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 C A R A S



# Trends and Determinants of Agricultural Wages in Assam

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## ABSTRACT

Assam is primarily an agro-based rural economy where around 86 per cent of the total population still lives in rural areas. Using the secondary data from different sources the present study tries to find out the trends and determinants of agricultural wages of Assam. It has been observed that there is a significant gap between the agricultural wages of field labourers of Assam and India. Both money and real wages of male field labourers of Assam were very low till 2009-10. It is in the recent past only those wages have increased substantially for field labourers. Multiple factors could be attributed to this recent jump in rural real wages in Assam first continuous decline in participation of main agricultural workers, implementation of MGNREGA, rise in agricultural productivity, construction sector, urbanization, and rural literacy simultaneously contributed to the rise in rural wages. The regression analysis shows that the percentage share of agriculture and construction sector in district domestic product, rural male literacy, cropping intensity, irrigation intensity and have been impacting agricultural wage positively and significantly while land labour ratio impacts it negatively and significantly. On the other hand, a crucial factor like Agricultural Productivity and MNREGA although shows the expected sign but not significant. The study suggests that since there is a significant gap between national and state average wages, therefore, appropriate policies should be designed to arrest the gap. At the same, the government should take appropriate steps for increasing agricultural productivity which has a major bearing on agricultural wages along with the proper implementation of monitoring of MNREGA is also important.

**Key words:** Agricultural wages, Assam, MNREGA, Cropping intensity, Irrigation intensity

Assam is an agro-based rural economy where around 86 per cent of the total population still lives in rural areas in comparison to the national average where only 69 per cent of the total population lives in rural areas. Agriculture is the main occupation for the rural population. It employs more than 50 per cent of the total workforce and supports more than 75 per cent of the population directly or indirectly. Agriculture and allied activities have contributed 15.08 per cent to state domestic products in 2019-20 (Economic Survey, 2020-21). According to the agricultural census 2010-11, in Assam, more than 85 per cent of the farmers belong to the marginal and small class who mainly depend on wage income. Therefore, the study of rural wages, especially agricultural wages assume vital importance in the context of Assam. Rural wages are one of the main sources of livelihood for the majority of the population and their prevailing rates directly or indirectly affect their work, living and agricultural development in a broader sense [1].

Agricultural wages in India is generally low, due to several problems like low productivity, disguised unemployment in the agriculture sector, and lack of enough employment opportunities in the non-agricultural sector. However, in the recent past there has been a substantial change in this trend due to economic growth and adoption of policies like the MGNREGA and increase in minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act (State of Indian Agriculture 2015-16, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI).

There are extensive studies that have examined the condition of agricultural labourers and agricultural wages from different perspectives. All the studies could be broadly classified into three categories, the first group of studies [2-7] have examined the impact of green revolutions on agricultural wages basically for the northern states. There is no conclusive agreement regarding the impact. However, this debate is not very relevant now and for the present study. The second group of studies [8-11] have studied whether the implementation of economic reforms has had any impact on agricultural wages. Although the findings are again inconclusive a majority of the scholars are of the view that agricultural wages have decelerated in the post-reform period in comparison to the pre-reform era. The third group of studies [12-25] have examined

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the impact of the implementation of NREGA<sup>1</sup> presently MNREGA on agricultural wages. There is broad agreement among the scholars that the introduction of MNREGA has helped in raising agricultural wages. It has reduced the gender wage differential significantly. However, it has created a scarcity of agricultural labourers in rural areas. Although there are extensive studies on agricultural wages there is hardly any that specifically discuss the issues of agricultural wages in Assam where the majority of the population still live in rural areas and is mainly dependent on agriculture. The need for the study is felt more specially to know how MNREGA has impacted the rural agricultural conditions and wages. In this background, the present study attempts to study the trends, patterns and variation of agricultural wages in Assam of male agricultural labourers and the possible factors that affect it.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

We all know that Assam is divided into 6 agro-climatic zones. These are Lower Brahmaputra Valley Zone, Upper Brahmaputra Valley Zone, North Bank Plain Zone, Central Brahmaputra Valley Zone, Barak Valley Zone and Hills Temperate Zone. Out of these 6 zones, we have excluded hill zones because of the different nature of the agricultural activity. After than depending upon the availability of data we have selected 14 districts from Assam from these 5 agro-climatic zones for which data is reported by the Ministry of Agriculture. These are Barpeta, Cachar, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Jorhat, Kamrup, Karimganj, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Nagaon and Sivasagar.

