

Agricultural Regulated Markets in Assam : An Overview

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Introduction:

The commercialization of agriculture and the increasing trend of agricultural production have drawn significant attention to the marketing arrangement both national and international level. The new challenges have emerged in the new economic regime, and have also prescribed in the need of strengthening the agricultural marketing system of the states of the entire country. It is argued that, for a sustained development of the agricultural and non-agricultural sector, an efficient agricultural marketing arrangement, a multistage process, which includes all activities moving products from the producer to the final consumers by way of storage, transportation and processing, is undoubtedly the most important prerequisite. Agricultural marketing is the performance of all business activities involved in the flow of goods and services from the point of initial agricultural production until they are in the hands of the ultimate consumer (Kohls, 1967). An efficient agricultural marketing arrangement provides an incentive to farmers to grow more and enhance their income. In the process the countries export capacity increases, which considerably have great diversified and favourable effects in the economy. It creates a chain effect on market demand, consumer's consumption pattern and ultimately in the process of economic development.

Considering the importance of agricultural marketing, the Royal Commission on Agriculture (1928) stressed on establishment of regulated markets through the intervention of state machinery. In the regulated market the business is done accordance with the rules and regulations framed by the statutory market organizations and represent different sections involved in markets. The marketing costs in such markets are standardized and practice is regulated (Acharya and Agarwal, 1994). The problems of agricultural marketing could only be removed by the establishment of regulated markets with marketing efficiency (Mathur and Kulkarni, 1965 & The Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1928).

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A vital change in the agricultural marketing system has been brought after the state machinery intervention through the establishment of the regulated market which has geared to achieve the social objectives, toward increasing the returns to the farmers for his produce and also in systematic development of marketing infrastructures and other marketing activities. For an efficient and better functioning of buying and selling of agricultural produces, in the interest of both the producers and buyers, the Assam State Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1972 is enforced in the state of Assam and the concept of regulated market was introduced in Assam in the year 1976.

The establishment of the regulated markets in the state have not been able to achieve its objectives due to their administrative and operational deficiencies. In fact, there is lack of awareness among most of the farmers about the existence of the regulated markets. In Assam, the agricultural marketing system still continues with the characteristics of the traditional one. For example, most of the agricultural produce is traded in the traditional marketing centers like "Haats", daily or weekly markets in which the middlemen are playing the most vital role indicating the high marketing cost and in result the inefficient marketing system. Various studies conducted in different parts of Assam showed that the agricultural marketing in Assam has been suffering from manifold problems and the regulated market is associated with various shortcomings (Deka, 1984). The regulated markets established by the Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board have hardly making any transaction of notified agricultural commodities. Bhuyan and Wiber (1988) found in their study conducted at Dhing Regulated market of Assam that the regulated market yard was not functioning. Due to the traditional marketing system in Assam, the producers are not getting actual prices of their agricultural produces (Rehan, 1978). Goswami et.al. (1982) pointed out that in Assam a certain group of traders who still dominate the wholesale import of these commodities from outside of the state, procurement of local agricultural produce and their distribution almost entirely.

The behavior of prices is an important aspect of agricultural marketing of a country. The prices of agricultural commodities are generally low during the harvesting period. A number of studies indicate that a large number of middlemen function at various stages of agricultural marketing in India. Ahmed (1979) opined that the jute growers in Assam are deprived of getting the actual prices due to the middlemen like commission agents etc. Another study conducted by Pathak (1976) in the Majuli development block, the principal mustard growing area in

Assam, found that the producers were deprived of getting actual prices of their surplus mustard seeds because the mill owners procured mustard seeds from the producers and processed into mustard oil. The cost of marketing, transport and processing margins was high in India; the prices of Indian products tend to appear all competitive compared with imports. The prices spread in Indian market are thus considerable and the cultivator's share of the consumer's rupees is very small. It indicates the high marketing cost and in result the inefficient marketing system. The marketing margins between the cultivator and the consumer may be index of the soundness of the marketing system (Gopalaswamy, 1997).

To address those issues and to promote investment in marketing infrastructure, the state governments were requested to suitably amend their respective Agricultural Produce Market Acts for deregulation of the marketing system in India and to motivate the corporate sector to undertake direct marketing and to facilitate a national integrated market. A model law was formulated by the Department of Agriculture for the establishment of private markets /yards, direct purchase centres, consumer/farmers' markets for direct sale and promotion of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the management and development of agricultural markets in India. Provision has also been made in the Act for constitution of State Agricultural Produce Marketing Standards Bureau for the promotion of grading, standardisation and quality certification of agricultural produce.

Under these circumstances the present study aspires to examine the status and functioning of the agricultural regulated markets in the state.

