

NEED ASSESSMENT OF PLAIN LAND ADIBASI or INDEGIENOUS PEOPLE

Geographical Location: Dinajpur and Thakurgaon District

Duration: 06-15 May 2017

Need Assessment by: SOLAR Program Team, CDA

Ref: CDA's SOLAR Program, Budget line: 3.1.05, Fiscal year 2016-2017.

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Chandipur village/People Organization(PO): IP women participated during the need assessment



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Forwarding

Community Development Association (CDA) has been performing a facilitating role to the poorest, landless and marginal farmers along with the plain land indigenous people (IP) including the differently able men, women & youth with a view to empower, ensure and secure access to land Rights through implementation of People Centered Development Strategies since 1986 in the Northwestern part of Bangladesh.

Plain Land Adibasies or IPs are located mainly in the border belt of the regions in the Northwest, central North and Northeast of Bangladesh. They are always passing through different overcoming social barriers, hardship and many forms of discrimination alongwith violence's. Land grabbing and force displacement issues are very painful which links with gross violation human rights. IPs are mostly live in Rural and remote areas as a results they are facing of socio-economic vulnerability and multiple discriminations because of their sex, race/ethnicity, language, culture, religion and class. Vulnerable to land grabs from more powerful entities like governments and corporations. Without implementation of some Legislative issues, IP rights may not be ensure in the country such as formation of a separate and independent land commission, special tribunal court in each district, ensure possession of the IPs on khas land or water bodies, full implication of the 97 articles of 1950's subjective law for the indigenous people to return their lost lands, ensure food security, protect individual and collective right and stop the displacement in the name of development projects from their ancient territories.

The assessment report has a coverage aligning specific local context of some particular IP communities in Dinajpur and Thakurgaon Districts. The report is reflecting the multiple livelihood issue of assessed IP communities of CDA's program areas such as social stratification, access to land, seasonal drawbacks, social dignity, poverty, Non-money deprivation and perception of their needs etc.

CDA's management authority expresses their gratitude to assessment team of SOLAR program for their design and analysis of information. CDA's management appreciated the **Bread For the World-Germany** for their financial support through SOLAR program.

Thanks.

Shah I Mobin Jinnah
Executive Director
CDA

1. Background of the Report

Community Development Association (CDA) is a highly secular, non-partisan-non-Government Development Organization (NGDO) established in the year 1985-1986 in North Western Part of Bangladesh. CDA gradually has been shifted its strategic position from charity to a Right based Organization now facilitating among the poorest, landless and marginal farmers along with the plain land indigenous people (IP) including the differently able men, women & youth with a view to empower, ensure and secure access to land Rights from its inception. Currently CDA is implementing “**Sustainable Organization for Land Rights and Agrarian Reform (SOLAR)**” program through supported by Bread for the World (BftW)-Germany. The CDA’s SOLAR program has separate eligible resources to empowerment of Indigenous People (IP) in working areas. Part of this process, CDA’s SOLAR team decided to conducted separate need assessment survey according to recommendation of Program Operation Cell (POC). CDA is formed an assessment team leading & technical supervision by Mr. Tapan Kanti Dey, **Deputy Director** where included PME Section, Training cell, & Program staff.

2. Need Assessment Context:

- IPs are facing inequalities to receiving development benefits from LGIs
- Development aids are not matching with their customs
- Needs of ethnic/IP communities are not identified specifically in creating potential impact of the development program.
- Lack of necessary documentation on IP safeguard
- Deprived from socio economic and socio political rights

3. Need Assessment Goal:

- Identified specific needs of plain land adibashi.

4. Need Assessment Objectives:

- To analyze & document the existing IPs are in inequalities situation
- To identify the development needs of IPs upon their own customs
- To develop plain Land IP communities (**Santal, Munda and Oraon...**) planning framework considering ICESC rights & civil & political rights/ ILO conventions

5. Activities of Assessment Team:

- Prepare plan of action
- Prepare Need Assessment Tools (Community profiling, Measurement of poverty and wellbeing, capacity building need assessment ... etc).
- Organize sharing session for finalizing need assessment Tools.
- Formation of assessment team
- Prepare budget on assessment
- Mgt. Approval of budget
- Conduct Need Assessment by team
- Data base development in SPSS.
- Data entry in SPSS.
- Draft assessment report submission to the management
- Submission of final report / planning frame work on development services as required / chosen by them.

6. Survey Tools Used:

- Well being Analysis.
- FGD.
- Household Questionnaire.
- Seasonal Matrix.
- Open handed need assessment questionnaire

7. Methodology:

The assessment report relies on findings about social stratifications, seasonal drawback, existing capacity of household, availability of assets and ownership and accessibility of others institutional support services etc. CDA team is selected 6 nos. of villages out of 32 villages where absolutely IP is living in these selected villages. Other 26 villages are MIX community along with IP and Bengali People. Out of 6 IP villages, 4 IP villages are selected from Dinajpur district and 2 villages are selected from Thakurgaon district. 6 nos. of villages (without mix community village) are selected for inclusive understanding of IPs. This assessment comprehensively covered 232 IP households of Santal community under the 6 villages. 8 team members are engaged from Head Office leading by Deputy Director. Mostly Non-Monetary Indicators/ Variables considered for indentifying poor households as well as understanding the current situation.

8. Household level compositions /Variables:

Identification of Poor Households for IP village in CDA SOLAR program:

- Household Population
- Age of Household head
- Household head Sex/Gender
- Household Occupation
- Social status
- Poverty (Below poverty line or above poverty line)
- Daily income
- Ownership of Cultivable land of household
- Get enough food to eat throughout the year
- Fuel for cooking and lighting
- Mobility: mode of transport using for travelling on economic, social & education purpose
- Housing condition (Structure of house, Type of floor, condition of house)
- Provision latrine facilities
- Source of safe drinking water
- Dependent population on household head in family
- Child laboring in household.
- Household capacity (Child greater than adult)
- Recreation facilities (Television)

