# **Drought Assessment Report**

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#### **Introduction & Background Context**

Drought has been sweeping the Santhl Pargana Region of Jharkhad. The region has got less than 70 percent of its rainfall in this current year 2009, which has supported in declaration of drought hit state. The decision was taken at the meeting of the Advisory Council of the Governor.

Jharkhand is worst affected state where paddy sowing till August 20 is down by around 69% as compared to last year. The delayed monsoon and scanty rainfall has badly affected the crops in the region and disturbed the livelihood of the SCs, STs and other marginalized community groups. Large number of poor small & marginal farmer has not sown the crop. More than 60 percent farms were left unsown in this year bringing down food grain production by 50 percent. Many livestock had died and abandoned.

Water sources has been badly affected and it is hoped that ground water level depleted fast with less availability of surface water for recharging. The drought condition has adversely affected the irrigation facilities in the region.

In this drought condition the poor people have hope from the social security schemes and other drought-proofing programme in the areas, but the so-called food entitlement schemes and social security schemes are in total disarray in the region. BPL, Annatodaya card are not sufficient for properly serving to cardholders for their social security schemes and food entitlements.

The region is experiencing complex situation as the systems has been failed. The education, health, agricultural, banking, etc has been paralysed. Even the NREGA programme is not effectively reaching among the community groups in this drought condition. The government is claiming for success but at ground level MGNREGA is not reaching among the poor community groups. Provisions have been declared as drought measures but its implementation status is very poor. Hardly the poorest community groups belong to SCs and STs are getting benefits from the drought proofing programme or any kind of drought declaration packages for the community members.

Drought has badly affected the livelihood of the community groups and in absences of the source of livelihood the poorest especially SCs and STs community groups are forced to migrate and bond to take debt from local moneylender.

In the awake of drought, SATHEE with the support of Action Aid has conducted a drought assessment study in 40 villages of three gram panchayats of three blocks of two districts i.e. Godda & Pakur district of Sabnthal Pargana region of Jharkhand. The study has captured the status of livelihood as major component of the study followed by government roles in addressing the drought situation in the areas. The purpose of the study is to assess the present status of drought in the lives of the community members and work out future course of intervention for addressing the need of the poorest and socially excluded community groups with focus on SCs and STs Community groups.

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# 1. Coverage of the Study

The study was done in 40 villages, in which 20 villages was covered from Dumaria Gram Panchayat of Boarijore block of Godda, 10 villages of Barapaktari gram panchayat of Sundarpahari block of Godda district and 10 villages was covered from Sonadhuni Gram Panchayat of Littipara block of Pakuer district of Jharkhand.

Table 1 - Coverage of the Study

Name of the District	Name of the Block	Name of the Gram Panchayat	Number of Villages
Godda	Boarijore	Dumaria	1. Sundai
			2. Baramaalbhita
			3. Chotasunni
			4. Baandgorha
			5. Chotamaalbhita
			6. Dolna Pahar
			7. Chota Pipra
			8. Tekrigora
			9. Badaamra
			10. Agaiya
			11. Satbera
			12. Chotaamra
			13. Chotachapri
			14. Badachapri
			15. Baasdanda
			16. Bangrutola
			17. Barasuni
			18. Bara Bararu
			19. Tetrigora
			20. Tetardiha
dda	Sundarpahari	Barapaktari	1. Ghagri
			2. Garhyama
			3. Chamdande
			4. Telo
			5. Naathgora
			6. Barapalma
			7. Barataakpara
			8. Taasgama
		THE PARTY NAMED IN	9. Garhsinghla
		PERSONAL PROPERTY AND INCOME.	10. Chebo
ır	Littipara	Sonadhuni	1. Kisbhitha
			2. Sonadhuni
			3. Dhaunigorha
		TENNE THE BUILDING	4. Jojobasti
		The probability that	5. Patwara
			6. Tetultola
			7. Jamboo Kuria
			8. Mukri Pahar
			9. Jhirikbhitha
BERNESS E			10. Baasjori

#### 2. Demographic Profile of Village...

Total 1404 STs households have been covered for the study. The details demographic have been presented below in table 2.