Methodology:

The study is based on both secondary data and primary data collected during 2010 from four districts covering the four agro-climatic zones of the Brahmaputra valley namely, (i) the North Bank Plain (ii) the Upper Brahmaputra Valley (iii) the Central Brahmaputra Valley and (iv) the Lower Brahmaputra valley. The sample districts from the agro-climatic zones are: North Lakhimpur from the North Bank Plain, Jorhat from the Upper Brahmaputra Valley, Nagaon from the Central Brahmaputra Valley and Barpeta from the Lower Brahmaputra valley. From each of these four districts one regulated market namely North Lakhimpur Regulated Market Committee, Jorhat District Regulated Market Committee, Dhing Regulated Market Committee and Baharihat Regulated Market Committee has been selected. Villages under its jurisdiction were purposively

selected considering the objectives of the study. The selection of the markets was guided by the fact that markets were situated at the surplus agricultural area. The traders were grouped into three categories viz whole seller, retailer and producer-cum-seller and finally about 240 traders (80 traders from each group) were selected for detailed investigation. Secondary information and data were collected from various relevant books and reports, periodicals and journals, government departments etc. However, in dealing with the issues, the study relies upon the information gathered on the basis of discussion made with cultivators, consumers, middlemen, dealers, transport operators, officials of the market committees and other persons involved in the marketing process of sample markets.

Status of Regulated Markets in Assam:

The fate of the economy of Assam is inseparably related to the agricultural sector and the efficient agricultural marketing system. There are various types of agricultural markets in different parts of the country including Assam. They are local or village markets, primary wholesale markets, secondary wholesale markets, terminal markets, retail markets, regulated markets, unregulated markets, etc. In the history of Agricultural Marketing in Assam, some commodity markets are playing important role in the rural economy of our state. Development of such markets is the crying need of the hour and those can be developed as markets of national importance. Four such markets are (i) Jute Market at Gauripur, (ii) Banana Market at Darrangiri, (iii) Dry Fish Market at Jagiroad and (iv) Gur Market at Karikhana in Lanka. As on March, 2010, there were 405 nos. of whole sale and 735 rural primary markets of agricultural produce in the entire state of Assam. The status of the whole sale, rural primary and regulated markets in India are presented in Table-1.

Though there are a large number of buyers and sellers in the agricultural marketing mechanism, it is not perfect competitive rather characterized by the oligopolistic and monopolistic nature. The market prices are hardly determined by the growers and the forces of supply and demand. The bargaining power of the producers and the retailers are very weak in the marketing process due to poverty and low retaining capacity of the farmers. Largely, the market forces that form by the traders, commission agents, brokers, middlemen and such other market functionaries set the market prices.

By the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture (1928) the Government of India set up a central organization known as "the office of

the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Govt. of India" in 1935 and latter it was expanded and renamed as "Directorate of Marketing and Inspection". The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection conducted marketing surveys, which revealed the shortcomings in the country's marketing system. A rectification of these deficiencies was sought to be achieved by rationalizing various activities and standardizing various practices in the markets through state intervention and legislation or otherwise. The primary objective of improving the system of agricultural marketing was not only to remove the handicaps from which the producer-seller was suffering but also to increase his income by ensuring him a fair price. In the regulation of markets an exercise of public control over the markets is imposed through legislative measures to regulate the marketing of agricultural produce in order to provide dynamism, enforce standard marketing practices and make efficiency in the marketing system. The regulated market also known as organized wholesale or central market is regulated and controlled by the government with legislations through market committee.

For the development of agricultural marketing, the concept of regulation of agricultural produce markets was considered an integral part of market reform in India and beginning was made when Karanja market was brought under regulation. Although the first market to be regulated was Karanja in 1886 the regulation of markets did not make headway till the first Five Year plan. It got a fillup in the second and third five-year plan. During the last five-year plans, a considerable strategy has been adopted for development of agricultural marketing both at the national and state level.

In 1972 the Assam Agricultural Produce Market Act (AAPM Act) was passed by the State Legislative Assembly and from 1976 the concept of Regulated Markets and market regulation was introduced in the State with the formation of Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board. Regulated markets are functioning under regulated market committees. The objective of the Regulated Market Committees are to establish an efficient marketing system, to regulate the buying and selling of agricultural produces to eradicate malpractices prevailing in the markets. It is expected that through the regulated markets the growers may obtain reasonable and competitive price and the traders receive a fair deal in trading. Regulated Markets provides facilities such as modern market yard, correct platforms for auction of agricultural commodities, measurement by using electronic weigh bridges and weighing balances, godown facilities, bank facility, immediate payment, daily price information, rest sheds, drinking water facility, cattle sheds,

free medical aid to farmers, input shops, phone and fax facilities etc. The information on commodity prices prevailing in various markets is made available; the farmers would be able to get better price of their produce by moving their produce to the market, which pays higher. In the year 1976 four markets namely Howly, Dhing, Kharupetia and Gouripur were regulated. At present there are 24 nos. of Regulated Market Committees all over the state except the sixth scheduled areas (Table-2). Regulated market committees are established for regulating the marketing of specified agricultural produces and establish regulated market in the notified market areas of any part thereof. Within a notified market area no local authority or other person shall set up establish or continue or allow to be set up or continue any place for the purpose of sell of any specified agricultural produce except the produce of such producer who himself is its seller and the purchaser is the person who purchases for his own private consumption or if such agricultural produce is sold by retail sale to a person for own private consumption. But due to some loopholes the said act has not achieved the targeted objectives up to the mark.

There are 226 agricultural produce regulated markets in Assam and 7157 agricultural produce regulated markets in the country by the end of March 2010. The average area served by each regulated market also varied considerably among the states of India. It varies from 103 Sq.km per market in Punjab, 129 in West Bengal, 156 in Haryana, 305 in Andhra Pradesh, 347 in Assam, 350 in Maharashtra, 383 in Karnataka and 394 in Uttar Pradesh. The states like Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, and Uttaranchal were among those where average area served by each market was more than one thousand sq.km. As per recommendation of National Commission on Agriculture there should be one market for 80 sq. km of area. Accordingly there is a deficit of 34679 markets and need to promote more markets in various states. State wise details of regulated markets are given in Table-3.