There are mainly five sources of wage data, firstly, Agricultural Wages in India (AWI), which is the oldest agricultural wage data published by the Ministry of Agriculture. Secondly, Rural Labour Enquiries (RLE), Thirdly, National Sample Survey (NSS), fourthly, Commission for Agriculture Cost and Prices (CACP), and finally Wage Rates in Rural India (WRI) which is the youngest wage data available from 1998. NSS wage data and RLE wage data come from a similar source namely quinquennial employment and unemployment surveys (EUS) carried out by the NSS. Thus, we can say that there are only four sources of wage data. However, there is no agreement among the researchers regarding the best source, each data has certain advantages and disadvantages. Depending upon the

purpose and availability different scholars has relied upon different data sources. Besides these we have collected data from the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Assam and Census data for different explanatory variables.

Agricultural Wages in India (AWI) data is mainly used to estimate the money wages for male field labour. It provides data for several agricultural operations like ploughing, sowing, weeding, reaping and harvesting; along with this data for other agricultural labour and herdsmen is also reported. AWI reports data at the district level, where a representative village from each district is selected for which, monthly data is reported. Simple arithmetic average of 12 months data represents the district's average and simple arithmetic average all districts data give the state average for a year. Ministry of agriculture defines field labour as a simple arithmetic average of four agricultural operations viz, ploughing, sowing, weeding, reaping and harvesting. To calculate wages of field labour we have also taken the simple arithmetic average of ploughing, sowing, weeding, reaping and harvesting for male labourers. To calculate the real wage trends money wages shall be deflated by Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). To find out the possible factors (Table 1) that affect agricultural wages directly or indirectly we have selected agricultural productivity, male literacy, the share of agriculture sector in district domestic product, the share of the construction sector in district domestic product, cropping intensity, irrigation intensity, MNREGA and labour land ratio. To examine the impact of these variables on agricultural wage we have run a panel regression<sup>2</sup> We have run both fixed and random effect models. To choose between fixed and random effects we have conducted a Hausman specification test. According to which REM is better.

$$Y_{it} = a + bX_{it} + U_{it}$$

Where 'Y' is the dependent variable, X's are the explanatory variables 'a' and 'b' are the coefficients, 'i' and 't' are indices for individual and time. I = 1, 2, .....14 and t= 1, 2....22

### Comparative study of male-female field labourers wage of state and national average

Assam is one of the low wages paid states in India barring a few exceptions. Both male and female field labour have been paid or received less than their national counterparts for all operations.

Table 1 Money wages trends of male-female field labour for assam and India

Year	Assam F	India F	Wage gap	Year	Assam M	India M	Wage gap
2010-11	95.15	115.02	19.87 (17.28)	2010-11	117.94	147.91	29.97 (20.26)
2011-12	113.54	135.67	22.13 (16.31)	2011-12	142.34	180.70	38.36 (21.23)
2012-13	138.23	164.57	26.34 (16.01)	2012-13	177.38	213.71	36.33 (17.00)
2013-14	166.04	178.82	12.78 (07.15)	2013-14	208.99	229.12	20.13 (08.79)
2014-15	190.00	204.00	14.00 (06.86)	2014-15	242.00	268.00	26.00 (09.70)
2015-16	200.00	218.00	18.00 (08.26)	2015-16	245.00	281.00	36.00 (12.81)
2016-17	227.00	230.00	03.00 (01.30)	2016-17	275.00	295.00	20.00 (06.77)
2017-18	229.00	244.00	15.00 (06.14)	2017-18	278.00	315.00	37.00 (11.74)
2018-19	232.00	262.00	30.00 (11.45)	2018-19	288.00	330.00	42.00 (12.72)
2019-20	252.00	278.00	26.00 (09.35)	2019-20	318.00	348.00	30.00 (08.62)

