

Description of Agro-Climatic Zone and farming situation of the district:

The salient information with regards to demographic features including land use pattern, area under principle crops, size of operational holding, etc. of the district is given in the table underneath.

District at a glance:

a. Longitude		89°54'35" to 88°47'44" E	
b. Latitude		25°57'47" to 26°36'02" N	
c. Land use pattern		Area	
1. Geographical area		3387 sq.kms	
2. Agricultural area			
3. Forest		111.16 ('000 ha)/ 2530 sq.kms	
4. Current fallow			
5. Other fallow		3.15 ('000 ha)/ 56.99 sq. kms	
6. Net irrigated area		2.90 ('000 ha)	
		0.34 ('000 ha)	
		26.00 ('000 ha)	
d. Area, production and productivity of principal crops			
Crop	Area (ha)	Production (q)	Productivity (q/ha)
Aus Paddy	52000	1417170	27.25
Aman Paddy	215000	5267500	24.50
Jute	60000	1080000	18.00
Boro Paddy	38000	1085280	28.56
Wheat	10600	349800	33.00
Winter Potato	50000	13750000	275.00
Tobacco			
a) Rustica	11050	122650	11.10
b) Viginia	1000	15500	15.50
Rabi Maize	6500	484000	80.00
Oilseed			
a) Mustard	40000	400000	10.00

b) Linseed	1450	9425	6.50
c) Niger	1900	14440	7.60
d) Groundnut	200	200	0.10
Crop	Area (ha)	Production (q)	Productivity (q/ha)
Pulses			
a) Arhar (Tur)	100	900	9.00
b) Rabi Mung	200	1500	7.50
c) Summer Mung	160	720	4.50
d) Rabi Mash	3500	26250	7.50
e) Musur (Lentil)	2300	13800	6.00
f) Khesari	2700	22950	8.50
g) Motor (Pea)	600	3600	6.00
h) Kulthi	60	390	6.50
Sugarcane	155	99200	640.00
Winter Vegetables	25000	275000	110.00
Chili	8000	1200000	150.00
Ginger	550	14850	27.00

Demographic statistics (2001)

i) **Total Household : 5, 17, 878** (as per 2001 census)

Rural :	4, 70, 336	Urban :	47, 542
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ii) **Total Population : 24, 79, 155** (as per 2001 census)

	Male	Female	Total (Rural/Urban)
Rural :	11, 57, 241	10, 96, 296	22, 53, 537 (90.9%)
Urban :	1, 14, 853	1, 10, 765	2, 25, 618 (9.1%)
Total :	12, 72, 094	12, 07, 061	24, 79, 155

Sex Ratio (no. of females per 1000 males) - Urban : 964, Total : 949
Density of population : 732 per sq. km. (approx.)

iii) Child population (0 - 6 years) :

	Male	Female	Total (Rural/Urban)
Rural :	1, 85, 436	1, 78, 667	3, 64, 103 (16.16%)
Urban :	11, 682	11,345	23, 027 (10.21%)
Total :	1, 97, 118	1, 90, 012	3, 87, 130

Child Sex Ratio (no. of girls per 1000 boys) - Urban : 971, Total : 964

Child population percentage (0 - 6 years) in comparison to the Total population :- 15.62%

iv) Caste wise breakup of population :

	Scheduled Caste (SC)			Scheduled Tribe (ST)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rural :	6, 13, 853	5, 83, 596	11, 97, 449 (53.1%)	6, 855	6, 281	13, 136 (0.58%)
Urban :	22, 593	22, 332	44, 925 (19.9%)	570	540	1, 110 (0.49%)
Total :	6, 36, 446	6, 05, 928	12, 42, 374 (50.1%)	7, 425	6, 821	14, 246 (0.58%)

v) Industry :

Agro-based Industries	Existing	Proposed

1. Cold Storage	5	-
2. Fruit Processing Unit	2	1
3. Jute Processing	2	3*
4. Oil Extraction	20	2
5. Mini Rice Mill/Paddy Husking	189	20
* One under Large/Medium Sector		

vi) Statistics on type of workers:

	Workers			Non-Workers		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rural :	6, 38, 059	2, 55, 252	8, 93, 311	5, 19, 182	8, 41, 044	13, 60, 226
Urban :	60, 491	12, 903	73, 394	54, 362	97, 862	1, 52, 224
Total :	6, 98, 550	2, 68, 155	9, 66, 705	5, 73, 544	9, 38, 906	15, 12, 450

