Emergency Food Security for Flood-Affected Populations in Odisha

Baseline Survey Report

August 2014

Focus Group Discussion during Baseline Data Collection

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1. Introduction

This report presents the findings of the baseline assessment of the USAID funded program, Food Security for Flood Affected Populations in Odisha. This program is a response to the flooding in the districts of Mayurbhanj and Balasore that followed Cyclone Phailin in October 2013. It is an 11-month program starting April 1, 2014 and ending on February 28, 2014 and is implemented by Mercy Corps with local NGO partner, Adhikar. The program was designed as a response to support food insecure and labor poor households affected by the floods. Locally, the program is referred to as 'Surakhya', meaning food security.

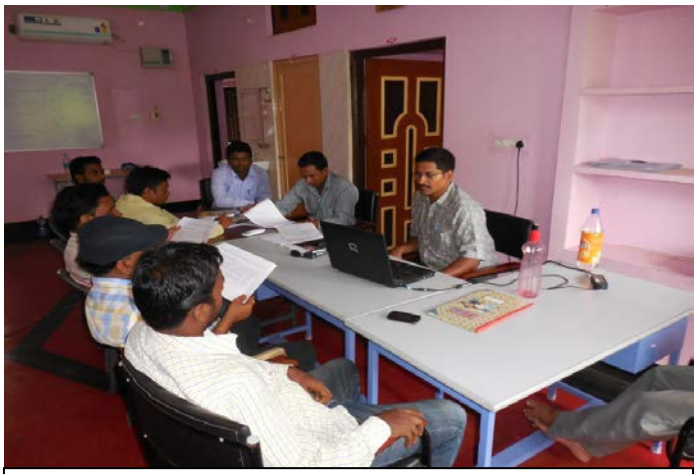
The principal objective of the intervention is to improve food security of 17,500 people in flood affected villages of Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts of Odisha through cash transfers.The project envisages that 3,500 vulnerable households will increase their food purchasing capacity in Badasahi, GB Nagar and Nilagiri administrative blocks of Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts of Odisha. A total of 3,200 households participating in Cash for Work (CfW) activities will receive payments and 300 of the most vulnerable households will receive unconditional cash grants for food.

The baseline assessment for the project was conducted in August 2014 and provides a basis for comparison on the progress made toward program objectives. This survey was also conducted to assess the status of beneficiaries related to food consumption, income-expenditures and availability of livelihood options.

2. Project Background

The Indian state of Odisha has the highest percentage of people living below the poverty line (57.2 percent) of any state in the country, with 80 percent of the population residing in rural areas and dependent upon farm income. Mercy Corps has worked in Odisha since 2008 helping poor farmers improve their income through access to better inputs, knowledge of better farming practices, and increasing access to markets. Immediately following the cyclone, as floodwater inundated Balasore and Mayurbhanj, Mercy Corps was the first international humanitarian agency to deploy a team immediately after the cyclone to initiate a quick assessment**.**

The initial assessment revealed that approximately 70 percent of the affected households are either landless agricultural laborers or marginal farmers with less than two acres of land whose livestock, land and homes were destroyed or significantly damaged. Basic household items such as kitchen utensils, fuel and lighting systems, clothes and beds were lost and/or destroyed.



Orientation of the Enumerators

3. Objectives of this Study:

The objectives of the baseline study are as follows:

1. To understand the situation in the intervention area as it relates to food insecurity at the onset of the emergency.
2. To understand the livelihood needs and practices of the communities so as to design interventions to address the most felt needs.
3. To gather baseline information to measure results of various interventions through a set of indicators.

Interview of a Beneficiary

Beneficiary Interview by an Enumerator

4. Methodology

The research methodology chosen for this study consisted of four components: the sampling scheme, collection of secondary data, collection of primary data, analysis and interpretation of data.

4.1 Sampling Scheme

a) Selection of Blocks within the Districts

Two blocks from Mayurbhanj district and one block from Balasore district were selected to collect secondary information. The information was provided by the District Emergency Cells of both the districts and was later reconfirmed through the respective block offices and field visits. Thus Badasahi and Gopabandhu Nagar from Mayurbhanj and Nilagiri in Balasore districts were selected for the baseline study.

b) Selection of Households

From the three selected blocks, 813 households (23% of the total beneficiary population) were selected on the basis of the following criteria:

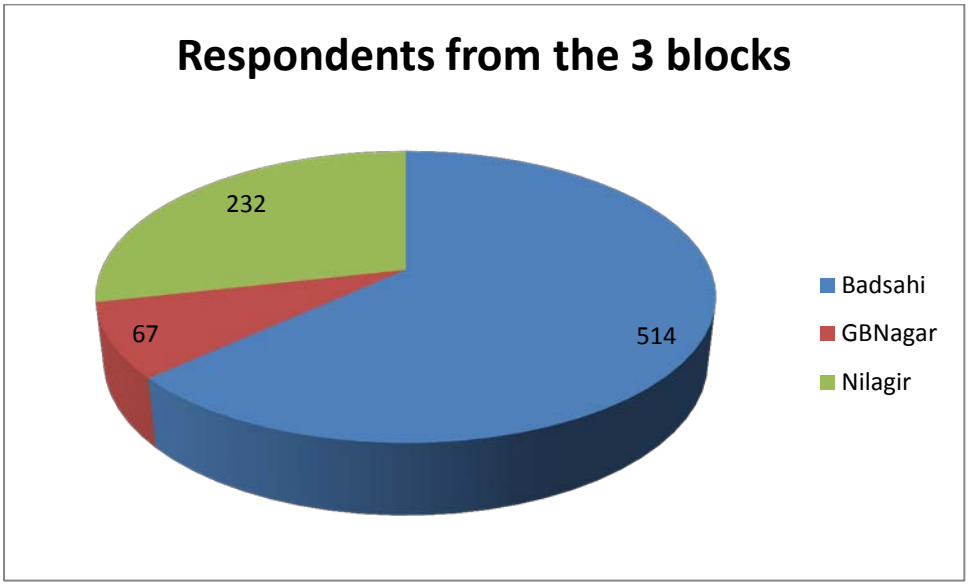
- Households whose houses were damaged, loss of standing crops, and loss of household utilities and assets during the last floods.
- Absence of regular livelihood as a source of regular income.
- Weak financial conditions leading to compromises on food intake both in terms of quality and frequency of meals consumed, ultimately compromising on nutrition.

The number and distribution of respondents in the study area are as follows:

Block	Gram Panchayat	Village	No. Respondents
Badsahi	Badsahi	Belpal	52
	Badsahi	Khuntapal	48
	Chandanpur	Agiria	13
	Chandanpur	Bidyadharkhunta	12
	Chandanpur	Chandanpur	11
	Chandanpur	Jalananda	20
	Chandanpur	Sarbeswarpur	13
	Chandanpur	Tentala	12
	Chandanpur	Tuna Gambharia	20
	Durgapur	Asukand	28
	Durgapur	Aguad	18
	Durgapur	Kolkutha	29
	Durgapur	Rangapani	16
	Joginuagan	Barihapal	24
	Joginuagan	Dingira	26
	Kendudiha	Kuliana	12
	Kendudiha	Mendhamundia	12
	Madhapur	Arpata	33
	Madhapur	Chakmadhapur	4
	Madhapur	Madhapur	2
	Madhapur	Sahadasuni	4
	Madhapur	Uchbahali	3
	Mangovindpur	Burudia	8
	Mangovindpur	Nunkuan	8
	Mangovindpur	Similidahi	12
	Sialighati	Bhanjabati	18
	Sialighati	Baghuapal	10
	Sialighati	Kauchi	31
	Sialighati	Kendugadi	15
GB Nagar	Ranibandha	Athilagadi	17
	Ranibandha	Ranibandha	18
	Ranibandha	Tiraldihi	18
	Ranibandha	Mankadia	14
Nilagiri	Ajodhya	Badia	21
	Ajodhya	Junakoili	40
	Begunia	Dobati	30
	Narsingpur	Durgapur	11
	Narsingpur	Purunagaon	22
	Kans	Kans	11
	Kans	Karanjia	6
	Kans	Sangrampur	35
	RK Pur	Pundala	26

	RK Pur	Rkpur	30
	14	**43**	**813**

Sample Size:
Data pertaining to the demographic profile of three blocks were collected, statistically analyzed and the results are presented in tables and graphs throughout the report. It is evident from the graph below that out of 813 respondents, 514 respondents belong to Badasahi, 232 respondents belong to Nilagiri and 67 respondents belong to GB Nagar block (the percentages are 63.2, 28.5 and 8.2 respectively).



c) Collection of Data
The study is primarily quantitative in nature and uses the survey method to collect information about the project area. The study was conducted in 43 villages in Badasahi, Gopabandhu Nagar blocks of Mayurbhanj district and Nilagiri block of Balasore district where Project Surakhya operates. A total of 813 households, representing about 25% of the total project households were surveyed. Respondents were selected by systematic random selection. All villages were covered in the baseline study and the sampling method used ensured that the same percentage of households was covered in each village.

The Baseline questionnaire was developed in line with the key components of the project namely: land use pattern, extent of damage on household and community assets as well as infrastructure, the food insecurity scenario and coping mechanism used during the floods. The data collection process was undertaken between the 1st and 27th of August 2014. The questionnaire was administered to the sample population in the local language. The trained field investigators interviewed the adult members from the sample households in local language (Odia). The questionnaire was field tested with the communities after it was translated into Odia. Necessary modifications were made before finalizing the questionnaire after it was field tested. The enumerators were chosen from the communities that Project Surakhya works in and they underwent a one day orientation on data collection on 31st July, 2014. This was followed by a day of closely supervised data collection in the intervention villages to observe the enumerator's skill and provide immediate feedback for improvement.

