



Draft

SARAN

District Vision - 2020

Submitted to
District Planning Committee
SARAN, Bihar

Prepared by
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PRIA is an International Centre for Learning and Promotion of Participation and Democratic Governance



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List of abbreviations

BRGF	Backward Region Grant Fund
CDP	Comprehensive District Plan
DPC	District Planning Committee
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GP	Gram Panchayat
GPO	Grand Post Office
NIC	National Informatics Center
NSSO	National Sample Survey Organization
OBC	Other Backward Caste
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
PRIA	Society for Participatory Research In Asia
PWD	Public Works Department
RSVY	Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna
SC	Schedule Caste
ST	Schedule Tribe
SWOT	Strength Weakness Opportunity & Threats
TSI	Technical Support Institution

Preamble

Backward Region Grand Fund has opened tremendous opportunity for the local Rural & Urban community to design & control the direction of local development intervention. BRGF in the true sense has kick-started planning & implementation of development activities in the spirit of bottom-up approach.

The most prominent significance of BRGF has been the fact that for the first time in the state, Comprehensive development plan (CDP) formulation at the district level has been initiated involving coordination among Local Self Governance Institutions, Line Departments, Bureaucrats, Ministry and Civil Society Organizations. This would mean that sectors like agriculture, industries, health, education, social security etc would have strong inter-linkages & compliment each other for greater impact on the life of the people. The other important aspect is that BRGF would tremendously help in articulation of development interventions that normally gets ignored in already running programme & schemes.

The preliminary step toward formulation of CDP has been development of vision document for each district. Before entering into the process of plan formulation, each district will develop its own vision for "development". The document ahead tries to capture the development vision of **Saran district** with respect to the prevailing local issues & problems.

A combination of consultative process with the key stakeholders of the district & desk review of the secondary data available on the different sectors was used to articulate the "**Vision 2020**" of **Saran district**.

On the basis of the analysis done in the document for Saran, *the vision 2020 relates to Agriculture diversification & development, promotion of cottage industry, education, development & strengthening of Basic infrastructural services and better implementation of the social security schemes.*

This document would serves as the guiding map for formulation of plans at Gram Panchayat, Block & district levels.

Introduction

To achieve desired targets of economic growth and balanced regional development, the efforts for decentralized planning commenced with the first Five Year Plan. The plan recognized the need to break up of planning exercise into National, State, District and Local Government level. But it failed to spell out the process for the same. In the second Five Year Plan, two new elements, namely, establishment of District Development Council and drawing up of village plans were introduced. But again the attempt goes futile due to lack of proper enabling framework. On the recommendations of Balwant Rai Mehta Committee in 1957, village, block and district level Panchayat Institutions were established in many states. But, they are not assigned with any meaningful role or resources. Administrative Reforms Commission (1967) highlighted in its Report that district planning needs to be focused in those areas where local variations in the pattern and process of development were likely to yield quick results in terms of growth. In 1969, Planning Commission communicated guidelines to the states for formulating district plans detailing the concept and methodology of drawing up such plans. It gave some fruitful results but limited to few states only. A Central Scheme was also operationalised from Fourth to Ninth Five Year Plan to assist states for strengthening their planning processes. This scheme was extended to district level in 1982-83. A Working Group headed by Prof. M. L. Dantwala (1978) identified remoteness of planning agencies at district level from actual scene of action as the cause for mismatch of financial allocations with location specific needs. The Group recommended Block as the appropriate sub- state-planning unit. Planning Commission also issued guidelines on formulation of Block level plans in tune to these recommendations. The Ashok Mehta Committee (1978) in its report recommended that Panchayats be strengthened for undertaking local planning. The Hanumantha Rao Committee (1984) brought out the fact that different streams of funding to the district plan undermined planning from below. The Group recommends decentralization of function, powers and finances, setting up of district planning bodies and district planning cells. The G. V. K. Rao Committee (1985) reviewed the administrative arrangements

for rural development and recommended district Panchayat to manage all development programme. The Sarkaria Commission also highlighted the need for people's participation in the planning and administrative machinery at local level. During Sixth and Seventh Plan role of Panchayats in rural development was also enlarged. In 1992-93, the 73rd and 74th Amendments gave Constitutional status to local self- governments and provided a new and universalized platform for decentralized planning. In recent initiatives taken by MoPR regarding decentralized planning it is recommended that under Article 243ZD of the Constitution District Planning Committee (DPC) shall be constituted at the district level in every state to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and to prepare a draft development plan for the district. The objective of district planning is to **arrive at an integrated, participatory coordinated idea of development of a local area**. The comprehensive district plan will integrate multiple programmes that are operational in the district concerned and therefore address backwardness through a combination of resources that flow to the district.

