



XXIV Regional Committee Meeting, Zone - III

(Action Point: General Recommendations S. No. 4 at page 5)



Assessment on Requirement of “Jalkunds” in Assam State



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Assessment on Requirement of **Jalkunds** in Assam State

Background

The north-eastern region of India comprising eight states, viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, has a total geographical area of 262,180 sq. km, which is nearly 8% of the total area of the country with more than 39.0 M population. The major constraints of the region are undulating topography, highly eroded and degraded soils and inaccessible terrain, land tenurial system, size of land holding and prevalence of shifting cultivation. Despite the constraints, the region is endowed with a bounty of water resources, accounting for about 40% of the total water resources in the country, i.e. about 60 million ha-m (Samuel and Satapathy, 2008). Assam, one of the seven-sister states of Northeast India, is located in the northeastern region of India. There is a rain-shadow effect in the Assam valley lying between the Himalayas to the north and other ranges to the south and east. On the southern slopes of the Khasi-Jaintia hills, annual rainfall is over 10,000 mm, while on the north in the Brahmaputra valley it decreases to less than 2000 mm. The average annual rainfall and the number of rainy days are 2321.5 mm and 110 for the considered period, which categorizes Assam as a high rainfall region. The pre-monsoon and monsoon rainfall contribute about 26% and 70% to the total annual rainfall. Despite a water surplus region, farmers suffer from extreme water scarcity during November to March (ICAR, 2016) due to poor management of water resources coupled with lack of suitable soil and water conservation measures (Saha et al., 2007). Excessive runoff is the major cause of water loss, but it also provides an opportunity of rainwater harvesting. Therefore, rainwater harvesting could be an important strategy for efficient and effective water management for sustainable livelihood in hills. *Jalkund* - a micro rainwater harvesting structure is found suitable for the farmers residing in the hill top for small scale agricultural activities (ICAR, 2016). The technology is simple and low cost and used for storing rainwater in the upper terrace condition. Large scale adoption of this technology and its judicious

use can provide new and diverse livelihood options for the resource poor farmers of NE region. This policy paper is an attempt to assess the number of the *jalkunds* required, and its budgetary implications and potential benefits for the Assam State.

Methodology for Assessment

1. There are two approaches in estimation of potential number of the *jalkunds*, namely (1) rainfed area approach and (2) number of the operational holders units.
2. In the Rainfed area approach, it can be assumed that a particular number of the numbers of the *jalkunds* are required to cover the certain percentage of the total rainfed area assuming each *jalkund* can irrigate 400 and 800 m² area under farmer's practice and with micro-irrigation, respectively. However, in this way, covering entire rainfed area seems practically infeasible and ecologically undesirable.
3. Therefore, number of operational landholders approach wherein it was assumed that at least one *jalkund* can be provided to each landholder as most of the farmers are having a sizable portion of their land as rainfed in the State.
4. District-wise numbers of the operational landholders were taken from Agriculture Census 2015-16, MoAFM, Govt. India.

Costing of *Jalkund*

The cost of the *Jalkund* is depend on the size (L x W x D) which can be decided from catchment-command-storage relationship. If there is sufficient runoff, then the *Jalkund* dimension is decided based on water requirement of the crops the farmers intended to do during rabi season and other income generating interventions like poultry, fishery,

piggery, duckery etc. Otherwise the dimension of the *Jalkund* is decided based on limiting volume of runoff expected from the catchment irrespective of the area and crop water requirement. In the particular case, the dimension of 5 m x 4 m x 1.5 m have been found optimum for the region for a farmer having an average size of land holding and expecting



enough runoff from the upper part of the land holding to the get filled the Jalkund. The cost estimation for one jalkund is given in table 1, where cost of materials required and no. of mandays generated which can be met out from different convergence of ongoing government schemes like MGNREGA.