4.2 Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data collected through different schedules were scrutinized, compiled and analyzed using the statistical software SPSSv 16.0, keeping in view the objectives of the study. The analysis was presented in tabular and graphic form and interpreted with logic and reason.

4.3 Challenges and Limitations

Overall, the baseline survey was conducted in a timely manner and with the cooperation of the community. However, there were certain challenges faced by the survey team during the data collection.

- Translation of survey form into Odia: Administering the baseline survey without translating it into the local language would have produced inaccurate data, however translating the baseline survey into the local languages was a challenge given the tight timeline. This challenge was overcome by hiring a professional translator and later refined it further with inputs from the project team members who are proficient in the local language.
- Data on Incomes and Expenditures: The baseline survey intended to collect information on household income and expenditure patterns. The data collected, however, was subject to large variations making meaningful analysis extremely challenging. Therefore, though there were questions on monthly incomes and expenditure, respondents were asked to provide their income and expenditures on a weekly basis and this was then aggregated to provide monthly totals.
- Food Score: It took a lot of time to orient the surveyors on how to use the food-score section of the questionnaire. Extended handholding was also needed in the field to collect information on the food scores. In view of the importance of the baseline study, the data collection for this part of the questionnaire was also verified, supervised and oversight was provided.

4.4 Profile of the Study Area

4.4.1 Administrative Division, Area and Population

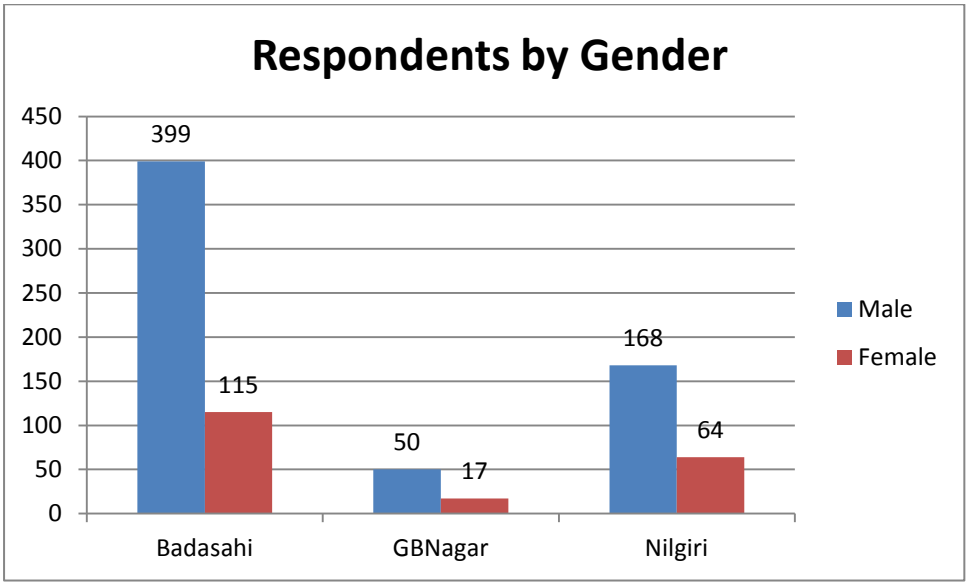
In the context of the baseline study, it is important to have a brief profile of the administrative divisions, socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the study area which will help to inform the findings of the study.

Mayurbhanj district has 26 blocks, 382 GPs and 3,945 villages. It extends between 85°40'' to 87°11'' east longitude and 21°16'' to 22°34'' north latitude. The district has a population of 2.5 million approximately as per 2011 census. Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) constitute 7.3% and 58.7% of the total population respectively. The district has a literacy rate of 73.8% with male literacy at 73.3% and female literacy at 52.7%. Cultivators and agriculture laborers constitute about 58% of the total main workforce (Census 2011).

Similarly, Balasore district has 12 blocks, 289 GPs and 2,971 villages. The SCs and STs constitute 20.6% and 11.9% of the total population of 1.5 million respectively. The district has a literacy rate of 41.3% with male literacy at 87.0% and female literacy at 72.3%. Cultivators and agriculture laborers constitute about 63% of the total main workforce (Census 2011).

4.4.2 Gender:

The gender distribution of the respondents was analyzed and the results are depicted in the graph below representing all three sample blocks. Out of the total respondents, women constituted about 24% of the total sample size during the study. This low percentage is due to cultural norms, where mainly male representatives will respond on behalf of the household.

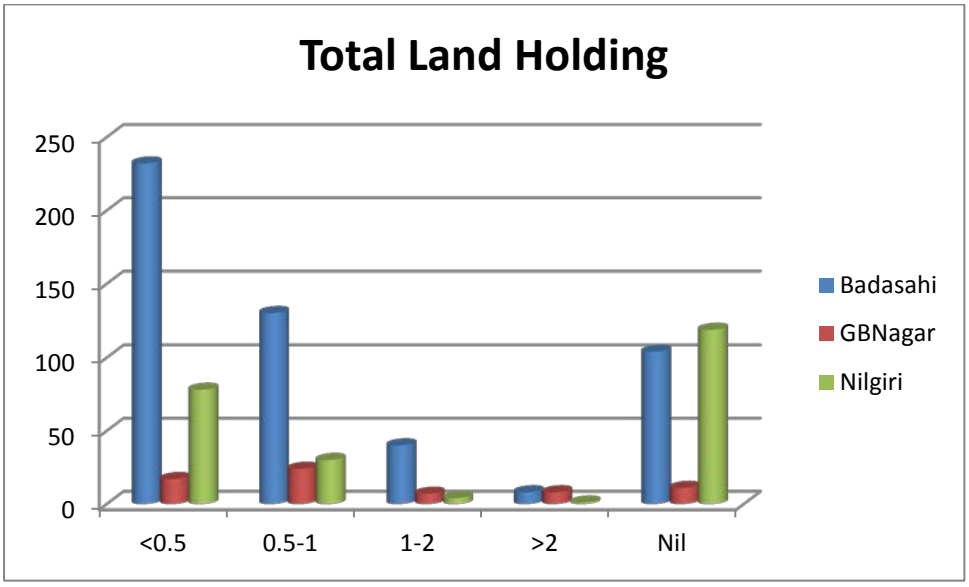


4.4.4 Type of House:

The types of dwellings the respondents have were also analyzed. Out of the different types of houses, 94% had Kuccha houses. Kuchha houses are mud walls with thatched roofing which cost less and is the preferred type of housing for the poor. Pucca houses are made with brick walls and asbestos/tin/RCC roofing.

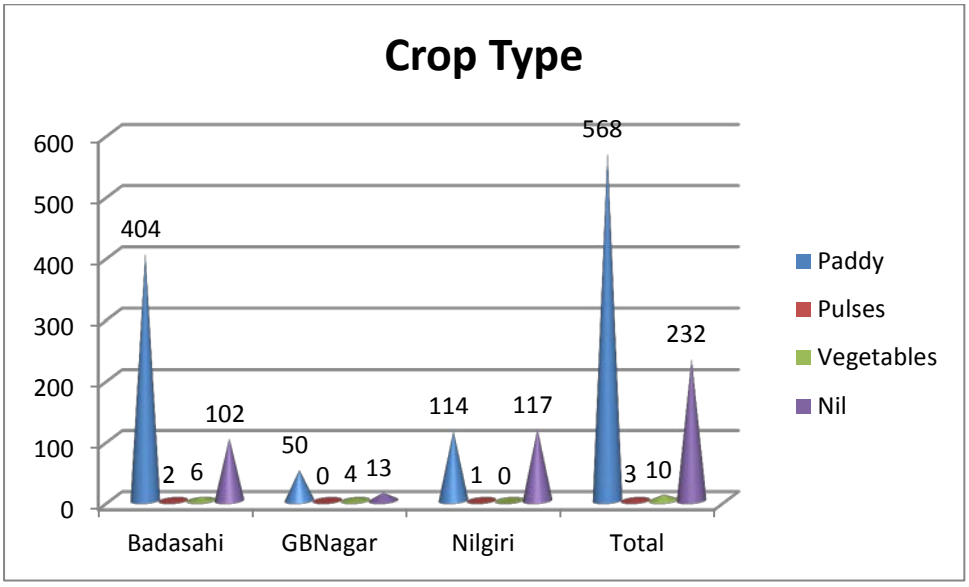
4.4.5 Land Holding:

The majority (40%) of the respondents had land holding less than 0.5 acre, while 29% of the respondents did not own any land.



4.4.6 Land Use Pattern:

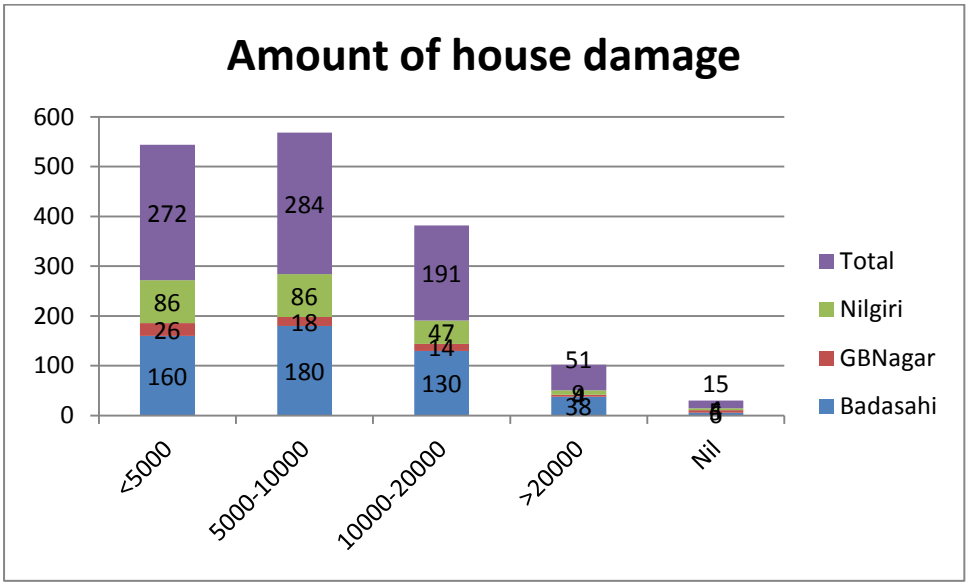
Analysis of the type of cropping pattern used by farmers in the study area reveals that about 70% of the respondents were paddy cultivators and there were only a few farmers (0.4%) involved in pulses and vegetable (1.2%) cultivation as shown in the graph.