The Backward Regions Grants Fund is designed to redress regional imbalances in development. The fund will provide financial resources for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into identified districts to:

- Bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements that are not being adequately met through existing inflows.
- Strengthen Panchayats and Municipality level governance with more appropriate capacity building, to facilitate participatory planning, decision-making, implementation and monitoring, to reflect local level needs.
- Provide financial support to local bodies for planning, implementation and monitoring their plans.
- Improve the performance and delivery of critical functions assigned to Panchayats, and counter possible efficiency and equity losses on account of inadequate local capacity.

Vision Document

Under Comprehensive District Plan, a district vision has to be prepared for a district through a participative process starting from the grassroots to perceive the status of district in terms of overall holistic development over the next 10-15 years. This would be the companion and guiding document during the process of development of a district. **A basic requirement is that schemes and programmes do not condition the preparation of the vision.** The vision would be primarily articulated in terms of goals and outcomes and would address basically three aspects of development, namely,

- **Human development**
- **Infrastructure development**
- **Development in the productive sector**

The idea is that the envisioning process, being participative, would build a spirit of teamwork and hopefully break down the department wise planning process that is dominant till date.

Objectives

The broad objectives behind the preparation of vision document are:

1. To generate a common perspective, among diverse stakeholders, for the holistic development of the district.
2. To work out a strategy for the optimal and balanced utilization of natural resources.
3. To envisage and incorporate the role of women and marginalized in the mainstream development.
4. To help and motivate people of the district in preparing more realistic, objective oriented and executable five year and annual plans.

An Overview of District Saran

Saran is also known as Chapra. It is district headquarters also the divisional headquarter of Saran Division.

History

In ancient days, Modern Saran Division formed a part of KOSALA country. The history of Saran Division is bound to be history of Kosala which included portions other than present limit of Saran Division. The kingdom of Kosala was bounded on the west by Panchala, by the river Sarpika(sai) in the south, on the east by Gandak and on the north by Nepal. The Kosala consisted of modern Fyzabad, Gonda, Basti, Gorkhapur, Deoria in UP and Saran in Bihar. The historical background of the district- as available in the [Ain-e-Akbari](#) records Saran as one of the six Sarkars (Revenue Divisions) constituting the province of Bihar. At the time of grant of Diwani to the East India company in 1765, there were eight Sarkars including Saran and Champaran. These two were later combined to form a single unit named Saran. Saran(along with Champaran) was included in the Patna Division when the Commissioner's Divisions were set up in 1829. It was separated from Champaran in 1866 when it (Champaran) was constituted into a separate district. Saran was made a part of Tirhut Division when latter was created in 1908. By this time there were three subdivisions in this district namely Saran, Siwan and Gopalganj. In 1972 each subdivision of the old Saran district became an independent district. The new Saran district after separation of Siwan and Gopalganj still has its headquarters at Chapra.

Various hypotheses have been put forward about the origin of the name SARAN. General Cunningham suggested that Saran was earlier known as SARAN or asylum which was a name given to a stupa (Pillar) built by emperor Ashoka. Another view holds that the name SARAN has been derived from SARANGA- ARANYA or the deer forest, the district being famous for its wide expanses of forest and deer in prehistoric times. The earliest authentic historical fact or record concerning this district may perhaps be related to

898 AD, which suggests that the village of Dighwara dubauli in Saran had supplied a copper plate issued in the reign of king Mahendra paldeva.

Saran has ancient and mythical history. Maharshi Dadhichi belongs to Saran who had donated his bone to Gods for manufacturig of arms. Cottage of Dronacharya was also situated in Saran. Gautamasthan, 8 km from chapra town, is used to be Maharshi Gautam's ashrama. Lord Rama has provided Devi Ahiylya, wife of Maharshi Gautam who become stone due to a curse (by her mistake), her life back. Currently, there is a temple and Vishnupad preserved. The fight of "Gaj" (Elephant) and "Grah" (Corcodial) was held at Sonapur in Saran district. Presently It (Sonpur) is well known for Asia's biggest cattle Fair on Kartik Purnima(October-November) every year. Ambica Sthan (Ami,Dighwara) another important place of the district is famous for the worship of Goddess Durga.

The famous Ashoka Pillar is located about 33 km from Chapra town (5 km from Maker Village). This is the place where Lord Buddha made his 13th stop on his way to attaining 'Nirvana'. He converted "Amrapali" - a local courtesan/powerful prostitute into a saint. This is now a major tourist attraction for Buddhists from all over the world and is well maintained by the archaeological survey of India. At Chirand near Chapra ancient (primitive) bones were found and are placed in the Chapra Museum. It is famous for King Maurayadhvaj who was ready to sacrifice his only son to Vaman Avatar Lord Vishnu.

