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded during March to October are 30-40°C and 16-26°C respectively in the plains while in the hills these are 15-20°C.

Land holding status in West Bengal

According to 1991 census the total number of farmers is 65.47 lakh, out of which 76.42 per cent is marginal former, 16.81 per cent is small former and 0.02 per cent is big former. The per capita land is 0.13 ha and average holding size is 0.90 ha.

Land use pattern in West Bengal

Geographical area (million hectare)	8.86
Net cropped area (million hectare)	5.46
Gross cropped area (million hectare)	9.23
Cropping, intensity (%)	165.34
Forest area (%)	13.72
Non agricultural use (%)	18.66
Barren and Uncultivable (%)	0.35
Fallow land (%)	0.3



Map 1: District Map of West Bengal

Profile of Coochbehar District

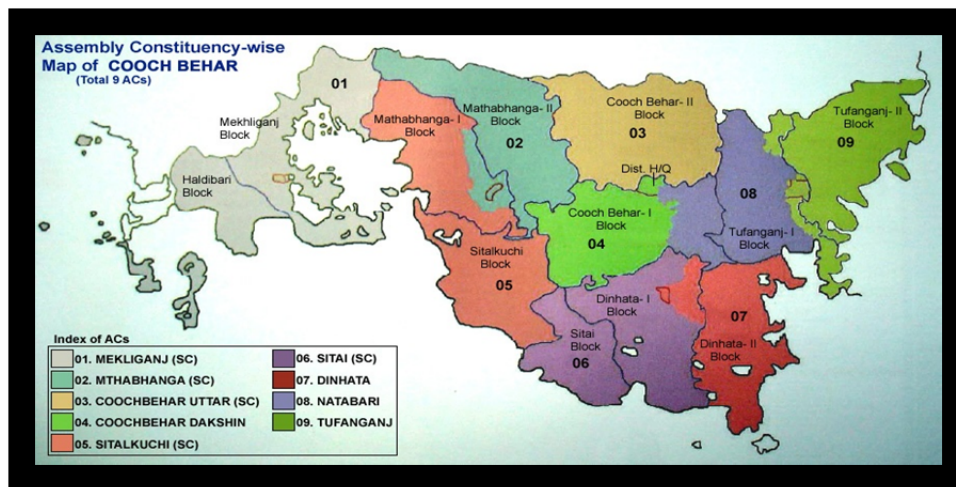
The name "Cooch-Behar" is derived from the name of the Koch Rajbongshi tribe that is indigenous to this area. During the British Raj, the town of Cooch Behar was the seat of a princely state of Koch Bihar, ruled by the Koch dynasty.

Description of the District:



Description of the District:

Total Geographical Area	: 3,38,700 Ha
Net Area for cultivation	: 2,46,491 Ha
Cropping intensity	: 215 %
Single cropped area	: 24,900 Ha
Double cropped area	: 1,41,491 Ha
Triple cropped area	: 80,100 Ha
Irrigated area	: 35%



Cooch Behar is a district under the Jalpaiguri Division of the state of West Bengal. Cooch Behar is located in the northeastern part of the state and bounded by the district of Jalpaiguri in the north, Jalpaiguri, Assam and Republic of Bangladesh. This district contains 12 blocks 128 Cooch Behar is a northern district of West Bengal. It is surrounded by the district Gram panchayats and 1188 villages. The main river is Teesta and the main crops are rice, wheat, jute and mustard. This district is familiar in vegetables and fruit production through the year. The total area of Cooch Behar is 3, 31,566 ha.

According to 2011 census, the population is 2,819,086 comprising 14,51,542 males and 13,67,544 females. Population density 832 per sq. k.m. Literacy rate is 74.78%.

In Cooch Behar the total cultivate area is 264984ha (79.92% of the total area) and the forest area is 4256ha (1.28 of the total area.) and the rest area is not under cultivation but excluding forest, i.e. 6232ha (18.80% of the total area.) In this district the total cultivation no. is 290047 (male 259458 and female-30589) and the no. of marginal cultivator is 71217 (male-17369 and female-53848).

The birth rate of this district (per 1000 population) is 20.60. The couple protection rate is 62. The death and infant mortality rate is 7.10 and 50 respectively. The health condition is maintained by one district hospital, four sub divisional hospitals and 12 block primary Health centre.

