

CHAPTER - 8

CONCLUSION

In the preceding six chapters, an attempt has been made to give a vivid picture of land acquisition for rapid industrialisation which took place in the last term of Left Front Government in the State of West Bengal. The first chapter of the thesis starts with an introduction which includes a statement of the research problem, review of literatures, objectives of the study, policy shift in land acquisition, research questions, selected area of study, the methodology of research, the scope of the study and chaptalization. The second chapter elaborates agro-economic-based profile of West Bengal. It discusses the policies related to agriculture and industry adopted during the post-independent period till the end of the Left Front Government. The third chapter identifies the underlying relationship between land acquisition and land reforms, and we have given particular focus on this in the states of West Bengal and Punjab. The fourth chapter presents legal, and institutional mechanism of land acquisition and related policies in West Bengal as well as India. It also traces the loopholes of The Land Acquisition Act, 1894, which was applied for land acquisition in Singur and Nandigram along with other parts of West Bengal. The fifth chapter explains the policies adopted by the present Trinamool Congress Government in West Bengal. The sixth and seventh chapters are most vital since these concentrate on the facts and developments in land acquisition in Singur for the Tata Nano Project and the proposal for a project in Nandigram for the construction of a 'chemical hub'. Each of these chapters divided into different section and sub-sections specifying the project profile, profile of the area, process of land acquisition, resistance and people's struggle, environment and food security, compensation and rehabilitation, the role of multiple stakeholders and so on. An effort has been made to display the whole scenario of agro-based transformation and land acquisition using data and

information collected through field survey applying necessary methodology. Series of events at Singur and Nandigram, predictably, gave rise to a wide range of questions about the manner in which the Government moved in the projects. One of the broader thematic issues that surfaced was that while conventional development economics has never considered land requirement as a severe restriction to the development process, Singur-Nandigram showed that land could be a crucial factor of socio-political changes.

The larger context is, of course, not only economic but also emotional. A peasant family receives, not one, but as many as four kinds of benefits from its strip of land, namely, (I) employment of family members; (II) a sense of family security; (III) income from crops by way of accrued rent and profit, over and above the virtual wages; and (IV) social esteem accorded to a landowner, however, small or tiny it may be, as opposed to the mockery thrown at a landless labourer. The market price cannot reflect the full range of all these elements. Of the four, the last two are incommensurable with standard pecuniary measurement, money cannot procure them. An alternative source of income or job for an unskilled farmer as compensation for land would only perpetuate his family's agony across generations to come; that low-paid job is hardly better than a bit of opium to soothe the pain of penury.

Questions have been raised about the method in which the Government proceeded towards acquisition, following the outdated Land Acquisition Act (1894). The problems were primarily twofold: land pricing and quantum of compensation offered. The market for agricultural land in West Bengal (indeed, throughout India) is sparse, as transactions are infrequent. It is thereby difficult to obtain a proper estimate of the market value of land that would also reflect the true valuation by the farmer-owner¹. Additionally, a small farmer usually keeps a large part of his

¹The usual practice of fixing the market price of land by averaging past prices is likely to be an undervaluation, as land prices are constantly on the rise. Furthermore, as Sarkar notes, "The market price of land should roughly reflect the discounted sum of the expected value of output produced by land in future net of material and labour costs. To an owner-farmer, however, ownership of land gives him an opportunity to work. This particular advantage...will not be reflected in the market price. Thus to him the market price of land is much lower than its

production for self-consumption. If compelled to sell his land, he would have to buy food grains at market price, which is much higher than the farmer's sale price. Therefore, the market valuation of land, even if accurate, still fails to provide adequate compensation. Finally, questions were also raised about the practice of evaluating land on the basis of earnings arising out of its present use value rather than what it might earn in future if put to an alternative use, obviously the value would be higher if used for industry. Social justice requires that the present owner of land should also receive a share of this increased valuation. The Land Acquisition Act, in spite of all its later amendments, failed to guarantee this.

Thus compensation based on the market valuation of land would naturally be judged insufficient. Moreover, the compensation package completely ignored inflationary pressures. Adjusting to inflation, the future returns from the compensation falls short of even the current monthly income from an acre of multi-cropping land.

