

**Sub-theme: Rural non-farm Economy: Multi-occupation strategy for sustaining livelihoods**

**Income Dynamics, Inequality, Determinants and Policy Implications for Sustainable Livelihoods of Tribal Community in Jharkhand State, India**

M.S. Meena<sup>1</sup>, K.M. Singh<sup>2</sup>, R.K.P. Singh<sup>3</sup>, Anjani Kumar<sup>4</sup>, MCS Bantilan<sup>5</sup> & Abhay Kumar<sup>6</sup>

**Abstract**

The study evaluates the income dynamics, inequality, determinants, and policy implications for the sustainable livelihoods of the tribal households in Jharkhand state. Data were solicited from four villages of the two sampled districts in Jharkhand state. A sample of forty households from each village, making a total household sample of 160 was selected for detailed investigation under the project “*Tracking Change in Rural Poverty in Households and Village Economies in South Asia*”. Besides simple statistical tools, Lorenz curves were plotted. Gini ratio was computed to measure the income inequality while diversification index was measured for diversity in income sources. Linear regression model was applied to identify the determinants of income. In-depth study shows a large gap (Rs.8,493) in annual income of tribal households. Non-farm activities dominated (37.19% to 63.67%) over the other income sources. Gini ratio for income inequality was found to be 0.33 to 0.43. The highest inequality was observed in labour class (0.55) followed by large, medium and small category. The major determining factors were education, family size, non-farming income and adoption of high yielding varieties which had a significant impact on households’ income. The study has important policy implications. At government level, there is dire need for generating more non-farm incomes through public works. It could lead to better infrastructure facilities and rural livelihoods. Providing labour opportunities outside the agricultural activities can serve manifolds and reduce the income inequalities among the rural poor. It can play an important role in poverty reduction intervention and will provide safety mesh for income shocks. Study reveals that livestock sector could be revived through technical interventions for livelihood improvement of the tribal community. Education could be an instrument for reducing the inequality and poverty. It brings the positive changes in the thinking process, knowledge, skills and attitude of tribal community.

**Keywords:** Income dynamics, Inequality, Determinants, Policy, Tribal.

---

This paper is a part of the project “*Tracking Change in Rural Poverty in Households and Village Economies in South Asia*” funded by Bill and Melinda Gates foundation.

<sup>1</sup>Principal Scientist, Zonal Project Directorate, Zone-VI (ICAR), CAZRI Campus, Jodhpur-342005 Rajasthan.  
*Corresponding author:* s.mohar.meena@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Head, Division of Socio-Economics & Extension, ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna-800014 Bihar

<sup>3</sup>Consultant, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP), New Delhi-12

<sup>4</sup>Principal Scientist, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP), New Delhi-12.

<sup>5</sup>Research Program Director, Research Program-Markets, Institutions, and Policies, ICRISAT, Hyderabad.

<sup>6</sup>Principal Scientist (Agril. Statistics), ICAR RCER, Patna-14 (Bihar).