4.4.7 Extent of Damage and Restoration:

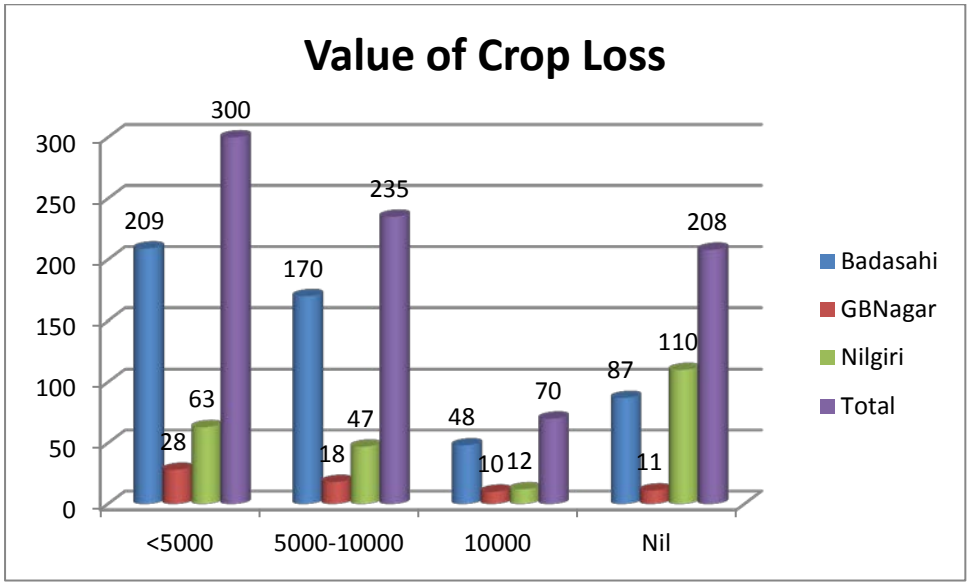
House Damage:

The respondents reported varying degrees of damage to their dwellings. The information collected represents a range of damage (in INR) to the houses in the survey area. The assessment depicted through the histogram below reveals that about 35% of the respondents incurred a loss ranging from Rs.5000.00-10,000.00 and 33% incurred a loss of less than Rs. 5000.00.



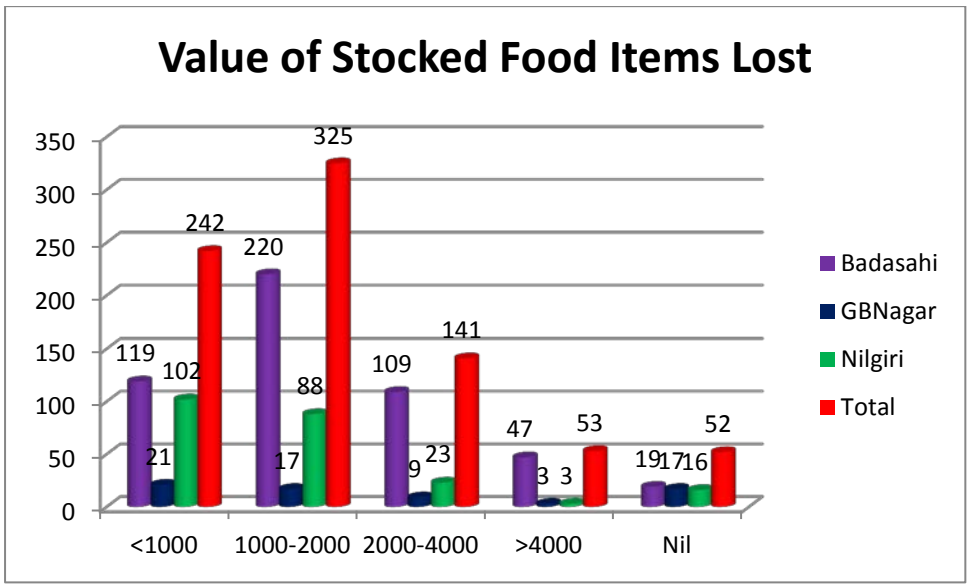
Value of Crop Loss:

Crop loss assessment due to flood revealed that about 37% farming households lost less than Rs. 5000 to their standing crops, while 29% incurred loss ranging from Rs.5000-10,000. Around 26% were able to protect their crops from the floods.



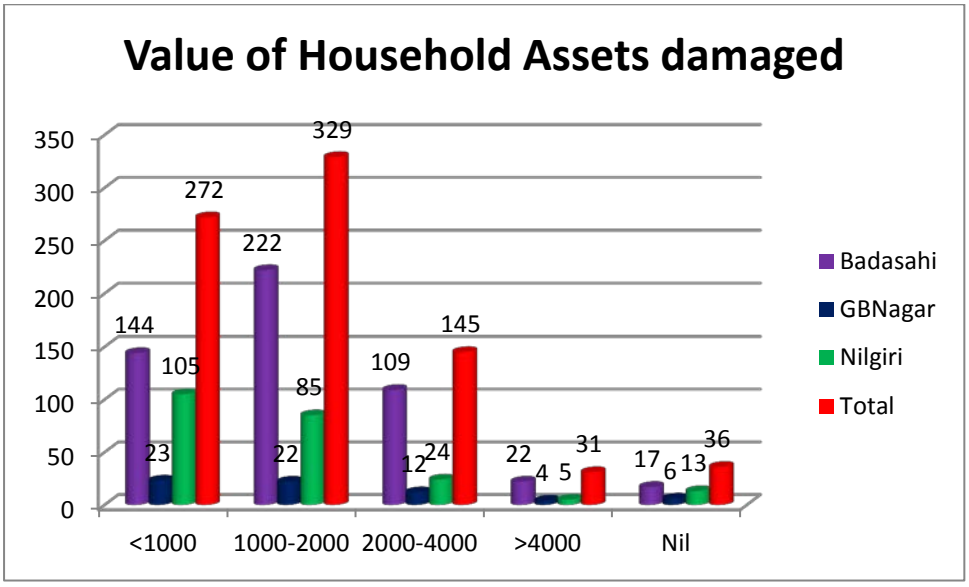
Value of Stocked Food Items Lost:

The majority (40%) of the flood affected households reported that they lost stocked food items (mainly paddy) in their homes as water inundated their houses. Its value ranged from Rs. 1000-2000 while about 30% reported to have lost food items worth Rs. 1000.

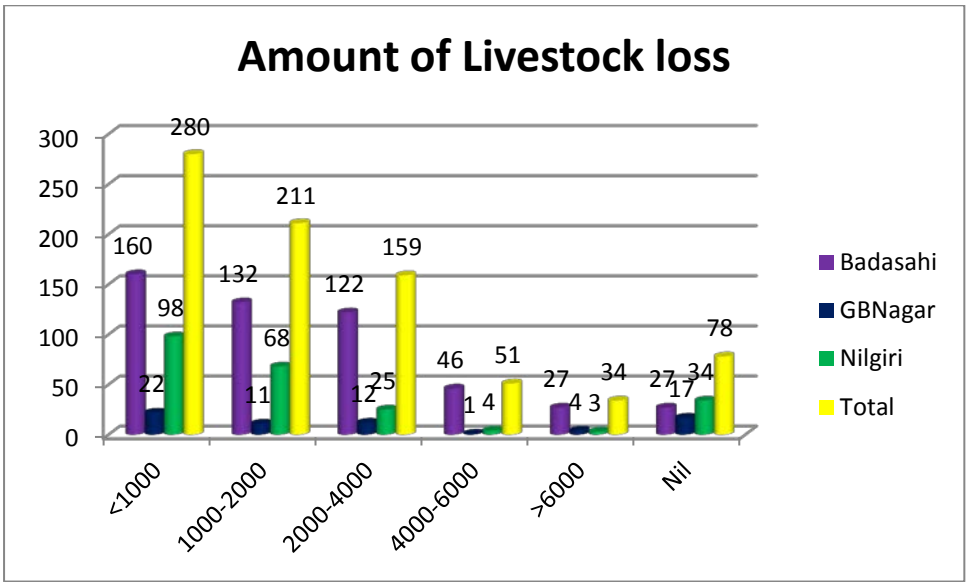


Value of Household Assets Damaged:

About 40% of the flood affected population reported that they lost their key household assets such as utensils, furniture, tools and implements, clothing, children's study materials, etc. during the flooding. The value of these lost items ranged from Rs. 1000-2000, while 33% reported to have lost household assets worth about Rs.1000.