8.2. Land Acquisition and Agrarian Change

An attempt has also been made to know the pattern of land acquisition and agrarian change such as to examine the pattern of occupational change in both landed and landless labourers across caste lines in the rural settings, change in the agrarian settings among various sections of the village community due to new occupations.

The extent of adaption to the new situation in the emerging occupations by the people, and the role of the state in dealing with land acquisition among the people in the studied area. The present study seeks to understand 'how people are affected due to the changes' took place in

shadow price. Now, we get the shadow price of land by deducting the material costs and the opportunity cost of labour of the owner-cultivator from the discounted sum of the expected value of output. But given widespread unemployment, the opportunity cost of labour is less than the market wage rate. Hence the market price of land is lower than its shadow price. As a result, the owner-farmer will not be willing to sell his land at the market price"(Sarkar, 2007, p. 1440)

the studied villages. To understand these aspects of socio-economic transformation, we have carried out field survey in the area of focus. For this study an empirical research methodology has been used to understand dimensions concerning land acquisition and its impact on the people. The design has helped to have an in-depth understanding of the issues concerning the impact of the land acquisition. For the present study, multi-stage random sampling has been employed. The *Mouzas* and the villages in the adjoining areas of Singur namely Beraberi, Gopalnagar, Singherbheri, Bajemelia and Khaserbheri were selected for this purpose.

As regards to the socio-economic status of the respondents, significant observations have been made. Socio-economic status shows different situations in the selected areas. The social and economic background of the respondents provides vital information about the quality of life of the people in the study area. In order to have an in-depth understanding of the status of respondents, an attempt was made to carefully investigate various dimensions such as age, caste composition, type of family, family size, marital status, educational levels, land ownership pattern, occupation, family income, assets etc. The main occupation of the respondents in the said the villages are farming and large areas of land is owned by people belonging to upper caste. Scheduled caste and people of the backward caste work on their land as labourers as most of them are landless. Age of the respondents is a determining indicator in terms of contribution to family and society. In the remote villages, the majority of the respondents were in the age group of 36-55. Educational levels are crucial for the multidimensional growth of the individual as well as society. In the said villages, respondents have been engaged in several activities. Occupation is a significant indicator of the social and economic status of an individual in the society. The majority of the respondents, in the said *Mouzas*, were engaged in agricultural activities followed by those respondents who were engaged in government jobs and self-employed. Income of the family denotes the economic status of the family and its standing in the social hierarchy. It also determines the standard of

living, access to resources and the assets that one possesses. When we compare the marital status in the said villages, we found that majority of the respondents are married. Type of a family is an important dimension of the social structure of a society. As we know, ownership of land is an important factor that determines status in rural society. The land holdings indicate varied proportionate figures. In the said *Mouzas*, the majority of the respondents possess land holdings less than two *bighas*. In the said villages, majority of the respondents irrigate their agricultural land through tube-wells and three deep tube-wells installed by the farmers mostly at their own expense. Other than these facilities this region is well irrigated by Kunti, Zulkia, DVC waters. With regards to the socio-economic background of the landless respondents, it has been tried to explain the background of the landless respondents by understanding dimensions such as age, caste, education, occupation, income, marital status, types of family, family size, indebtedness, and assets of the respondents etc.

Prior consent from the farmers before acquisition of land was the central point in people's resistance of acquisition of land at Singur and Nandigram. With regards to the consent taken from the farmers before acquiring their agricultural

land, in the villages of Singur, the majority of the respondents reported that Government did not take any consent from them before acquiring their agricultural land. After the land acquisition, the village people were facing different types of problems. In this regards the majority of the respondents reported that inadequate compensation was paid to them, as the market price of their agricultural land was high and they were paid less compensation by the government. The major reason of this research was to find the impact of land acquisition at the ground level, so both the questionnaire method and observation method are used to collect the data. The government acquired the land and gave the compensation of the acquired land but it is considered not as the appropriate way of the development. The compensation money are surely to increase the standard of living in short run but there is no answer as to the strategy for