The district comprise of 12 blocks viz. Cooch Behar-I, Cooch Behar-II, Dinhata-I, Dinhata-II, Haldibari, Mathabhanga-I, Mathabhanga-II, Sitai, Sitalkuchi, Tufangange-I, Tufangange-II.

Soil:

Being the district near the Eastern Himalayan foothills, after rains in the catchment area of each of the rivers generally attain strong current and flood the adjacent area. The turbulent water carries sand, silt, pebbles which causes many problems in productivity as well as hydrology. The soil is formed by alluvial deposits and is acidic in nature. It is friable loam to sandy loam ranging in depth from 0.15 to 1 meter. The soil has a low level of nitrogen while potassium and phosphorus levels are medium. Deficiency of zinc, calcium, magnesium and sulphur is quite high.

Rivers and Topography

Cooch Behar is a flat country with a slight southeastern slope along which the main rivers of the district flow. Most of the highland areas are in the Sitalkuchi region and most of the low-lying lands lie in Dinhata region.

The rivers in the district of Cooch Behar generally flow from northwest to southeast. Six rivers that cut through the district are the Teesta, Jaldhaka, Torsha, Kaljani, Raidak, Gadadhar and Ghargharia.

Climate

The district of Cooch Behar has a moderate type of climate characterised by heavy rainfall during the monsoon and slight rainfall in the month of October to mid-November. The district does not have high temperatures at any time of the year. The summer season is from April to May with April being the hottest month with mean daily maximum of 32.5 °C and mean daily minimum of 20.2 °C. The winter season lasts from late November to February, with January being the coldest month with temperature ranging

from 10.4 °C to 24.1 °C. The recorded temperature minimum is 3.9 °C and respective recorded maximum is 39.9 °C. The atmosphere is highly humid throughout the year, except the period from February to May, when the relative humidity is as low as 50 to 70%. The rainy season lasts from June to September. The district's average annual rainfall is 3201 mm.

Agriculture

The agricultural area of Cooch Behar is 2530.63 square kilometers. The dominant agricultural products of Cooch Behar district are jute and tobacco. Paddy rice is also grown before and after the rainy season. Common plantation crops are areca nut, coconut and black pepper. Vegetable, mustard plant, and potato cultivation are increasing. In order to support agriculture, special programs have been taken for the production of sunflowers, maize and groundnuts.

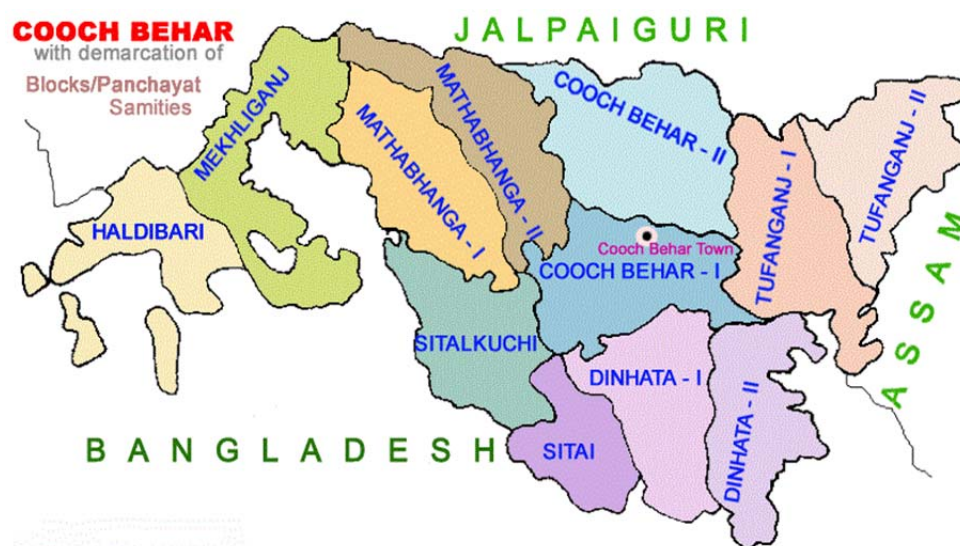


Fig. 2: Map of Cooch Behar district with block demarcation

Revolutionary methods are being used in Boro paddy and potato cultivation. But due to no adoption of modern technology, a large number of farmers still depend on traditional technology. Only 33% of the potentially cultivable land is developed for irrigation. In Kharif, the area of production of vegetables and other crops is much less.