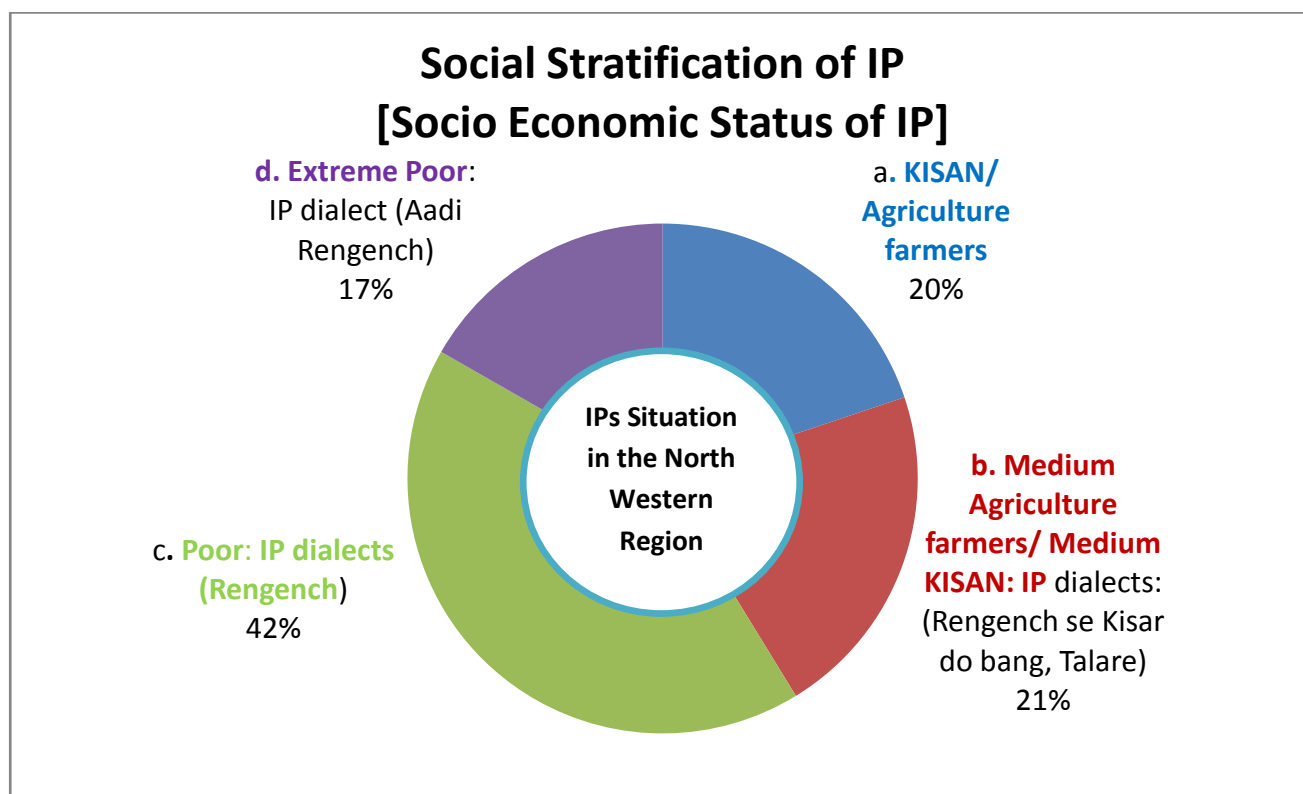
9. Assessment Findings According to Composition:

9.1 Social Stratification through wellbeing analysis

During the assessment 6 nos. of well being analysis are practiced by CDA team. IP people expressed their perception their own languages and finally converted by literate IP person during the assessment time. During the assessment 4 nos. of social stratifications are perceived and analyzed. Wellbeing analysis results are articulated by following table.

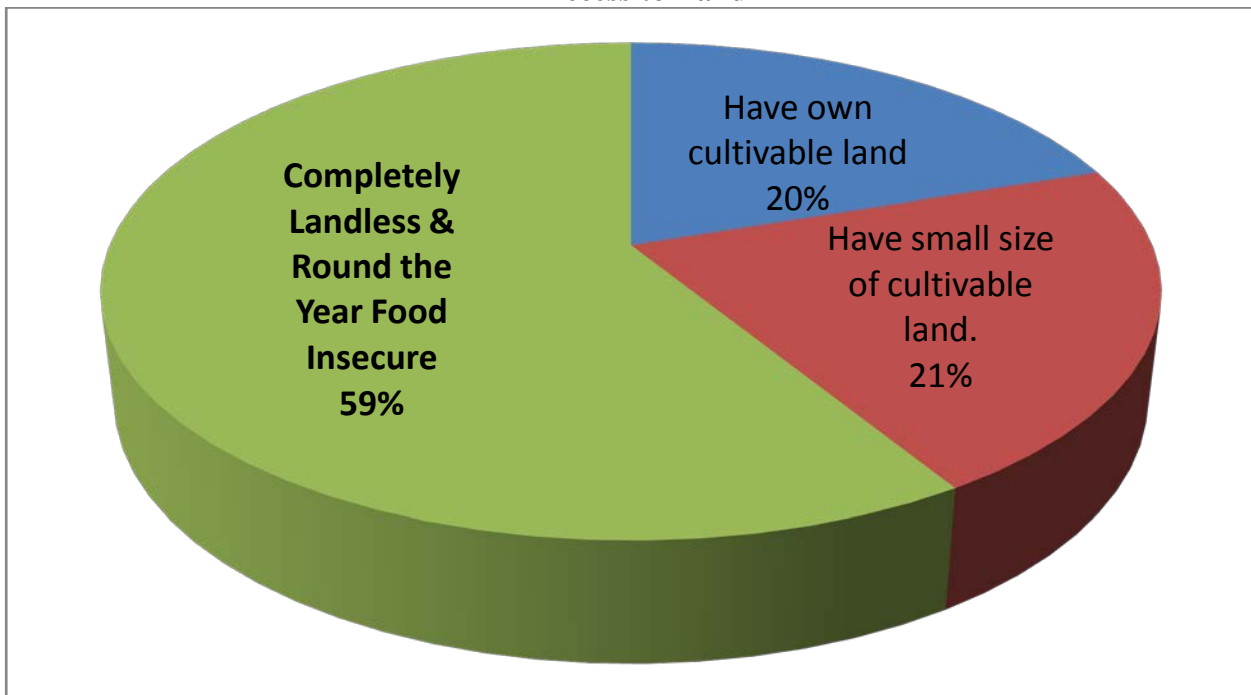
IP villagers classified the their Living Household socio economic status	Understanding measure/indicators	Nr. of Households are living in the village according to socio economic status/ classified indicator	% of household
a. Agriculture farmers, IP dialects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Have own cultivable land▪ Have own homestead land▪ Have significant income	51	19.85

KISAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharecropping /lease cultivation 		
b. Medium Agriculture farmers/ Medium KISAN: IP dialects: (Rengench se Kisar do bang, Talare)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have small size of cultivable land. Just pass a day by daily income. No own Homestead land at all Day laboring 	55	21.40
c. Poor: IP dialects (Rengench)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have not: own cultivable land, homestead land (shelter), Shelter with other land, Poor condition of living house Day laboring Seasonal Food insecure/ hunger 	108	42.02
d. Extreme Poor: IP dialect (Aadi rengench)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme scarcity/shortage Have not: own cultivable land, homestead land (shelter), Shelter with other land, Poor condition of living house Day laboring Round the year Food insecure 	43	16.73
Total		257	100.00



9.2 Access to Land: Assessment results shows that 59% Plain Land IPs are completely landless and suffering food insecurity in round the year and 21% IPs are have small piece of cultivable land and living with seasonal food insecurity. This is a big challenges issue to reach SDGs (no one left behind). The following pie chart is reference of Access to land and food insecurity status of plain land IPs.

Access to Land



9.3 Seasonal drawbacks of Indigenous People (IP): Seasonal employment opportunity, trend of morbidity & mortality,

Food Availability, Seasonal Employment & Morbidity in IP Livelihood: Table-1

Types	Boisakh	Josto	Asar	Srabon	Vadra	Assin	Kartik	Agroh ayon	Pous	Magh	Falgun	Chaitro
	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April
Day Laboring/ Seasonal employment (Male)	×	√	√	√	×	×	√	√	×	√	√	×
Working days (male)		Ave. 9 day	Ave. 7days	Ave. 5 days			Ave. 5 days	Ave. 7 days		Ave.3 days	Ave.9 days	
Day Laboring/ Seasonal employment (Female)	×	√	√	√	×	×	√	√	×	√	√	×
Working days (female)		Ave. 6 day	Ave. 8days	Ave. 7 days			Ave. 6 days	Ave. 7 days		Ave.8 days	Ave.7 days	
Food Scarcity	√	√	×	×	√	√	×	×	√	√	×	√
Morbidity:												
Dysentery	√	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	√	×	×	√
Diarrhea	√	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	√	×	×	√
Skin Diseases	√	√	√	√	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Chicken Pox	√	×	×	×	√	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

Note: √ = Available / Existence/Have/ happen / Occurred ,
 × = Not available/ have not / Not happen / Not occurred

9.4 Seasonal Employment: CDA team assessed 6 nos. of IP villages for measuring their seasonal drawbacks in terms of availability employment/day laboring, food scarcity and seasonal morbidity. According to the above table -1, assessment team found that 7 months of day laboring available in surrounding IP villages out of round the year. Average 45 days of working day availed by the male laborer and Average 49 days availed by the women laborer out of 7 months (7*30 days= 210 working days). Only average 22.38% working days availed by men and women in IP village out of total 7 months or 210 working days. As consequences IP are suffering with hunger and sold in advance labor for mitigating their daily basic fundamental needs. It is mentionable that the advance labor deprived the IP to get the fair wages. Why the painful unemployment trap is continuing in this area? IPs are asset less, absent of Government and Private initiatives, lack of appropriate market demand skill training, no cooperative initiatives for using of local natural resources, about 60% IP landless, lack of local Government incentives and connectivity with other nation building department under the local government administration for tapping agrarian services, no access to khas land, Lack of capital to purchase Livestock population, No cottage industries in rural IP villages and IP are not skill to absorbed in local, regional & national labor market.

Conduct households' assessment from IP villages:

Name of IP village	Village wise IP Households	Percent
Chandipur	36	15.6
Hatrampur	41	17.7
Mukundapur	41	17.7
Brammanvita	41	17.7
Barobari	46	19.9
Sundarpur	26	11.3
Total	231	100.0

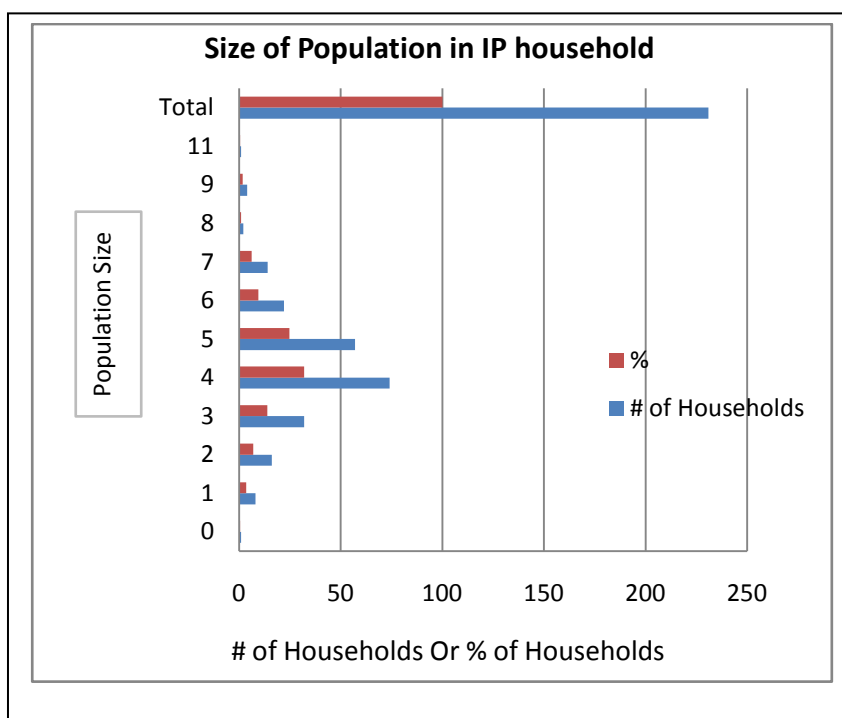
Identification of Surveyed IP household

Type	Frequency	Percent	Remarks
Valid Santal	220	95.2	
Others	11	4.8	
Total	231	100.0	

9.5 Household Population:

Last updated population among 6 assessment villages from 6th May to 15th May 2017, Total population 1010 population found (Male 518 and Female 492) in 231 IP households. Average male & female population size in per IP household are 2.24 and 2.13. Average per IP household population size (male and female) is 4.37. Maximum population 6 male and 8 female are found in assessed villages in Dinajpur and Thakurgaon district. The following SPSS data table shows that size of population in IP household.