As per the provisions of the AAPM Act, 1972, as amended from time to time, there shall be one Principal Market Yard (PMY) and one or more Sub-Market Yard or Yards (SMY) in a declared market area. The present status of the Principal Market Yards (PMY) and Sub-Market Yards (SMY) under different regulated market committees are presented in the Table-4 & 5. Regulated market established under and for the purposes of the 'Act' for a market area and includes a market proper as well as a principal market yard or a sub market yard. The market area is the area from where the produce naturally flows to the market,

and which assures adequate income to the market committee. A 'principal market yard' is an enclosure, building or locality declared to be a principal market yard, on the basis of transactions and income generated for the market committee. 'Sub market yard' means an enclosure, building or locality declared to be a sub market yard of one of the principal market. In fact it is a small market and does not generate sufficient income to be declared as principal market. Market proper means the area including all lands with the buildings thereon, within such distance for principal market yard or sub market yard as the state government may declare to be a market proper (Mathur, 1997). There are Principal Market Yards and Sub-Market Yards under a Regulated Market Committee having the facilities for auction, selling, weighing and storage in some of those yards. But the Regulated Market Scheme has, hitherto, attained a very limited success. The Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board has reviewed the working of the Assam Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1972 and has chalked out a Five-Year Plan for all round development of the entire gamut of agricultural marketing system with an effective and time bound programme for implementation of the provisions of the afore said Act.

Licensing of market functionaries under section 13 (2) of the Assam Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1972, all the functionaries are to be licensed in the regulated market. License is issued to the market functionaries like traders, commission agents, brokers, weighment measures, surveyors, warehousemen for doing their business in a market area by their concerned regulated market committee on payment of such fee as prescribed. Though the traders have been brought under licensing system, the traders are not interested to procure agricultural commodities in the regulated markets due to the following reasons.

The regulated markets are controlled by some rules and regulations and thus, all the functionaries are to be licensed and they are to pay license fees. The traders are also required to maintain regular accounts of all transactions and have to send a report to the market committee. But the traders find it difficult to do in practice. In the regulated markets the traders cannot manipulate the sales and weights arbitrary deductions for various purposes. The traders have to be free from all evils and malpractices of the traditional procurement in the regulated market. As per the rule of Assam Agricultural Produce Market Act 1972, the traders have to pay cess at the rate of 1 rupee for every 100 rupees as ad valorem for the purchase of notified commodities in the regulated markets or within the market areas which stands as also the most important barrier in the procurement

of agricultural commodities by the traders in the regulated market.

The Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 empowers the central government to fix quality standards, known as 'AGMARK' standards, and, to prescribe terms and conditions for using the seal of AGMARK. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation launched the Agricultural Marketing Information Network, AGMARKNET scheme, in March 2000 to facilitate collection and dissemination of information for better price realisation and to develop the Market Information Network. The Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board has participated in AGMARKNET scheme of the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), Government of India. The DMI is establishing a comprehensive Market Information Network in the country. The Regulated Markets of Assam have been covered under AGMARKNET.

To reap out the benefits of regulated market scheme, the growers' societies are formed by the regulated market committees and have to register them under the market board to streamline the unorganized manner of agricultural marketing. During 2010-2011 altogether 680 nos. of growers' societies were formed under the regulated market committees. The board provides 30% transport subsidies to the farming community in carrying the specified agricultural produces from farm gate to market yards through the registered growers' societies through the regulated market committees on the standard rate of transportation both for road and river ways.

In a developing state like Assam, marketing infrastructures play a pivotal role in fostering and sustaining the rural and economic development. Though the role of infrastructure is the key element of any development programme yet their role in distribution and marketing is the supreme. Many of the regions still suffer from the existence of infrastructural problems that they threaten to region's agricultural, horticultural and the development efforts. In this context, there is a big gap between the existing marketing infrastructure and the stipulated increase marketable surplus in the region. It has less infrastructures development in terms of not only in communication but also in consultancy service, marketing and entrepreneurship development. Not only the real transport system primarily road transport, railway transport, the storage capacity for both input supplies and agricultural commodities are grossly inadequate, but also the grading and standardization, marketing intelligence, financing and risk bearing have not been received due attention. The existing infrastructural facility available in the regulated market of the state is presented in Table-6, 7 & 8.

Various state govts have made considerable progress in this field by bringing in the necessary legislation. The progress achieved was not uniform in all the states and union territories. Some of the states including Assam was relatively young in adoption these regulatory measures. The Assam agricultural Produce Market Act, 1972 has been amended in 2006 as per Model Act issued by the Govt of India incorporating the provisions such as private marketing, direct marketing, consumer –farmers market and contract farming. Under this act the market boards are empowered to levy cess and relieves existing restrictions on movement, storage and transportation etc. on agricultural produces. The state-wise status of reforms in APMC Acts as on 31 December 2006 is given below:

Stage of Reforms States/ UTs

1. States/ UTs where APMC Acts have been suitably amended:

Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chandigarh.

