

Rampura Kalan 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 socio-economic and agro-biological constraints faced by the farming community in the semi-arid tropics (SAT), the 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 Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra states in India. These studies were extended to two villages in Gujarat state in 1980, and to two villages in Madhya Pradesh state in 1981 – Papda and Rampura Kalan. These studies were discontinued in all the ten villages in 1985 and were resumed in 2009 by the Research Program on Markets, Institutions and Policies (RP-MIP) of ICRISAT under the research project on “Village Dynamics in South Asia (VDSA)”, to track changes in rural poverty in household and village economies in South Asia.

Rampura Kalan village (23° 20' 05.0" N and 78° 14' 18.5" E) is situated in Gairatganj tehsil of Raisen district (between 22° 47' and 23° 33' N and 77° 21' and 78°

49' E). Raisen district, once part of the princely state of Bhopal, takes its name from a massive fort built on a sandstone hill, with the town at its foot. The name is probably an altered form of Rajavasini or Rajasayan, the royal residence. Raisen was an important center of administration from the period of its foundation in Hindu times. Raisen district came into existence on 5 May 1950. The Buddhist monuments at Sanchi, a UNESCO world heritage site, are located in the district. The predominant language of the region is Hindi.

Rampura Kalan is the third largest village after Hardot and Sodarpur in Gairatganj tehsil. Elders in the village relate how the village's name evolved. According to the legend, Lord Rama passed through this area when he and his family were in exile in the forest (*Vanavasa*). Villagers used to sing Rama Dhun (*Ram Ram Seetharam*) in the village for a long period in time, and since then, this village has been called Rampura. In those days, another small village called Cherganwa was located very close to Rampura. Dacoity was rampant in those days, so villagers in these two villages decided to merge into one village so that they could jointly protect themselves



against dacoits. Thus, Cherganwa and Rampura were merged into one village, named Rampura Kalan.

This village is situated on the Bhopal-Sagar state highway, 10 km from the tehsil headquarters Gairatganj, 60 km from district headquarters Raisen, 110 km from Bhopal and about 949 km from Hyderabad (via Bhopal). An approach road from the village connects to the state highway (SH 42) at a distance of 10 km at Gairatganj. The nearest railway station is Sagar, 95 km away. Cement roads have been constructed within the village but sanitation and drainage facilities are poor. The village is surrounded by forest on two sides and most of the cultivable land is flat with black soils (Vertisols). Villagers benefit from common property resources such as grazing livestock and collection of firewood, fruits, beedi leaves, and medicinal plants. The average annual rainfall of Gairatganj tehsil is about 1220 mm, distributed mainly from July to September.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND / DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE

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

Social: There are 359 households in the village with a population of 1774. Based on the social progression, these households belong to different caste groups, namely, forward caste (FC), other backward caste (OBC), scheduled caste (SC) and scheduled tribe (ST). Lodhi, Chamar, Barber/Nai, Yadav/Ahir, Jain and Brahmin are the important castes living in the village, followed by Gurjar, Washerman (dhobi), Lohar, Potter (Kumhar) and Adivasi/Harijan. Jain, Brahmins and Lodhi are generally more influential and rich and own more land than other households. The Lodhi caste is dominant because of

their large population and the fact that they own about 40% of area (farm land) in the village. The Jains in the village are basically traders doing business at Gairatganj tehsil, but are also progressive farmers. Brahmins are knowledgeable and influential. People belonging to FC such as Jain, Brahmin and Gupta and OBC do not allow the persons from SC households to work in their homes but allow them to work in their fields. SC and ST people are not allowed into the temples and to sit beside FC persons. There have been separate drinking water wells and hand pumps for SC households, which have been built and maintained by the Gram Panchayat. Certain old social customs are still followed in this village. Most of the women, particularly the daughters-in-law, don't appear before male outsiders visiting their home; if they cannot avoid it, they cover their faces with their saree. In general, women's participation in decision making is very limited. Generally, decisions regarding agriculture and domestic related activities are taken by the men in most of the households.

