
CHAPTER - II

**A PROFILE OF
LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT**

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In order to carry out a thorough study on Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the Lakhimpur District has been chosen deliberately as it is one of the most backward district of Assam where nearly 40 percent people are still living below the poverty line and agriculture is the main occupation of the majority of the people. Considering these aspects it was felt necessary by the researcher to give a brief outline of the study district Lakhimpur eliciting its salient features which gives a partial picture of the district.

2.1. Origin

It was the year of July 1983, when then Governor General declared Lakhimpur as a separate district of Assam. Initially, it had two sub-divisions—North Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh with head quarter at Dibrugarh. On 2nd October, 1971, Lakhimpur district was bifurcated into two districts, the erstwhile Lakhimpur district and the newly constituted Dibrugarh district. The bifurcated district was constituted with two sub-divisions viz. North Lakhimpur and Dhemaji. Later, on 2nd October'1989, the district Lakhimpur was further bifurcated into two districts, with two sub-divisions North Lakhimpur and Dhakuakhana (newly created) leaving Dhemaji as a separate district with Dhemaji and Jonai as its sub-divisions.

As per opinion of one group of people, the name of Lakhimpur district was originated from the word 'Lakshmi', the goddess of prosperity. The district is mainly dependent upon agriculture mainly in paddy cultivation. Paddy is locally regarded as 'Lakhimi'. The word 'pur' means 'full', Lakhimpur therefore

means full of paddy or the place where paddies are grown abundantly. The main reason for high productivity of paddy in the district is the soil of the district which is more alluvial and fertile to flourish crops without use of any fertilizer.

Another group of people is of the view that the word 'Lakhimpur' was originated from 'Lakshmi Devi', the mother of Bhuyan Raja Santanu, who was the descendant of King Samudra. Arimatta a great king of Assam had a prominent minister named Samudra. When Samudra became the king of Assam and made his son Santanu a ruler of present Lakhimpur, the ruler Santanu lived in Lakhimpur with his mother Lakshmi Devi. It is said that the name of the present Lakhimpur district was named in the name of Lakshmi Devi.

Some people are of the view that the present Lakhimpur district was once ruled by a king named Lakshinarayan. In memory of the king the name of the district was given as Lakhimpur.

2.2. Location

Lakhimpur district is situated in the North-East corner of Assam and it lies between $26^{\circ}48'$ and $27^{\circ}53'$ Northern latitude, and $93^{\circ}42'$ and $94^{\circ}20'$ Eastern longitude. It is bounded on the North by Siang and Papumpare District of Arunachal Pradesh and on the East by Dhemaji District and Subansiri river. Majuli sub-division of Jorhat district stands on Southern side and Gohpur sub-division of Sonitpur District is on the West. The geographical area of the district is 2,277 sq.km.. which constitutes 2.90 per cent of the state's geographical area of 78,438 sq.km.. Out of the total geographical area of the district, 2,257 sq.km. is rural and 20 sq.km. is urban.

2.3 Administrative Set-up

Lakhimpur district with its head quarter at North-Lakhimpur and sub-divisional headquarter at Dhakuakhana, consists of seven revenue circles, 13 mouzas and 1185 inhabited villages. The district has nine development blocks, one Zila Parishad, nine Anchalik Panchayats and 81 Gaon Panchayats. Till now there are only four towns in the district with six number of police stations and two courts located at North Lakhimpur and Dhakuakhana (Table-2.1). There are four assembly constituencies in the district to represent the district in the assembly of Assam. It has also a parliamentary constituency named as Lakhimpur covering some parts of the Dibrugarh District.

Table : 2.1

Administrative particulars of Lakhimpur District

Head	No.
1. Sub-divisions	2
2. Revenue Circles	7
3. Development Blocks	9
4. Revenue Villages	1151
5. Inhabited Villages	1185
6. Zila Parishad	1
7. Anchalik Panchayats	9
8. Goan Panchayats	81
9. Police Stations	6
10. Police Outposts	4
11. Towns	4
12. Fire Service Stations	2
13. Municipal Boards	1
14. Town Committees	3

Source : (i) National Informatics Centre, North Lakhimpur.
(ii) Statistical Handbook Assam, 2007.