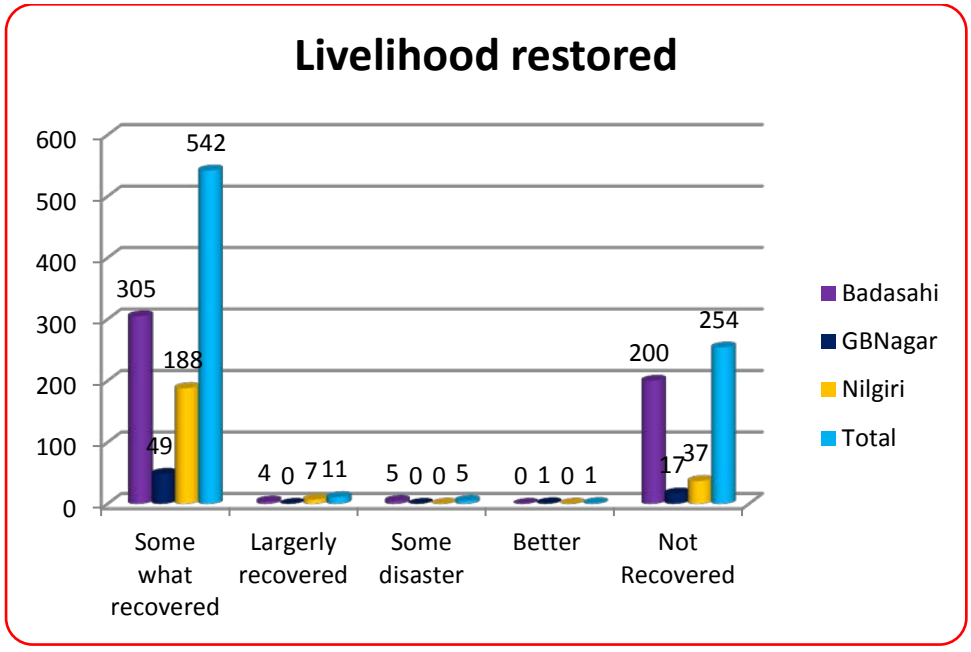


Value of Livestock Lost During Floods:
About 34% of the respondents reported that they had incurred livestock loss worth Rs.1000 or less, while 26% of the sample households lost livestock worth Rs. 1000-2000. The livestock in the study area were mainly cattle, goats and poultry.



Extent of Livelihoods Restored:
After the flood waters receded, only 1.4% of the households surveyed reported that they restored their livelihoods, 31% of households reported that their livelihoods had not been recovered at all from the effects of the flood, and 67% reported a partial recovery by adopting alternative sources of income.

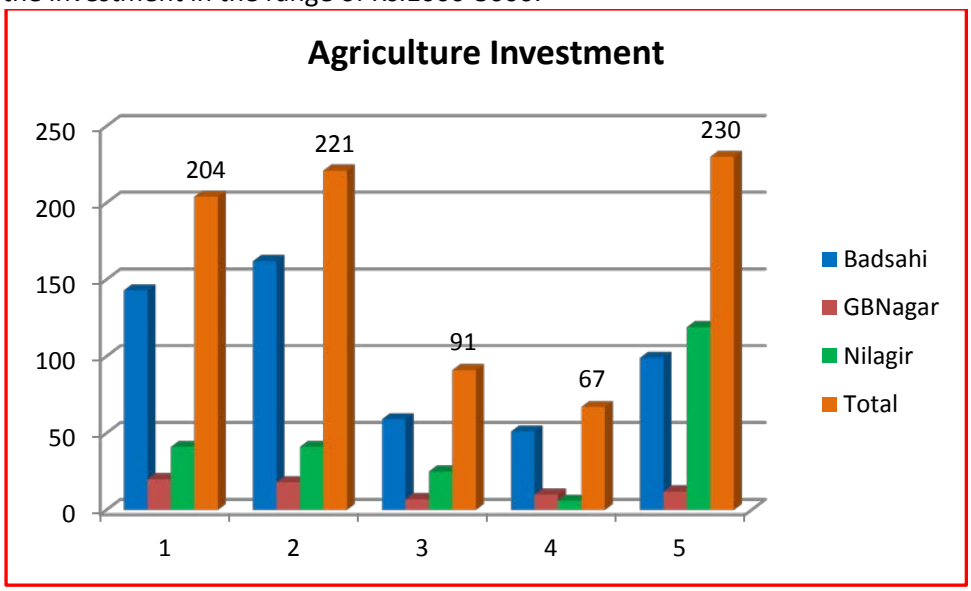
Based on these finding, this situation necessitates action from humanitarian agencies such as Adhikar/Mercy Corps/USAID intervene in these areas.



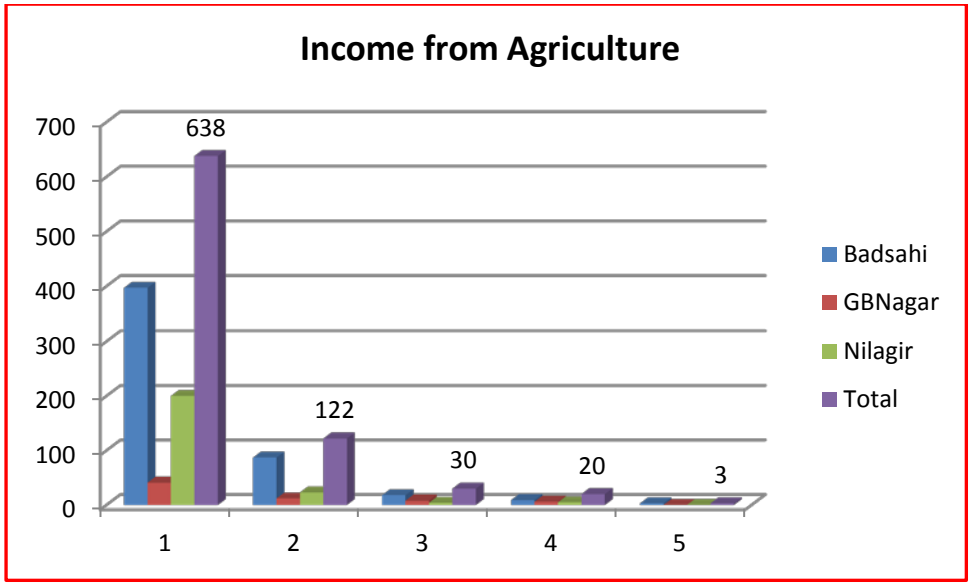
Income and Expenditures:

Agriculture:
Analysis of the data collected reveals that 28% of the respondents did not invest any amount of income into agriculture and this is attributed to the number of landless population who responded to the survey. Otherwise, 27% invested in the range of Rs.3000-5000; 25% in the range of Rs.1000-3000; 11% invested Rs.5000-7000; and only 8% of the respondents invested more than Rs. 7000 in agriculture.

Analysis of the income from agriculture reveals that an overwhelming 78% of the respondents had lost all their investment made in agriculture in the flood, while only 16% made a partial recovery of the investment in the range of Rs.1000-3000.

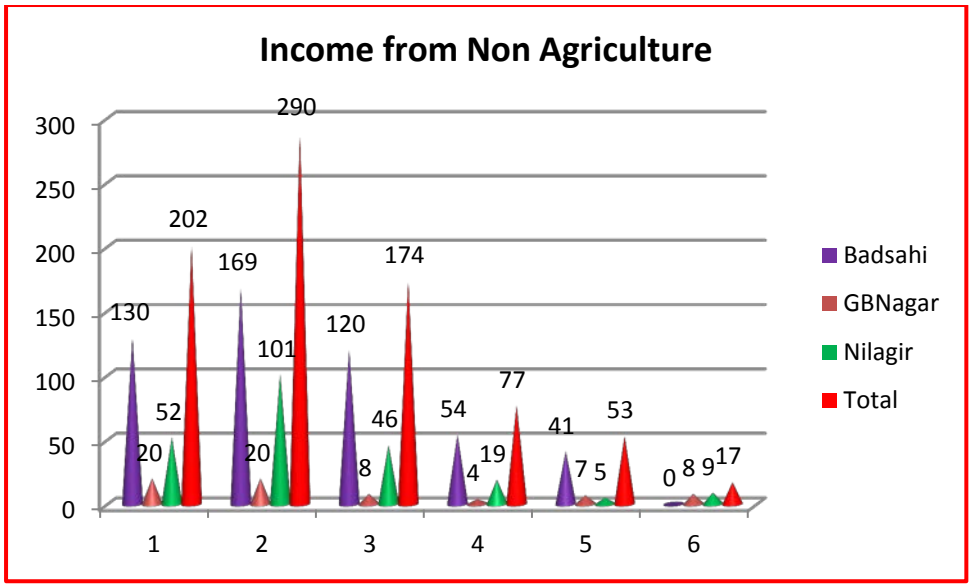


(Agriculture investment range: 1. 1000 -3000/-; **2.** 3000/- - 5000/- ; **3.**5000-7000/- **4.**> 7000/- **5.** Nil**;**
The numbers in the Y-axis represent the number of households in the respective blocks**)**



(Agriculture Income range: 1. Nil; 2. 1000 -3000/-; 3. 3000/- - 5000/- ; 4. >5000/-)