Source: Agricultural Wages in India, Various Issues

Figures in the brackets show a percentage gap

<sup>1</sup>NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) was introduced in 2006 and renamed as MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) in 2009 is one of the most unprecedented employment generation programmes. It provides alternative employment opportunities to the rural people mainly during the lean season who are willing to do unskilled manual work. It is a rights-based programme i.e., if the rural people demand work, then the government has to provide them employment within 15 days after applying for the job. If the government fails to provide within 15 days then it has to give unemployment allowance. There is a 33% reservation for rural women. Not only that, it provides equal wages for men and women for the same job. Therefore, it

provides significant opportunities for rural women to participate in different productive activities in and around the village. It also helps in reducing the male-female wage gap significantly.

<sup>2</sup>It is a mixture of cross-section data and time-series data. In panel data, the same cross-sectional unit is measured over time. We also call panel data in a different name like pooled data. If we have N the number of cross-sectional units and T periods then with panel data, we will have total observation units of N x T. If we have a same number of N and T then we get a balanced panel otherwise unbalanced panel.

It is evident from (Table 1) that male field labour in India has got Rs. 147.91 for performing different agricultural operations in the field. While doing the same work in Assam male field labour has received only Rs. 117.94 i.e., around 30 Rs less than his national counterpart. Although Assam is one of the low wage states, wages are growing at a faster pace. Wages of male field labour in Assam has more than doubled in 2015-16 i.e., increased to Rs. 245 while for similar operations national wage is Rs. 281. Similarly, the wage for male field labour in Assam has gone up to rupees 318 in 2019-20 whereas for the same work his national counterpart has received rupees 348. The money wage gap for male field labourers between Assam and India in 2010-11 was around rupees 30 which remain more or less the same in 2019-20. Similarly, in Assam female field labour has consistently received or been paid lower wages than the national average. In 2010-11 a female field labour in Assam received only Rs 95.15 for performing different agricultural operations in comparison to the national average 115.02. Agricultural wages in Assam for female field labour have more than doubled in 2015-16 to Rs. 200 and further increased to Rs. 252 in 2019-20. The gap between Assam and the national average is gradually declining. In 2010-11 female field labour was paid around 20 per cent less than the national average. However, this gap has reduced significantly in 2019-20 to just around 9 per cent.

*District wise trends in money wages for male field labourers*

Agricultural wages in Assam are very in compassion to states like Punjab, Haryana; Kerala etc. (Fig 1) clearly reveals that the money wages for male field labourers have remained very low till 2009-10. It is in the recent past only i.e., from the year 2010-11 only it has started rising. Money wages for male field labour of Barpeta district was around rupees 51.25 (Table 2) in 1997-98. It has become more than doubled in 2008-09 i.e., rupees 125.

Then, it has increased to rupees 280 in 2017-18 after that it slightly dipped to rupees around 269. Similarly, in Goalpara district money wages was as low as rupees 31 in 1997-98 then it increased to rupees 80 in 2008-09 and in 2018-19 it has

increased to rupees around 244. Similarly, for Nagaon district money wages for male field labourer was around rupees 40 in 1997-98 which has become more than double in 2008-09 to around rupees 102. It has increased significantly to rupees 367 in 2018-19. Again, in barak valley money wages for Cachar and Hailakandi districts in was rupees 40 and 50 respectively which has grown to rupees 100 for both the districts. And in the year 2018-19 it has substantially increased to rupees 301 and 335 respectively for Cachar and Hailakandi districts. On the other hand, money wages for male field labourer in Sivasagar district was around 43 rupees in 1997-98 which has increased to rupees 80 in 2008-09 and finally increased to rupees 400 in 2018-19. From the money wages trend one thing is very clear that money wages for male field labourer in lower Brahmaputra valley is relatively lower in comparison to upper Brahmaputra valley and Barak valley.