2. States/ UTs where reforms to APMC Acts have been partially modified:

a) By amending APMC Act/Resolution

b) By Executive Order

Haryana, Karnataka, Gujarat and National Capital Territory of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh.

3. States/ UTs where there is no APMC Act in operation:

Bihar, Kerala, Manipur, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep.

4. States/ UTs where APMC Act already provides for the reforms:

Tamil Nadu

5. States/ UTs where administrative action has been initiated for introducing the reforms:

Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, J&K, Uttarakhand, Goa, West Bengal Pondicherry and Jharkhand.

Hindrances in the Marketing of Agricultural Produces (From field survey):

The traditional Indian agricultural marketing system has witnessed a fundamental change since the introduction of regulated markets in this country. However, the movement of regulated market is not up to the mark. In the context of Assam, due to some hindrances the aims and objects of the regulated market has not achieved its goal to that extent.

It is found in the field study that the producers are not getting the adequate

prices for their produces. The rice producers' share in consumer's price is better than the vegetables and fruits growers. The farmer's average share in consumer's price in the sample markets in case of vegetables marketing with a total average of 54.89 per cent only. The producer's share in consumer's price in case of rice in the sample markets is an average of 69.09 per cent. In case of fruits, the farmer's share to the consumer's price is 47.14 per cent, which indicates the relatively high marketing costs. In the agricultural marketing, if the producer's share in the consumer's price is not adequate, the farmers will not be encouraged to participate in the production process and to produce more.

The marketing infrastructures in the study area are also not satisfactory. Non-availability of suitable land, grading, weighing, storing, transportation and communication, handling services, packaging and marketing finance, etc. are the major constraints to the development of the market. In spite of having the marketing facilities for assembling and selling of agricultural produces in some PMY and SMY, in many places markets are running on either National Highway or state road or private land in a congested way just adjustment to the existing traditional market. Based on field study, a detailed discussion to address the issue is presented below.

1. Lack of Transportation and Communication: Proper transportation as well as communication is one of the pre requisite conditions to run an efficient marketing system. Better transportation and communication facilities also provide the scope for getting the remunerative prices for their produces and thus encourage the growers producing more. But, as much as 93.33 per cent sample members reported about the inconveniences of existing transportation and communication system in the study area (Table-9).

2. Farmers Ignorance about Regulated Market: For successful implementation of any programme depend upon the people's participation and awareness about the programme at a gross level. Though the government of Assam under the Agricultural Marketing Board has taken various initiatives for an efficient agricultural marketing system, yet it has partly achieved the goal. It is learnt from the field study that most of the farmers are not aware of the objectives and subsequently advantages of the regulated market; its rules & functions, etc. During the field survey it has been observed that on an average 85 to 90 per cent of the sample producers cum sellers and retailers are not well known about the regulated

market (Table-9). Even they are also largely unaware about the regulated market yard which is one of the better mechanisms for quick disposal and getting better prices for their agricultural surpluses.

3. Lack of Market Information: It is needed to provide the up date market information both to the producers and consumers under the market regulation so as to make a successful marketing system. It is observed that almost 87 per cent sample producers-sellers have hardly any knowledge of the prevailing prices of agricultural products at the regulated markets (Table-9). Moreover, the market information regarding the prices of agricultural commodities provided by the village traders to the farmers are biased and in favour of village traders. Thus, the producers are less interested for the regulated markets.

4. Mal Practices of Market and Manipulation of Weights and Measurements: In the marketing of agricultural produces, it was complained about the mal practices of market and manipulation of weights and measurements in the study region (Table-9). Due to lack of education, ignorance about the market, non availability of adequate conveyance as it needed and lack of efficient communication facilities, etc. some of the producers are forced to be cheated by the traders.

5. Lack of Storage Facilities: Adequate storage facilities are needed for the agricultural produces as they are the most perishable nature and of the seasonality of production. Moreover, processing is necessary for the agricultural produces as most of them are not consumable in the raw form. Storage and processing add to the marketing costs significantly and hence, scientific and adequate storage facility is required for reducing marketing costs. One of the reasons for selling the produces by producers at the non-remunerative prices is lack of scientific and adequate storage facilities which was reported by the sample producers.

6. Poverty and Indebtedness of the Farmers: The poor economic condition of the cultivators compelled the farmers to sell their produces at a distress price just after harvesting and even before harvesting the products to overcome their financial crisis. As they have shortage of finance, they have to borrow the capital from various informal sources on pre agreement for settlement of debt. Commercial production of agricultural produces like fruits, vegetables, etc. are still lacking in

the rural areas except a few. Thus, it leads to defective marketing and causes hindrance in the development of agricultural marketing system.

7. Large No of Middleman: In the agricultural marketing, the number of middlemen who are the liaison between consumer and producer is large because there is no restriction on entry in the trade. The larger the number of middle men larger the marketing costs. Due to various limitations of the producers, the middlemen margin to the consumer's price is high, which is one of the major setback to the agricultural marketing system.

8. Drawbacks in the Way of Proper Function of Regulated Markets: There are little transactions of agricultural commodities in the regulated market yards in Assam. Besides this, the market committees issue license of the traders and collect market cess from traders at the rate of rupees 1% of the aggregate amount for which a notified agricultural produce is brought within the regulated market areas. The following issues are observed from the field survey relating to the functioning of the market committees.