Table 1: Estimation of *Jalkund* with cost of labour and materials

S. No.	Particular	Labour cost (Rs.)	Materials Cost (Rs.)	Total Amount (Rs)
1	Earth work	5400.00		5400.00
2	Plastering with clay, cushioning with pine leaf etc, silpaulin lining and fixing in sides	2000.00		2000.00
3	Thatching to cover Jalkhund for preventing evaporation loss	1050.00		1050.00
4	Silpaulin sheet (specification...GSM/micron)		7200.00	7200.00
5	Fencing (Cost of materials & Labour)	1500.00	1896.00	3396.00
6	Contingencies (5% of total cost)		954.00	954.00
Total		9950.00	10050.00	20,000.00
About 33 mandays of labour will be required for construction of one <i>Jalkund</i>				

Estimated Number of *Jalkunds* and Budget

Cost of *Jalkund* pond was estimated at Rs. 20,000/- per unit and Rs. 30,000/- for *jalkund* pond with micro-irrigation system. Benefit: cost ratio was assumed as 1.8 and 2.0, respectively for *jalkund* pond with farmer's practice and *jalkund* pond with micro-irrigation, respectively.

Table 2: District-wise operational holdings and estimated budget

District	Operational holdings/ No. of <i>jalkund</i> (000')	Potential area to be irrigated (ha)		Budget (Rs in Crores)	
		With farmer's Practice (<i>jalkund</i>)	With MI (<i>jalkund</i> + Micro-irrigation)	With farmer's Practice (<i>jalkund</i>)	With MI (<i>jalkund</i> + Micro-irrigation)
Baksa	92.0	3679.6	7359.1	184.0	276.0
Barpeta	121.8	4872.8	9745.6	243.6	365.5
Bongaigaon	77.2	3089.3	6178.6	154.5	231.7
Cachar	107.9	4316.7	8633.4	215.8	323.8
Chirang	44.4	1777.5	3555.0	88.9	133.3
Darrang	95.4	3817.6	7635.2	190.9	286.3
Dhemaji	86.7	3468.7	6937.4	173.4	260.2

Dhubri	124.9	4995.4	9990.9	249.8	374.7
Dibrugarh	111.8	4473.1	8946.2	223.7	335.5
Dima hasao	17.7	707.9	1415.8	35.4	53.1
Goalpara	92.6	3704.7	7409.4	185.2	277.9
Golaghat	112.3	4491.4	8982.7	224.6	336.9
Hailakandi	68.8	2751.4	5502.9	137.6	206.4
Jorhat	104.7	4190.0	8379.9	209.5	314.2
Kamrup	183.2	7326.1	14652.2	366.3	549.5
Kamrup Metro	29.7	1187.8	2375.5	59.4	89.1
Karbi Anglong	71.9	2874.7	5749.4	143.7	215.6
Karimganj	52.7	2108.6	4217.1	105.4	158.1
Kokrajhar	130.6	5223.1	10446.2	261.2	391.7
Lakhimpur	94.0	3758.8	7517.5	187.9	281.9
Marigaon	101.7	4066.7	8133.4	203.3	305.0
Nagaon	231.5	9260.2	18520.5	463.0	694.5
Nalbari	65.0	2599.6	5199.2	130.0	195.0
Sivasagar	98.9	3955.5	7911.0	197.8	296.7
Sonitpur	221.6	8864.3	17728.6	443.2	664.8
Tinsukia	96.5	3861.1	7722.2	193.1	289.6
Udalguri	106.2	4246.0	8492.0	212.3	318.5
State	2741.7	109668.4	219336.9	5483.4	8225.1

District wise estimated numbers of *Jalkunds* are given in table 2. The estimated number of *jalkunds* are required is 2741.7 thousand to cover the entire Assam State. The highest number of *jalkunds* are to be constructed in Nagaon (231.5 thousands) followed by Sonitpur district (221.6 thousands). For the entire State, total budgetary requirement is Rs 5483.4 and 8225.1 crores for farmer's practice and with micro-irrigation, respectively. Total potential area can be irrigated in the entire state with farmer's practice of irrigation and using micro-irrigation through *jalkunds* are about 109668 ha and 219336 ha, respectively.