The district has now four towns, viz, Noth Lakhimpur, Dhakuakhana, Bihpuria and Narayanpur. The North Lakhimpur town is under a municipal board and Dhakuakhana, Bihpuria and Narayanpur towns are under the administration of town committees.

2.4 Climate, Rainfall and Soil :

The climate of Lakhimpur district is more endurable than any of the plain districts of Assam. The district is situated in the humid sub-tropical region and the average winter temperature lies between 10^o and 17.5^o celcius, and the average summer temperature ranges from 25^o to 35^o celcius. In the year 2009, the lowest temperature around 6^o celcius was recorded especially during the months of December and January, and the highest temperature was recorded upto 36^o celcius during the months of July and August. In the last two years, i.e. in 2008 and 2009, the highest temperature was recorded upto 38^o celcius, which was not recorded earlier in the district. This is happening mainly due to the impact of global warming. The winter season in the district is followed by the season of severe thunder storms from March to May. During March and April, the district enjoys a pleasant spring. In the district, monsoon starts from June and it continues upto the end of September. There are pre-monsoon showers at the end of March or at the beginning of April. The average rainfall in summer is 240 to 800 centimeters and winter rainfall is between 20 and 40 centimeters. Sufficient rain during summer season facilitates paddy cultivation without irrigation.

The soil of the district is mainly alluvial spread out by the rivers- Brahmaputra, Subansiri, Ranganadi, Dikrong and the number of tributaries. The alluvial soil of the district consists of sand, silt and clay deposited by

Brahmaputra, Subansiri, Ranganadi, Dikrong and other tributaries. The alluvium soil has high percentage of phosphoric acid, so it favours paddy cultivation without using fertilizers.

2.5 River System

The mighty river Brahmaputra is the southern boundary of the district and it touches all along the southern and southeastern boundary. The main rivers of the district are Subansiri, Ranganadi and Dikrong. The river Subansiri is originated from Tibet and flows the plains of Lakhimpur district. The total length of the river is 326 miles up to the international boarder. The catchments area of the river is 10,148 sq. miles in Arunachal Pradesh and 440 sq. miles in Assam. The river discharges 2,09,546 cusecs of water at Bhimpara Ghat. The river Ranganadi originates from the Dafla Hills of Arunachal Pradesh. The total length of the river is 90 miles and total catchments area is 839 sq.miles in Arunachal Pradesh and 296 sq.miles in Assam. It discharges 17,500 cusecs of water at two (2) miles upstream of National Highway-52. The river Dikrong also originates from the Dafla Hills of Arunachal Pradesh. In Arunachal Pradesh it is known as Par Nadi. It flows in to the district near Harmutty Tea Estate and flows 25 miles of distance to join with the Brahmaputra at Badati. It discharges 20,000 cusecs of water at one mile downstream of NH-52. The catchments area of the river is 512 sq.miles in Arunachal Pradesh and 101 sq. miles in Assam.

Due to heavy rainfall in the monsoon in Assam and neighbouring hillstate Arunachal Pradesh, a large part of the district is inundated by flood water in every year. Thus, occurrence of flood has now become a regular feature of

the district. In addition to this, the construction of two hydroelectric projects on Subansiri and Ranganadi rivers, where Ranganadi project is completed and Subansiri Project is under construction, also is an another major factor for occurrence of flood in the district. Due to excessive rainfall in summer, the excess water are flown out by these dams at a time and it creates unexpected miseries in the plain areas of the district. During flood, the rivers sometimes alter the river course from one place to an another place and causes lots of miseries to the people living in its low-lying basin. Thus, frequent occurrence of flood affects the economy of the district by destroying the dwelling units, standing crops, infrastructural facilities, cattle population and human lives. Majority of the farmers of flood affected areas fail to do rabi crops due to sand deposition in the land and because of drought like situation prevailing in the district in the post flood period.