- (i) Market committees are not utilizing proper use of their powers to serve the interest of the growers.
- (ii) Non - cooperation of the traders with the regulated market committees and challenges to the act by them.
- (iii) Market committee is doing illegal job by collecting cess from installed check gates, which is not under the provision of the APMC Act.
- (iv) Most of the members of the market commodities have little conception about the provisions of the Assam Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1972.

Conclusion:

A new dimension in Indian agricultural marketing has been emerged after the introduction of the organised marketing of agricultural commodities through a network of regulated markets. But the regulated market scheme has attained a very limited success in Assam. The limited participation of stakeholders in the marketing activities in the regulated markets is due to lack of proper marketing facilities such as inadequate facilities for handling produce as less space for auction platform, inadequate number of shops, storage facilities and godowns in the premises, lack of awareness, corruption, lack of proper transportation and

agricultural marketing information, etc. The study reveals that the regulated market is better organized structurally with physical marketing facilities as compared to unregulated market. It leads to the higher marketing charges and lower prices to the producers in the unregulated markets in Assam. A greater majority of small and marginal farmers prefer to sell their marketable produce in the nearby non-regulated primary markets or village markets, which have been functioning within the notified areas of surveyed regulated markets. It is not economically feasible to bring their small amount of surplus to the distant regulated markets and hence, those produces are sold to the nearby-unregulated primary markets.

The social and cultural taboos are also responsible to a large extent for not developing efficient marketing system, agro-industries in the region to provide better value addition to the horticultural and agricultural crops and remunerative prices to the producers. Moreover, the total marketable surplus is also not transacted through the markets and a major portion of the marketable surplus is being transacted either at farm gate or at trader's premises directly. There is a wide difference of producer's rupee and consumer's rupee in the existing system of agricultural marketing. All these bottlenecks and constraints are responsible for non- remunerative prices of the producers and the defective agricultural marketing system. It is hence, necessary to find out the solution in the state for providing improved marketing environment and value added economic benefits to the farmers through better management of both pre-harvest and post-harvest functions of the agricultural and horticultural crops.

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Annexure

Table-1
Number of Whole Sale, Rural Primary & Regulated Markets in India
(As on 31.03.2010)

Sl. No.	STATE/U.TS	Number of Markets			Regulated Markets		
		Whole - Sale	Rural Primary	Total	Principal Market Yards	Submarket Yards	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	323	578	901	323	578	901
2	Arunachal Pradesh	6	63	69	16	53	69
3	Assam	405	735	1140	20	206	226
4	Bihar *	325	1469	1794	* APMR Act Repealed		
5	Jharkhand	205	603	808	28	173	201
6	Goa	4	24	28	1	7	8
7	Gujarat	207	129	336	196	218	414
8	Haryana	284	189	473	106	178	284
9	Himachal Pradesh	42	35	77	10	37	47
10	Jammu & Kashmir	26	8	34	APMR Act not yet implemented		

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11	Karnataka	501	730	1231	146	355	501
12	Kerala	348	1014	1362	APMR Act not enacted		
13	Madhya Pradesh	239	1321	1560	241	272	513
14	Chhattisgarh	2	1132	1134	73	111	184
15	Maharashtra	880	3500	4380	299	581	880
16	Manipur	20	98	118	APMR Act not enacted		
17	Meghalaya	35	84	119	2	-	2
18	Mizoram	10	105	115	APMR Act not implemented		
19	Nagaland	9	155	164	---	Nil	-----
20	Orissa	398	1150	1548	45	269	314
21	Punjab	488	115	603	139	349	488
22	Rajasthan	430	312	742	127	303	430
23	Sikkim	7	12	19	1	-	1
24	Tamil Nadu	300	677	977	277	15	292
25	Tripura	84	554	638	21	-	21
26	Uttar Pradesh	584	3464	4048	249	356	605
27	Uttarakhand	36	30	66	25	33	58
28	West Bengal	279	2925	3204	46	641	687
29	A & N Island	0	0	0	APMR Act not enacted		
30	Chandigarh	1	0	1	1	-	1
31	D & N Haveli	0	8	8	APMR Act not enacted		
32	Daman & Diu	0	2	2	Reported	Nil	
33	Delhi	30	0	30	8	13	21
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	APMR Act not enacted		
35	Puducherry	9	0	9	4	5	9
	Total	6517	21221	27738	2404	4753	7157

Note: -- * Bihar Agril. Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act Repealed from 1st September, 2006.

In West Bengal sub yards include cold storages and hence figures of total regulated markets and wholesale markets are not comparable.

All principal regulated markets are wholesale markets, whereas sub market yards may / may not be a wholesale market as it also includes some of Rural Primary Markets notified for regulation.