the livelihood in the long run for those farmers whose land was acquired by the government and they became absolutely helpless. It is not clear how the impact will change in long run when the landowners will have no land and have no money, then the problem of livelihood will arise. When the research started, the survey of the affected area was done and it was found that all the people of the affected area were discussing about the land acquisitions good and bad impacts. A lot of misunderstanding they gathered about the acquisition and the project. Some farmers applied to get the compensation money, because they have spent money on purchase of new land but some farmers were very sad because they were small farmers and have the small area for the agriculture, the government acquired that land. So they have become landless and the compensation amount was not enough for them so that they could purchase other land. The farmers whose land was acquired but they have some land, they were spending the amount to purchase new land and construction of the houses and purchased new vehicles. The big farmers seems to be happy because they have both land and money, some areas of them were acquired by the government and some areas were left. So they got much compensation amount and have land also for agriculture.

Some small farmers whose land was acquired could not do anything after setting of compensation money. Their standard of living decreased and they faced harassment from the society because they became landless people till the government returned their land. Their condition became very bad after the land acquisition.

The above discussion presents a vivid picture of the situation in the sample area of Singur namely Gopalnagar, Beraberi, Singherbheri, Bajemelia and Khaserbheri. The overall result shows that land acquisition by the Government affected the farmers badly. Some positive impacts have been seen in the sampled area but the negative effects were more than the positive effects. On the whole standard of living of the farmers did not increase and it was

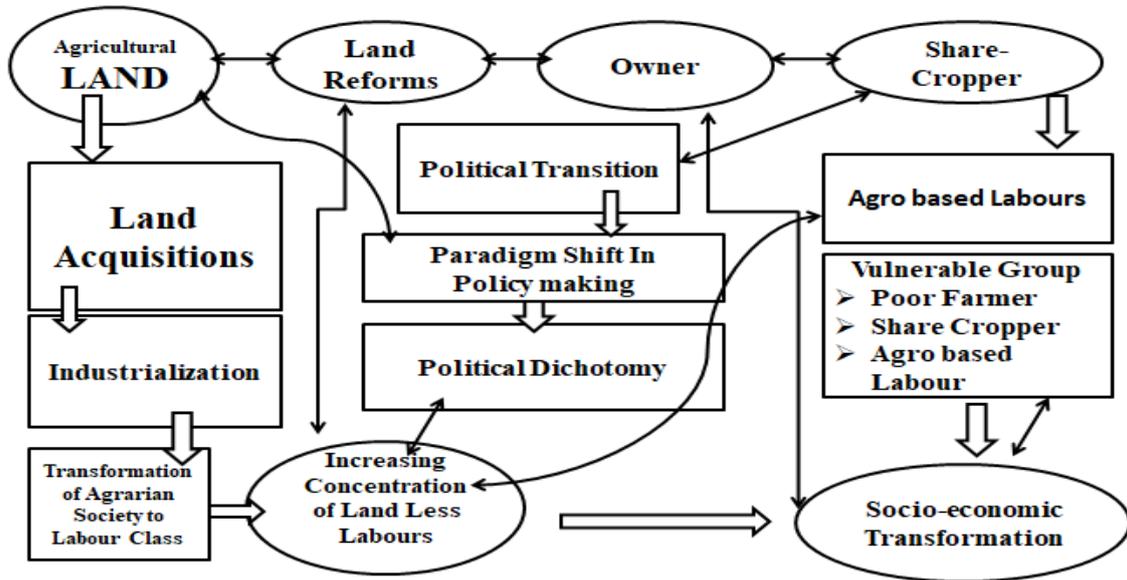
approximately the same as it was before land acquisition. The farmers had not changed their occupation after the land acquisition because most of the farmers are illiterate and less educated so they are not able to join the job and could not start new business due to lack of money because the compensation is not appropriate at some areas. They are doing agriculture after the land acquisition. The education of the family of the farmers are not affected so much because they have responded that they are able to give the basic education to their children.