*District wise trends in real wages for male field labourers*

As we know money wages do not reflect the accurate picture because it does not take into account changes in prices. Therefore, to get correct we should look into real wages rather than money wages. (Fig 2) reveals the scenario of real wages of male agricultural labourers for male field labourers. It is evident that although the money wages are increasing consistently since 1997-98 real wages do not reveal so. It means prices rose faster than wages. Real wages have remained almost stagnant around rupees 20 from 1997-98 to 2006-07 for almost all districts (Table 3). After those real wages started rising, but in the year 2009-10 it slightly dipped again for some districts and after that, it has been continuously rising since then. Several factors could be attributed to this recent jump in rural wages in Assam first implementation of MGNREGA is one of responsible for this uptrend as has been claimed by several researchers for the nation also. Along with those factors such as continuous decline main agricultural workers from the field have led to the labour market tightening which pushed the real wages as well. Besides that, rise in agricultural productivity, construction sector growth, urbanization, and rural literacy simultaneously contributed to the rise in rural wages.

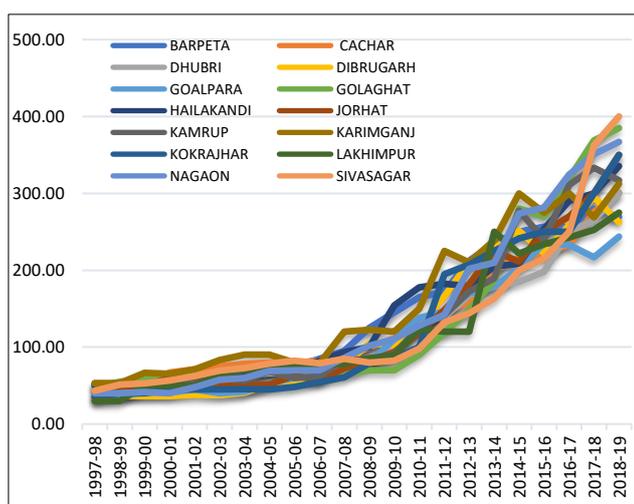


Fig 1 Trends in money wages of male field labour

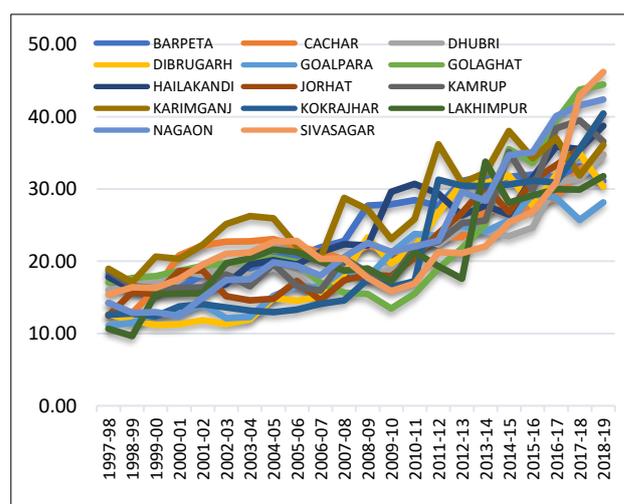


Fig 2 Trends in real wages of male field labour

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Depending upon the availability and purpose of study different scholars has used different proxy variables which influences the agricultural wage positively or negatively. We have also collected and calculated several proxy variables for our study. But the sad part is that all the variables are not

available for the entire period. Our main objective was to see the district wise impact of different push and pull factors on agricultural wage. However, due to a lack of time-series data, we could not do that. Among different variables finally, we have selected only 8 variables for 14 districts which are available for the period 1997-98 to 2018-19 and one dummy variable for capturing the impact of MNREGA have been

chosen which directly or indirectly impacts agricultural wage. So, to see and know the determinants of agricultural wages of Assam we have resorted to Panel regression analysis. It's a

balanced panel and we have run both fixed effect and random effect model. Based on the result of the Hausman Specification Test we have chosen a random effect model.