It is also famous for its Bhojpuri heritage .The famous "Bhikhari Thakur" is a famous person from Saran, and is often referred to as the "Shakespeare of Bhojpuri". "Mahendra Misir" also a famous person in Bhojpuri Folk songs. He had specially invented the "Purvi" a style of Bhojpuri Folk song. He was the master in playing of several types of instruments. **Bhojpuri is dialect of this place.** Ara (Arrah), Ballia (Balua), Chapra and Deoria, the Bhojpuri heartland, are known as "ABCD" of India due to their people's congruence of language and culture. People of this "ABC" region has taken Bhojpuri across the Indian boarder to far away places in Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad & Tobago, Surinam and Guyana when their forefathers were settled there as indentured

labourer by Imperial forces. They have adopted there new homeland but still have Bhojpuri in their blood.

Location

The district of Saran has an area of 2641 Sq. Kms and is situated between 25°36' & 26°13' North latitude and 84°24' & 85°15' East longitude in the southern part of Saran Division of North Bihar. The Ganges constitute the Southern boundary of the district beyond which lie the districts of Bhojpur and Patna. District Siwan and Gopalganj lie on the north of district Saran. The Gandak forms the dividing line with Vaishali and Muzaffarpur district in the east. To the west of Saran lies Siwan and Ballia in Uttar Pradesh, river Ghaghra is the natural boundary between Saran and Ballia.



Physiography

The district is entirely constituted of plains but there are quite a few depressions and marshes, which cause the formation of three broad natural divisions, namely:

- a) The alluvial plains along the big rivers, which are subjected to periodic inundation and prone to floods.
- b) The region of uplands away from the rivers and not subject to floods.
- c) The diara areas in the beds of the great rivers.

The soil of the district is alluvial. No mineral of economic value is found in the district.

Climate

The climate of the district is generally tropical in nature with hot summer and cold winter. Summer climate is hot and dry, with blowing westerly winds during the month of March to June touching the mercury temperature up to 45 degree Celsius till the onset of rain. The winter sets in from middle of November to February with temperature touching at 7 degree Celsius during the month of January. The district enjoys a pleasant climate between Novembers to February.

Rainfall

The monsoon breaks sometime in the later half of June. The rainy season lasts till the end of September. Maximum rainfall occurs in the month of July & August. It will be seen that the normal rainfall in the district is 1140 mm.

Forest

The district of Saran, which in the remote past was densely wooded and presumably derived its name from its forest, is completely devoid of any forest now. The land is fertile and there is a large population to be supported and therefore virtually no space has been left for wild growth. The cultivated land is dotted over with bamboo groves, palm trees & mango orchids.

Agriculture

The district has very good potential for Agriculture and allied activities. Agriculture has continued to be the main occupation in the district and also the main source of livelihood of the people. Rainfall still controls the

agriculture economy of the district. Conditions have however improved to some extent to meet the situation caused by the failure of monsoon through some irrigation projects.

Rice and Maize is the main crop of the district. It accounts for about 47.1% of the net sown area; wheat covers nearly 10.53% of the net sown area, while sugarcane is grown in only 0.95% of the area. Maize is produced through mix cropping with Potato.

Irrigation

The question of irrigation in the district of saran involves watering of fields on one hand and draining of water logged on the other. In the pre-Independence Day requirement of irrigation received some attention at the hands of erstwhile zamindars. The British Government as such paid little or no attention to the irrigation needs of the district. It was only in the post independence period that government has realized this need. Several schemes executed by the govt. are following:-

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| • Saran canal | Irrigation |
| • Daha Canal | Irrigation |
| • Naina Bandh | Flood control |
| • Saran embankment | Flood control |
| • Ghaghra embankment | Flood control |
| • Mahi river embankment | Flood control |
| • Gandak embankment | Flood control |
| • Sondh embankment | Flood control |
| • Kurimal Bandh | Flood control |

To drain water from the water logged field there are **118 sluice gates in the above mentioned embankments.** The irrigation division Chapra is looking after these embankments. Rains are the main source of irrigation and the outcome of crops largely depends on the adequacy and its even distribution throughout the agricultural operations. However, rainfall cannot be depended upon as an unfailing source of irrigation. Therefore artificial irrigation supplements rainfall in varying degree to meet the requirement of water for agriculture.