Economic Impact of the *Jalkund* in NE Region

Extant literature shows that *jalkund* is economically viable in NE India as evident from B:C ratios which varies from 1.42 to 4.33 for different crops with fishery, duckery and piggery (Saha *et al.*, 2007; KVK-Sikkim 2015; Bhakta *et al.*, 2018; Singh *et al.*, 2018; Singh and Athokpam, 2018; ICAR, 2016). Ngaachan (2005) also reported that adoption of the *jalkund* resulted in an increase of net profit to the extent of Rs. 3330 to 7450 per *jalkund* from different enterprises in the NE region. Keeping above coefficient in view, for the sake of simplicity, for

assessing the potential impact of the intervention at the regional scale, it was assumed that the benefit: cost ratios for the *jalkund* are 1.8 and 2.0 for farmer's practice and with micro-irrigation, respectively.

Estimated Benefits of the *Jalkund*

A conservative estimate shows that the spread of *jalkund* technology in the entire Assam State can yield economic benefits to the extent of Rs 9870.2 and 16450.3 crores under the farmer's practice and with micro-irrigation, respectively in year (Table 3). However, if the *jalkund* is used for taking up a combination of the enterprises (high value crops along with piggery, fishery and duckery) the economic benefits would be much higher than aforesaid monetary estimates.

Table 3: Estimated Economic benefits of *Jalkund* in Assam

District	<i>Jalkund</i> + Farmer's Method of Irrigation		<i>Jalkund</i> + Micro Irrigation	
	Estimated Cost (Rs in Crores)	Estimated Benefits (Rs in Crores)	Estimated Cost (Rs in Crores)	Estimated Benefits (Rs in Crores)
Baksa	184.0	331.2	276.0	551.9
Barpeta	243.6	438.6	365.5	730.9
Bongaigaon	154.5	278.0	231.7	463.4
Cachar	215.8	388.5	323.8	647.5
Chirang	88.9	160.0	133.3	266.6
Darrang	190.9	343.6	286.3	572.6
Dhemaji	173.4	312.2	260.2	520.3
Dhubri	249.8	449.6	374.7	749.3
Dibrugarh	223.7	402.6	335.5	671.0
Dima hasao	35.4	63.7	53.1	106.2
Goalpara	185.2	333.4	277.9	555.7
Golaghat	224.6	404.2	336.9	673.7
Hailakandi	137.6	247.6	206.4	412.7
Jorhat	209.5	377.1	314.2	628.5
Kamrup	366.3	659.4	549.5	1098.9
Kamrup Metro	59.4	106.9	89.1	178.2
Karbi Anglong	143.7	258.7	215.6	431.2
Karimganj	105.4	189.8	158.1	316.3
Kokrajhar	261.2	470.1	391.7	783.5
Lakhimpur	187.9	338.3	281.9	563.8

Marigaon	203.3	366.0	305.0	610.0
Nagaon	463.0	833.4	694.5	1389.0
Nalbari	130.0	234.0	195.0	389.9
Sivasagar	197.8	356.0	296.7	593.3
Sonitpur	443.2	797.8	664.8	1329.6
Tinsukia	193.1	347.5	289.6	579.2
Udalguri	212.3	382.1	318.5	636.9
State	5483.4	9870.2	8225.1	16450.3

Conclusion

For effective and efficient water management in Assam State, *jalkund* is an economically viable and feasible technology, particularly for small and marginal farmers, if harvested water is used for cultivation of the high value crops such as vegetables coupled with fishery, duckery and piggery. A total number of 2741.7 thousand *jalkunds* are needed for the Assam State with an allocation of Rs. 5483.4 and 8225.1 crores budget for farmer's practice and with micro-irrigation, respectively. These estimated outlay and benefits can facilitate prioritization and allocation of scarce financial resource for sustainable use of water resources in State, and thereby securing the livelihood of resource poor farmers of the state.