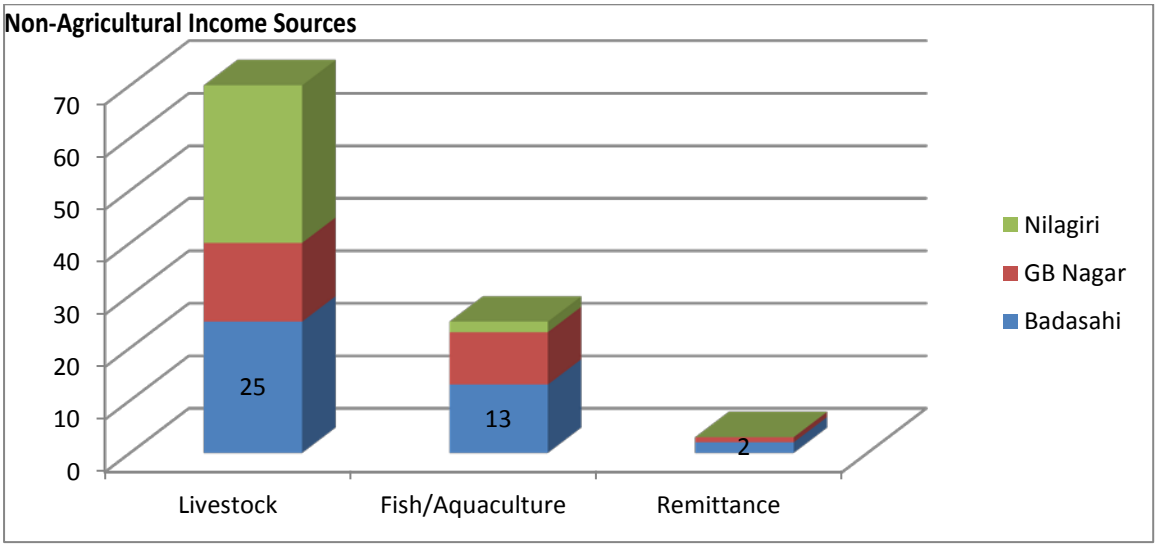
Income from Non-agriculture:



(1. 1500 – 2000/--; 2. 2000 -3000/-; 3. 3000/- - 4000/- ; 4. 4000 - 5000/-; 5. >5000/- 6. Nil)

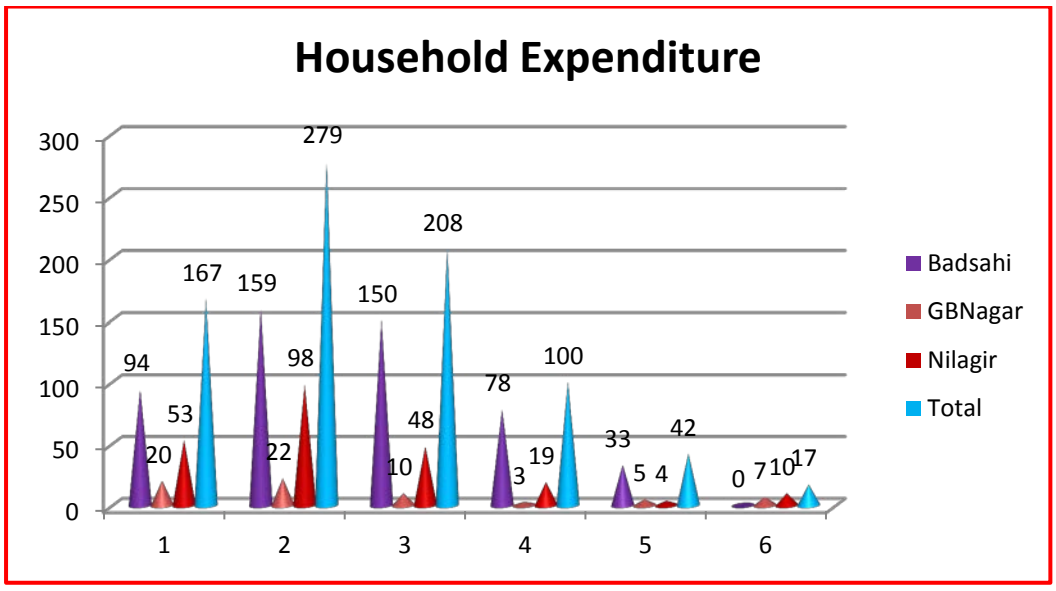
Non-agriculture Income Sources:

Survey findings shows that the majority of respondents (79.2%) are daily wage earners. The other sources of livelihoods were livestock trade (8.6%) and small businesses (12.2%). Households were unable to replace the livelihood assets associated with these activities due to the amount of capital required. Other livelihood options reported include skilled labour such as masonry, carpentry, etc., while only three households depended on remittances from their family members working as wage earners in the states of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu or Karnataka.



Household Expenditure:

The household expenditure patterns over the course of a month during the time of the survey shows that 34% of the surveyed households expended in the range of Rs.2000-3000, 26% expended Rs. 3000-4000, 21% in the range of Rs.1500-2000, 12% in the range of Rs.4000-5000 and only 5% spent more than Rs.5000 a month. Though small, 2% of the households spent less than Rs.1500 per month and are more vulnerable compared to other households.



(1. 1500 – 2000/--; 2. 2000 -3000/-; 3. 3000/- - 4000/- ; 4. 4000 - 5000/-; 5. >5000/- 6. < 1500)

Dietary Diversity Scores:

In order to assess the status of food consumption the survey uses dietary diversity scores to measure the food groups consumed by the beneficiaries. The food groups are cereals, pulses, vegetables, edible oil and fish/meat/eggs. Each food group was assigned a particular weight based on its food value. For example, main staples like rice, wheat, and cereals were assigned a weight of 2, similarly pulse weight was assigned a 3, meat/fish/egg a 4, etc. Further, **Frequency** is the number of days the item was consumed by the family in the last 7 days. Thus the frequency for any food group could be maximum 7.

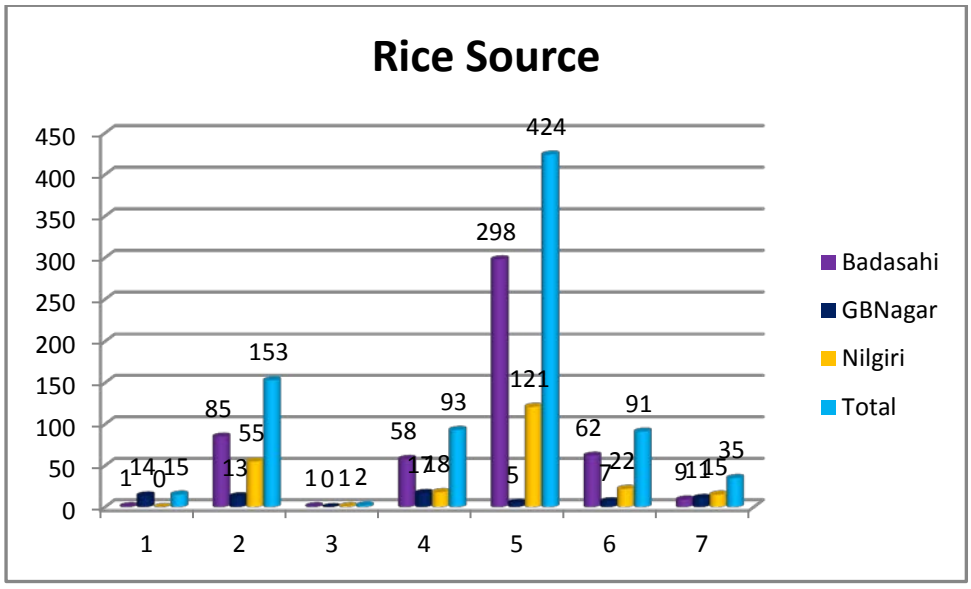
Score is Frequency multiplied by Weight.

There are several alternative ways to collect and analyze food consumption information using indicators that are proxy for actual caloric intake and diet quality. Such proxies generally include information on dietary diversity, sometimes with the addition of food frequency. Mercy Corps adopted this data collection tool measuring dietary diversity and food frequency because several different indicators built on this sort of data have proven to be strong proxies for food intake and food security. Analysis of dietary diversity and food frequency done through the composite total food consumption score measures food frequency and/or dietary diversity and is one of the more explored and tested methodologies.

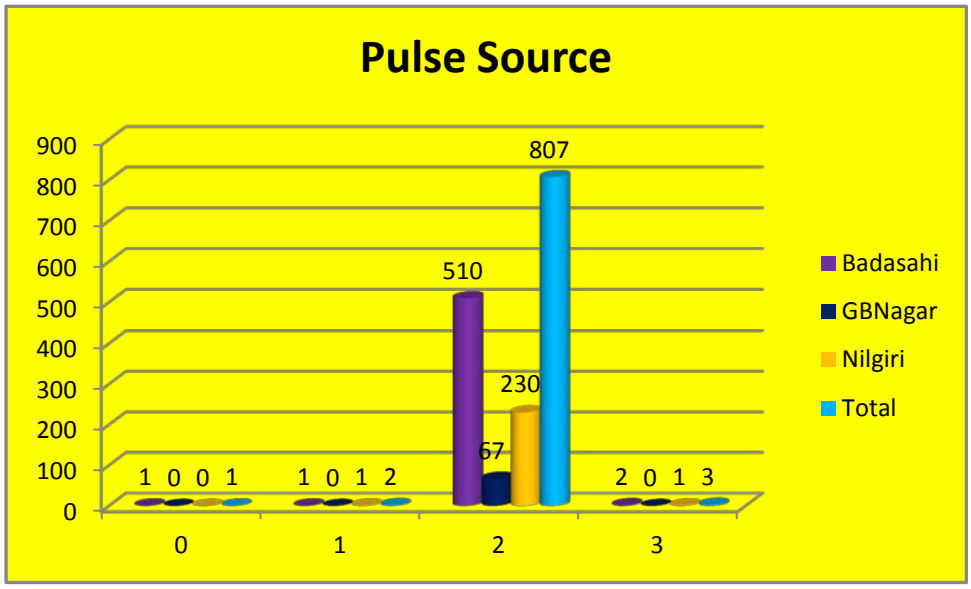
Thus the composite Food Consumption Score (FCS) analyzed could be either:

Poor category (FCS-1: 0-21), Borderline (FCS-2: 21.5-35) or Acceptable (FCS-3: >35)

Rice Score and Sources:
Analysis of the rice score reveals that an overwhelming 97.5% of the respondents had a score of 14 and it indicates that the carbohydrate requirement of the population affected by floods was supplemented by the Government's distribution of Rs. 1 per kilogram of rice (normally it is sold for INR 20-25 per kg.).
Further probing revealed that only 1.8 % households had rice from their own source of production, 18.8% bought rice from the market, and more than half of the population (52.5%) had a combination of sources like cultivation and food aid/relief from the government.