Animal Husbandry

Livestock is very important in the district like saran with predominantly agricultural economy. Cattle of local breeds though handy and suited to the climate are generally of a poor variety. Buffalos are sometimes employed for ploughing the land, especially when deep mud is prepared for the transplantation of paddy. Goats are bred in almost every village and pigs of omnivore's kind are kept by certain section of people. The quality of livestock has improved considerably through the efforts of the government and responses of farmers. In order to protect the livestock from various diseases and epidemic and also to improve the breed, the animal husbandry department of the state government has taken some useful and concrete measures. It has established veterinary hospital, sub-centers, and artificial insemination center in the district.

Industry

There are no large-scale industries or heavy industry worth mentioning in the district. According to the previous records, among the large industrial establishment of the district mentions may be made of **Marhura confectionary of M/s C. E. Mortorn India Ltd., the Saran Engineering Company Ltd, the Cawnpur sugar works Ltd & Cawnpur Sugar Mills distillery at Marhuara.** But at present they all are closed.

Minerals

No minerals of any economic importance are found in the district.

River System

The district is shaped like a triangle with its apex at the confluence of boundary of Gopalganj district and Gandak-Ganga River. **There are three rivers namely the Ganga, Ghaghra, Gandak** that encircle the district from southern, northern, eastern and western side respectively. Out of twenty blocks in the districts, **six blocks viz Sonapur, Dighwara, Revelganj, Chapra, Manjhi and Dariyapur are flood prone. There are six partially flood affected blocks Viz. Garkha, Parsa, Marhoura, Amnaur, Jalalpur, and Ekma. The remaining blocks are free from floods.**

Road & Transport

The district of Saran is well served by a network of roads. The district headquarter Chapra is situated on the **National Highway 19**, which provides road link between east and west (Hazipur to Gazipur).

Administrative Divisions

There are **3 subdivisions** with **20 blocks**. The district has **330 Gram Panchayats** constituting **1767 villages**. Out of this **1566 are inhabited** and **201 are uninhabited**. The district has 5 numbers of statutory towns with **one Nagar Parishad and 4 Nagar Panchayats**.

- **Subdivision--Chapra,Marhaurah and Sonapur**
- **Blocks:- Chapra, Manjhi, Dighwara, Rivilganj, Parsa, Baniapur, Amnaur, Taraiya, Sonapur, Garkha, Ekma, Dariyapur, Jalalpur, Marhaura, Masarakh, Maker, Nagra, Panapur, Isuapur, Lahladpur.**



The police system comprises of network of police station and town out-posts headed by Superintendent of Police (SPs) and supported by Dy. SPs.

The judicial system in the district is headed by district & session Judge

Tourisms

Saran district has been a hub of interfaith interaction with all the religion, resulting in places of tourist interests and cultural fairs. Few places of tourist interest are as below:

Aami: The place is situated over 37 Kms east of Chapra and 4 Kms west of Dighwara. It is said that in the ancient times, there was a Dirgh dwar near the Dighwara Railway Station and place came to be known as Dighwara. In Aami there is an old temple known as Amba Sthan. Near the temple there is a garden and a broad well in which water remains all over the year and it never dries up. The believers from far off come to pay oblation established in her memory over this *Yagya Kund*. The believers from far off places also come to offer oblation in the Navratra of April & October.

Sonepur: Internationally famous for the **month long Asia's largest cattle fair** held on the occasion of *Kartik Poornima*. It is also the headquarter of Sonepur Anchal. Sonepur is a place noted for the Railway platform that was once **the largest in India**.

Dhorh Ashram: This place is situated towards north of ParsaGarh, where many exhibits of archeological importance can be seen. This place has got religious importance due to the **Gigantic shivling of stone** of Bhagwan Dhadheswar Nath.

Gautam Asthan: The Ashram of Gautam Rishi is situated 5 Kms west of Chapra. As per religious belief **purification Devi Ahilya was meted out here**.

Chirand: Chirand is situated 11 Kms south east of district headquarter near Doriganj Bazaar at the north bank river Ghagra. The result of the excavation reveals about 4000 yrs developed culture of Pashan age. **Inhabitants of Chirand were engaged in animal husbandry, agriculture and hunting.** In whole of India, **new pashan age culture was first revealed here**.