Size of population	# of Households	%
0	1	.4
1	8	3.5
2	16	6.9
3	32	13.9
4	74	32.0
5	57	24.7
6	22	9.5
7	14	6.1
8	2	.9
9	4	1.7
11	1	.4
Total	231	100.0



9.6 Age of household head of IP: Average age of household head of IP is 42.44 years, mode of household head age 45 years, minimum age of household head 18 years and maximum age of household head age is 80 years old. The following table is shown the age range of household head.

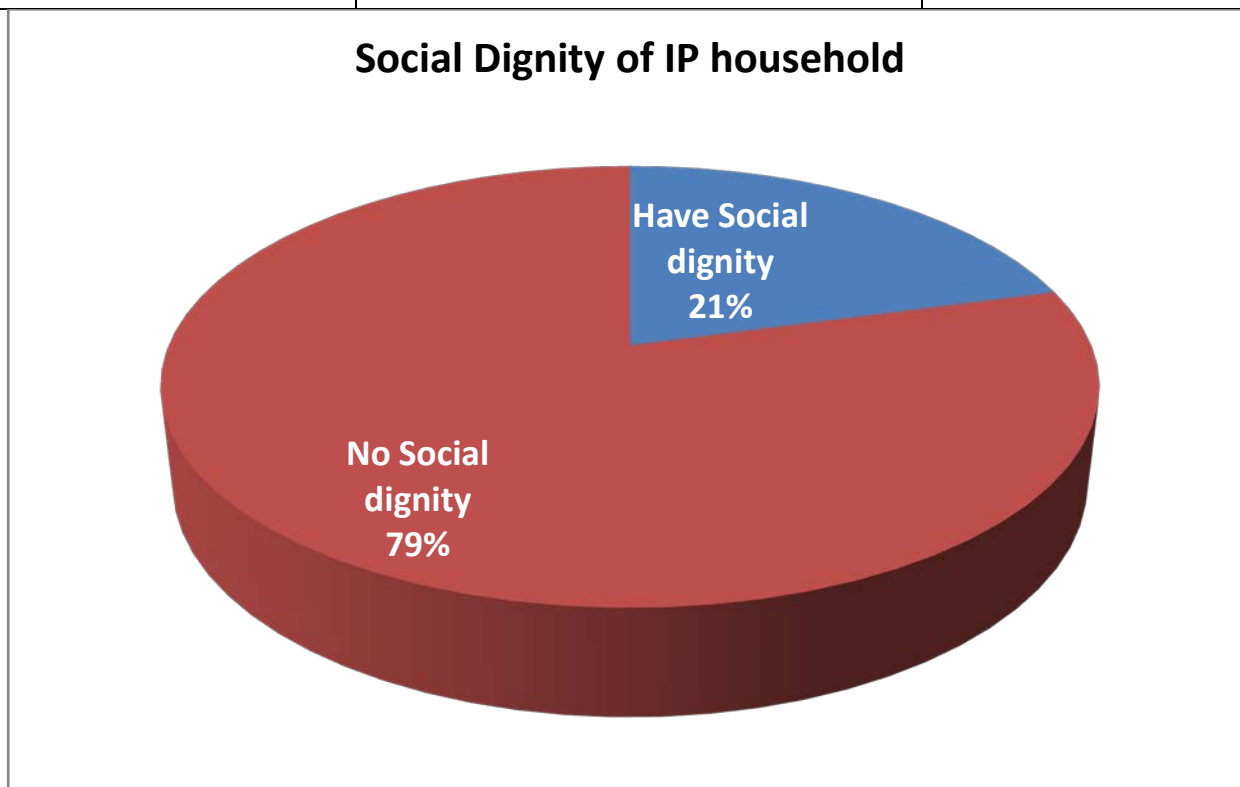
Age range age of IP HH head	Nr. of HH head found in assessed villages	% of HH head of IP
18-25 years	18	7.79
26-30 years	27	11.69
31-35 years	37	16.02
36-40 years	33	14.29
41-45 years	40	17.32
46-50 years	29	12.55
51-55 years	15	6.49
56-60 years	09	3.90
61-65 years	15	6.49
66-70 years	04	1.73
71-75 years	03	1.30
76-80	01	0.43
Total	231	100

9.6.1 Sex of household head of IPs under the assessment household in 6 villages:

Men household head 208 (90%) and **women household head** 23 (10%) under the assessed 231 IP households in Dinajpur and Thakurgaon district.

9.7 Social dignity of IP people: During the assessment, directly ask the respondent/household head of IP people in Dinajpur and Thankurgaon district in respective villages “ Do you have social dignity?” the following responses found from 231 assessed IP households from sampled villages.

SOCIAL DIGNITY OF IPs		
Type of response	No. of IP household	% of IP household
Have Social dignity	48	20.8
No Social dignity	183	79.2
Total	231	100.0



Social dignity: If no why?, the following voices are found from the respondent during the assessment:

- Facing threaten for living with our cultural tradition.
- We are very poor and poor proportion than other community people.
- No land, no stable income round the year.
- We are landless & day laboring.
- Still socially neglected found when they started enterprise in a market place like grocery shop, food /tea shop etc.
- We are not able to higher education to our children.
- We are not able to freely maintain cultural and religious significances like worship (respect/devotion), ancestral burial ground and ancestral land grabbing by neighbor muscle man, severely restricted access to common property resources and livelihood etc.
- Deprived from our fundamental human rights.
- Poor connection to us by with the local government officials for giving supports .

Above negative consequences will affect by IPs with long- term and not ensuring their human rights significantly that rights clearly articulated in the national constitution. The Constitution of Bangladesh ensures affirmative action for indigenous peoples and prohibits discrimination inter alia on grounds of race, religion or place of birth, Article 23A of which provides, “the State shall take steps to protect and develop the unique local culture and tradition of the tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities”. It also spells out in Article 28 (4), “nothing in this Article shall prevent the

State from making special provision in favor of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of citizens”.

