

Kanzara Village - At a Glance

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I. INTRODUCTION

To provide the most efficient way to understand the farming systems in rural areas, and to identify the socioeconomic constraints faced by the farming community in the semi-arid tropics (SAT), the then Economics Program of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) initiated Village Level Studies (VLS) in 1975 at six villages in SAT India. Akola district in Maharashtra state is one of the regions covered under the VLS, from which two villages, namely, Kanzara and Kinkhed belonging to Murtizapur taluk, were selected.

Kanzara village, lying on 20° 39' 48.4" North latitude and 77° 21' 35.4" East longitude, is located 9 km south of Murtizapur taluk in Akola district falling in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. The village is 50 km away

from District headquarter Akola, 600 km from State Capital Mumbai and 528 km away from ICRISAT, Patancheru, Hyderabad. The nearest market town is Murtizapur. The MSRTC (State transport) bus frequency from Kanzara to Murtizapur is eight times a day, in addition to 10-12 auto-rickshaws that cater to the needs of villagers. The village Kanzara was earlier known as "Kanzhar" meaning "Cold Place", and was a revenue collection center for 75 villages during British rule.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND/ DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE

During the last three decades, Kanzara village has progressed, in varying degrees, in terms of social, political, economic, technological, institutional and infrastructural, educational and religious advancement.





Social: Until 1900, the village was dominated by Maratha - Deshmukh castes, who lived on a raised level, called Gadhi, in the village. Lower caste people stayed on the lower level surrounding the Gadhi. Later, people from other districts migrated into Kanzara village to work on Deshmukh lands and eventually settled in the village. At present, there are 13 castes in the village. Maratha caste ranks first in social status, and Mang caste ranks lowest. The Jireмали caste is the largest one with 117 households (520 population) and ranks second in social status. The third important caste is the Mahar, which is composed of 54 households. The most obvious caste discrimination is between *Harijans* and the upper caste. There is no physical barrier between the communities; several Maratha families have *Harijan* neighbors. In public places, men from lower castes can sit with those of upper castes and discuss their problems. All Kunbi families are rich, whereas all families belonging to castes such as carpenter, *dhobi* and *mang* are poor.

Political: The village has a separate Gram Panchayat (administration) consisting of 9 elected members from

the village. The Sarpanch is the executive officer and the Gram Sevak is the secretary of Gram Panchyat. The first Gram Panchyat was formed in 1952 and the first Sarpanch was from the Maratha Deshmukh community. The present Sarpanch is from a scheduled caste (Mahar). Maratha and Mali castes are politically strong and rivals to each other. Earlier, lower caste people were not actively involved in politics; but now owing to the government's reservation policy, they are taking a keen interest in politics.

Economic: Agriculture is the major economic activity in the village. Around 85% of the income is generated through agriculture. Per capita real income has increased over time. Real wage for agriculture workers in the village has increased over time. Crop is the major source of income in Kanzara. Farmers adopted diversification in cropping system from cotton + pigeonpea to soybean + pigeonpea. To increase income they adopted hybrid pigeonpea, Bt cotton, horticultural crops, etc. A few farmers adopted shade-nets for growing vegetables. Crop income per acre has increased over time due to use of various improved technologies leading to increase in savings and improvements in household assets and buildings.

Other sources of income include labor and livestock. Labor income also increased through enhanced participation in the local labor market and increased wage rates. This has resulted in increase in household income and hence savings; some of them purchased land, livestock and other productive assets. There is less opportunity for non-farm work in Kanzara. Participation of female workers in non-farm work is negligible.

In the last 10 years, more than 78% of the sample households of Kanzara village reported that their





economic condition has improved, while less than 10% of them felt that their economic condition has deteriorated.

Technological: In Kanzara village, a wide range of technologies has been adopted, such as high yielding varieties and hybrids, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and farm machineries such as tractor, combine harvester, thresher, sprinkler and drip irrigation.