2.6 Population Structure:

As shown in the Table- 2.2, as per 2001 census, the total population of the district is 8,89,010 constituting 3.34 per cent of the state's population of 2,66,55,528. Out of the total population, the number of male population is 4,55,691 and female population is 4,33,319 from which the sex ratio in the district is worked out at 951 females per 1000 males, which is higher than the state's sex ratio of 923. Density of population in the district is 390 persons per sq.km. as against the 340 persons in Assam. The decadal growth rate of population in the district is found out at 18.30 during 1991-2001, which is slight lower than that of state's decadal growth rate of 18.92 during the same period. Out of the total population in the district, 7.88 per cent population

Table : 2.2

Demographic informations of Lakhimpur District

Total Population	Lakhimpur	Assam
	8,89,010	2,66,55,528
Male Population	4,55,691	1,37,77,037
Female Population	4,33,319	1,28,78,491
Rural Population	8,23,857 (92.67)	2,32,16,288 (87.3)
Urban Population	65,153 (7.33)	34,39,240 (12.7)
SC Population	7,060 (7.88)	18,25,949 (6.85)
ST Population	2,08,086 (23.49)	33,08,570 (12.41)
Density per sq. km.	390	340
Literacy Rate	69.59	64.28
Male Literacy Rate	77.06	71.28
Female Literacy Rate	59.59	54.61
Sex Ratio	951	923
Decadal Variation in Population (1991-2001)	18.30	18.92

(Figure in brackets indicates percentage.)

Source : (i) Census Report-2001.

(ii) Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2007.

belongs to SCs and 29.49 per cent population belongs to STs, which are found out at 6.85 per cent and 12.41 per cent respectively in case of Assam. According to 2001 census, the literacy rate in the district is 69.59 as against the state's literacy rate of 64.28. As a backward district in the state, 92.67 per cent of the total population are living in the rural areas and only 7.33 per cent population live in urban areas, whereas the respective figures in case of the state as a whole are found out at 87.3 and 12.7 per cent respectively.

Table : 2.3

Distribution of population by religion

Religion	Lakhimpur		Assam	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5
Hindu	7,02,881	79.06	1,72,96,455	64.89
Muslim	1,43,505	16.14	82,40,611	30.92
Christian	36,667	4.13	9,86,589	3.70
Sikh	680	0.08	22,515	0.08
Buddhist	1,362	0.15	51,092	0.19
Jain	148	0.02	23,957	0.09
Others	3,767	0.42	34,368	0.13
Total	8,89,010	100.00	2,66,55,528	100.00

Source : Census Report, 2001.

Out of the total religious people in the district, Hindu religious people are highest among the other religious people. Table 2.3 gives informations about religionwise distribution of population in the district as well as in the state.

There are, 64.89 per cent Hindu religious people in the state, whereas in Lakhimpur it is found out at 79.06 per cent. Out of the total population in the district, the percentage of Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and other religious people were 16.14, 4.13, 0.08, 0.15, 0.02 and 0.42 respectively. During 1991-2001, the decadal growth rate of Hindu religious people was 17.35 per cent as against the decadal growth rate of Muslim religious people of 31.64 per cent, which is a matter of great concern. This is not due to natural increase in population, it is mainly due to immigration of people from

the neighbouring countries specially from Bangladesh.

As far as the occupational pattern of the people in the district is concerned it is found that majority of the people are engaged in agricultural activities. Total number of workers in the district stood at 4,97,745 as on 2007. There were 2,88,052 main workers and 2,09,693 marginal workers constituting 32.40 and 23.59 per cent of the total population respectively. Out of the total workers, 3,38,303 were cultivators, 34,713 were agricultural labourers, 12,042 were industrial workers and 1,12,687 were other workers (Table-2.4)

Table-2.4

Distribution of workers

Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Industrial workers		Other workers		Total	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3,38,303	67.97	34,713	6.97	12,042	2.42	1,12,687	22.64	4,97,745	100.00