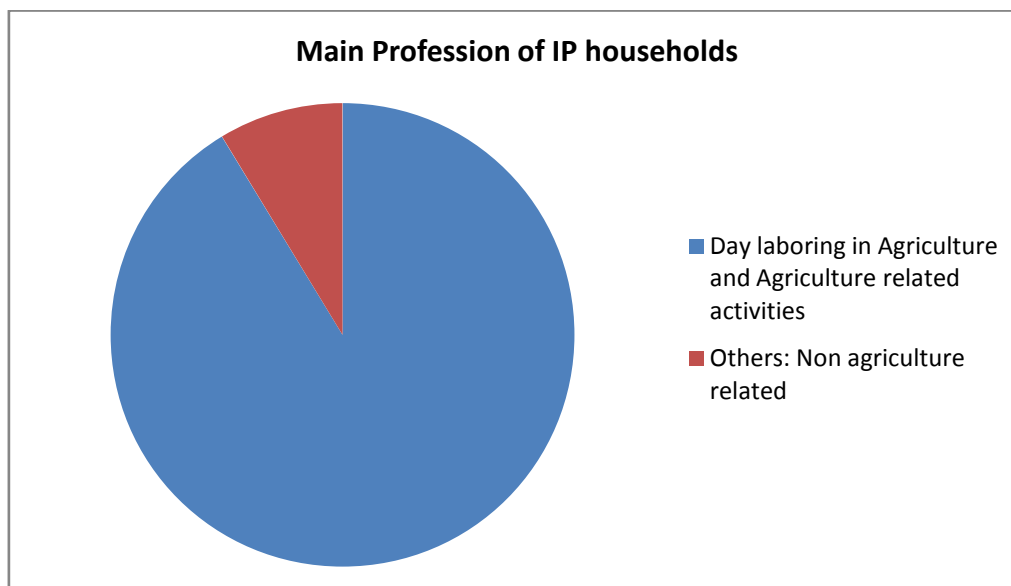
9.8 Poverty of Indigenous People (IP):

The Government uses the term —adivasi/ethnic minority‖ in its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. Indigenous peoples (IPs) include about less than 1% (3 million) of the population of Bangladesh. Out of them about 6 lacs (6,00,000 rough estimated) Santal Population in Bangladesh mostly living in plain land district Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Rangpur. Updated information on the number of Santal cannot be provided in the absence of the tribe wise breakdown of national population census report. They are living scattered and remotes rural villages in these Northern districts. This ethnic group was originally hunters and gatherers and used natural resources from their ancestral land. Due to increase population, deforestation and scarcity of wild animals and birds, they had to move out to different areas, mainly plain land areas, for their livelihood. They have lost their ancestral land due to lack of knowledge on state land administration, management and land policy issues, deprivation and dishonesty of land officials, lack of proper documentation of tenural position, illiteracy, traditional reality, money lender trap, sale advance labor and extreme poverty (for immediate need of cash and eventually lost their land) etc. During the FGDs and Household assessment, we observed that most of the women are engaged with contract & production /profit sharing basis cow and goat rearing. Women received cow and goat from neighbor villagers for rearing of contract system.

At present, this Santal community is very poor as they do not generally own land for cultivation. As results they work as laborers in agriculture and agriculture related activities. They are generally employed by the other community (Muslim & Hindu) landowners who represent the dominant culture in local areas. Other dominant communities exploited them by paying relative low wages. Among the Santals, both men and women work for wages in agriculture and related activities in rural areas. Labor wages are prime source of their livelihood income/earnings. But wages are not increasing comparing with the inflation on basic commodities. They are living with exploitation of class base economy and also vulnerability beyond the system of economy.

Household profession of assessed 232 IP households and 6 IPs villages in Dinajpur and Thakurgaon district, the following results are found from this assessment.

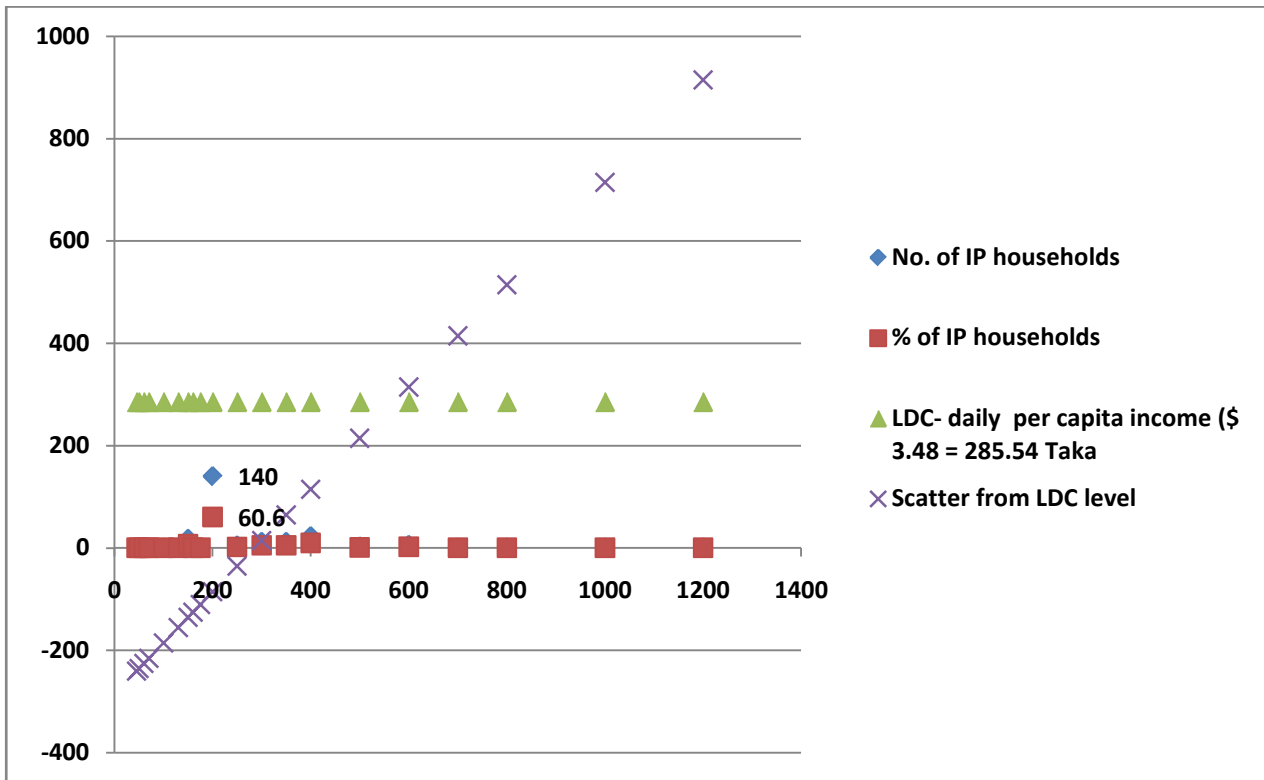
Main profession of IP households		
Type of profession	No. of IP households	% of IP households
Day laboring in Agriculture and Agriculture related activities	211	91.3
Others: Non agriculture related	20	8.7
Total	231	100.0