The Government has established a new government degree college near the project but the government has not given any facility in the affected areas related to education. The finding of the survey research concludes that the farmers were not happy with the land acquisition policy of the government. Every decision related to land acquisition was protested by the farmers in Singur. The government took the land from the farmers and used it in development projects. The West Bengal Government has given compensation but it was not enough for the farmer's family. As because the life time source of their livelihood is taken by the government with the payment of some amount of money. The short run effects on their way of life seems good but it is a big question that what will they do in future.

8.3. Dynamics of Agro-Based Transformation

In the initial part of the thesis, we have discussed and examined the narratives centred around the land reforms and land acquisitions measures are taken both at the national as well as state levels vis-a-vis the development fiction in independent India. We observed various and multiple stakeholders involved in the entire dynamics of land acquisition and land reform. This interconnected relation is clearly shown in the diagram below.

Figure 8.1. Dynamic of Agro-Based Transformation



This Diagram Represents the Dynamics of Agro-Based Transformation

In the said diagram it is traced that there are various and multiple stakeholders involved in the entire dynamics of land acquisition and land reforms. This diagram clearly shows land acquisition together with rapid industrialisation increases the concentration of landless labour. On the other hand, land reforms give rise to a large number of owners in relation to the ownership of land. Land reform also created enumerable share-cropper (*bargadars*) together with agricultural labours (*khetmozurs*). In a state like West Bengal where 60-70 Percent of its population is depended on agriculture. Thus land reform which was made during the era of Left Front Government was very much suitable to the ecology, economy, socio-cultural aspects of the rural community. Both land acquisition and land reforms involve legal and administrative actions to be undertaken by the government. These again are the issues that relate to governance and allocation of power. However, there are crucial differences between land acquisition and

land reforms in terms of the allocation of power to different segments in the ladder of governance. The differences are noted in the following order:

The above diagram also compares between land acquisition and land reforms which reveals that the former is a centralised and bureaucratic procedure through which the 'eminent domain' of state acquires private land in India. The implications of land reform made by Left Front Government (LFG) in West Bengal when it came to power in 1977 is praiseworthy. It gave top priority to land reforms which were linked with decentralised planning through the involvement of the elected Panchayats. The implementation of a decentralised system of governance along with the support of weaker sections of the society i.e. sharecropper, *bargaders*, agricultural labours(*khetmajur*) made the land reforms measures successful in West Bengal under the left front rule.

8.4. Negative Impacts of Land Acquisition

But there were certain negative aspects which affected the life and livelihood of the farmers in the selected area. Most of the farmers were not aware of their rights and easily accepts the decision of the Government. The negative impacts have been discussed in the previous chapters.

- Most of the farmers have lost all their land and they were completely landless after the land acquisition. The small farmers could not purchase the land and could not start any business with the compensation money, so they became unemployed.
- The small farmers whose land was acquired have lost their social status. As an outcome, people of society did not give respect to landless people.
- The compensation award was very low in some areas, so the farmers could not use the compensation award for productive activities.

- The economic status of many farmers has declined after the land acquisition because they did not have any secure income after the acquisition of their land.
- The farmers are worried about the future of their children because they have no property after the land acquisition.
- The condition of small farmers became worst after the land acquisition, they began working on other's land for livelihood. The land acquisition has converted them from landowners to labourers.
- Many farmers faced problem in relation to basic facilities.
- The fertile land was acquired by the government thus production of agriculture declined after the land acquisition.
- The economy of West Bengal is based on agriculture. Thus due to the acquisition of fertile land, there will be a decline in agricultural production.
- Most of the people were getting employment to work in the fields of the landowners and they had become completely workless after the land acquisition. So the land acquisition affected negatively to the daily wage worker.

So it is clear from the above discussion that the land acquisition in West Bengal has both positive and negative effects. This research found that many farmers are affected positively and many are affected negatively. The negative effects are greater than positive effects because the land acquisition effects positively after a long time but the immediate effect on the people are negative just after the land acquisition.

The decision of rapid industrialisation by the then Left Front Government in West Bengal was not rational in relation to land acquisition. The acquisition of fertile land was the major reason for the negative effects.