Political: The village has a Gram Panchayat in place since 1952. The Panchayat body, including the Sarpanch (President), is elected by the villagers every five years. At present, the Gram Panchayat consists of 16 ward members of which 50% of seats are reserved for women. Of 16 ward members, four seats are reserved for SC (two male and two female), one for ST (female), nine for OBC (five male and four female) and two seats open for General Category (one male and one female). Most of the villagers are strong supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In the 2010 Panchayat elections, a person from SC, Mr Gopi Lal Malviya, was elected as a Sarpanch for the first time, Ms Kusum Bai Mishra (general category) was elected as Vice-President of the Panchayat. Ms Kanthibai Jain of the Jain community (FC) was the previous Sarpanch of the village before 2010. Several developmental and welfare activities have been taken up by the gram panchayat. The gram panchayat is responsible for collecting house taxes



and obtaining funds from the government for village development for improvement of education, maintaining sanitation, supply of drinking water, and construction and maintenance of roads and street lights.

Economic: Much of the development that has taken place in Rampura Kalan has been during the last two decades. On-farm wage earning is the main occupation for most of the households (49%) followed by agriculture (35%), caste-based occupation (6%) and others (10%). Medium to deep black soils (Vertisols) are dominant in the village. Most of the land is located within a distance of two km from the village boundary and nearly 80% of the geographical area is available for agriculture. The area under *rabi* season crops is much higher compared to those under *khariif* season crops. Farmers used to keep land fallow in *khariif* season before introduction of soybean in the village. After introduction of soybean, double cropping has become possible and the area under the latter has been increasing. The important crops cultivated in the *khariif*-season are soybean, pigeonpea, blackgram and paddy, while wheat, chickpea, lentil and *tewda* (a minor pulse) are grown in the *rabi* season. A few farmers grow vegetables and green gram under irrigated conditions during summer, and productivity of these crops has doubled in recent years.

The important economic development pathways of the village are: (a) Trading of different agricultural commodities through business shops at Gairatganj, and moneylending, mainly by the Jain community, in addition to farming; (b) Double cropping and cultivation of high value crops such as soybean, pigeonpea, chickpea and other pulses; (c) Adoption of new agricultural technology (improved cultivars, fertilizer, plant protection, tractor and threshers and better management practices); (d) Government welfare programs such as bank loans at lower interest rates through Kisan Credit Cards, Public Distribution System, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pensions to widows,



old persons and handicapped persons, and subsidies for construction of houses, etc.; (e) Common Property Resources (CPRs) providing livelihoods to the poorest households through supply of firewood, leaves for beedi making, fruits and pastures for grazing livestock in the forest area; and (f) Securing monthly salaried jobs in government and non-government organizations for those with better education.

Technological: Adoption of technologies such as high yielding cultivars, chemical fertilizers and plant protection measures was started by a few farmers only in the 1990s, which increased year after year and has reached about 80 percent in recent years. The important improved cultivars adopted by the farmers are JS9305, JS335, NRC-17, and Soniya in soybean; Asha and Lakshmi in pigeonpea; Lok-1, C-306, WH-147, and Sujata in wheat; and JG11, JG16, JG315, and JG412 in chickpea. Presently, about 90% of the agricultural land is prepared using tractors and modern plows. Threshers, modern seed drills, and power sprayers are also widely used (on 90%, 90% and 70% area, respectively). Harvester-cum-threshers are hired from outside the village for harvesting and threshing of soybean, chickpea, and wheat in about 40% of the area cropped. Earlier, farmers used *Rahat* and *Dhekli* (local implements) to draw water from the open dug wells for crop irrigation. Now they use electric and diesel pump sets for irrigating wheat, chickpea and vegetables on larger crop areas, mainly in the *rabi* season. The first tractor in the village was acquired in 1987, and now farmers own 22 tractors for use on their own farms as well as for custom hiring-out in the village.

Institutional: The village has a Gram Panchayat System in place since 1952. One post office functioning in the village since 1935 serves the communication needs of Rampura Kalan, Bilwani, and Jamuniya. One Anganwadi (pre-primary) center, two primary schools, one high school and higher secondary schools cater to the educational needs of the village, with an enrolment of 130 pre-primary, 260 primary, 105 secondary