		Male	Female	Total (Rural/Urban)
Main Workers	Rural :	5, 82, 198	1, 03, 547	6, 85, 745
	Urban :	57, 593	10, 973	68, 566
	Total :	6, 39, 791	1, 14, 520	7, 54, 311
Main Cultivators	Rural :	2, 59, 277	30, 577	2, 89, 854
	Urban :	676	68	744
	Total :	2, 59, 953	30, 645	2, 90, 598
Main Agricultural Labourers	Rural :	1, 45, 990	41, 532	1, 87, 522
	Urban :	750	128	878
	Total :	1, 46, 740	41, 660	1, 88, 400
Main Household Industrial Workers	Rural :	14, 746	11, 788	26, 534
	Urban :	1, 499	1, 138	2, 637
	Total :	16, 245	12, 926	29, 171
Main Other Workers	Rural :	1, 62, 185	19, 650	1, 81, 835
	Urban :	54, 668	9, 639	64, 307
	Total :	2, 16, 853	29, 289	2, 46, 142
Marginal Labour/workers:				
Marginal Workers	Rural :	55, 861	1, 51, 705	2, 07, 566
	Urban :	2, 898	1, 930	4, 828
	Total :	58, 759	1, 53, 635	2, 12, 394

Marginal Cultivators	Rural :	17,360	53,846	71,206
	Urban :	26	10	36
	Total :	17,386	53,856	71,242
Marginal Agricultural Labours	Rural :	23,243	73,466	96,709
	Urban :	221	96	317
	Total :	23,464	73,562	97,026
Marginal Household Industrial Workers	Rural :	1,509	7,984	9,493
	Urban :	139	452	591
	Total :	1,648	8,436	10,084
Marginal Other Workers	Rural :	13,749	16,409	30,158
	Urban :	2,512	1,372	3,884
	Total :	16,261	17,781	34,042

vii) Educational facilities:

Primary Schools	- 1905	Engineering/Technical Schools	- 3
High Schools	- 340	Professional & Tech. Schools	- 16
Higher Secondary	- 135	General College	- 13
No. of SSK	- 696	Blind School	- 1
No. of MSK	- 117	Libraries	- 110
University	- 2 (Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Manishi Panchanan Barma University)		

viii) Literacy Status:

	Literacy			Illiteracy		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Rural :	7,22,947	4,91,457	12,14,404	4,34,294	6,04,839	10,39,133
Urban :	93,249	79,312	1,72,561	21,604	31,453	53,057
Total :	8,16,196	5,70,769	13,86,965	4,55,898	6,36,292	10,92,190
Literacy Rate (excluding 0-6 years population) : 66.3 of which Male: 75.9 (Total), 90.4 (Urban)				[Illiteracy rate (excluding 0-6 years population) - %, of which Male - % &		

and Female : 56.1(Total), 79.8 (Urban)	Female - %]
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f. Local Government	
1. Blocks	12
2. Gram Panchayats	148
3. Municipalities	6
g. Size distribution of operational holding	
1. Marginal	320266
2. Small	81013
3. Semi-medium	35983
4. Medium	7900
5. Large	50
Total holder:	445212
Avg. size of holding (ha)	0.96

Edapho-climate: The district is located in the Sub-Himalayan plains and belonging to the Terai-Agro climatic zone of West Bengal. Out of 3345 sq. km geographical area of the district, 2353 sq km (70.3% of geographical area) is under cultivation. The district experiences a typical sub-tropical prehumid climate with high annual rainfall (higher than 3000 mm), high relative humidity (avg. max. & min. of 95 & 65%, respectively) and moderate temp. (avg. max. & min. of 31 and 11 °C, respectively). High ground water table vis-à-vis high residual soil moisture and the prolonged winter (extending from Nov. to March) are found to be favourable factors contributing to successful raising of a good number of Rabi crops even under late sown condition during winter months with or without irrigation. Despite the district is favourably exposed to rainfall the occasional short dry spell in salient growth stages (PI, Flowering, etc.) significantly affects the yields of rainfed crops in Kharif season, while occurrence of pre-monsoon showers with high intensity causing heavy yield loss of Pre-Kharif crops is also recorded. About 28% of net sown area of the district has been brought under irrigation while vast ground water resource is yet untapped.

Poor soil fertility as well as low productivity of farm-land, in general, is recognized as one of the major bio-physical constraints to increase the yield of the district. The soil developed on alluvial deposits under the influence of high rainfall and intense leaching are less weathered, coarse textured, poor in

water retention, low pH and CEC, high in Al saturation and are characterized by multiple nutrition deficiencies including some of the micronutrients (B, Mo, and Zn).

State of Agriculture: The crop production is the principal sector of the agricultural economy of Cooch Behar district. The allied activities like dairy and poultry enterprises are, however, found in some pockets. Despite notable increase in crop production in absolute terms over the last decade the crops economy of the district is still noted to have low growth status. The major cropping system in this district has been also summarized in table underneath.