8.5. Major Findings

A brief review of the major findings of the present study may be reproduced in the following manner:

Implementation of land acquisition through one-time compensation is highly questionable. The colonial land acquisition Act, 1894 followed even after decades of independence was opposed from all corners. The policy pursued and the methods adopted in determining land value do not reflect the extent of loss or gain in relations to compensations paid to farmers. The land is more valuable for farmers, the residential owners, *bargadars*, *khetmajur* rather than the non-residential landowners or the owners whose livelihood doesn't depend on agriculture. It is observed that the non-residential owners of land in Singur who gave land to the Singur project were highly motivated in transferring their land for the project because previously they had very little or no earnings from their land. They used to get only a part of the share in relation to the crop produced in their land and sometimes they did not receive anything from the *bargadars*. Therefore the compensation they got from their land was much more attractive than having only the record rights. According to field survey conducted on 9 respondents (non-residential landowners), it has been found that out of 9 respondents 8 conveyed that they gave their land for the industrial project without any pressure from any political party or pressure group. All the 9 respondents gave their consent in favour of industrialisation. The study has come up with a finding that landowners living in Australia and abroad who had a large plot of land came to Singur to receive compensation for their land acquired. The Government must have information and assessment of the extent of compensation to be given to the agricultural community who were uprooted from their land and livelihood. The *bargadars* and the *Khetmajoors*, especially the unregistered *bargadars* along with the *Khetmajoors* were entirely dependent on agriculture and agricultural land despite being uprooted was deprived from compensation. This contradiction has highlighted the loopholes of the land acquisition policy.

It has been further observed that after the re-transfer of land, marginal farmers who were previously benefitted from land are now deprived and facing extreme difficulties because of the loss arising due to acquisition and subsequent loss of fertility of the land caused by excessive digging for construction of industrial infrastructure.

The land acquisition law of 1894 was based on one-time cash payment in the name of compensation. It is also found that the major issue of rehabilitation and resettlement are not available in the colonial land acquisition Act of 1894. But from the empirical observation carried out in Singur and Nandigram it is understood that deciding the value of land-based on only one time monetary compensation was not considered justified. Each and every piece of land has its own intrinsic value; it is not just only a means of livelihood but complete life support for the agricultural community, it also provides social and economic security to their family. During crucial phases and economic obscurity, the farmers depend much on the possession of the land to overcome the challenges since it acts as security and it could be sold or mortgaged.

Acquisition of land is based on the conventional idea of exchanging in term of money but the problem lies elsewhere. Cultivation of land is not only a matter of earning to the family but also a source of engagement and employment for the family members throughout the year which give them pride and joy. In both Singur and Nandigram lands were multi-cropping and fertile as a result these provided opportunities of work throughout the year for the entire family. When such type of land is acquired the affected person and his family is uprooted from his land and livelihood and hence he needs to be guaranteed with an alternate source of income, work or employment. This cannot be substituted by onetime compensatory monetary allowance. The peoples from whom the land was acquired in Singur belonged to different socio-economic strata. It has been observed that some people who agreed to give their land were owners of large plots having higher educational status than the common masses in Singur. According to

field survey conducted on 189 respondents, they were residential landowners, non-residential landowners, registered sharecropper, unregistered sharecropper (*bargadars* and *Khetmajoors*), it has been found that out of 189 respondents, 68 were educated and they were willing to give their plots since they had alternative sources of income other than agriculture. Again, they had other skills for earning their income and livelihood it was beneficial for them to shift from agricultural to non-agricultural source of earning. Quite a few of them had already shifted to non-farm based activities and are quite satisfied with their said activities. But those who had a small plot of lands in possession and their livelihood was solely dependent on land, they disagreed to give their land for the industrial development. They were quite naturally reluctant to surrender their economic independence, as they used to enjoy from generations to generation.