Pulse Score and Sources:
Analysis of the pulse score reveals that an overwhelming 98.03% of the respondents had a score of less than 21.This indicates that the protein requirement of the population affected by floods was not met adequately as only 1.97% of the population had a pulse score of 21 or more. The source of pulse for 99.3% of the respondents was mostly from the nearby market.



(No source-0, Own cultivation-1, Purchased from market -2, Borrowed-3,

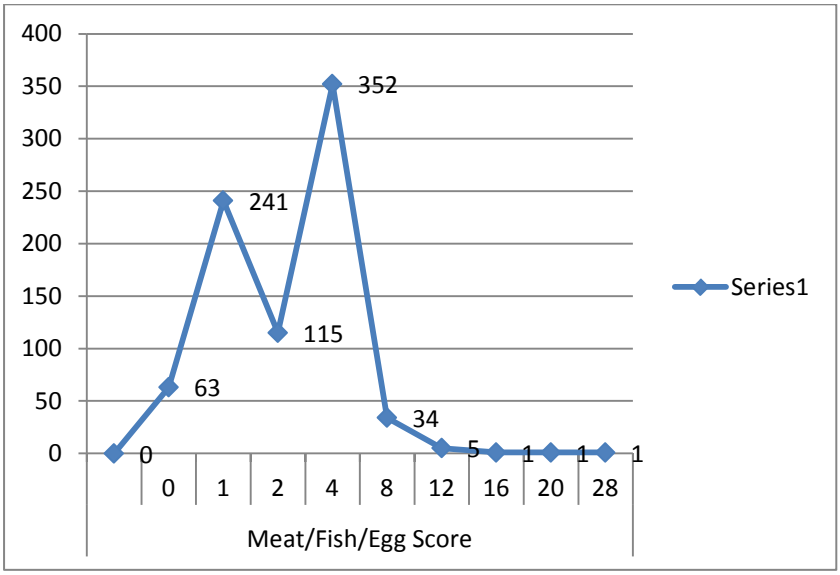
Vegetable Score and Sources:

Analysis of the vegetable score reveals that an overwhelming 84.4% of the respondents had a score less than seven, indicating that the vitamin requirement of the population affected by floods was not met properly. Vitamin requirement of only 15.5% of the population was somewhat met.

Meat/Fish/Egg Score and Sources:

Analysis of the Meat/Fish/Egg score reveals that an overwhelming 99.8% of the respondents had a score of less than 28 and that indicates that the protein requirement of the population affected by floods was grossly compromised. As presented in the graph, the great majority (43.3%) of the people in the study area had a score of 4. This implies that 43.4% of the sample population consumed meat/fish/egg only once a week. It must be noted that this is the case even though the population generally reside near the rivers/rivulets. The non-vegetarian protein mostly included fish and, in some cases, country chicken and very rarely red meat (however this is not affordable and sells at Rs.410/- to 430/- per Kg). A total of 29.6% of the population consumed meat/fish/egg once in a month, 14.1% consumed meat/fish/egg once in a fortnight, and 7.75% did not consume meat/fish/egg at all.

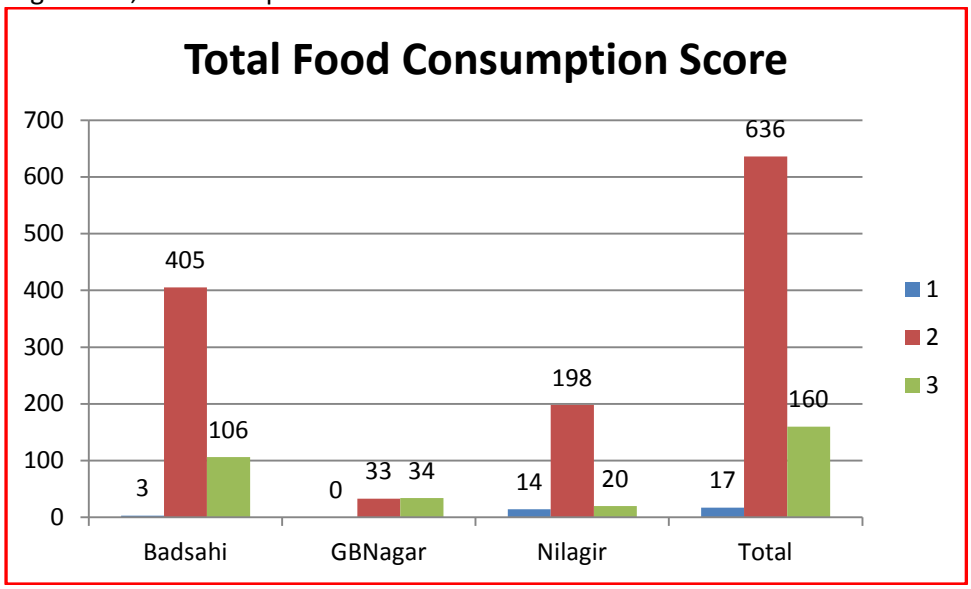
The sources of Meat/Fish/Egg for the respondents revealed that about 95% was from the weekly haat/market.



Total Food Consumption Score:

There is no single way to measure food security, the concept itself being rather elusive. Analysis of food security generally uses food consumption as the entry point and this is difficult. There are several alternative ways to collect and analyze food consumption information using indicators that are proxy for actual caloric intake and diet quality. This data collection tool-measuring dietary diversity and food frequency have proven to be strong proxies for food intake and food security and is one of the more explored andtested methodologies.

Thus the composite Food Consumption Score (FCS) analyzed for the three different blocks in the study area indicate that an overwhelming 78.2% are borderline (FCS-2: 21.5-35) cases, 2% fall in the poor category (FCS-1: 0-21),and only 19.7%of the population have an acceptable (FCS-3: >35) food consumption scores. Thus there is indeed a food insecure situation following the floods combined with the loss of agriculture and wage labour for the inhabitants in the study area. Though the carbohydrate requirement is fairly met, there is a gross inadequacy in the consumption of vegetables, fruits and protein.

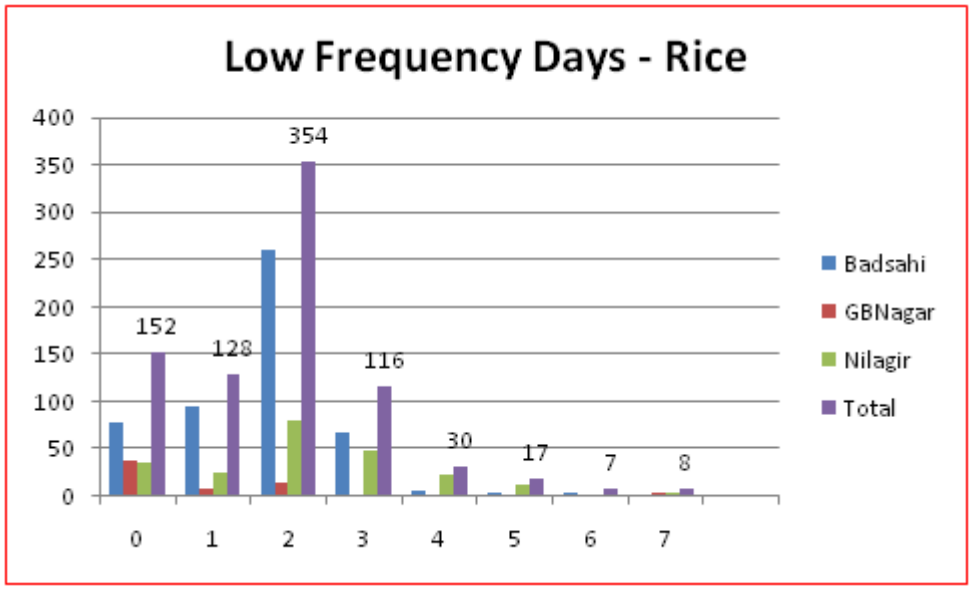


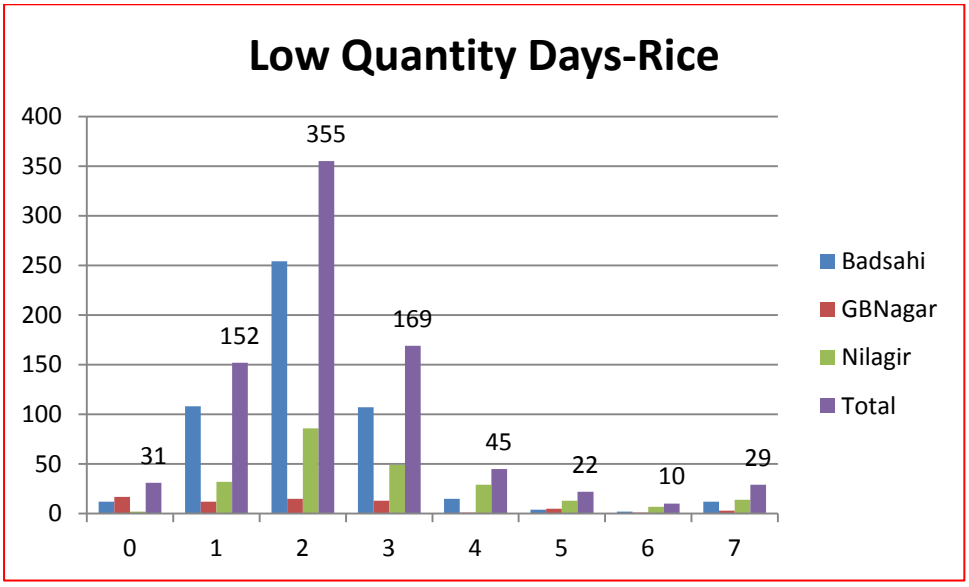
(**1**-FCS-1: 0-21; **2.**-FCS-2: 21.5-35; **3**-FCS-3: >35)

Food Security and Food Coping Mechanism:
Clearly Badasahi, GB Nagar and Nilagiri are beset with prevalent poverty and food insecurity accentuated after the floods of 2013. The food insecure situation arised as crop production is one of the most important ventures in subsistence agriculture for many rural households in the study area.