and 206 higher secondary students. The Public Distribution System (PDS), which started in 1960, supplies wheat, sugar and kerosene at subsidized rates to 341 card holders. About 52 persons are getting old-age, handicapped and widow pensions. Two private Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs) have been providing health services to the villagers, while one veterinary doctor provides veterinary services. There is also one NGO "Gram Pashudhan Vikas Kendra" (JK Trust, Bhopal) in the village providing veterinary services. The farming community gets loans from the State Bank of India and Central Bank of India at lower interest rates using Kisan Credit Cards. In addition, eight money-lenders operating in the village provide cash loans at high interest rates (36-60%). There is one SHG functioning in the village.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was implemented here in 2008. Since then, 502 work cards were distributed to the villagers until the end of December 2010. A Watershed Development Program was started in 2003 and stopped after one year. Under this program, one pond was constructed to benefit the majority of the villagers. A Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) located at Gairatganj caters to the farm credit needs of 18 villages including Rampura Kalan. PACS has a small branch within the village, with about 150 farmer-members at present. Since most of the borrowers of PACS are defaulters, they are not eligible for fresh loans and hence depend largely on non-institutional sources.

Infrastructural: The village was electrified in 1990. At present, 275 households have access to electricity for domestic purposes, and a few have connections for commercial and irrigation purposes. The village panchayat constructed an overhead tank under a pilot project in 2003 to supply drinking water through tap connections. At present, about 275 households have tap connections for drinking water from the overhead tank. A pucca (metal) road connecting Gairatganj and Rampura



Kalan, measuring about 10 km, was constructed in 2004 under the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*. The village also has a cement road measuring half a kilometer inside the village. No public transport facility is available at the village gate, even though this village is only 10 km away from the tehsil headquarters. Auto-rickshaws are the main mode of transportation. About 35 two wheelers are owned by villagers and used for transportation. Tractor trolleys are used for transportation of farm produce to Gairatganj market. Landline and mobile telephone services started in 2004 and 2006, respectively. Nearly 70% of the households own cell phones at present. As many as 150 households have televisions with 120 dish antenna connections. A few households have LPG gas connections, microwave ovens, and computers.

Educational: One Anganwadi center started in 1988, which presently provides pre-primary education to 70 boys and 60 girls. Two primary schools (LKG-Class 5), and one high school (LKG-Class 10) are managed by the Government. One higher secondary school (Class 1-12) is managed privately. These cater to the educational needs of the village, with a total enrolment of 571 students (316 boys and 255 girls). The primary school was established during the period when Hamid Uallah (Nawab) ruled this area. The high school is managed by the government, whereas the higher secondary school is under private management. The primary school was upgraded to middle school in the year 1988 and further upgraded to high school in the year 2008. The literacy rate touched 50% in 2010. A few better-educated people are working in the service sector after securing police, teacher and other monthly salaried jobs.

Religious: Of the 359 households in the village, 347 (95%) are Hindu, while the remainder are Jain. There are five Hindu temples and two Jain temples constructed by the villagers in the village. Both Hindus and Jains celebrate all important festivals, namely, Sankranthi, Holi, Raksha Bandhan, Deepavali, Dussera, Shivarathri and Mahaveer Jayanthi. The Jain community celebrates Mahaveer Jayanthi with great enthusiasm in addition to other Hindu festivals. Villagers worship Lords Shiva, Ganesh, Durga, Rama, Lakshman, Sita, and Hanuman. During festivals, villagers sing bhajans in the temples and take out processions of the deity in the village. Villagers decorate bullocks and houses with colors during the festival of Deepavali.



III. BASIC STATISTICS OF THE VILLAGE

A) LOCATION / ACCESSIBILITY

- Village: **Rampura Kalan** 2. Tehsil: **Gairatganj** 3. District: **Raisen** 4. State: **Madhya Pradesh** 5. PIN: **464884**
- GPS values: (a) Latitude: **23° 20' 05.0" N** (b) Longitude: **78° 14' 18.5" E** (c) Altitude(m): **556**
- Nearest town: (a) Name: **Gairatganj** (b) Distance from village (km): **10**
- Nearest State Highway: (a) Number: **SH42** (b) Distance from village (km): **10**
- Nearest National Highway: (a) Number: **NH86** (b) Distance from village (km): **10**
- Name of the Village Panchayat in which the village falls: **Rampura Kalan**
- Details of the Sarpanch/Village Panchayat President:
 - Name: **Mr Gopi Lal Malviya** (b) Cell No.: **09827031850**
- Details of the Gram Sevak: (a) Name: **Mr GP Mehra** (b) Cell No.: **09893780590**
- Village Secretary: (a) Name: **Mr Jai Kumar Jain** (b) Cell No.: **09993956441**
- Village Accountant: (a) Name: **Mr Manoharlal Viswakarma** (b) Cell No.: **09893909029**