Table 2 Determinants of agricultural wages of male field labourers in Assam

Explanatory variables	Male field labour
Cropping intensity	0.056***
Land labour ratio	-2.874***
Irrigation intensity	0.220***
Percentage share of construction	0.283*
Percentage share of agriculture	0.106***
Agricultural productivity	0.508
Rural male literacy	0.619***
MNREGA (After 2006-07=1 otherwise 0)	0.020
No. of observations	308
R <sup>2</sup>	0.77

\*\*\*  $P < 0.01$ , \*\*  $P < 0.05$ , \*  $P < 0.1$

Out of the total seven variables used in the model namely (Table 1) Percentage share of agriculture in district domestic product, percentage share of the construction sector in district domestic product, rural male literacy, cropping intensity, irrigation intensity and have been impacting agricultural wage positively and significantly while land labour ratio impacts it negatively and significantly. Two other variables, mainly agricultural productivity is showing their expected sign but their impact is insignificant. It implies that agricultural productivity

is not high enough to generate more demand for labourers which will increase the agricultural wage finally. Similarly, the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) which we tried to capture using a dummy variable is also insignificant. Several studies have shown that MNREGA is one of the causes which have pushed the agricultural wages in the recent past in general. However, it has been observed and argued that in particular, it has mainly benefitted female labourers more than the labourers [26-33].

Variable name	Definition	Data sources
Wage	Daily wages of ploughing for male labour	Agricultural wages in India, ministry of agriculture
Cropping intensity	Gross Cropped Area/Net Sown Area*100	Directorate of economics and statistics department of agriculture and cooperation ministry of agriculture Government of India
Irrigation intensity	Gross Irrigation/Gross Cropped Area *100	Directorate of economics and statistics department of agriculture and cooperation ministry of agriculture Government of India
Agri_share	Percentage share of agriculture sector in gross district domestic product	Directorate of economics and statistics
Con_share	Percentage share of construction sector in gross district domestic product	Directorate of economics and statistics
Male literacy	Rural male literacy for 6 plus population	Census, Government of India
Agricultural productivity	Total production of Rice/Total Area	Directorate of economics and statistics department of agriculture and cooperation ministry of agriculture government of India
LLR	Land labour ratio	Gross cropped area/total agricultural worker
MNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	Dummy variable