The main findings related to the application of coping strategies empoyed by the sample households from the three selected blocks in Mayurbhanj and Balsore districts of Odisha where households that applied *short-term food consumption coping strategies* (low frequency and low quantity of different food types) during food nonavailability.

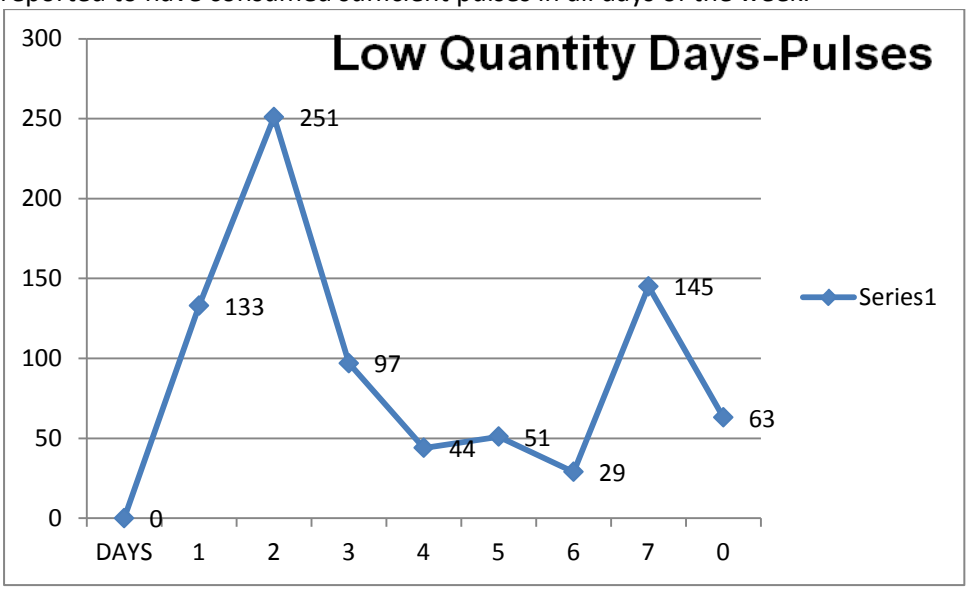
Consumption of Rice Frequency and Quantity:
The response of the community is presented in the following graph when probed on the number of low frequency days (< 3 times a day) of rice consumption in the week. The graph clearly indicates that only less than half (43.5%) of the population surveyed had eaten rice less number of times (<three times) per day, for only two days in a week. Only eight households (0.98%) had eaten rice less than three times for the whole week. Thus there is an indication that there was fairly less insecurity in so far as rice was concerned. This could be attributed to the government rice relief provided to the flood affected population as well as the Rs.1 per kg rice being provisioned for the poor and marginalised under the welfare schemes.
In so far as low quantity, the study revealed that another means of coping strategy by the food insecure community was that nearly half (43.7%) of the population consumed low quantities of rice two days a week and only 3.6% reported to consume low quantities of rice for whole of the week.





Consumption of Pulses Frequency and Quantity:

Number of low frequency days of pulses consumption (<2 times a day) in a week was assessed. The response of the community as presented in the following graph indicates that 21.6% of the respondents had less pulses, mostly dal, for about five days in a week while 16% had less pulses for four days a week, 19.8% had less pulses for at least two days a week, and only 5% of the population reported to have consumed sufficient pulses in all days of the week.

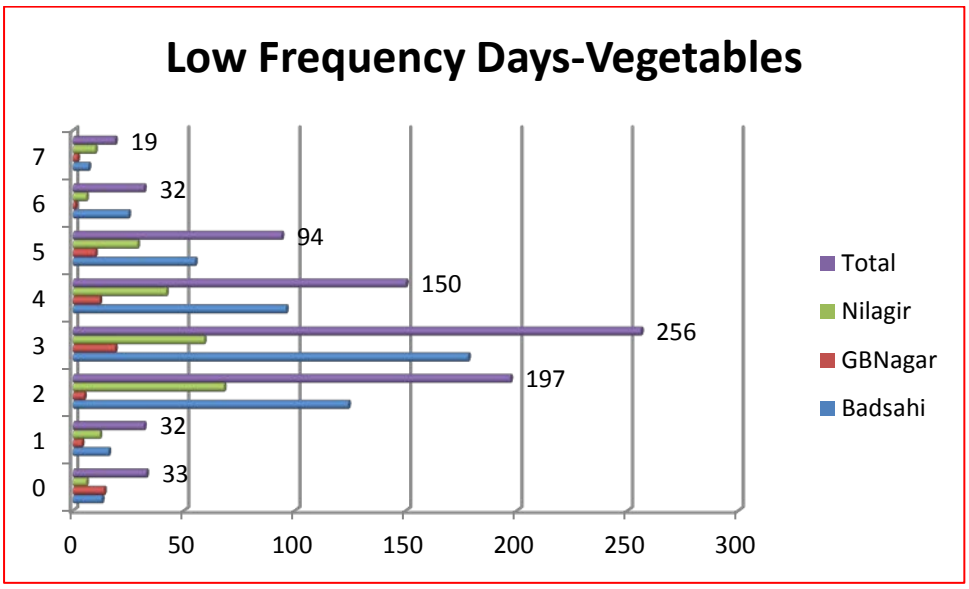


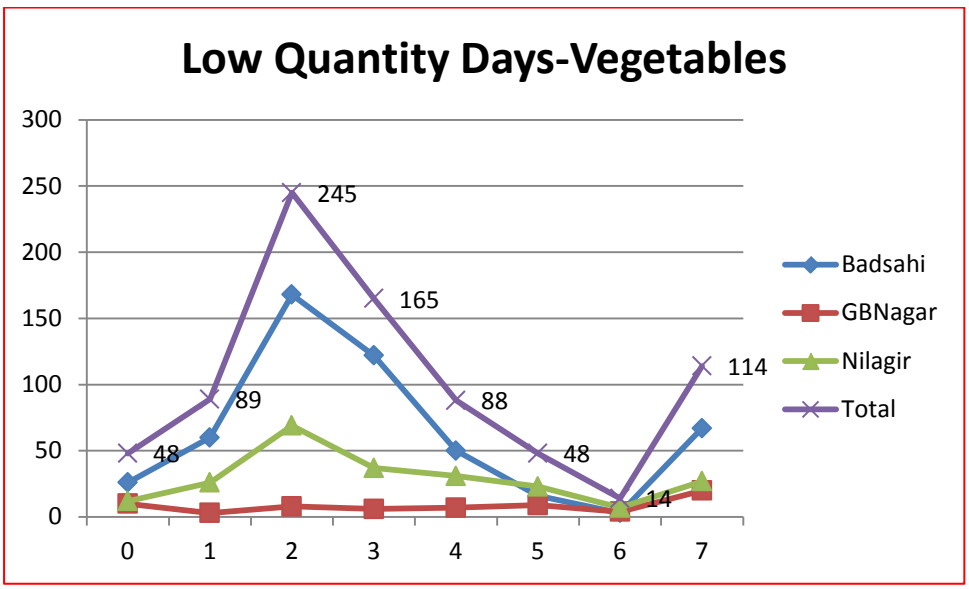
Consumption of Vegetables Frequency and Quantity:

Number of low frequency vegetable consumption days (< 3 times a day) in the week was assessed. The response of the villagers presented in the following graph indicates that 34.5% of the respondents had less vegetables (for about 3 three days in a week) while 24.2% had less vegetables for two days a week, 18.4% had less vegetables for at least four days a week, and only 4% of the population reported to have consumed vegetables in all days of the week.

The graph clearly indicates that about 30.1% of the population surveyed had eaten less quantities of vegetables (< 3 times) a day, for only three days in a week. Only 48 households (5.9%) reported to

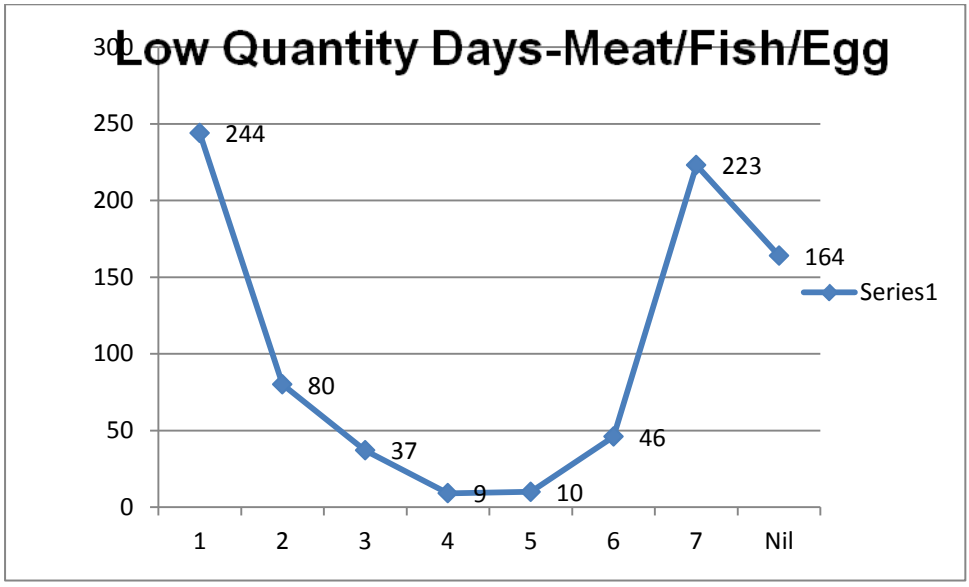
have eaten an adequate quantity of vegetables for the whole week, while 14% of the affected population had eaten inadequate vegetables throughout the week.