Source : Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2007, pp-26-27

2.7 Agriculture

Agriculture is the main occupation of the inhabitants of the district where about 80 per cent of people are directly or indirectly engaged in agricultural activities. Due to slow pace of industrialisation and poor development of service sector, only 3.6 and 15.8 per cent of the people in the district are engaged in secondary and tertiary sectors respectively. Out of the total geographical area, 1,27,024 hectares are used for cultivation constituting 75.55 per cent of the district's geographical area. 'Net sown area' and 'area

sown more than once' are 1,38,161 hectares and 33,863 hectares respectively as shown in the Table : 2.5. The quality of soil, the favourable climate and adequate rainfall during the monsoon season in the district are considered as blessings for the agriculture. The acidic soil with high percentage of nitrogen in low lying areas are best suited to paddy cultivation. As per available data, upto March, 2006, irrigation potentialities were created in 10,619 hectares of land, which has been further extended to 16,360 hectares of land upto January, 2010. The cultivators mainly produce paddy (Sali, Ahu, Bao *etc.*), oil seeds, wheat, potato, mustard, sugarcane *etc.*

Table- 2.5

Areawise distribution of land (as on January, 2010)

Class	Area (in hectares)
1. Total geographical area	2,27,700
2. Area under forest	23,097
3. Area not available for cultivation	65,805
4. Total irrigated area	16,360
5. Net area sown	1,38,161
6. Area sown more than once	33,863
7. Total cropped area	1,72,024

Source : District Agriculture Office, North Lakhimpur.

The main food crop in the district is paddy and main commercial crops are jute and tea. In the district, 1,27,383 hectares of land are used for the cultivation of high yielding varieties of paddy.

The method of cultivation in the district is more or less traditional and

yet to be mechanised. Nearly 75 per cent farmers use wooden ploughs to plough their lands and depend on monsoon for water. The irrigation facilities are available only in 9.51 per cent (16,360 hectares) of the total cropped land areas in the district. Table 2.6 shows the agricultural crop production in the district as on January, 2010.

Table : 2.6

Production of agriculture crops in Lakhimpur District. (as on 2010)

Crops	Area (in hectares)	Production (tonnes)
1. Paddy	1,27,383	1,39,150
i) Autumn paddy	15,710	11,790
ii) Winter paddy	93,215	1,12,224
iii) Summer paddy	18,458	15,136
iv) Wheat	525	470
2. Oil seed		
i) Sesamum	255	370
ii) Mustard	25,010	13,005
3. Pulses		
i) Pea	525	242
ii) Lentil	255	117
iii) Blackgram	1,905	762
iv) Greengram	205	94
4. Jute	543	5565 (in bales of 180 kg.)
5. Sugarcane	276	3,447
6. Potato	9,510	42,319

Source : District Agriculture Office, North Lakhimpur.

2.8 Industry

Rapid industrialisation is considered as a pre-requisite condition for rapid urbanisation as well as rapid development of an economy or a country. As far as the progress of industrial development in the district is concerned, it is very slow in comparison to other districts of the state like Kamrup, Tinsukia, Nagaon and Dibrugarh. There is no any medium and large scale industry in the district. That is why the district is also known as 'Zero Industry District'. It is observed in the Table :2.7 that there are only 1051 registered micro and small industries in the district as on 31st January, 2010, which was 457 in 1999. Although, there is a significant increase in the registered units in the District Industries and Commerce Centre, but it is found that most of them are either sick or not viable units. Except nine tea gardens in the district, there is no any medium and large scale industry in the district.

The district has great potentialities for development of different types of industries like agrobased, forest based, animal husbandry based, fruit processing and textile based industries. However, the entrepreneurial environment in the district is not so conducive to attract new entrepreneurs for setting up of new industry. Non-existence of large-scale industry is one another reason for slow industrialisation in the district which could have boost some ancillary industries in the district.

Table : 2.7

Registered micro and small industries (as on 2010)

Type of Industry	No.
1. Engineering based	120
2. Electronic based	60
3. Agro based	150
4. Forest based	80
5. Textile based	300
6. Construction based	130
7. Food procssing	50
8. Others	161
Total	1051

Source : District Industries and Commerce Centre, North Lakhimpur.