Profile of Coochbehar Sadar Block-1

Cooch Behar Sadar subdivision is a subdivision of the Cooch Behar district in the state of West Bengal, India. It consists of Cooch Behar municipality and two community development blocs: Cooch Behar–I and Cooch Behar–II. The two blocks contain 28 gram panchayats and three census towns. The subdivision has its headquarters at Cooch Behar.

Rural area under Cooch Behar–I block consists of 15 gram panchayats, viz. Chandamari, Falimari, Haribhanga, Patchhara, Chilkirhat, Ghughumari, Jiranpur, Putimari–Fuleswari, Dauaguri, Guriahati–I, Moyamari, Deoanhat, Guriahati–II, Panisala and Sutkabari. Urban area under this block comprises two census towns: Kharimala, Khagrabari and Guriahati. Cooch Behar police station serves this block. Headquarters of this block is in Ghughumari.

Geography

- a. Total Area : 362.42 sq. km.
- b. Rural Area : 353.52 sq. km, Urban Area : 8.90 sq. km.
- c. Geographical boundaries/borders
- d. Agricultural Land : 23,899 ha (cultivable)
- e. Forest area

Gram Panchayats**Total number of GPs: 15**

Sl. No	GP NAME
1	CHANDAMARI
2	CHILKIRHAT
3	DAWAGURI
4	DEWANHAT
5	FALIMARI
6	GHUGHUMARI
7	GURIAHATI - I
8	GURIAHATI - II
9	HARIBHANGA
10	JIRANPUR
11	MOAMARI
12	PANISHALA
13	PATCHHARA
14	PUTIMARI FULESWARI
15	SUKTABARI

Economy - Main source of income are:

1. Agriculture-

- a) Total Area available for cultivation : 23,899 hectare.
- b) Means of Irrigation : R.L.I. - 7, deep tube well - 10, shallow tube well – 1107.
- c) Types of Crops
- d) Crop Pattern
- e) Per-capita food grain production

2. Industry-

- a) Type of Industry
- b) Scale of Production
- c) Market Share.

3. Other means of Income Generation (like animal resource farming, dairy, fishery, etc.)

Population

Population	2,84,564
Male	1,46,298
Female	1,38,266
% of literacy	67.98%
% of male literacy	66.41%
% of female literacy	82.60%

Educational facilities and health facilities

No. of Primary School	15
No. of Secondary School	1
No. of Higher Secondary School	9
No. of Colleges	5
No. of Library	3
Govt Hospital	1
Govt Health Centre	3
Govt. Clinic	5
Dispensaries	50

Profile of Dinhata-2 block

Rural area under Dinhata–II block consists of 12 gram panchayats, viz. Bamanhat–I, Burirhat–II, KishamatDasgram, Sukarukuthi, Bamanhat–II, Chowdhurihat, Najirhat–I, Barasakdal, GobraChhara Nayarhat, Najirhat–II, Burirhat–I and Sahebganj. There is no urban area under this block. Dinhata police station serves this block. Headquarters of this block is in Sahebganj.

Geography

a. Total Area : 103.30 sq. km.

Rural Area: 103.30sq. km, Urban Area : 0.00 sq. km.

b. Geographical boundaries/borders :

c. Agricultural Land : 18,626 ha (cultivable)

d. Climate :

e .Forest area

Gram Panchayats

Sl. No	GP NAME
7	GOBRACHHARA NAYARHAT
8	KISMAT DASGRAM
9	NAZIRHAT - I
10	NAZIRHAT - II
11	SAHEBGANJ
12	SUKARURKUTHI

Total no. of GPs: 12

Sl. No	GP NAME
1	BAMANHAT - I
2	BAMANHAT - II
3	BARA SAKDAL
4	BURIRHAT - I
5	BURIRHAT - II
6	CHOWDHURYHAT

Economy - Main source of income are:

1. Agriculture-

a) Total Area available for cultivation: 18,626 hectare.

b) Means of Irrigation: R.L.I. - 18, deep tube well - 8, shallow tube well – 1290.

c) Types of Crops, d) Crop pattern.

2.Industry-

a) Type of Industry

b) Scale of Production

c) Market Share

3. Other means of Income Generation (like animal resource farming, dairy, fishery, etc.)

Educational facilities and health facilities

No. of primary schools	22
No. of secondary school	4
No. of higher secondary school	2
Govt. Health centre	5
Dispensaries	18

Population

Population	2,05,391
Male	1,04,443
Female	1,00,948
% of literacy	66.57%
% of male literacy	76.40%
% of female literacy	56.37%

Dinhata - II Block