Table 2 Trends in money wages of male field labour

Year	Barpeta	Cachar	Dhubri	Dibrugarh	Goalpara	Golaghat	Hailakandi	Jorhat	Kamrup	Karimganj	Kokrajhar	Lakhimpur	Nagaon	Sivasagar
1997-98	51.25	40.00	45.00	35.67	31.11	48.00	50.00	35.00	52.50	53.33	35.35	30.00	40.00	43.29
1998-99	50.00	40.00	52.00	36.69	35.74	55.00	50.00	48.97	51.50	53.14	39.77	30.00	40.00	51.01
1999-00	51.25	52.00	55.00	36.11	41.33	58.00	50.00	50.00	52.50	66.66	40.00	50.00	41.81	52.75
2000-01	52.50	67.00	60.00	36.36	40.95	60.00	50.71	60.00	52.50	65.42	44.24	50.00	40.00	56.46
2001-02	57.81	71.00	58.00	37.87	45.00	62.00	50.00	60.00	52.50	71.25	45.00	50.00	48.00	62.50
2002-03	60.63	75.00	63.00	37.38	40.00	65.00	55.55	50.00	60.00	83.00	45.00	65.00	57.42	69.42
2003-04	63.47	78.00	62.00	41.00	42.08	69.00	67.00	50.00	56.67	90.00	45.21	70.00	60.00	72.71
2004-05	71.56	80.00	66.00	51.67	52.81	71.00	70.00	51.43	68.13	90.00	45.00	75.00	68.93	78.59
2005-06	75.00	80.00	65.00	52.67	60.00	72.00	70.71	62.62	60.00	80.00	48.12	77.00	70.00	82.50
2006-07	85.00	82.50	59.58	58.67	63.65	66.06	82.50	56.67	61.79	79.00	54.69	77.50	70.00	78.92
2007-08	95.00	84.50	78.60	76.25	78.69	65.17	93.33	72.50	84.93	120.00	60.87	78.03	85.88	85.00
2008-09	125.00	100.00	81.25	105.00	80.00	69.69	100.00	82.00	83.33	122.50	78.85	85.63	101.66	80.00
2009-10	145.00	110.83	98.00	102.50	110.00	70.00	154.00	93.33	90.62	120.00	85.42	89.58	110.66	82.50
2010-11	165.00	125.28	135.00	126.67	138.00	90.00	178.00	118.93	126.94	150.00	100.00	123.33	128.00	98.22
2011-12	172.00	144.93	138.75	166.19	146.19	118.39	182.50	148.50	141.11	225.00	194.67	120.00	142.00	132.16
2012-13	212.22	159.27	168.00	210.33	170.00	148.63	179.50	182.08	172.38	210.42	207.50	120.00	202.00	144.00
2013-14	235.00	200.00	179.00	227.92	178.67	186.50	205.00	225.00	189.59	238.75	225.00	250.00	210.00	163.33
2014-15	250.00	215.84	185.00	251.32	202.33	280.21	208.75	211.19	277.29	300.00	241.50	221.88	273.54	200.00

2015-16	256.75	221.11	198.00	222.14	235.00	270.00	253.70	250.00	240.00	275.00	250.00	233.75	281.75	215.25
2016-17	256.25	233.57	250.00	258.75	233.00	319.50	290.50	270.00	311.00	300.00	250.00	242.75	324.50	250.00
2017-18	280.00	275.83	265.00	295.00	217.00	369.00	300.00	300.00	333.33	268.75	300.00	252.50	351.00	362.50
2018-19	269.42	301.00	300.00	262.50	243.75	385.00	335.50	350.00	316.75	312.50	350.00	275.00	367.00	400.00