Table 2 - Demographic Profile of Covered Villages

Social Group	No c Families	of Population			
		0-6 yrs	6-14 yrs	15+	Total
STs	1404	1212	1504	4019	6986

Table 2.1 - Demographic Profile of Boarijore Block

Social Group	No Families	of Population			
		0-6 yrs	6-14 yrs	15+	Total
STs	606	554	735	1950	3256

Table 2.2 - Demographic Profile of Sundarpahari block

Social Group	No Families	of Population			
		0-6 yrs	6-14 yrs	15+	Total
STs	381	327	370	810	1535

Table 2.3 – Demographic Profile of Littipara Block

Social Group	No Families	of Population			
		0-6 yrs	6-14 yrs	15+	Total
STs	417	331	399	1259	2195

# 3. Findings of the Study...

# 3.I. Livelihood Profile of the Respondents

The community groups in the propose region are mainly dependent on agriculture or agroculture based wage work as their important means of the livelihood. Data Reveals that total 1307 STs families are managing their livelihood by own land cultivation, 65 STs families are managing their livelihood by share cropper, 574 STs families are managing their livelihood by doing agriculture wage work, 179 STs families are managing their livelihood by Animal husbandry and 58 STs families are managing their livelihood through other means of livelihood. The status has been presented in table 3.

Table 3 - Livelihood Profile of the Respondents

Social Groups	Own Land Cultivation	Share cropper	Ag Labour	Only Animal Husbandry	Others
STs	1307	65	574	179	58

Table 3.1 - Livelihood Profile of the Respondents of Boarijore Block

Social Groups	Own Land Cultivation		Ag Labour	Only Animal Husbandry	Others
STs	560	26	294	71	58

Table 3.2 - Livelihood Profile of the Respondents of Sundarpahari block

Social Groups	Own Land Cultivation		Ag Labour	Only Animal Husbandary	other
STs	381	3	105		

Table 3.3 - Livelihood Profile of the Respondents of Littipara block

Social Groups	Own Land Cultivation	Share cropper	Ag Labour	Only Animal Husbandry	other
STs	366	36	175	108	

Analysis – The present drought has badly affected the means of the livelihood of the STs community groups. Their agriculture-based livelihood has been badly affected, which also reduced the scope of wage work opportunities in the agriculture due to failure of the monsoon. Even the community livestock rearing based economy has been also badly affected due to non-availability of fodder for their livestock. In general, the study reveals that the agriculture-based livelihood has been worst affected due to present drought, which need serious intervention in the interst of STs community groups.

# 3.II. Block Wise Average Rainfall

Data reveals that average days of raining between June to September 2009 was between 10 to 40 days only.

Table 4

Name of the Block	Average days of Rainfall between June - September 2009
1. Boarijore	10 -40 days
2. Sundarpahari	30-40 days
3. Littipara	25-30 days

Analysis - Information clearly indicate that low average rainfall and average days of rainfall in fourth month duration in comparison with last year was less. It

again disturbed the agriculture and farming of the poor, small & marginal farmers badly.

### 3.III. Crop Situation in the villages

Respondents' reveals that total agricultural land in the 40 villages is approx 14417 bigha. Kharif cultivation was generally sown the areas of 3556 bigha of land but in this year 2009 only 2356 bigha of land was used for Kharif cultivation. The crop loss was happened in the approx agriculture land are of 4164 bigha in the year 2009. Status of the agriculture land has been presented in below table 5.

Table 5 - Crop Situation in the village

Particulars	Acres
Total agriculture land	14417
Kharif Cultivable areas	3556
Shown area in Kharif 2009	2356
Crop Loss	4164

Analysis – data reflects that community members have faced the problems of crop loss due to drought 2009. The community members have also not sown the kharif crop in all the cultivable areas due to drought.