B) DEMOGRAPHY (as on 30 September 2009)

- Population (No): **1774** 2. Households (No): **359** 3. Voters (No): **1125** 4. Farmer accounts/Khatas (No): **390**
- 5. Classification of population:**

Category	No.	Farm Size*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Literacy	No.	Gender	No.
SC	397	Landless	769	Hindu	1687	Lodhi	781	Illiterates (<4)	893	Male	623
ST	63	Marginal	371	Jain	87	Chamar	237	Literates (4-10)	788	Female	516
OBC	1172	Small	336			Barber/Nai	103	Matriculates	61	Children (<14y)	635
General (FC)	142	Medium	170			Yadav/Ahir	88	Graduates	28		
		Large	128			Jain	87	Post-graduate	4		
Caste Group-wise Population (%)						Brahmin	50	Literacy Level-wise Population (%)			
						Others#	428				
Total	1774		1774		1774		1774		1774		1774

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

includes Gurjar, Washer man, Lohar, Potter and Adivasi/Harijan.

6. Classification of households: Male headed (No.): **345**

Female headed (No.): **14**

Category	No.	Farm Size*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Main occupation	No.	
SC	81	Landless	168	Hindu	347	Lodhi	165	Farming	125	
ST	13	Marginal	72	Jain	12	Chamar	50	Caste occupation	23	
OBC	235	Small	66			Barber/Nai	19	Agricultural labor	175	
General(FC)	30	Medium	33			Yadav/Ahir	17	Others [§]	36	
		Large	20			Jain	15			
Farm Size-wise Households (%)						Brahmin	11	Main Occupation-wise Households (%)		
						Others#	82			
Total	359		359		359		359		359	

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

includes Gurjar, Washer man, Lohar, Pot maker, Kumhar and Adivasi/Harijan.

§ including salaried, moneylenders, middlemen, service sector, etc.

C) LAND USE PATTERN (2009-10)

1. Distribution of Geographical Area:

Particulars	Ha
Agricultural land	898.7
Forest	191.3
Waste lands	8.9
Land used for roads, buildings and non-agricultural purposes	20.8
Land occupied by water resources (tank, river)	10.1
Land occupied by hills, rocks, etc.	9.3
Government Nursery	0.4
Grass land	11.5
Total Geographical Area	1151.0

2. Cropped Area

Season	Ha
<i>Kharif</i>	587.5
<i>Rabi</i>	870.3
Summer	6.0
Annual	20.0
Gross Cropped Area	1483.8

3. Irrigated Area

Season	Ha
<i>Kharif</i>	0.0
<i>Rabi</i>	327.3
Summer	6.0
Annual/Perennial crops	8.1
Gross Irrigated Area	341.4

D) LAND RESOURCES

1. Soil distribution

Soil type	% area
Deep black	49
Medium black	39
Shallow black	8
Murrum	4

2. Irrigation sources (as on 31 December 2010)

Sources	Total No.	Working No.	Approx. depth (m) of working wells	Irrigated area (ha yr ⁻¹)
Borewells	4	3	99	48.5
Open dug wells	20	18	17	244.5
			Approx. land area covered (ha)	
Ponds	2	2	16	48.4

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

(a) Quantity (mm yr⁻¹): Normal: **1220** Actual (Jan-Dec 2010): **1183**

(b) No. of rainy days: Normal: **60** Actual (Jan-Dec 2010): **30**

E) CROP PRODUCTION (2009-10)

Kharif		Rabi		Summer		Annual/Perennial Crops	
Crops	Area (ha)	Crops	Area (ha)	Crops	Area (ha)	Crops	Area (ha)
Soybean	500.3	Wheat	606.7	Vegetable	2.0	Fodder & others	20.0
Pigeonpea	38.1	Chickpea	215.1	Green gram	4.0		
Black gram	38.1	Lentil	25.0				
Paddy	10.0	Tewda (Minor Pulse)	18.4				
Others	1.0	Green pea	3.9				
		Coriander	0.4				
		Others	0.8				
Total	587.5		870.3		6.0		20.0

F) ASSETS (as on 31 December 2010)

