

# Introduction to Rampur Village Economy

## Prepared by ABDUL WAJID

- • Rampur: A village in western Uttar Pradesh with fertile soil and good roads.
- • Farming is the main activity; non-farm activities include dairy, transport, shops.
- • The story of Rampur helps us understand rural life and production.
- • Similar systems exist in many Indian villages.

# Farming and Crops in Rampur

- • Main crops: Jowar, Bajra, Potato, Wheat, Sugarcane.
- • Multiple cropping: Growing more than one crop a year to increase production.
- • Well-developed irrigation using tubewells helps grow 3 crops annually.
- • Fertile land and good infrastructure support agriculture.

# Natural Resources and Their Overuse

- • Land area is fixed; no more land to bring under cultivation.
- • Overuse of land and chemical fertilisers reduces soil fertility.
- • Over-dependence on underground water has lowered water tables.
- • Need for sustainable farming methods to protect resources.

# Unequal Land Distribution

- • Upper caste families own most of the land.
- • About 1/3rd of families are landless, mostly Dalits.
- • Small farmers own less than 2 hectares; struggle for enough income.
- • Land inheritance has reduced farm size for many families.

# Factors of Production

- • Land: Natural resource, crucial for farming.
- • Labour: Work done by farmers or hired workers.
- • Capital:
  - - Fixed capital: Tractors, tools, buildings.
  - - Working capital: Seeds, fertilisers, cash for daily use.
- • Enterprise: Knowledge, risk-taking, and organising production.

# Labour and Wages

- • Small farmers work on their own land.
- • Landless labourers are hired by medium and large farmers.
- • Wages can be in cash or kind and vary by job and region.
- • High competition for jobs means lower wages; often below minimum wage.
- • Machines have reduced labour demand.

# Access to Capital

- • Small farmers borrow money at high interest from landlords or traders.
- • They work under tough conditions to repay loans.
- • Large farmers use their own savings to invest in tools and hire labour.
- • Example: Savita borrows from Tejpal and works extra to repay.

# Surplus and Profit

- • Small farmers keep most of the produce for family and have little to sell.
- • Large farmers sell surplus in markets and earn profits.
- • They reinvest profits into farming or non-farm activities (tractors, cattle, shops).
- • Farming also has risks: crop failure, price drops.

# Non-Farm Activities in Rampur

- • Dairy: Buffalo milk sold to nearby towns.
- • Small manufacturing: Making jaggery, flour milling.
- • Shops and trade: Grocery, tea stalls, general stores.
- • Transport: Carts, rickshaws, trucks. Kishore shifted from farm labour to transport.
- • These activities offer alternate income sources.

# Summary and Future of Rural Economy

- • Farming remains central but needs better resource use and fair income.
- • Small farmers need low-interest loans to improve productivity.
- • Non-farm sector needs support to grow: markets, capital, roads.
- • Sustainable development in villages can improve lives and reduce poverty.