Table 5.1 - Crop Situation in the villages of Boarijore block

Particulars	Acres
Total agriculture land	5118
Kharif Cultivable areas	1999
Shown area in Kharif 2009	1221
Crop Loss	2940

Table 5.2 - Crop Situation in the villages of Sundarpahari block

Particulars	Acres
Total agriculture land	2892
Kharif Cultivable areas	808
Shown area in Kharif 2009	578
Crop Loss	635

Table 5.3 - Crop Situation in the villages of Littipara block

Particulars	Acres
Total agriculture land	3407
Kharif Cultivable areas	749
Shown area in Kharif 2009	557
Crop Loss	589

## 3.IV. Status of Food Availability

Data reveals that out of total 206 families not able to manage their food during distressed period, where as 242 families mange their livelihood less than 15 days, 138 families manage their livelihood for up to one month, 136 families manage up to two months, 330 Families manage their livelihood up to three months and 112 families manage their livelihood more than three months. Social composition wise information has been presented in table 6.

Table 6 - Family wise Food Availability

Social Groups	No of Family	THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE	Available for < 15 days				
STs	1404	206	242	138	136	330	112

Analysis – Data indicates that food availability has been also affected due to low productivity in the current year. Food availability throughout the year for the STs community groups is not fulfilling and it become more challenging due to drought situation like the present year of drought year 2009.

Table 6.1 – Family wise Food Availability in Villages of Boariojore Block

Social Groups	No of Family		Available for < 15				
	E ARREST DE	AND SECTION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IN COLUMN	days				months
STs	606	160	180	97	76	66	61

Table 6.2 - Family wise Food Availability in Villages of Sundarpahari Block

Social Groups	No of Family	No availability	Available for < 15 days	Up to 1month	Up to 2 months	Up to 3 months	More than 3 months
STs	381	-			12	202	2

Table 6.3 - Family wise Food Availability in Villages of Littipara Block

Social Groups	No of Family	No availability	Available for < 15 days	Up to 1month	Up to 2 months	Up to 3 months	More than 3 months
STs	417	46	62	41	48	62	49

#### 3.V. Status of PDS

Respondents' reveals that PDS is not meeting their needs as per the provisions and even the eligibility is also not securing their entitlements of PDS. Data reflects that out of 1414 STs families, 233 have BPL card, 392 have Annatodaya card and 433 families have no rashan card. Details information has been presented below in table 7.

Table 7 - Status of PDS

Social Groups	No of family	APL	BPL	Antyodaya	No Ration
STs	1414		233	392	433

Analysis – PDS has been meant for the poor, but its operation and functional limitation in many ways divert the benefits among few community groups and poorest and marginalized still away from the benefits from the PDS. Even in the drought like situation PDS is not reaching among the poorest and marginalized eligible community groups. Still card holding status is not meant as per the community position and status. Sufficient numbers of families do not have any card, which clearly indicate the failure of the governance system in the areas in favor of STs Community groups.

Table 7.1 - Status of PDS in Villages of Boarijore block

Social Groups	No of family	APL	BPL	Antyodaya	No Ration
					Card
STs	616		201	116	298

Table 7.2 - Status of PDS in Villages of Sundapahari block

Social Groups	No of family	APL	BPL	Antyodaya	No Ration Card
STs	381			205	135

Table 7.3 - Status of PDS in Villages of Littipara block

Social Groups	No of family	APL	BPL.	Antyodaya	No Ration
STs	417		32	71	Card -

Other than this card status it came out openly during the study that benefits from the PDS is not regular and meeting the needs of the families. One side there is some anomalies in card entitlements, where as in another side distribution to card holders is not proper, which forced the community members to manage their food needs through debt. PDS shop is not opening regularly. Only few days in months rashan is available in the PDS shop. In many villages, PDS shop in not located in their villages.

#### 3.VI. Nutrition Support

Table 8 Status of AWC

Location of AWC	Within Village	Outside Village
Location of AWC	11	29
All the eligible children	No	No

		HILLS	Total Contract	200	11000		ш
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If no how many are enrolled

Enrollment status list are not proper as ICDS is not properly functioning - infants, adolescents, lactating mother are entitled to received benefits from ICDS

Analysis – in general condition AWC is not functional and operational and serving the entitlements of their eligible beneficiaries and this non-functionality aspect continue in the drought situation also. Data and information clearly indicates that AWC is not properly addressing the need of the nutrition support to the infants, adolescents, lactating and pregnant mother of the SCs, Sts and other marginalized community groups. The eligible beneficiaries has not been properly registered and getting the benefits from the AWC (ICDS centre). The service providers are not responsive and accountable in the benefits of the SCs, Sts and other marginalized community groups.

