Why Agriculture Productivity Falls

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GLOSSARY OF BENGALI WORDS

Ail  Ail is a boundary made up of soil to demarcate a plot.

Beel and baor  A beel or bheel is a pond (wetland) with static water. The difference between a haor, a beel, and a baor is usually very small.

Bigha  A bigha is a traditional unit of land. One bigha is equivalent to 20 kathas, each worth 1,361 sq. ft (126.44 m²).

Boro paddy  Boro paddy is commonly known as winter rice; cultivated from November to May under irrigated conditions.

Char  The riverine sand and silt landmasses are known as char in Bengali. These areas are highly vulnerable to sudden and forceful flooding as well as erosion and loss of land.

Chatal  Local husking millers are called chatals.

Dalal  Mediator or third party.

Debottor  Debottor property is an endowment or property given to trustees and/or a deity as receiver in accordance with the Hindu religion.

Gher  Shrimp farms in the southwest region are called ghers.

Gonda  A traditional land unit; 20 gondas are equal to 1 kani and 1 kani is equal to 120 decimals.

Haat or bazaar  A place where people assemble daily or on particular days in a week primarily for the purposes of buying or selling goods.

Haor  A haor is a wetland ecosystem that is physically shaped like a bowl or saucer.

Jalmahal  A form of demarcated wetland.

Jotdar  Jotdars are big landowners who have their own henchmen called lathials.

Kharif  Crops grown from April to November.

Khasland  Government-owned land.

Khatian  A khatian is a land record certificate.

Mahajan  Local moneylenders.

Mastan  Local bullies who generally have a godfather.

Matbar  Powerful head/s of a village having sizable landholdings.

Maund  A unit of weight; 1 maund is equivalent to 37.3242 kilograms.

Pakhi  Traditional measurement of land, which varies in different areas of Bangladesh.
**Rabi**  Crops grown in one of the two agricultural seasons, namely starting from November and extending to the end of March.

**Rajashail**  Local variety of paddy grown during the dry season.

**T. Aman**  A variety of paddy, harvested in the months of November and December. Some varieties of Aman are sown in the spring using the broadcast method. These mature during the summer rains and are harvested in the fall.

**T. Aus**  A type of paddy sown in March or April. It benefits from April and May rains, matures during the summer rain, and is harvested in the summer.

**Tehsildar**  A tehsildar is a land revenue official in charge of collecting land taxes.

**UP (Union Parishad)**  Local government body in Bangladesh.

**Waqf**  Donation of a building, plot of land, or cash for Muslim religious or charitable purposes.

**Zamindar**  Landed aristocrats with enormous tracts of land, having control over peasants from whom zamindars reserved the right to collect tax.