The question of employment is a burning issue that came up in Singur in terms of field survey. The issue of employment was widely discussed in the agricultural community from multidimensional angles. The peoples opposed to the project claimed that job opportunities in the project were less than the demand among people of the surrounding areas. On the other hand, the Government promised sufficient job opportunities for the people of the surrounding areas in the downstream activities. It has been observed that the peoples of the surrounding area were not motivated with the job that could be created through down-stream activities. It has been further observed that whenever an industry is built it creates a variety of activities and services around the industry, but the principal issue was that people were not interested to become an auto driver overnight who were personally landowners. They might have an interest in having permanent employment in the industry directly. This transformation in job possibilities was extremely limited considered by the local people. This apprehension also played a major role in creating resistance among the landowners and farmers of the locality.

It is also found that substitution or returning plots to the original position after the Supreme Court judgement has created a lot of confusions and dissatisfactions among the farmers. The Supreme Court invalidated the acquisition policy and procedure adopted by the Left Front Government on the plea of the present government. But the problem was that most of the plots acquired for establishing car factory lost their cropping capacity due to construction of concrete by the factory. Moreover, the exact location of plots cannot be traced at present since they were converted in a large area abolishing demarcations and boundaries of an individual piece of land or plot. Moreover, cropping capacity and fertility are also lost. On the contrary, the project had already been cancelled. Thus the vacated plots of land created further problems for both the farmers and the government. Again, a section of local people, considering this problem started to demand the establishment of a factory at the site or the return of the original project. Thus the whole situation in Singur exhibits a tragedy of taking administrative decisions without involving people and all this brings the question of development without people's participation in the process. The whole process reflects insufficiency and maladies of development without involving people.

8.6. Limitation of the Study

However, the study and the findings have certain inherent limitations. The foremost limitation of the research is deficiency of information from the government departments, private agencies, the record of acquired land and about the project's business activities. Some information was not properly available due to the sensitivity of the issue in the state and country as a whole. These limitations made it difficult to get adequate secondary data about specific facts and figures to support the work as expected. Moreover, it is too early to trace the total impact of the proposed retransfer of land to landholders which was taken for the Tata Nano project.

This research is related to political and socio-economic aspects hence it was not easy to get actual information from the households about the hard facts which were directly or indirectly connected with their personal matters that they did not want to share. Thus it was extremely difficult to get all the information due to the competitive and antagonistic politics prevailing in the state. However, attempts have been made with no stone unturned to extract the relevant information relating to this study. Hence further studies and researches are required to find out more information and intricacies involved in political and socio-economic effects of land acquisition in the state of West Bengal.

8.7. Conclusions and Observations

Farmer's consent plays a vital role in the land acquisition process. While acquiring agricultural land the farmers should be given full opportunity to find out whether they want to sell their agricultural land or not. Their free consent must be there. This is the principle nature of justice. Agricultural land is acquired in the name of 'public purpose'. So, it is very important that before acquiring the agricultural land this public purpose should be made clear to the affected people. The practice of providing compensation only to landholders, ignoring the landless labour or sharecroppers who were depended on that land has left the agricultural labours at crossroads. It may be suggested that the land acquiring agency whether its state government or a private company, they should provide proper skill development training to the affected landless labour who were attached with the acquiring land. The government or private company should provide them with some kind of employment so that they earn their livelihood and can look after their families too.

An important feature of land acquisition is the type of land. The land acquiring agencies, while acquiring agricultural land for different purposes only focus on the location but not on the type of land. Before acquiring agricultural land proper survey needs to be done by the land acquiring

agencies and non-irrigated or barren land should be acquired first for establishing industries or developing infrastructure. For this to happen, the developmental role of the Government needs to be reoriented in a different manner rather than forceful acquisition of the land. The Governments both at Union and State should aim at strengthening the local democratic practices, activating *Gram Sabha* to take decisions of land acquisition in order to develop confidence-building in public.

There is a need for the revival of agriculture in the state of West Bengal through utilising the available fertile lands for agricultural purposes instead of allotting these for industries. Only drylands can be made available for the non-agricultural activities including the industrial setups and other development activities in which local people are made active stakeholders and not just beneficiaries.