However, steps are being taken by the District Industries and Commerce Centre (DICC) for cluster development in weaving sector and bamboo products in some potential areas. The district has one entrepreneur association known as 'District Entrepreneur Association, Lakhimpur'. At present, there are one Industrial Growth Centre (IGC) at Lilabari, one Commercial Centre at Bongalmora, one Industrial Estate (IE) at Bihpuria and one Industrial Infrastructure Development Centre (IIDC) at Banderdewa which is under construction. Steps have also been taken for establishment of one mini cement factory at IID Banderdewa and one Corrugated Bamboo sheets producing unit at Narayanpur in recent days to come.

2.9 Education

A district may have abundant natural resources but without developing the human resources through education, proper utilisation of these resources can not be expected. According to 2001 census, the literacy rate in the district is 69.59 per cent against the state literacy rate of 64.28 and the national literacy rate of 65.38 per cent. The district has about 2,840 educational institutions of various levels. As per available data, as on January, 2010, the district has 1,372 Lower Primary Schools with 3,772 teachers and having an enrolment of 1,01,744 students. The district has also 311 non-provincialised LP schools which are getting financial aid from the Govt. on an adhoc basis. There are 272 Middle English Schools, 54 MV Schools, and 13 ME Madrassa Schools with 2707 teachers and 34,264 enrolled students. Besides, there are 378 non-provincialised ME and 10 ME Madrassa Schools in the district which are functioning on an adhoc basis. In addition to these, the district has 332 High Schools and 52 Higher Secondary Schools out of which 152 are provincialised and 232 are non-provincialised. There is also a single Senior

Madrassa School in the district. Total provincialised and non-provincialised Junior Colleges in the district stand at four (4) and 13 respectively. There are about five private Jr. Colleges in the district which are set up recently. To provide the scope of higher education in the district, it has 12 provincialised and seven non-provincialised colleges.

Table : 2.8

Educational facilities in Lakhimpur District (as on 2010)

Institutions	No.
1. Provincialised Lower Primary Schools	1372
2. Non-provincialised Lower Primary Schools	311
3. M.E. Schools	272
4. M.E. Madrassa Schools	13
5. M.V. Schools	54
6. Govt. recognised M.E. Schools	378
7. Govt. recognised M.E. Madrassa Schools	10
8. Provincialised High Schools	128
9. Non-provincialised High Schools	205
10. Provincialised Higher Secondary Schools	25
11. Non-provincialised Higher Secondary Schools	27
12. Provincialised Junior Colleges	4
13. Non-provincialised Junior Colleges	13
14. Provincialised Colleges	12
15. Non-provincialised Colleges	N.A.
16. Veterinary College	1
17. B.Ed. Colleges	2
18. District Institute of Educational Training (DIET) and Basic Training Centre (BTC)	2
19. Law College	1

Source : i) Office of the Inspector of Schools, North Lakhimpur.

ii) District Elementary Education Office, North Lakhimpur.

In addition to the degree courses of Science, Arts and Commerce, few provincialised colleges also provide Post-Graduate courses under Distance Education. There are one Veterinary College, One Law College, two Teacher's Training Institutions imparting veterinary science course, law education and teacher's education in the district. It is however mentionworthy that none of the single technical institute is set up in the district, for which the district has to face the problem of non-availability of technically qualified persons. This is one of the basic reasons for laging behind the district in the development of industrial sector. Table- 2.8 provides informations on educational institutions in the district.

2.10 Transport and Communication

The development of a particular place or area is highly dependent on the development of transport and communication facilities in that area. Therefore, transport and communication are considered as basic infrastructural inputs for economic development. Due to inadequate transport and communication facilities in the district, the economic sectors like industry, finance, service and tourism are not properly developed. In the district, a large number of remote places are still un-connected with fair weather roads. During the monsoon season, most of the rural roads are affected by constant rainfall, and regular occurance of flood in the district causes great havoc by disrupting the rural roads in almost every year.

The total road length under PWD upto 2008-09 was 1047.68 km., out of which 155.703 km. are surfaced and 891.977 km. are un-surfaced. Out of the total unsurfaced road, 866.97 km. are gravel roads and 25.00 km. are

earthen roads (Table : 2.9). The total road length of National Highway (NH-52) is only 98 km. which passes through the district. State highway and other road length stand at 118 km.. and 831.68 km.. respectively.