9.9 Poverty Line and link with country LDC achieved indicators and SDGs:

Daily income (BDT)	No. of IP households	% of IP households	LDC achieved indicators- daily per capita income (\$ 3.48 = 285.54 Taka (yearly-1271\$-BBS), poverty line	Scatter from LDC achieved Indicator level
45	1	.4	285.5	-240.5
50	1	.4	285.5	-235.5
60	1	.4	285.5	-225.5
70	1	.4	285.5	-215.5
100	1	.4	285.5	-185.5
130	1	.4	285.5	-155.5
150	18	7.8	285.5	-135.5
160	1	.4	285.5	-125.5
175	1	.4	285.5	-110.5
200	140	60.6	285.5	-85.5
250	5	2.2	285.5	-35.5
300	12	5.2	285.5	14.5
350	12	5.2	285.5	64.5
400	23	10.0	285.5	114.5
500	3	1.3	285.5	214.5
600	6	2.6	285.5	314.5
700	1	.4	285.5	414.5
800	1	.4	285.5	514.5
1000	1	.4	285.5	714.5
1200	1	.4	285.5	914.5
Total	231	100.0		

*



Above income and poverty line table and scatter (break up) chart shown that 25.97% of IP household head daily income is better with the country LDC achieved indicators, 62.77% of IP households still close to country LDC achieved indicators and 11.26 % of IP households are very scatter or far from country LDC achieved indicators which are significantly more vulnerable in this context. Nobody will remain behind to achieve the SDGs and LDC goal by 2024. Till around 72% of IP households are exclusion from the LDC achieved indicator targets and national poverty line. It is clearly indicates that out of 231 IP households assessment, 72% households are exclusion and far away from targeted daily per capita income or poverty line.

9.10 Non-Monetary composition of IP households:

Considering the economic status, what about the status of other non monetary composition of IP household in assessed villages?

Status of non monetary indicators of IPs in Plain Land:

Household own Cultivable Land: out of total 231 assessed IP households 55.8% households has own cultivable land within 10 decimals and 44.2% households has no own cultivable land.

Ownership of currently cultivating/ irrigated land: 39.4% of IP households are currently cultivation with own land and 60.6% of household cultivating with other land (land is not own) by leases and sharecropping.

Round the year food available for feeding in household: 12.6% of IP households are keeping food available to feed round the year. 87% of IP household has no food available in their house for taking round the area

Types of fuel used for cooking: 99.6% of IP households are using traditional fuel for cooking and only 1 (0.4%) household is using modern fuel (gas cylinder) for cooking.

Fuel for lighting: 44.6 % of IP households are using Electricity for lighting and 55.4% of households are traditional fuel (other than electricity) for lighting.

Road transportation /communication facilitation for economic, social, education: 100% of IP households are using traditional transport

Structure of the house: 6.1% of IP households are living with semi pucca and 93.9% of IP households are living with vulnerable Kacha house.

Type of the floor of house: 2.6% of IP house floor is modern and 97.4% house floor and traditional (mud, bamboo).

Overall house condition: 56.7% of IP houses conditions are good & satisfactory and 43.3% of overall house condition are bad & not satisfactory.

Provision of Latrine facilities: 58.0 % of IP households are no provision latrine facilities/open defecation (no latrine) and 42.0% of household have a latrine (any type).

Source of drinking water: 67.1% of IP households population drinking water sources are own tube well and 32.9% of household population using drinking water from other neighbor household (dependent with other family).

Dependent populations on Household Head: 13.0% of IP household populations are not depending on household head and 87% of household populations are completely dependent on household head daily wages/ laboring income.

Child laboring for household income: 90.9 % of the IP households have no child labor for household income and 9.1 % of the IP household founded child laboring for income.

Household capacity/ family composition: 32.9% of the IP family founded children more than adults and 67.1 % of IP family founded else / not more children than adults.

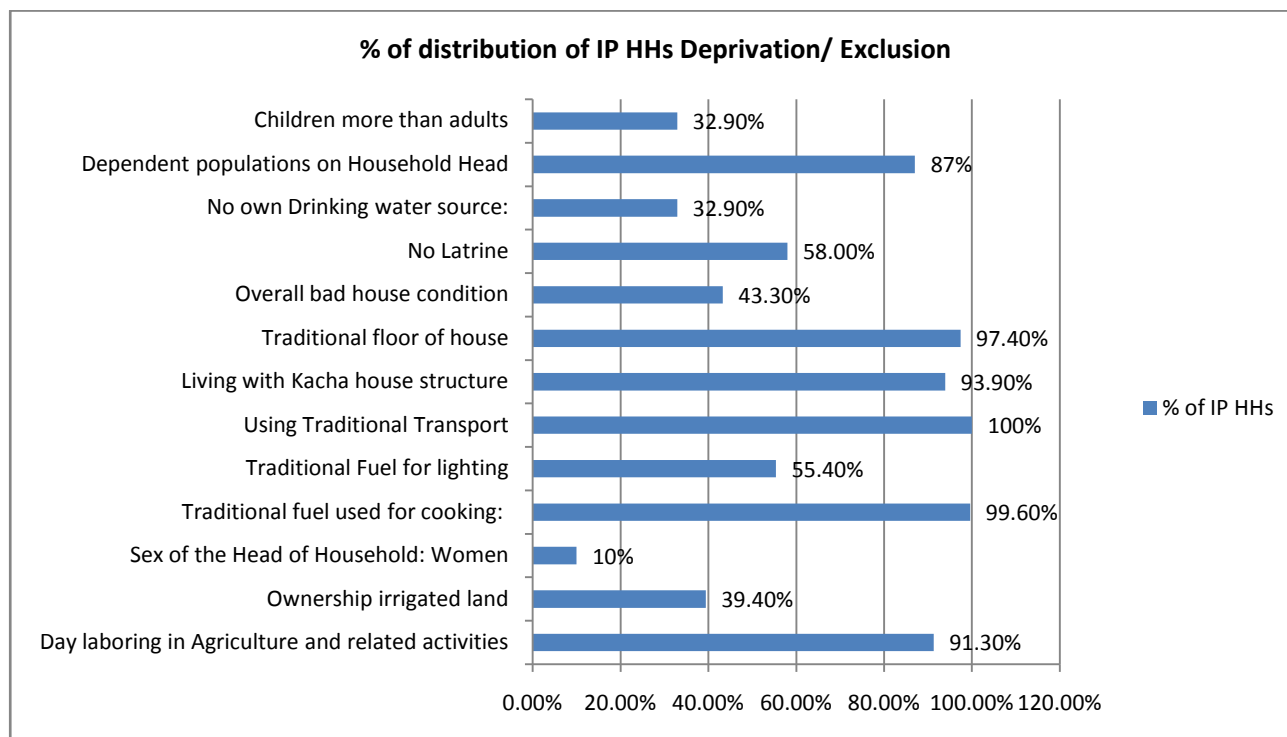
Recreation facilities: 3.9% of the IP households are using television (TV) for recreation purposes and 96.1% of IP households have no television (TV) for their recreation.