Agriculture is the main livelihood of the villagers and agricultural production forms the core economic activity. Two key features of agriculture in this region are the predominance of cotton and the practice of intercropping. Cotton is being grown in this region for centuries. Cotton is grown as sole crop or intercropped with pulses, namely, green gram and pigeonpea during the kharif season. In earlier days, only large farmers had adopted Bt cotton; but nowadays, all types of farmers are cultivating Bt cotton. Since 2002, Bt-cotton fast replaced the traditional cotton both in terms of area and number of farmers. However, from 2005-06, soybean crop has been taken up by the villagers and is gradually replacing cotton during the kharif season.



The other major crops traditionally grown in Kanzara are sorghum, pigeonpea, mungbean, groundnut and blackgram in kharif. Farmers are growing hybrid pigeonpea in the village for the last 3 years. In the year 1987, ICRISAT variety of pigeonpea ICP8863 was introduced in the village and within six years it has spread to about 95% of the area cropped to pigeonpea and about 60% in the nearby villages and districts. Recently, farmers are using hybrid varieties in the case of fruit crops, for example, Taiwan in papaya.

Institutional: There is a post office in the village, established way back in 1960. A Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) was established in 1955 and is functioning well since its establishment. It caters to the agricultural credit needs of all categories of farmers. The present Chairman of the PACS is from the Maratha community. The village has a Gram Panchayat.

There is one Marathi primary school run by the Zilla Parishad, Akola. In addition, one private middle school and one high school were started in 1992, the latter of which is now extended to function as a junior college.

There are 20 Self Help Groups in the village benefiting about 80 households. Each group consists of 10-12 women members from different castes. They conduct meetings every month and contribute a fixed amount.

The village has a Jageshwar Sansthan Trust established in the early 1990s. The present President of the Trust is from the Mali caste supported by five members. The Trust has a well constructed temple including drinking water facility, mini *sabha griha* (meeting room), kitchen and a few rooms for short stays, which is rented out at a very reasonable price as a venue for marriages and other big social events. The Trust also owns more than 30 ha of land.





Infrastructural: The village got electricity in 1964, and presently more than 90% of the households have access to electricity. The villagers source their drinking water from taps (50-government taps connected to overhead tank and 95-private connected to open/bore wells) in addition to 8 public hand pumps.

The village is well connected by tar roads with Murtizapur taluka and adjoining districts. Earlier, all the roads in the village were *kuchcha*. Inside the village there is a cement concrete road nearly 1 km long. Good public transport facilities are available in the village to visit towns. There is an Idea Mobile tower and electric power station in the village. Most of the houses in the village are *pucca* (brick and cement) houses.

One Primary Health Centre (PHC) sub-centre takes care of primary health needs of the villagers. There are two Anganwadis (pre-primary), one government primary school (upto Standard 7) and one private educational institution (Standard 5-12) in the village. One private agricultural input shop supplies fertilizers and pesticides to the farmers.

Educational: Kanzara village has high (about 85%) literacy level. Young females have almost the same literacy level as young males. There is one Zilla Parishad's Marathi Primary School in the village. The school was started in 1930 with education facility up to Standard 4. Later on it was extended up to Standard 7. In 1992 the school facility was extended up to Standard 10 by a private education society named "Shri Chhagan Bhujbal High School", which was further extended to junior college in 2004. An Anganwadi was started in the village in 1995. Besides, some students from the village have been going to nearby cities for studying in English medium school.

Religious: Hindus form the largest religious group in the village. All castes belong to Hindu religion except Mahars and Muslims. The Mahar belong to Buddhist religion. Hindu households account for 71% of the total number of households in the village while Buddhists contribute 15% and Muslims add to 14%.

Religion plays an important role in the daily life of villagers. Participation in fairs and festivals as well as visit to holy places has special significance among the Hindus. The popular places of pilgrimage near the village are Shegaon, Amravati, Mahur and Dhargadh.