Consumption of Meat/Fish/Egg Frequency and Quantity:

The amount of animal protein consumed by the community was analyzed and the findings are presented in the graph below. The number of low quantity days in the week for meat/fish/egg consumed in the community indicates that 20.2% of the respondents have not consumed meat/fish/egg in the week, while 27.4% consumed less quantity throughout the whole week.



Other Coping Mechanisms:

Analysis of the data obtained on other coping mechanisms adapted by the community is given below. These indicate the low levels of food consumption in the community.

Almost all the villagers (92.7%) reported to have reduced the number of meals and quantity of food per day as a coping mechanism after the flood induced food shortages. Only 7% of respondents denied to have resorted to such means of coping strategy.

- 90.89% villagers ate less expensive and less preferred food as a coping mechanism after the floods.
- About 76.38% adult villagers ate less so that children could be fed after the floods.
- 60.15% of the flood affected households borrowed from relatives/friends to buy food after the floods.
- 17.8% of households resorted to selling household assets as a coping strategy to survive in the food scarce days.
- The majority (91.14%) of the respondents reported that their work-able family members are working for longer hours in multiple avenues of wage availability to supplement household income.
- Though 71.95% of the respondents reported to have received government aid, this was not enough to supplement the agricultural and other losses in the flood.
- Similarly 71.6% also reported to have received some support from the NGOs after the flood.
- 97.5% shared that they had never resorted to selling aid received from the NGOs after the flood.
- The percentage of households who did not resort to migration for work was an overwhelming 93.6%, though 5.8% migrated to other states like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala& Karnataka. The migration may not be attributed directly to the floods, but due to the lack of agricultural wage labour during this period of the year.
- About 83.39% of the community bought food on credit from the village grocery shop as a coping mechanism.

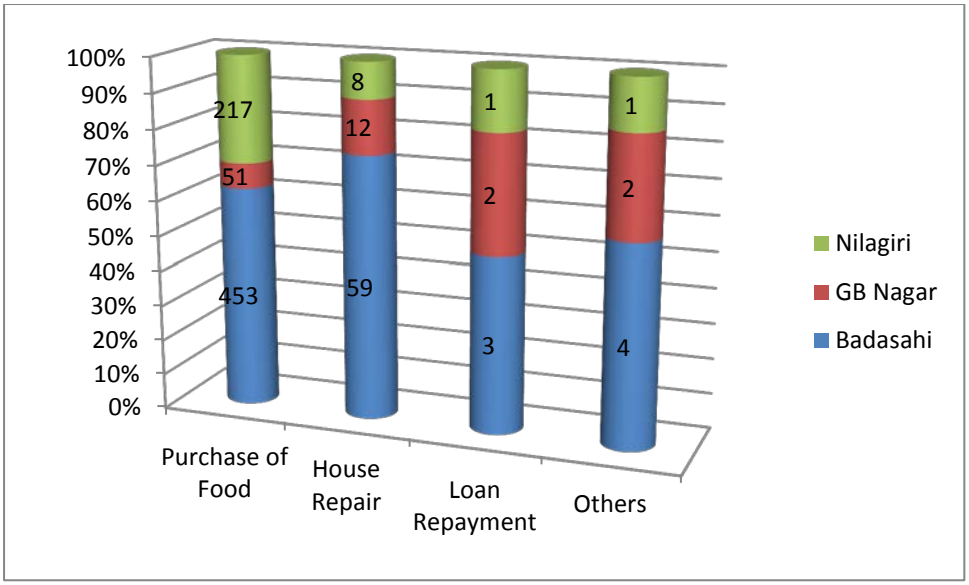
Present Status:

Amount of Money the Family Currently Owes (Indebtedness):
Analysis of the present status of the flood affected population as depicted in the table below reveals that about 48.2% of the households owe rupees worth <500/-, while 27.3% owe money ranging from Rs. 500-1000. About 13.3% of the households do not owe anything at present.

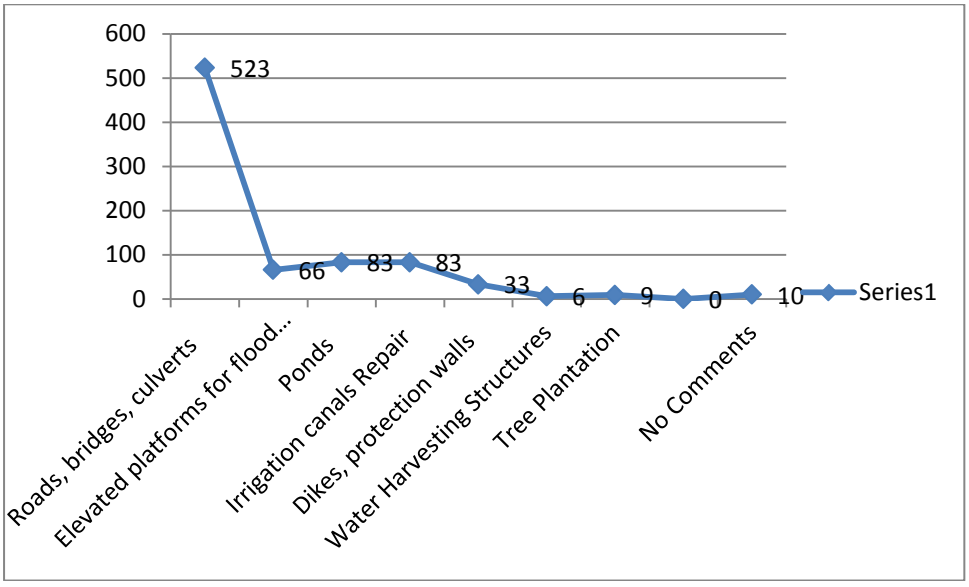
AMOUNT CURRENTLY THE FAMILY OWES						
Block	**<500/-**	**500- 1000/-**	**1000-2000/-**	**>2000/-**	**Nil**	**Total**
Badasahi	242	138	46	34	54	514
GB Nagar	32	16	1	1	17	67
Nilagiri	118	68	6	3	37	232

Community Interest in Cash for Work Program:
Analysis of the responses of the community as to whether they would be interested in a Cash for Work program suggests that 93.6% are interested in an immediate work opportunity so as to supplement their household income and rebuild their community assets.

Plan for Utilization of Money Received through Cash-for-Work:
The following graph shows the community's plan to utilize money received through the cash for work program. The majority (88.7%) planned to buy food once they received money through cash for work program in the study area.

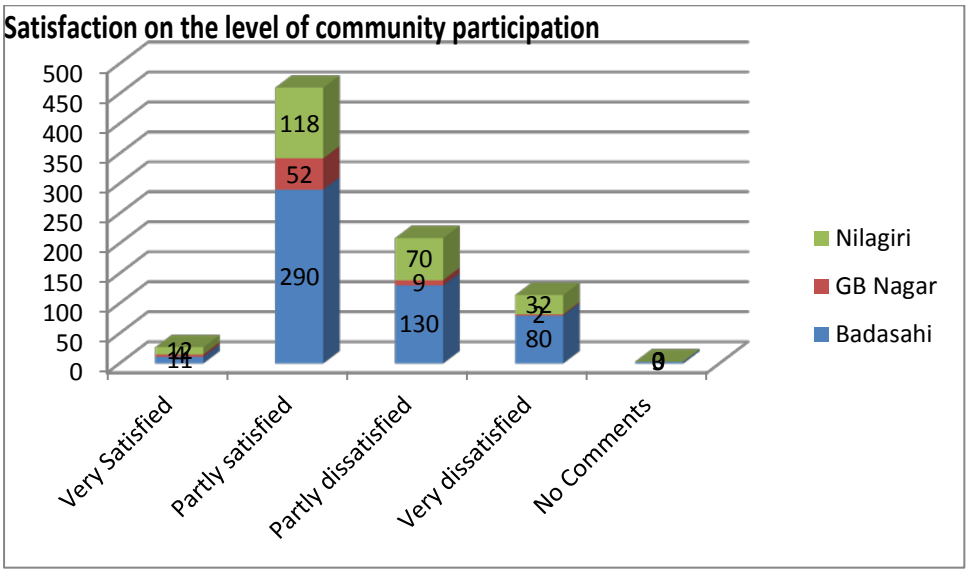


Priority Community Infrastructure Projects:
Results of the priority community infrastructure are presented in the graph below. More than 65.3% of the villagers felt that the roads, bridges, and culverts should be repaired first followed by elevated platforms, pond renovation and tree planting.



Community priority of common infrastructures

Level of Satisfaction for Community Participation on Selection of Infrastructure Projects:
A total of 63.8% of the respondents were partially satisfied with the level of community participation in decision making for the physical infrastructure in the villages.



Concluding Remarks:
The right to food is a basic human right enshrined in international laws. It is the right of every person to have continuous access to the resources necessary to produce, earn or purchase enough food not only to prevent hunger, but also to ensure health and well-being. Food security is a function not only of production and market access, but also of the environment created by economic, political or natural disasters like floods, as in the present case. These can facilitate or obstruct people's access to essential livelihood assets. Because of their close link to the current economic crisis, the present food crisis and the commitment to address its structural causes, helping improve food security for the flood affected villages of Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts should remain a top priority based on the findings from this baseline survey.