Daily three times balance diet intake by household population: 6.1% of IP households are responded “Yes” and 93.9% of households are responded “No”.

9.11 Level of Deprivation or Exclusion from Non monetary indicators in Plain Land IP household:

Non -Monetary Indicators	% of IP HHs
Day laboring in Agriculture and related activities	91.30%
Ownership irrigated land	39.40%
Sex of the Head of Household: Women headed	10%
Traditional fuel used for cooking:	99.60%
Traditional Fuel for lighting	55.40%
Using Traditional Transport	100%
Living with Kacha house structure	93.90%
Traditional floor of house	97.40%
Overall bad house condition	43.30%
No Latrine	58.00%
No own Drinking water source:	32.90%
Dependent populations on Household Head	87%
Children more than adults	32.90%

Level of Deprivation or Exclusion from Non monetary indicators in Plain Land IP household:



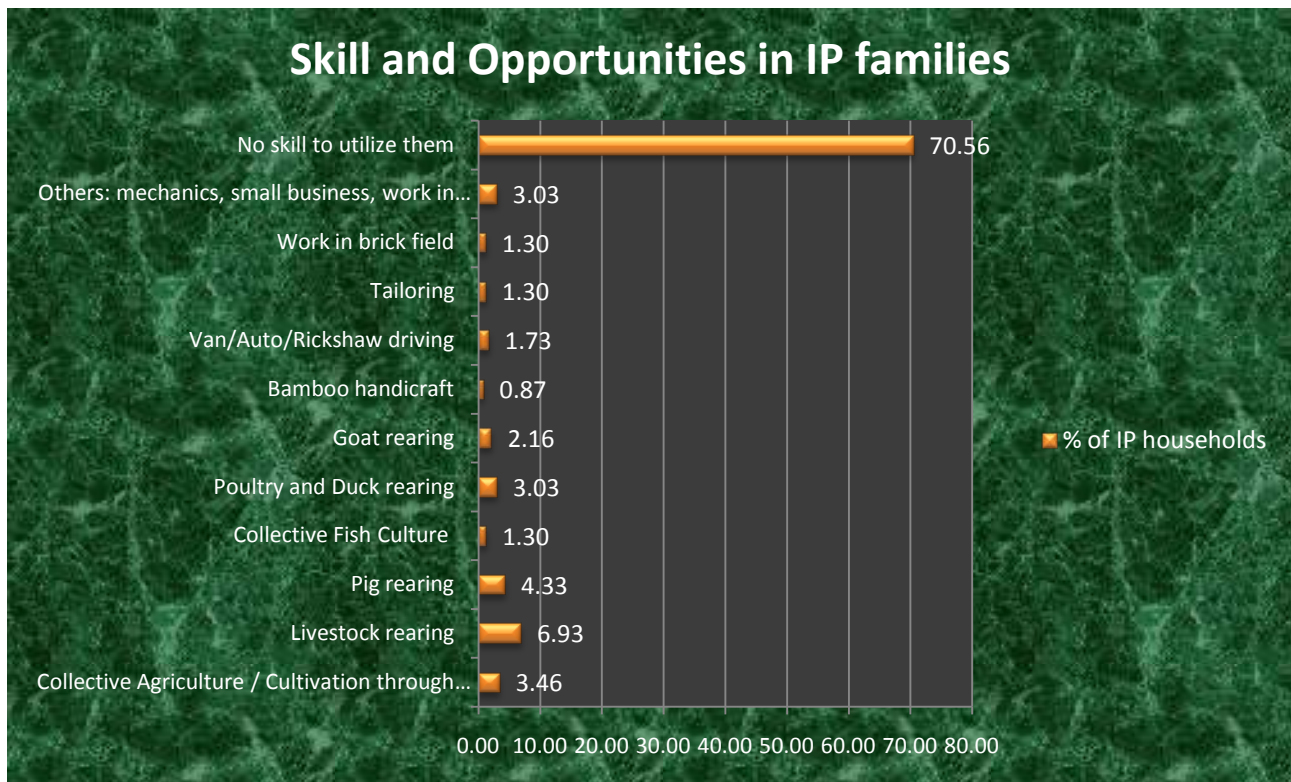
10. NEED PERCEIVED BY IP HOUSEHOLDS

After completion of village level Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) and Household Questionnaire assessment, we have assessed individual household needs considering their own reality. Every household head/respondents are expressed their views and needs by themselves based on their existing context. We did not cross cutting either needs will be sustainable or link with the market or how to manage the need by themselves or who will be address their needs or it will be create short or long term income for household etc. Two nos. of issues we are assessed under the need perception section such as what type of skill and opportunities has to be utilized through internal and external support by themselves and need perceived by IP household based on their own livelihood reality. What type of skill and opportunities has to be utilize through internal and external support by themselves