Table-2
Regulated Market Committees in Assam

Sl. No.	Market	District	Sub Division
1.	Guwahati Sub Divisional Market Committee, Uparhali, Bijoynagar	Kamrup	Guwahati
2.	Goreswar Regulated Market, Guwahati	Kamrup	Rangia
3.	Nalbari Dist. Regulated Market Committee, Banekuchi	Nalbari	Nalbari
4.	Howly Regulated Market, Howly	Barpeta	Barpeta
5.	Baharihat Regulated Market, Bahari	Barpeta	Barpeta
6.	Bongaigaon Dist. Regulated Market, Bongaigaon	Bongaigaon	Bongaigaon
7.	Gauripur Regulated Market Committee	Dhubri	Dhubri
8.	Goalpara Dist. Regulated Market Committee, Goalpara	Goalpara	Goalpara
9.	Kharupatia Dist. Regulated Market, Kharupatia	Darrang	Mangaldoi
10.	Dhekiajuli Regulated Market Committee	Sonitpur	Tezpur
11.	North Lakhimpur Regulated Market Committee Bongalmara	N.Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur
12.	Dhemaji Regulated Market Committee	Silapathar	Dhemaji
13.	Tinsukia Dist. Regulated Market, Tinsukia	Tinsukia	Tinsukia
14.	Sivasagar Dist. Regulated Market Committee, Sivasagar	Sivasagar	Sivasagar
15.	Jorhat Dist Regulated Marketed Committee, Jorhat	Jorhat	Jorhat
16.	Golaghat Dist. Regulated Market Committee, Furkating	Golaghat	Golaghat
17.	Lanka Regulated Committee, Nilbagan	Nagaon	Nagaon
18.	Cachar Dist. Regulated Market Committee, Silchar	Cachar	Silchar
19.	Karimganj Dist. Regulated Market Committee, Karimganj	Karimganj	Karimganj
20.	Hailakandi Dist. Regulated Market Committee, Hailakandi	Hailakandi	Hailakandi
21.	Dibrugarh Regulated Market	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh
22.	Dhing Regulated Market Committee	Nagaon	Nagaon
23.	Kokrajhar Dist. Regulated Market Committee	Kokrajhar	Gosaigaon
24.	Morigaon dist. Regulated Market Committee	Morigaon	Morigaon

Agricultural Regulated Markets in Assam : An Overview

Table-3
Agricultural Produce Markets in India (2009-10)

SI No	Name of the State/UT	Area in Sq. Kms.	Total Population	Total Regulated Market	Area covered/ Market (Sq. Km)	Requirement of Markets	Population Served/ Market
1	Andhra Pradesh	275045	7.57	901	305.27	3501	84048
2	Arunachal Pradesh	83743	0.11	69	1213.67	1066	15813
3	Assam	78438	2.66	226	347.07	998	117869
4	Bihar	94163	8.29	Act Repealed	0	1198	0
5	Jharkhand	79714	2.69	201	396.59	1015	133878
6	Goa	3702	0.13	8	462.75	47	168000
7	Gujarat	196024	5.06	414	473.49	2495	122215
8	Haryana	44212	2.11	284	155.68	563	74236
9	Himachal Pradesh	55673	0.61	47	1184.53	709	129303
10	Jammu & Kashmir	222236	1.01	0	0	2829	0
11	Karnataka	191791	5.27	501	382.82	2441	105257
12	Kerala	38863	3.18	0	0	495	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	308346	6.04	513	601.06	3924	117710
14	Chhattisgarh	135100	2.08	184	734.24	1719	113022
15	Maharashtra	307690	9.68	880	349.65	3916	109946
16	Manipur	22327	0.24	0	0	284	0
17	Meghalaya	22429	0.23	2	11214.5	285	1153034
18	Mizorum	21081	0.09	0	0	268	0
19	Nagaland	16579	0.20	0	0	211	0
20	Orissa	155707	3.67	314	495.88	1982	116901
21	Punjab	50362	2.43	488	103.2	641	49773
22	Rajasthan	342239	5.65	430	795.9	4356	131333
23	Sikkim	7096	0.05	1	7096	90	540493
24	Tamil Nadu	130058	6.21	292	445.4	1655	212708
25	Tripura	10486	0.32	21	499.33	133	151960
26	Uttar Pradesh	238566	16.61	605	394.32	3036	274468
27	Uttarakhand	55845	0.85	58	962.84	711	146199
28	West Bengal	88752	8.02	687	129.19	1130	116770
29	A&N Islands	8249	0.04	0	0	105	0

30	Chandigarh	114	0.09	1	114	1	900914
31	D & N Haveli	491	0.02	0	0	6	0
32	Daman and Diu	112	0.02	0	0	1	0
33	Delhi	1483	1.38	21	70.62	19	656332
34	Lakshdweep	32	0.01	0	0	0	0
35	Puducherry	492	0.10	9	54.67	6	108203
	TOTAL	3287240	102.70	7157	28982.67	41836	5850385

Table- 4
Existing PMY and SMY Under Different Regulated Market Committees

Sl. No.	Regulated Market Committee	District	PMY	SMY
1	Baharihat regulated market committee	Barpeta	Baharihat	Mandia
2	Bongaigaon district regulated market committee	Bongaigaon	Bijni	
3	Cachar district regulated market committee	Cachar		
4	Darrang district market regulated committee	Darrang	Kharupetia	Banglagarh
5	Dhemaji district regulated market committee	Dhemaji	Silapathar	
6	Dhing regulated market committee	Nagaon	Dhing	Rupahi Ambagan Roha
7	Dibrugarh district regulated market committee	Seujpur		
8	Dhubri dist.regulated market committee	Gauripur		
9	Goalpara district regulated market committee	J.N road	Goalpara	
10	Golaghat district regulated market committee	Furkating	Furkating	Dergaon Dakhinhengera Barpathar Sarupathar
11	Guwahati sub div.regulated market committee	Kamrup	Uparhali	