1. Productive Assets:

Livestock		Heavy Machinery	
Type	No.	Type	No.
Cow (indigenous)	700	Tractor	22
Cow (exotic)	4	Thresher	15
Buffalo	40	Cart	175
Bullock	200	Auto	4
Goat	100	Flour mill	8
Poultry	50		
Horse	5		

2. Consumer Assets:

Type	No.
Television	150
Refrigerator	8
Microwave oven	2
LPG connection	15
Dish Antenna	120
Motorcycle	35
Car/Jeep	1
Computer	2

3. Buildings:

Type	No.
Houses-Pucca	4
Houses-Kuccha	336
Houses-Thatched	2
Cattle sheds	25
Irrigation pump houses	3

G) BASIC NEEDS (as on 31 December 2010)

- Type of food (# of households): (a) Pure vegetarian: **349** (b) Non-vegetarian: **10**
- Type of clothes: (a) Men: **Dhoti and Kurtha; Pant and Shirt**
(b) Women: **Saree and Blouse; Chudidhar-Kurta**
- Type of houses: (a) Pucca: **4** (b) Kucha: **336** (c) Thatched: **2**

H) INFRASTRUCTURE (as on 31 December 2010)

- Village electrification: **Yes** No. of houses having access to electricity: **275**
- Tar/metal/cement road to village: **Yes**
- Is there a cement road inside the village? **Yes** Length of road (km): **0.5**
- Public transport facility:
Public/private bus facility to village: **No**
Other mode of travel available? **Yes** Modes available: **Auto-rickshaws, Motorcycles**
- Drinking water facility: **Yes** Source(s): **Overhead tank sourced by borewells**
Tap connections available? **Yes** Number of connections: **275**
- Public toilet/urinal facility: **No**
- Public health facility: **No** Private Doctors: **2**
Distance to nearest Private Doctor (km): **10 (Gairatganj)**
- Veterinary health facility: **Yes**
- Banking facility: **No** Nearest sources available: **PACS: 1 (Gairatgunj), Cental Bank of India: 1 (Gairatgunj), State Bank of India: 1 (Gairatgunj), Satpura and Narmada Grameena Bank: 1 (Gairatgunj)**

10. Educational facilities:

Level	Number of institutions	Enrolment (Number)	
		Male	Female
Pre-primary (Anganwadi)	1	70	60
Primary (LKG-5)	2	140	120
High school (LKG - Standard 10)	1	68	37
Higher Secondary (1-12)	1	108	98

11. Agricultural input shops

Input	Available in village?	If no, nearest available place?	Distance from village (km)
Seed	No	Gairatganj	10
Fertilizer	No	Gairatganj	10
Pesticide	No	Gairatganj	10
Machinery – Purchase	No	Gairatganj	10
Machinery – Custom hiring	Yes		

12. Agricultural output market:
 Weekly shanty in the village? **No**
 No. of wholesale traders/commission agents in the/visiting the village: **15**
13. Storage godowns/warehouses: **No**
14. Other business units (number):
- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Grocery shop: 7 | PDS Shop: 1 | Flour Mill: 8 |
| Chilli/spice grinding shop: 5 | Pan shop: 2 | Carpenters: 8 |
| Blacksmith: 5 | Potter: 1 | Mason: 4 |
| TV/Radio mechanic: 2 | Cycle repair shop: 2 | Motorcycle repair shop: 1 |
| Money-lenders: 8 | | |
15. Other institutions (No.):
- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| SHG: 1 | NGO: 1 | Post Office: 1 |
| Dispute Resolution Committee: 1 | Bhajan Mandal: 2 | Drama Mandal: 1 |
| Community Hall: 1 | Gram Panchayat Office: 1 | |
16. Place of worship (number):
- | |
|--------------------------------------|
| Temples: 7 (Hindu-5 + Jain-2) |
|--------------------------------------|

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

SN	Government Program	Beneficiaries (No. of households)
1	Pensions (Old age-31, Handicapped-17, and Widow-4)	52
2	Indira Awaas Yojana	1
3	Public Distribution System (PDS) [Yellow Cards-49, Blue Cards-160 and White Cards-132]	341
	a) Households of poorest section of population (Yellow card)	49
	b) Households who are below poverty line (Blue card)	160
	c) Households who are above poverty line (White card)	132
4	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)	502

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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