Since long, poverty, hunger and malnutrition have attracted considerable attention of policymakers in India and across the world. The latest initiative, in the form of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Development Program built on the success of the millennium development goals (MDGs), is a global call to act towards ending poverty, hunger and undernourishment and bringing peace and prosperity to all by 2030. Of the total 17 SDGs, are directly linked to agriculture. which is mainly influenced by policies. It is, thus, meaningful to assess the contribution of agriculture and allied activities towards achieving these goals.

This research indicates that there has been a tendency to make trade-offs in favour of growth at the cost of the poor, resulting in a form of 'weak sustainability'. Extrapolating from such study, we argue that there is a risk that the SDGs may result in 'weak' sustainability, either in the strategy of the general goals or in the development of operational targets, indicators and means of implementation.

The agricultural sector is a part of the economy interrelated to environmental, social-economic functions and in numerous cases depends on the policy implemented in the local and state level. The outcome of intentional human activities and changes in the sector of agriculture must be calculated and monitored over time to disclose the negative or positive impact on the economy and social issues. Some ideas to improve the economic or social aspects of agriculture may bring short-term disadvantages (such as lower productivity), but long-term benefits. For that reason, the role of monitoring and evaluation of the agriculture sector is essential and requires regular and continuous evaluation of inputs, outputs, outcomes, and effects of development activities against targets. To determine whether adequate implementation programmes have been made to attain outcomes, especially towards sustainable goals. Observing and evaluating indicators also provide facts to improve management and future project implementation (The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2010).

This possibility makes it indispensable to develop criteria and use them to interpret and evaluate the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets and indicators for their completeness. Inclusive development is justified for legal, moral, social, economic, environmental and security reasons. Such criteria would help to ensure global well-being along with eco-space and how that eco-space is to be shared across different economic groups (Busco, Granà, & Izzo, 2018).

There has been a considerable argument over the past 30 years on how to define ‘sustainable agriculture’. As agriculture contributes to development – as a source of livelihood, as an economic activity, and provider of environmental services – the 2030 Agenda advocates that all sectors, as well as agriculture, be considered from three dimensions of sustainability: social, economic, and environmental.

SDG indicator 2.4.1, demarcated as the ‘percentage of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture’ (The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),

2010, p. 1) is not different. In the past, it had been defined mostly on environmental norms. If water was not managed well or if the soil was bad then on that event a farm might be considered unsustainable. Currently, there has been a realisation that being sustainable it includes social and economic dimensions, and putting farmers in the centre. If a farm is not economically sound or not able to withstand to external shocks, or if the well-being of those working on a farm is not considered, then on those circumstances a farm cannot be considered sustainable.

This indicator was developed through the process of multiple-stakeholder linked to technical experts and statisticians from countries, international organisations, civil society, national statistical offices, and the private sector. It brings together themes on profitability, resilience, productivity, water, land, decent condition of work, and well-being in order to capture the multidimensional nature of sustainable agriculture.

Agricultural sustainability is defined as ‘when current and future food demands can be met without unnecessarily compromising economic, ecological, and social/political needs’(Krolczyk & Latawiec, 2015). Agricultural sustainability depends on agro-environmental sustainability (AES) (Hayati, Ranjbar, & Karami, 2010). In the absence of any system of integrated environment and economic accounting, agro-environmental sustainability index (AESI) could help in understanding the state of environmental sustainability of agriculture for a country/ state. Achieving environmental sustainability of agriculture for developing countries like India is crucial not only to protect the livelihoods of a large section of the population but also to eradicate poverty and malnutrition.

This research came to a conclusion that agricultural land is a vital ecological and economical resource which preserves the sustainable development of the farmers, as well as the protection of the livelihood of the families involved in agriculture. In the name of development, when the peoples involved in agriculture are separated from agricultural land their occupation, life and livelihood along with environment become absolutely insecure.

It is observed that in order to solve the land-related insurgencies, the Government has to strengthen the local panchayats and other communicating methods which are appropriate to meet the present needs. The socio-economical discontent in large parts of West Bengal is to be stabilised by creating suitable conditions to restore community-centric governance. The local panchayats along with community-centric governance have the tremendous potentiality to stabilise economic order, equity, harmony along with growing unrest in the socio-political scenario prevailing in the state of West Bengal.