Table : 2.9

Road transport facility in Lakhimpur District (as on 2009)

1. Total road length under P.W.D.	1,047.68 km.
i) National Highway	98 km.
ii) State Highway	118 km.
iii) Other P.W.D. roads	831.68 km.
2. Surfaced road length	155.703 km.
3. Un-surfaced road length	891.977 km.
i) Gravel road length	866.97 km.
ii) Earthen road length	25.00 km.
4. Road length per '00' sq.km. of area	46.01 km.
5. Road length per lakh population	117.85 km.

Source : i) Public Works Department (PWD), Rural Road Division., North Lakhimpur.

ii) Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2007.

The Government is taking various initiatives to develop the transportation facilities in the district especially in the rural areas. With the help of financial assistance received from the World Bank, the district has constructed 10 PWD Roads, 36 RCC bridges and 17.60 km. of other roads till 2005. Under Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 258.408 km. of surfaced road, 37 RCC bridges have been constructed in the district up-to 2009. Besides,

308.444 km.. of road and 733 RCC bridges are under construction under the financial assistance of World Bank. Moreover, DRDA and Panchayati Raj Institutions are also constructing many rural-link roads through its various rural development programmes.

The railway communication in the district was first initiated after Chinese aggression that took place in the year 1962 by extension of the railway line from Rongapara (Darang district) to Murkongselek with metre-gauge railway line. Even till now, North-East Frontier Railway providing railway service by running metre-gauge trains and thus the district is still deprived of getting the benefit of broad-gauge railway service. Although, the construction of Bogibeel Bridge over river Brahmaputra and transformation of metre-gauge line to broad-gauge line are going on, it will take about 4-5 years to get the benefit of the service. At present, two trains namely 'Arunachal Express' and 'Passanger Express' are providing regular service from Rangia to Murkongselek via North Lakhimpur. The service of these trains is also becomes irregular specially during the rainy season due to regular occurrence of flood in Dhemaji district.

As a means of communication, river transport also plays an important role in carrying goods and passengers in the district, especially in Dhakuakhana and in connecting Majuli with the district. Daily Inland Water Service is available from Tekeliphutaghat and Matmoraghat to Disangghat of Sibsagar district, located at the southern part of the river Brahmaputra. Government ferry and private engine boats provide regular service in these ghats to carry passengers, goods and even small four wheeler vehicles within and outside the district. It is however mentionworthy that the water transport is the main way to link with Majuli, the largest river island in the world. Khabolu and Badatighat are the

main water stations to connect the district with Majuli where country boats extend regular service to carry goods and passengers.

The district is also connected by air. Regular air service in the district is virtually absent after withdrawal of service by the Indian Airlines in 1985. Lilabari is the only airport in the district located 12 kms. away from the district head quarter. However, after developing infrastructure of Lilabari airport, there is a air service of Indian Airlines between Lakhimpur and Guwahati, but not on regular basis.

2.11 Sericulture and Weaving

As traditional cottage industries of Assam, sericulture and weaving have an important place in the economic life of the rural people in the district. The district has occupied a unique position as a production centre of endi, muga and mulberry cocoon. Sericulture and weaving activities are practised almost in all the households of the district in the rural areas. There were 761 sericulture villages in the district as on 31st March, 2008, and about 25,945 families are practising sericulture activity in the district. The district holds a prominent place in respect of 'endi' and 'muga' culture. More than 7174 rural households are involved in muga culture as their main profession. The muga culture is mainly done by the marginal and small farmers. The district has a reputation of weaving 'pat silk' in Assamese tradition. The total sericultural area in the district is about 1738 hectares, out of which 595 hectares are used for eri culture, 1,050 hectares for muga culture and 93 hectares for mulberry culture. Table-2.10 gives informations about the sericulture activities in the district.