Agricultural Regulated Markets in Assam : An Overview

12	Hailakandi district regulated market committee	Hailakandi	Hailakandi	
13	Howly regulated market committee	Barpeta	Howly	Barpeta road Kalgachiya Sorbhog
14	Jorhat dist.regulated market committee	Jorhat	Titabor	
15	Karimganj dist. Regulated market committee	Karimganj		
16	Kokrajhar dist regulated market committee	Kokrajhar	Gossaigaon	
17	Lanka regulated market committee	Nagaon	Lanka	
18	Morigaon dist regulated market committee	Morigaon	Morigaon	
19	Nalbari dist. Regulated market committee	Nalbari	Nalbari	
20	Northlakhimpur regulated market committee	North Lakhimpur	Bongalmara	
21	Rangia subdivision regulated market committee	Kamrup	Goreswar	Rangia
22	Sibsagar district market committee	Sibsagar		
23	Sonitpur dist market regulated committee	Sonitpur	Dhekiajuli	
24	Tinsukia dist market regulated committee	Tinsukia	Tinsukia	

Source: The Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board, Guwahati.

Table-5
Newly Declared SMY Under Different Regulated Market Committees

District	Name of the market	Name of the market committee
Barpeta	Alupatichar	Baharihat Regulated Market Committee
	Baliguri	
	Kachumari	
	Kayakuchi	
	Langla	
	Moinbari	
	Sarupeta	
	Simila	
Kokrajhar	Basugaon	Kokrajhar District Regulated Market Committee
	Fakiragram	
Bongaigaon	Kabaitari	Bongaigaon District Regulated Market Committee
	Patiladaha	
Cachar	Barjatrapur	Cachar District. Regulated Market Committee
	Bhaga	
	Kumbhiragram	
	Lailapur	
	Lakhipur	
	Phulartal	
	Sonabariharighat	
	Udarbond	
Darrang	Balugaon	Darrang District. Regulated Market Committee
	Besamari	
	Dimakuchi	
	Dumunichowki	
	Harisinga	
	Kalaigaon	
	Khairabari	
	Kopati	
	Majbat	
	Mangaldai town market	
	Namkhola	
	Patharighat	

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	Tangle	
Dhemaji	Ghilamara	Dhemaji District. Regulated Market Committee
	Gogamukh	
	Jonai	
	Simensipori	
Dhubri	Dharmasala	Dhubri District. Regulated Market Committee
	Dhubri	
	Fulkatari	
	Gauripur jute/pine apple market	
	Golakganj	
	Halakura bazar	
	Kaldoba	
	Kathalipara milanbazar	
	Kharuabandha (Hatisingmari)	
	Ranpagli	
	Salbari	
	Salkata bazaar	
	Dibrugarh	
Chabua		
Dibrugarh		
Dikam		
Duliajan		
Ghoramara		
Jokai(Checha)		
Khowang		
Lahowal		
Moran		
Naharkatia		
Namrup		
Rajgarh		
Tangaghat		
Tingkhong		
Goalpara	Chataimari	Goalpara District. Regulated Market Committee
	Dalgoma	
	Darangiri	

	Dhanubhanga	
	Dhupdhara	
	Dudhnoi	
	jaleswar	
	Krishnai	
	Lakhipur	
	Rangjuli	
	Simlitola	
	Taranga	
Golaghat	Athkhelia	Golaghat District. Regulated Market Committee
	Behora	
	Bokaghat	
	Gomariguri	
	Kachamari	
	Naojan	
	Neghariting	
	Numaligarh	
	Rongajan	
	Sewaguri	
	Telihat	
Hailakandi	Algapur	Hailakandi District. Regulated Market Committee
	Aynakhal	
	Katlichara	
	Lalabazar	
Jorhat	Alengmara	Jorhat District. Regulated Market Committee
	Borhola	
	Deflating	
	Gormur	
	Jorhat	
	Kamalabari(SMY instead of PMY)	
	Lichibari	
	Madhupur	
	Nagabat	
	Na-kachari	
	Teok	

Agricultural Regulated Markets in Assam : An Overview

	Thengalagaon	
Kamrup	Amranga	Guwahati sub Division Market Committee
	Boko	
	Dhekiabari	
	Dhopatari	
	Hahim	
	Maloibari	
	Nagarbera	
	Singimari	
Karimganj	Bhanga	Karimganj District. Regulated Market Committee
	Durlavcherra	
	Hatikhira	
	Ichaguri fish market	
	Karimganj	
	Lowerpowa	
	Nilambazar	
	Patharkandi	
Lakhimpur	Baginadi	North Lakhimpur. Regulated Market Committee
	Dhakuakhana	
	Harmoli	
	Northlakhimpur sadar market	
Nagaon	Bhurbandha	Dhing Regulated Market Committee
	Chapormukh	
	Chulung	
	Dewlagu	
	Doomdoomia	
	Hojai	
	Jagiroad	
	Jokholabandha	
	Jamunamukh	
	Kaki no1	
	Kampur	
	Kathiatali	
	Kharikana	
	Lahorighat	