Skill and Opportunities	# of IP households views	% of IP households
Collective Agriculture / Cultivation through land leases	8	3.46
Livestock rearing	16	6.93
Pig rearing	10	4.33
Collective Fish Culture	3	1.30
Poultry and Duck rearing	7	3.03
Goat rearing	5	2.16
Bamboo handicraft	2	0.87
Van/Auto/Rickshaw driving	4	1.73
Tailoring	3	1.30
Work in brick field	3	1.30
Others: mechanics, small business, work in rice husking mill, Artisan labor etc	7	3.03
No skill to utilize them	163	70.56
Total	231	100

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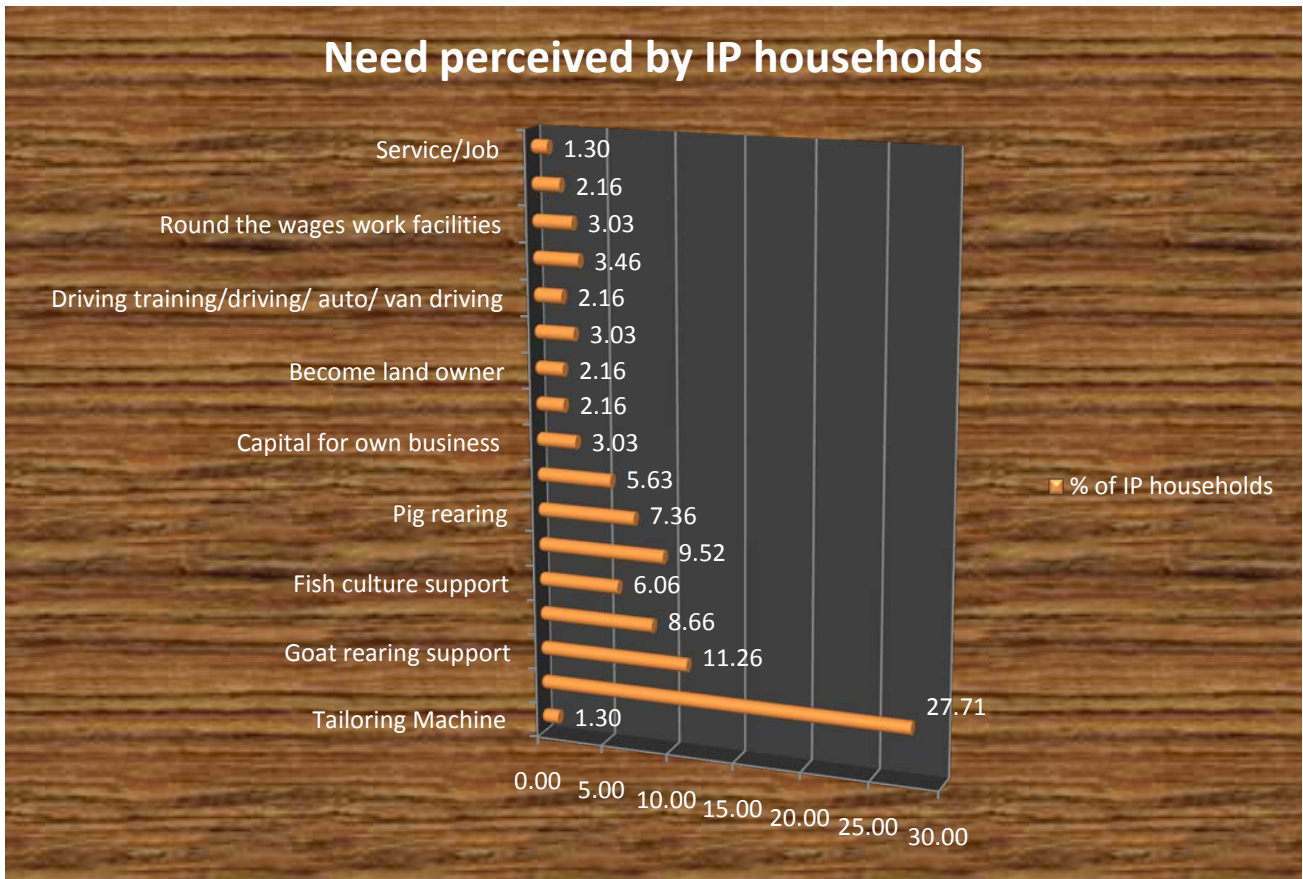
Skill and Opportunities in IP families



Need perceived & directly expected by IP household based on their own livelihood reality for their income and employment activities:

Need perceived & directly expected	# of IP households views/ expressed	% of IP households
Tailoring Machine	03	1.30
Cow rearing support	64	27.71
Goat rearing support	26	11.26
Collective Cultivation	20	8.66
Fish culture support	14	6.06
Duck & poultry rearing	22	9.52
Pig rearing	17	7.36
Land leases support	13	5.63
Capital for own business	07	3.03
Agriculture work in own land	05	2.16
Become land owner	05	2.16
Organic fertilizer making	07	3.03
Driving training/driving/ auto/ van driving	05	2.16
Child education	08	3.46
Round the wages work facilities	07	3.03
Mechanics	05	2.16
Service/Job	03	1.30
Total	231	100.00

*



11. Recommendations:

- Recommended to pass the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (2015) in the Parliament and urgently implement to ensure economic, social, and cultural rights of indigenous people.
- In spite of Bangladesh agreement with a number of global human rights treaties, recommend to implementation of those treaties through taking effective legislative, administrative and judicial measures.
- A major portion of IP households or people are continuing deprivation with the basic socio-economic rights. Considering the national fact “nobody will remain behind to achieve the SDGs and LDC goal by 2024”, recommending to special SDGs and LDC financing through engagement of local government institutions and Local CSOs for addressing Economic, Social, Cultural and Civil and Political Rights of Indigenous People .
- Reference of this need assessment data and considering the deplorable / unacceptable livelihood conditions of plain land adivasis, 59% IPs are completely Landless & Round the Year Food Insecure. Recommended to effective legislative measure through engagement of Local Government and CSOs for ensuring Land Rights based on policy reference and responsibilities to access Government Khasland (public land), water bodies, forest land and Vested properties,

12. Conclusion:

The current civilian growth of Bangladesh, the need assessment data will helpful for Government, INGOs & Private stakeholders & CSOs to contribute to reduce deprivation of rural IPs through matching of development initiatives as well as design development program. In addition, more qualitative in-depth individual household study would be helpful for addressing the sustainable development needs and breaking the traditional log (own reality) for next decades.