It is observed from the table that the production of muga cocoons in the district is higher than that of endi cocoons and mulberry silk. However the production of silk yarn in the district is low due to supply of cocoons to Sualkuchi,

the nerve centre of silk production in the state. There are five (5) Government sericulture farms and centres in the district located at Japisajia, Tariani, Rangati, Narayanpur and Naragaon. Out of the 13 muga reeling units in Assam, three (3) are located in Lakhimpur district. The district has produced 7.73 metric tonnes of eri raw silk, 12.03 metric tonnes of muga raw silk and 2.05 metric tonnes of mulberry raw silk in the year 2006-07. Thus, it shows that the district has a great potentiality for development of sericulture activity which can also play a significant role in development of economy of the study district.

Table : 2.10

Statistics of Sericulture Activity

1. No. of sericulture villages			761
2. No. of sericulture farms			05
3. No. of reeling units			04
4. No. of families engaged	Eri	Muga	Mulberry (Pat)
	12,052	7,174	6,791
5. Area under sericulture (in hectares)	595	1050	93
6. Production of cocoons	10 MT	60,150,000	20.54 MT
7. Production of silk yarn (in MT)	7.73	12.03	2.05

Source : Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2007, pp-94-98.

In case of weaving sector, it is seen that in past, almost all the households of rural areas in the district weaved their essential clothes by themselves. The rural women have their expertise in the production of sadar, mekhela, gamusa, bed sheet, tongali, mosquito net, sirt pieces *etc.* Most of the weaved products

in the district are used for self-utilisation only, not for commercial purpose. At present, although some Self-Help Groups, NGOs and some rural women are taking this activity on commercial basis, but these are not enough to meet the required demand or to compete with the machine made clothes.

Table : 2.11

Handloom statistics of Lakhimpur (as on January, 2010)

1. No. of Handloom Demonstration Circles	9
2. No. of villages covered by HDC.	1,170
3. No. of part-time weavers	59,598
4. No. of full time weavers	4,497
5. Handloom training centre	4
6. No. of trainees in handloom training centre	65
7. No. of weavers extension service unit	2

Source : Assistant Director Office, Handloom and Textile, North Lakhimpur.

The district has nine handloom demonstration circles covering 1,170 villages (Table 2.11). There are four (4) handloom training centres and two weavers extension service units in the district. Department of Handloom and Textile is implementing various Government sponsored schemes namely Deen Dayal Hathkargha Prostahan Yojana, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Health Package Scheme *etc.* for the development of poor weavers in the district. There is a group insurance scheme implementing by the Deptt. known as Mahatma Gandhi Bima Bankar Yojana for the members of the self-help groups and for the members of the registered co-operative societies.

2.12 Forest Resources

Although a large part of the district was covered with forest areas in the

past, in recent time, the area under forest has been declining continuously. The district has only 31,096.55 hectares of land under forest area constituting 13.66 per cent of the total geographical area of the district as on 31st March'2010, which was 47,000 hectares in 1997 and 32,226 hectares (14.15 per cent) in 2006. The main reasons for depletion of forest area are erosion caused by the rivers which pass through most of the forest areas, and deforestation caused by rapid encroachment of reserved forest. Most of the forest areas in the district are located at the foothills of Arunachal Pradesh.

The total classified forest area of the district is covered with five declared 'Reserved Forests'. Table-2.12 shows the name of the forest reserves and their respective areas in the district.

Table : 2.12

Forest Reserves of Lakhimpur District (as on 2010)

Name of the reserve	Area (in hectare)
1. Ranga reserve forest	8529.71
2. Kakoi reserve forest	4415.03
3. Dullung reserve forest	9900.03
4. Pabha reserve forest	4625.87
5. Kadam reserve forest	3625.91
Total	31096.55

Source : Divisional Forest Office, North Lakhimpur.

A large part of the land holdings by the people in the district is covered with evergreen forest, gigantic reeds and grasses, bamboo and fruit trees etc. However the district does not possess proper records regarding the area covered by un-classified forests. The forests in the district have some important species like Hollock, Nahar, Ajar, Simolu, Titachapa, Sisoo, Jutuli, Amari, Gomari, Bogipoma and Bula etc. The district has no any major forest based industry except few saw mills.