#### 3.VII. Employment Status

Table 9. Block Wise Employment Status

	Boarijore	Littipara	Sundarpahari
Number of adult worker in village	994	472	123
All the adult members willing to work are getting employment in village	No	No	No
If no how many are getting	Large numb	er of adults are	not
How many days are available in monthly	Average 7 –	12 days in a m	onth
Daily wage rate	Rs 40 - 70		
Earning of working members in sufficient to fulfill food requirements			nigrate or take debt
Earning is sufficient to fulfill all the requirements	No		
Children are compelled to work	Yes		

Analysis – though the quantitative information has not come out adequately from the study but observation and group interaction clearly reflecting that employment is major problems in general and particular in this kind of drought situation and STs and other vulnerable community groups. And failure of right to work specific schemes i.e. MGNREGA is another set back in the interest of the poorest community members.

#### 3.VIII. Migration Status

Drought has disturbed the economy of the households of the poorest & marginalized community groups. Data reflects that total 240 families migrated in the covered villages, where as 40 families has migrated with their families members. Information also reveals that total 89 families have first time migrated due to drought of year 2009.

Table 10 Block Wise Migration profiles of Families

Particulars	Boarijore	Sundarpahari	Littipara	Total
Total number of families migrated	112	36	92	240
All families members migrated	4	4	32	40
First time migrated due to recent drought	78	1	10	89
STs	606	381	117	

Analysis – Migration is generally done by the community members in absence of livelihood and employment opportunities in the villages. Non-productive agriculture (mismatch in input – output) activities also considered as one of the reason for migration. Recent drought has also become reasons for several families for opting migration to cities. There are approx 90 families in 40 villages, who have first time opted for migration due to drought.

#### 3.IX. Fodder Availability

Table 11. Block Wise Fodder Availability of the families

	Boarijore	Sundarpahari	Littipara	Total
Numbers of animals	3038	1096	607	4741
Numbers of families having animals	THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER, THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER.	280	275	1035
Availability of common grazing land	Yes	yes	Yes	
Availability of grass at common grazing land		No	No	
Availability of own grazing land		Yes	Yes	
	Families with No availability	Families with Partial availability 15 days	Families with Partial availability 1 months	Families with availability of 1-3 months
Boarijore	36	66	3	2
Sundarpahari	2	-		14
Littipara	2		4	14

Analysis – Livestock rearing is also source of livelihood and approx 4741 animals are available in 40 villages and nearly 1035 families are engaged in livestock rearing activities. But the current drought has generated problems of fodder availability among STs families. Grazing land is available in the villages but

fodder is not available in these common grazing lands. The community members are facing fodder scarcity. Approx 40 families do not have fodder, 66 families have partially available of fodder for 15 days and 3 families have partial availability of fodder for maximum one month. This clearly indicates that the current drought has severally affected the livelihood means of livestock mainly among STs community groups.

#### 3.X. Fuel Availability

Table 12 Status of Fuel Wood availability

Particulars	Status
Kerosen available from PDS is sufficient for cooking for month	Available to the community groups
Families having access to LPG	No
Sufficient fuel wood available locally for cooking	Yes
Fuel wood available at distance place	Manage the fuel wood need from near by forest areas
Market is only option for getting fuel food	No
Crisis for fuel for cooking	Not as such

Analysis – Fuel availability has been also affected due to drought, though the reflection is not clearly indicating about fuel wood crisis but the community groups are facing problems of fuel wood availability.