The festivals that are popular among the people and celebrated in the village are Diwali, Holi, Dussera, Pola, Ganesh Chaturthi, Gudhi Padwa, Janmaasthami and Rakhi. Mahar people celebrate Buddha Jayanti while Muslims celebrate Idd-UI-Fitr and Bakri Id. People of all castes participate in the National Festivals, namely, Republic Day (26 January), Independence Day (15 August) and Gandhi Jayanti (2 October).



III. BASIC STATISTICS OF THE VILLAGE

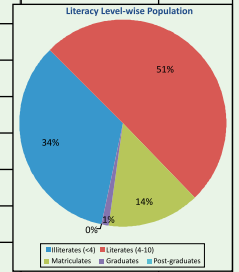
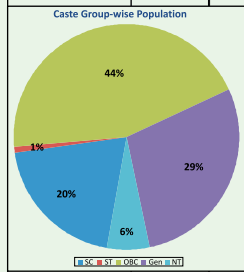
A) LOCATION/ACCESSIBILITY

- Village: **Kanzara** 2. Taluka: **Murtizapur** 3. District: **Akola** 4. State: **Maharashtra** 5. PIN: **444 107**
- GPS values: (a) Latitude: **20°39'48.4" N** (b) Longitude: **77°21'35.4" E** (c) Altitude (m): **325**
- Nearest town: (a) Name: **Murtizapur** (b) Distance from village (km): **9**
- Nearest State Highway: (a) Number: **SH 212** (b) Distance from village (km): **7.5**
- Nearest National Highway: (a) Number: **NH 6** (b) Distance from village (km): **7**
- Name of the Village Panchayat in which the village falls: **Kanzara**
- Details of the Sarpanch/Village Panchayat President:
 - Name: **Mr Mahadev Sadashiv Gajbhiye** (b) Cell No.: **09225957082**
- Details of the Gram Sevak/Agricultural Assistant:
 - Name: **Ms Rajashri Narayan Papade** (b) Cell No.: **09822032331**

B) DEMOGRAPHY (as on 1 September 2007)

- Population (No): **1,427** 2. Households (No): **319** 3. Voters (No): **1,256** 4. Farmer accounts/Chats (No): **335**
- Classification of population:

Category	No.	Farm Size*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Literacy	No.	Gender	No.
SC	285	Landless	416	Hindu	1019	Jireмали	520	Illiterates (<4)	489	Male	579
ST	14	Marginal	230	Buddhists	209	Maratha	223	Literates (4-10)	718	Female	534
OBC	633	Small	370	Muslim	199	Navboudha	209	Matriculates	206	Children (<14y)	314
Gen	409	Medium	218			Muslim	199	Graduates	13		
NT	86	Large	193			Mang	86	Post-graduates	1		
						Gosavi	83				
						Barber	29				
						Washerman	26				
						Potter	23				
						Bhoie	13				
						Sonar	8				
						Carpenter	4				
						Kaikadi	4				
Total	1427		1427		1427		1427		1427		1427



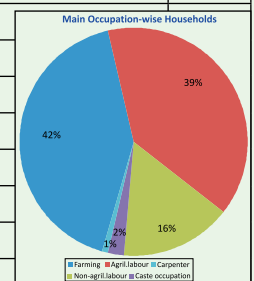
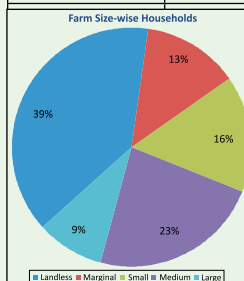
*<0.1ha=Landless; 0.1-<1.0ha=Marginal; 1-<2ha=Small; 2-4ha=Medium; >4ha=Large.