Table 3 Trends in real wages of male field labour

Year	Barpeta	Cachar	Dhubri	Dibrugarh	Goalpara	Golaghat	Hailakandi	Jorhat	Kamrup	Karimganj	Kokrajhar	Lakhimpur	Nagaon	Sivasagar
1997-98	18.24	14.23	16.01	12.69	11.07	17.08	17.79	12.46	18.68	18.98	12.58	10.68	14.23	15.41
1998-99	16.08	12.86	16.72	11.80	11.49	17.68	16.08	15.75	16.56	17.09	12.79	9.65	12.86	16.40
1999-00	15.87	16.10	17.03	11.18	12.80	17.96	15.48	15.48	16.25	20.64	12.38	15.48	12.94	16.33
2000-01	16.30	20.81	18.63	11.29	12.72	18.63	15.75	18.63	16.30	20.32	13.74	15.53	12.42	17.53
2001-02	18.07	22.19	18.13	11.83	14.06	19.38	15.63	18.75	16.41	22.27	14.06	15.63	15.00	19.53
2002-03	18.37	22.73	19.09	11.33	12.12	19.70	16.83	15.15	18.18	25.15	13.64	19.70	17.40	21.03
2003-04	18.50	22.74	18.08	11.95	12.27	20.12	19.53	14.58	16.52	26.24	13.18	20.41	17.49	21.20
2004-05	20.62	23.05	19.02	14.89	15.22	20.46	20.17	14.82	19.63	25.94	12.97	21.61	19.86	22.65
2005-06	20.72	22.10	17.96	14.55	16.57	19.89	19.53	17.30	16.57	22.10	13.29	21.27	19.34	22.79
2006-07	21.91	21.26	15.36	15.12	16.40	17.03	21.26	14.60	15.92	20.36	14.09	19.97	18.04	20.34
2007-08	22.78	20.26	18.85	18.29	18.87	15.63	22.38	17.39	20.37	28.78	14.60	18.71	20.59	20.38
2008-09	27.72	22.17	18.02	23.28	17.74	15.45	22.17	18.18	18.48	27.16	17.48	18.99	22.54	17.74
2009-10	27.88	21.31	18.85	19.71	21.15	13.46	29.62	17.95	17.43	23.08	16.43	17.23	21.28	15.87
2010-11	28.45	21.60	23.28	21.84	23.79	15.52	30.69	20.50	21.89	25.86	17.24	21.26	22.07	16.93
2011-12	27.65	23.30	22.31	26.72	23.50	19.03	29.34	23.87	22.69	36.17	31.30	19.29	22.83	21.25
2012-13	31.12	23.35	24.63	30.84	24.93	21.79	26.32	26.70	25.28	30.85	30.43	17.60	29.62	21.11
2013-14	31.76	27.03	24.19	30.80	24.14	25.20	27.70	30.41	25.62	32.26	30.41	33.78	28.38	22.07
2014-15	31.69	27.36	23.45	31.85	25.64	35.51	26.46	26.77	35.14	38.02	30.61	28.12	34.67	25.35
2015-16	31.97	27.54	24.66	27.66	29.27	33.62	31.59	31.13	29.89	34.25	31.13	29.11	35.09	26.81
2016-17	31.64	28.84	30.86	31.94	28.77	39.44	35.86	33.33	38.40	37.04	30.86	29.97	40.06	30.86
2017-18	33.18	32.68	31.40	34.95	25.71	43.72	35.55	35.55	39.49	31.84	35.55	29.92	41.59	42.95
2018-19	31.11	34.76	34.64	30.31	28.15	44.46	38.74	40.42	36.58	36.09	40.42	31.76	42.38	46.19

## CONCLUSION

Using the secondary data from different sources first we have observed that there is a significant gap between agricultural wages of field labourers of Assam and India. Secondly, it has been found that money wages of male field labourers of Assam were very low till 2009-10. It is in the recent past only those wages have increased substantially for field labourers. Thirdly, like money wages, the rise in real wages have also been very low in Assam for a long time. The rise in real wages is more pronounced in the recent past only. Multiple factors could be attributed to this recent jump in rural real wages in Assam first implementation of MGNREGA is one of responsible for this uptrend as has been claimed by several researchers for the nation also. Along with those factors such as continuous decline main agricultural workers from the field have led to the labour market tightening which pushed the real wages as well. Besides that, rise in agricultural productivity, construction sector growth, urbanization, and literacy simultaneous contributed to the rise in rural wages. Fourthly, the regression analysis shows that the percentage share of agriculture in district domestic product, percentage share of the

construction sector in district domestic product, rural male literacy, cropping intensity, Irrigation Intensity has been impacting agricultural wage positively and significantly while land labour ratio impacts it negatively and significantly. On the other hand, a crucial factor like agricultural productivity is although showing its expected sign but its impact is insignificant. It implies that agricultural productivity is not high enough to generate more demand for labourers which can put upward pressure on farm wages. Similarly, the impact of MNREGA which we tried to capture using a dummy variable is also insignificant. Since there is a significant gap between national and state average wages, therefore, appropriate policies should be designed to arrest the gap. At the same, the government should take appropriate steps for increasing agricultural productivity which has a major bearing on agricultural wages along with the proper implementation of monitoring of MNREGA is also important. The main limitation of the study states it gives only for the male field labourers. Due to the lack of consistent data for female field labourers, we could not get a complete picture of the agricultural wages of Assam. Perhaps primary data shall give more insights into the trends and patterns of agricultural wages of Assam.

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