## 3.XI. Drinking Water Availability

Table 13.1 - Drinking water sources in Boarijore Block

Drinking water Sources	No Installation	of	Average Depth	Functional	Non- functional
Hand Pump - India MII	6		230-300 feet	2	4
Hand Pump - Shallow HP	1		200 feet		1
Well private	11		20-50 feet	11	
Well government	48		20-60 feet	36	12
Tube well	7		15 feet	5	2

Table 13.2 - Drinking water sources in Sundarpahari Block

Drinking water Sources	No Installation	of	Average Depth	Functional	Non- functional
Hand Pump - India MII	12		230-300 feet	4	8
Hand Pump - Shallow HP			200 feet		7-
Well private			20-50 feet	-	

Well government	16	20-60 feet 9	7
CHARLES THE PARTY OF			
Tube well		15 feet -	

Table 13.3 - Drinking water sources in Littipara Block

Drinking water Sources	No of Installation	Average Depth	Functional	Non- functional
Hand Pump - India MII	11	230-300 feet	6	5
Hand Pump - Shallow HP		200 feet		
Well private	3	20-50 feet	3	
Well government	6	20-60 feet	5	1
Tube well	2	15 feet	1	1

Analysis - Data reflect that water sources are not functional. The current drought has also affecting the water need of the community members.

#### 3.XII. Burden of disease

Table 14.1 Diseases status in Boarijore Block

Diseases	Total	Diarrhea	Maleria	Jaundice	Skin Disease
Affected persons	661	97	407	46	114
Children	337	75	147	34	84

Table 14.2 Diseases status in Sundarpahari Block

Diseases	Total	Diarrhea	Maleria	Jaundice	Skin Disease
Affected persons	119	5	93	0	21
Children	58	5	52	0	1

Table 14.3 Diseases status in Littipara Block

Diseases	Total	Diarrhea	Maleria	Jaundice	Skin Disease
Affected persons	136	0	129	5	2
Children	85	0	80	5	0

Analysis – drought crisis has disturbed the communities' health status. Data reflects that large number of person and children has affected from Diarrhes, Maleria, Jaundice and skin diseases.

#### 3.XIII. Burden of debt

Table 15 - Block wise Debt status

	Boarijore	Sundarpahari	Littipara
Debt burden is increasing due to drought	Yes	Yes	Yes
Debt is required to fulfill daily needs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of indebted families	406	209	297
Average indebtness per families	Rs 500 - 5000	Rs 500 - Rs 20000	Rs 500 - Rs 30000
Source of credit	Formal	Informal	
In case of informal credit average rate of interest	5%	10% per Rs 100	
5 Tyamilies	606	381	417

Analysis – Burden of debt has been increased among families of STs community groups due to current drought situation. Large number of indebted families is facing exploitation due to debt. The community members are taking debt from both formal and informal sources.

#### 3.IV. Chronic hunger / starvation / malnutrition / deaths

Assessment study clearly reflected that nearly 438 STs families have been directly affected with the current year of drought 2009. Though the critical starvation & malnutrition death has not been reported but large numbers of community members are facing multiple range of marginalization due to drought and women and children are the worst affected groups

Table 16 Status of Chronic Hunger

Social Groups	STs
Affected Families	438
Reported	STREET, THE PARTY SHAPE
Families	
Suicides	STATE OF THE PARTY.

Analysis – 438 families has been severally affected due to drought due to several factors – agriculture livelihood badly affected, government PDS system not working, livestock rearing activities got affected, not getting wage work opportunities either in MGNREGA or any other drought proofing government.

#### 3.XV. Animal deaths

Table 17 - Status of Animal Deaths

Name of the block	Number died	of	Animal
Boarijore	82		
Littipara			
Sundarpahari	16		

Analysis - Many animals died due to current drought. As the animal are not getting sufficient fodder and water for their needs.

#### 3.XVI. Seed availability for next cropping season

Table 18 - Seed Availability Status

Seed Availability	STs
Families doing agriculture	577
No availability of seed	271
Partially seed availability	147
Sufficient availability	90

Analysis - Data reflects that families do not have the seed availability for the next season.

#### 3.XVII. Irrigation facilities for next season

More than 90% agriculture is rain fed agriculture, where as only in 4% agriculture land have irrigation facilities in these covered villages. Irrigation facilities need attention for the agriculture.