- Classification of households:

Male headed (No): **292**

Female headed (No): **27**

Category	No.	Farm Size*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Main occupation	No.
SC	72	Landless	124	Hindu	228	Jireмали	117	Farming	134
ST&NT	25	Marginal	42	Buddhists	54	Navboudha	54	Agri.labor	125
OBC	133	Small	50	Muslim	37	Maratha	52	Non-agri.labor	50
Gen	89	Medium	74			Muslim	37	Caste occupation	10
		Large	29			Gosavi	19		
						Mang	18		
						Barber	6		
						Washerman	5		
						Potter	4		
						Bhoie	3		
						Suvarnakar	2		
						Kaikadi	1		
						Carpenter	1		
Total	319		319		319		319		319



*Same as defined in Table B5 above.

C) LAND USE PATTERN (2009-10)

1. Distribution of Geographical Area:	Ha
Agricultural land	497.74
Waste lands	14.36
Land used for roads, buildings & non-agril. purposes	1.87
Land occupied by hills, rocks, etc	35.28
Barren and uncultivable	13.60
Permanent pasture and other grazing land	7.31
Land under trees in common lands	12.00
Current fallow	6.03
Total Geographical Area	588.19

2. Cropped Area	Ha
Kharif	495.3
Rabi	12.2
Summer	4.1
Annual/Perennial crops	2.8
Gross Cropped Area	514.4
3. Irrigated Area	Ha
Kharif	0
Rabi	12.1
Summer	4.0
Annual/Perennial crops	2.8
Gross Irrigated Area	18.9

D) LAND RESOURCES

1. Soil distribution

Soil type	% area
Shallow	21.1
Medium black	55.6
Deep black	23.3

2. Irrigation sources (as on 1 December 2010)

Sources	Total No.	Working No.	Approx. depth (m) of working wells	Irrigable area (ha/year)
Bore wells	32	26	86.9	32.4
Open wells	100	90	8.5	36.4
			Approx. land area covered (ha)	
Ponds	12	10	1.6	8.1
Tanks	1	1	1.6	3.2
River	1	0	2.4	0

3. Rainfall (Jun'09-May'10):

(a) Quantity (mm/year):	Normal: 700	Actual: 583
(b) No. of rainy days:	Normal: 50	Actual: 42

E) CROP PRODUCTION (2009-10)

Kharif		Rabi		Summer		Annual/Perennial Crops	
Crops	Area(ha)	Crops	Area(ha)	Crops	Area(ha)	Crops	Area(ha)
Soybean	368.1	Wheat	8.1	Vegetables	3.3	Papaya	1.6
Cotton	39.3	Vegetables	4.1	Groundnut	0.8	Citrus	1.2
Pigeonpea	31.6						
Others	19.8						
Sorghum	16.6						
Green gram	15.0						
Black gram	4.9						
Total	495.3	Total	12.2	Total	4.1	Total	2.8

F) ASSETS (as on 1 June 2010)

1. Productive Assets:			
Livestock		Heavy Machinery	
Type	No.	Type	No.
Goat	269	Bullock Cart	123
Bullock	222	Auto	13
Cow(indigenous)	135	Tractor	10
Poultry	50	Thresher	8
Buffalo	49	Flour mill	4
Cow(exotic)	11	Mini Truck	3
Milk sale (lt/day)	210		

2. Consumer Assets:	
Type	No.
Television	275
Dish Antenna	275
Motorbike/Scooty	62
LPG connection	35
Refrigerator	20
Microwave oven	1
Car/Jeep	1

3. Buildings:	
Type	No.
Houses-Pucca	190
Houses-Kucha	119
Cattle sheds	100
Houses-Thatched	23
Irrigation pump houses	12

G) BASIC NEEDS (as on 31 December 2010)

1. Type of food (# of households): (a) Pure vegetarian: **139** (b) Non-vegetarian: **180**
2. Type of clothes: (a) Men: **Pant-Shirt, Pajama-Shirt, Dhoti-Shirt**
(b) Women: **Sari and Blouse**
3. Type of houses: (a) Pucca-**190** (b) Kucha-**119** (c) Thatched-**23**

H) INFRASTRUCTURE (as on 31 December 2010)