	Lumbding	
	Magumari	
	Maurajhar	
	Mayangi	
	Moirabari	
	Santijan	
	Singari	
	Sonaibali	
	Udali	
Nalbari	Banekuchi	Nalbari District. Regulated Market Committee
	Barama	
	Bamadi	
	Bongaon	
	Dhamdhama	
	Doulasal	
	Kaityhalkuchi	
	Kumrikata	
	Mukalmua	
	Nadla	
	Rampur	
	Tamulpur	
	Tihu	
Sivasagar	Amguri	Sivasagar District. Regulated Market Committee
	Banfera (Sonari)	
	Borsala cattle market	
	Moranhat	
	Rajmai cattle market	
	Sapekhati	
	Simaluguri	
Sonitpur	Barsala	Sonitpur District. Regulated Market Committee
	Binduguri	
	Biswanath chariali	
	Gingia	
	Gohpur	
	Lokra	

Agricultural Regulated Markets in Assam : An Overview

	Pachmile	
	Singri	
	Thelamara	
Tinsukia	Bardhumsa	Tinsukia District. Regulated Market Committee
	Chapakhowa	
	Danguri	
	Doomdooma	
	Jagun	
	Kakopathar	
	Makum	

Source: The Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board, Guwahati.

Table-6
No. of Drying Platforms in the Rural and Wholesale Markets under Different Regulated Market Committees

Sl no	Name of district	Name of RMC	Name of rural market	Number of drying platform	Name of wholesale market	No. of drying platform
1	Barpeta	Baharihat	Mandia	2		
2	Bongaigaon	Bongaigaon	Patila daha	1		
3	Darrang	Darrang	Dumni chaki	1		
4	Dhemaji	Dhemaji	silapathar	2		
5	Dhubri	Dhubri	Dhubri	1	Guwahati	3
6	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Jokai	1		
7	Golaghat	Golaghat	Horupathar	1		
8	Hailakandi	Hailakandi	Katlichera	1		
9	Jorhat	Jorhat	Alangmora	1		
10	Jorhat	Jorhat	Titabor	2		
11	Jorhat	Jorhat	Nagabat	1		
12	Kamrup	Guwahati sub-div MC	Maloibari	1	Uparhali	3
13	Karimganj	Karimganj	Bhanga	1		
14	Nalbari	Nalbari	Daulashal	2		
15	Morigaon	Morigaon	Laharighat	1		
16	Sivsagar	Sivsagar	Sapekhati	1		
17	Sonitpur	Sonitpur	Gahpur	1		

Table-7
Existing Facilities in the Principal Market Yards of Assam

Name of RMC	Adm. Building	Staff Qtr.	Auction Platform	Guest House	Intl.Road/Tube Wells/Commn. Toilets	Buying and Selling complex
Baharihat RMC	1	1	1	-	Provided	-
Sonitpur District RMC	1	1	-	-	Provided	-
Dhing RMC	1	3	3	-	Provided	1
Howly RMC	1	2	1	-	Provided	1
Dhubri District RMC	1	2	1	1	Provided	1
Darrang District RMC	1	4	1	-	Provided	1
Golaghat RMC	1		1	-	Provided	-
Rangia Sub-div RMC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guwahati Sub-div RMC	1	1	2	1	Provided	1
N.Lakhimpur RMC	1	1	1	-	Provided	-
Dhemaji District RMC	1	1	-	-	-	-

Source: The Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board, Guwahati.

Table-8
Other Existing Infrastructure Facilities in Different Regulated Market Committees of Assam

District	Name of RMC	Place of facilities provided	Nature of facilities provided	Unit(s)
Kamrup	Guwahati Sub-div RMC	Dharapur	Retailers' shed	1
			Fish-cum-vegetable shed	1
		Rani	Retailers' shed	1
			Retailers' shop	2
			Ring Well	1
		Pub Maloibari	Retailers' shed	2
		Fatasil Ambari	Retailers' shop	1
			Tube Well	1
		Boko	Retailers' shed	1
		Kahikuchi	Retailers' shed	1
Chaygaon	Market complex	1		
Dhubri	Dhubri District RMC	Bagaribari(Salbari)	Auction Platform	2
		Satrasal	Auction Platform	1
		Sahebganj	Auction Platform	1
		Kaldova	Auction Platform	1
		Halakura	Auction Platform	3
		Hatsingimari(Khar ubandha)	Auction Platform	2
		Materjhar	Auction Platform	1
Darrang	Darrang District RMC	Kuwaripukhuri	Retailrs' shed	1
		Lalpool	Retailrs' shed	1
Nalbari	Nalbari District RMC	Daulasal	Retailrs' shed	1

Source: The Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board, Guwahati.

Table-9
Hindrance in the Marketing of Agricultural Produces
(In percentage)

Type of hindrance	No of traders in the sample regulated markets				Average
	Lakhimpur district regulated market	Jorhat district regulated market	Baharihat regulated market	Dhing regulated market	
Lack of transportation and communication	95.00	93.33	93.33	91.67	93.33
Lack of awareness of regulated markets	86.67	83.33	83.33	86.67	85
Lack of market information	83.33	90.00	86.67	88.33	87.08
Manipulation of weights and measurements	33.33	20.00	25.00	16.67	23.75
Lack of information about regulated market rules & functions	93.33	85.00	90.00	90.00	89.58

Source: Field survey.