#### 3.XVIII. Government response

During the study it came out openly that government response is not very effective and benefiting to the poorest & marginalized community level. The governor has announced free ration for poor people. The state government has also directed officials to ensure that the distribution of food grains will be distributed at fair price shops of the state. The administration has also decided to allot 12,500 new ration shops to BPL women and self-help groups. The Council asked the administration to strengthen the PDS through doorstep delivery

Table 19 - Government Response on Drought

Government Response	Status
Additional Employment related work started by government	No efforts was done by the government for additional employment related work
Additional food support by government	Provisions was declared but its accessibility was not much reflected by the community members
Fodder support	No
Arrangements for drinking water supply	Partially done
Health check-up and treatment	No
Drought relief crop loss support	No
Cash support	No
Actual loss assessment	No
Village level drought relief /	No

#### mitigation plan prepared

Analysis – Information indicates that the communities' members are not able to differentiate in government response on drought or general on going programme. Secondary sources indicates that government has declared programme as drought measures but the community members are not much aware about the government response on drought. Actual loss assessment was not done in the villages and no drought relief / mitigation plan was prepared in the villages.

Secondary sources on government response - Major points of action to be taken by the central government:

- (1) Draw up a plan for large-scale sinking of shallow tubewells, involving NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) loans and an element of subsidy for the farmers in those drought-affected districts which "are amenable to exploitation of groundwater".
- (2) As farmers' needs in late kharif, pre-rabi and rabi 2009 will be for seeds, the National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India are to ensure that seeds for crops are available to state governments.
- (3) Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and other ICAR institutions in the states are to assist state governments in preparing advisories for farmers about crop varieties, alternative crops, pest surveillance and pesticide use, and nutrient requirement.

(4) Depending upon availability of surplus power, the Union Government is to is provide additional power from the Central Pool to states for irrigation. This pass

(5) The availability of fertilisers is to be ensured to all states.

Major points of action to be taken by state governments: -> who says where

- (1) Keep spurious seeds out of markets (pesticide manufacturers and distributors to cooperate). Organise seed treatment campaigns to boost productivity.
- (2) Ensure that the funds available through central assistance in schemes be fully utilised in 2009-10. Ensure that funds under these schemes are used for production and productivity increases, restoring of water bodies, soil moisture conservation and micro-irrigation.
- (3) Plan with fertiliser companies to move fertilisers to districts based on allocations fixed by the Department of Fertiliser.
- (4) Use funds available from the Department of Drinking Water Supply for addition of new drinking water sources and repair of existing ones.
- (5) In collaboration with NABARD, issue additional Kisan Credit Cards, arrange for agriculture loans for shallow tubewells and short-term credit.

Many of these points reveal the dominance of short-term crisis mitigation over long-term crop stability and the building of resilience in rural communities. Tubewells, groundwater, distribution of 'authorised' seeds only, loans for tubewells, crop advisories that promise to be more of the same from a system (the Krishi Vigyan Kendras) which is desperately in need of reform and reeducation, the empty promise of more power (where will it possibly come from when even with full reservoirs India is heavily power deficit?) to move water for irrigation (where is this water to be found when groundwater extraction rates in northern and north-west India are already amongst the highest in the world?), the dependence on still more flows of NPK (industrial fertiliser -- nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium).

There is a need to discuss above-mentioned efforts of the government with local administration, so that the community groups will take advantage from the government response and activities.

#### 4. Conclusions

Godda and Pakur district of Santhal Pargana region are better known for their alarming poverty levels, drought, hunger and starvation in extreme times resulting in deaths and absentee governance. This background has been ultimately affecting the families of STs community groups.

The current drought assessment study has been reflecting the current status of the families of STs community groups. Observing the current situation, there is a need to facilitate following action at the village level under the leadership of the community leaders and peoples' and women based organization...

- Community education about government response on current drought package
- · Ensuring gram sabha meeting on drought agenda
- Preparing the drought mitigation plan and placing in the gram sabha
- Pressure building for effective implementation of government declaration programme of drought and community plan on drought mitigation
- Agriculture based intervention including ensuring irrigation facilities
- Mobilization of the community groups for getting wage work and scope of work in the interest of STs and BPL community groups
- · Working out policy advocacy issues