1. Village electrification: **Yes** No. of houses having access to electricity: **300**
2. Is there a tar/metal/cement road to village? **Yes**
3. Is there a tar/metal/cement road inside the village? **Yes** Length of the road (km): **1**
4. Public transport facility:
Public bus facility to village available? **Yes** No. of trips/day from town to village: **8**
Other modes of travel available? **Yes** Available modes: **Auto, Tum Tum**
5. Drinking water facility: **Yes** Source(s): **Open well, Bore well**
Tap connections available? **Yes** No. of connections: **50 (Government) + 95 (Private)**
6. Public toilet/urinal facility: **No**
7. Public health facility: **Yes** No. of PHC: **1 (Sub-Centre)**
Private Doctors: **No** Distance to nearest Private Doctor (km): **9 (Murtizapur)**
8. Veterinary health facility: **No** Distance to nearest health facility (km): **9 (Murtizapur)**
9. Banking facility: **No** Distance to nearest banking facility (km): **9 (Murtizapur)**
10. Educational facilities:

Level	Number of institutions	Enrolment (number)	
		Male	Female
Pre-primary (Anganwadi)	2	18	20
Primary (1-4 years)	1	42	44
Secondary (5-7 years)	2	76	97
Higher Secondary (8-10 years)	1	73	51
College (11-12 years)	1	47	34

11. Agricultural input shops:

Input	Available in village?	If no, nearest available place	Distance from village (km)
Seed	No	Murtizapur	9
Fertilizer	Yes		
Pesticide	Yes		
Machinery – Purchase	No	Murtizapur	9
Machinery – Custom hiring	Yes		

12. Agricultural output market:

Weekly shandy in the village? **No**

No. of wholesale traders/commission agents in the/visiting the village: **2**

13. Storage godowns/warehouses: **No**

14. Other business units (number):

Grocery shop: 9	PDS Shop: 1	Kerosene shop: 1
Hotel/Canteen: 1	Flour Mill: 4	Meat shop: 1 (Weekly twice-Wednesdays & Fridays)
Liquor shop: 2	Pan shop: 4	Carpenter: 3
Blacksmith: 1	Potter: 3	Mason: 20
Cycle repair shop: 2	Motorcycle repair shop: 1	Money lenders: 3

15. Other institutions (number):

SHG/Sakhi Mandal: **20**

Post Office: **1**

Dispute Resolution Committee: **1**

Bhajan Mandal: **6 (Male) + 3 (Female)**

Samaj Mandir: **1 (SC) + 1 (ST)**

16. Place of worship (No.): Temple: **6**

Mosque: **1**

I) GOVERNMENT WELFARE PROGRAMS RECENTLY IMPLEMENTED (as on 31 December 2010)

SN	Name of the Government Program	Beneficiaries (No. of households)
1	Public Distribution System (PDS)	450 card holders
2	Anganwadi (Food and Medicine to Children)	100 children
3	Mid-day meal	320 students
4	Self Help Group (SHG)	80
5	Crop insurance	40 land account holders
6	Old age pension	18
7	Widow pension	3
8	Pregnant and lactating women's nutrition through anganwadi	42 women
9	Pension to physically handicapped persons	4
10	Subsidy on power sprayer/petrol operated pump	5
11	Subsidy on shade net	3
12	Subsidy on sprinkler set	3
13	Subsidy on horticultural crop	2
14	Subsidy on farm well and ponds	4
15	Scholarship program	22
16	Prime Minister's Relief Package Program (for seed purchase)	172

About ICRISAT



The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. Covering 6.5 million square kilometers of land in 55 countries, the semi-arid tropics have over 2 billion people, and 644 million of these are the poorest of the poor. ICRISAT and its partners help empower these poor people to overcome poverty, hunger, malnutrition and a degraded environment through better and more resilient agriculture.

ICRISAT is headquartered in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, with two regional hubs and four country offices in sub-Saharan Africa. It belongs to the Consortium of Centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

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