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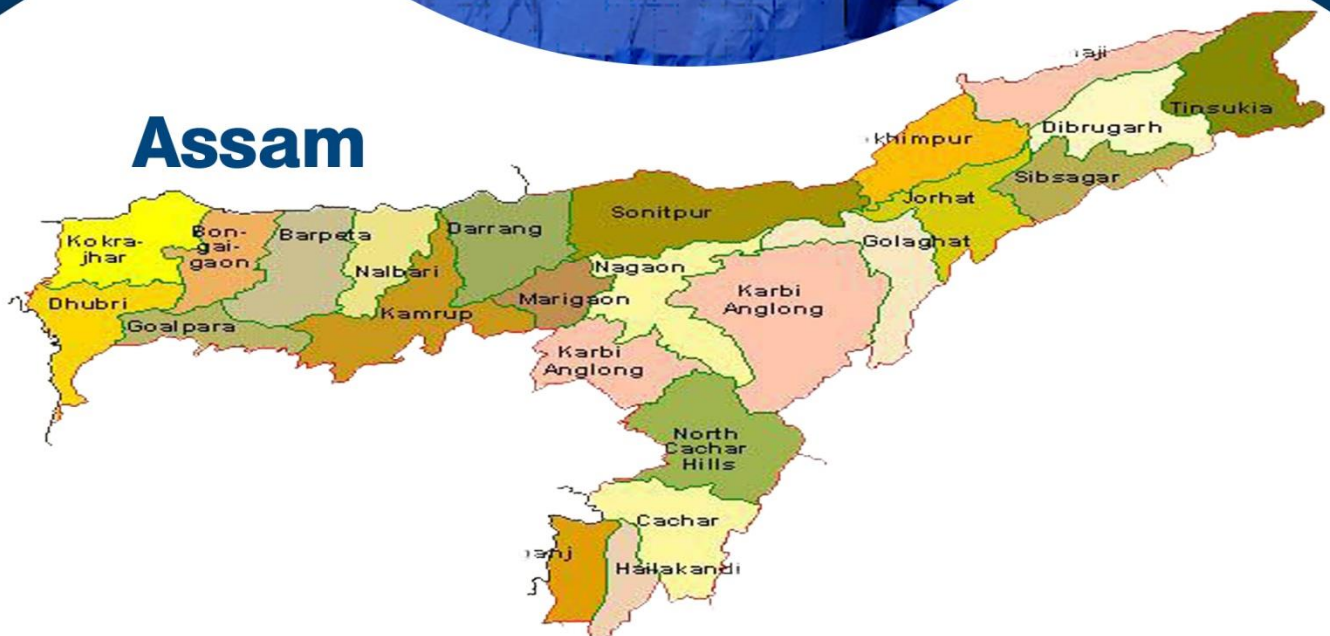
Annexure-I

Construction Procedure

- The *Jalkund* dimension should be standard in size (5 m x 4 m x 1.5 m) and silpaulin size should be 9m x8 m taking into consideration extra length of 0.5 m in each side for proper fixing.
- The bed and sides of the *Jalkund* should be smoothed by removing rocks, stones or other projections, which may damage the lining material. The inner walls, including the bottom of the *Jalkund*, should be plastered with a mixture of clay and cow dung in the ratio of 5:1.
- Spraying of insecticide like endosulphon 35EC on the surface of the inner walls and the bottom, and application of aluminum phosphide (@ 1 tablet/live hole) around the *Jalkund* should be done before the lining process.
- After clay-plastering, about 3–5 cm thick cushioning should be done with locally and easily available dry pine leaf (@ 2–3 kg/sq. m) on the walls and bottom, to avoid any kind of damage to the lining material from any sharp or conical gravel, etc. .
- Laying down of silpaulin lined sheet of thickness not less than 250 GSM should be done after completion all above works in such a way that it touches the bottom and walls loosely and uniformly and stretches out to a width of about 0.5 cm all around the length and width of the *Jalkund*.
- A 0.3 x 0.3 m trench should be dug out all around the *Jalkund* and 0.3 m outer edge sheet should be buried in the soil for keeping the sheet in position.
- A drop pit should be constructed to divert the entire runoff before allowing to flow into the the *Jalkund*, to arrest sediments and any unwanted materials flowing through before entering to *jalkund*.
- *Jalkund* should be covered with thatch (5–8 cm thick) made of locally available bamboo and grass to reduce evaporation during off-season.



Assam



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