Districts through Figures:

(Source: www.saran.bih.nic.in)

Population (Census 2001)	Total	Person	3248701
		Male	1652661
		Female	1596040
	Rural	Person	2950064
		Male	1494636
		Female	1455428
	Urban	Person	298637
		Male	158025
		Female	140612

Density of the population per sq km.	1231
Sex ratio (Number of females per 1000 males)	966

Literacy Rate (Census 2001)	Total	Person	51.80
		Male	67.30
		Female	35.82
	Rural	Person	50.29
		Male	66.28
		Female	33.98
	Urban	Person	66.12
		Male	76.50
		Female	54.29

Area in Sq. Km	2641
No. of Subdivisions	3
No. of C.D. Blocks	20
No. of Villages	
(a) Total	1767
(b) Inhabited	1566
(c) Uninhabited	201
No. of UA's	-
No. of OG's	-
No. of Statutory Towns	5
No. of Census Towns	-

Most populous village in the district	Sabalpur	23499
Least populous village in the district	Asgharpur	6
Most populous C.D. Block	Chapra -	363036
Least populous C.D. Block	Lahladpur	70078

C.D Block having highest literacy rate	
Total	Chapra-61.50
Female	Chapra -48.30
C.D Block having lowest literacy rate	
Total	Panapur - 42.75
Female	Panapur -26.36
Town having highest literacy rate	
Total	Chapra (M)- 70.84
Female	Chapra (M)- 61.05
Town having lowest literacy rate	
Total	Maraura (NA)- 51.47
Female	Maraura (NA)- 35.36

CLASSIFICATION OF WORKERS

(a) Cultivators -	306413
(b) Small and marginal formers -	19353
(c) Agricultural labours -	188507
(d) House hold cottage industries -	18112
(e) Allied agro activities -	15103
(f) Other workers -	88526

DISTRICT AND BLOCK INFORMATION

Number of Blocks –	20
Number of Revenue circles -	20
Number of subdivisions -	03
Number of Towns -	05
Nagar Parishad -	01
Nagar Panchayat –	04
Police Stations (Thana) -	30
Railway Thana -	02
O. P. –	04
T.O.P. –	15
Police District –	01
M.P. Constituency –	02
MLA Constituency –	10
Z.P. Members -	47
Gram Panchayat Mukhiya	330

EDUCATION

Primary Schools -	1265
Middle Schools -	341
High Schools -	117
Inter College(10+2) –	06
Teacher's training College	03
I.T.I. -	01

COLLEGES

(a) Constituent -	11
(b) Affiliated –	03
Govt. Residential Schedule cast High Schools	01
Number of Research organization –	02
Navodaya Vidyaalaya –	01
Central School -	03

HOSPITALS

District Hospital -	01
Referral Hospital -	03
Primary Health Centre -	15
Additional Primary Health Centre -	43
Health Sub Centre -	412
Woman Hospital (Sitab Diyara)	1

ROAD'S

National High Way	192 Km
PWD Road -	298 Km
Kachhi Road	1052 Km
Pakki Road	119 Km
Brick Soling Road	225 Km

RAILWAYS

Length of Rail Road	91.04 Km
No. of Railways Station	-
No. of Railways Halt	-

POST OFFICES

GPO	02
Sub- Post Office	54
Branch Post Office	312

ENERGY AND ELECTRICITY

(i) Length of Distribution Network (in KM)	
(a) High Tension 11 KV Line	2008.64
(b) Low Tension 11 KV Line	2538.77
(ii) Town Electrified	
a) Number	05
b) Percentage of Total No of Town Electrified	100 %
(iii) Village Electrified	
(a) Number of Village	1635
b) Percentage of Total No of Village Electrified	74 %
(iv) Industrial Connection	
(a) Rural	422
(b) Urban	512
(v) No. Of Agricultural connection	
(a) Tube wells (stw)	-
(b) Pump sets (Private)	-
Total	-

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Name of the Lead Bank	Bank of India
No. Of Branches of lead Bank	17
No. Of Other Scheduled Banks	12
No. Of Branches of the other Scheduled Banks	72
Name of Regional Rural Bank	Saran K.G. Bank
No. Of Branches of Regional Rural Banks	64
No. Of Branches of Co-Operative Banks	18
No. Of Branches of LDB's	06

IRRIGATION (IN HECTARE)

Net Irrigated area	101611
Canal	22320
State Tube Well Private Tube Well	72135
Others	7156

CO- OPERATIVE SOCIETY

No. Of branches of Co-Operative Banks	17
No. Of Packs	183
Vyapar Mandal	16
Fisheries Co- Operative Society	38
Other's	13

AGRICULTURE

Net Sown Area	199300(hec)
Cropping pattern	Paddy, Wheat, Maize, Arhar,Gam, Lentil, Linseed, Petil

Cropping intensity	200%
Agricultural Production Yields Rates (Kg/Hectare)	573000 MT
Wheat	2500
Paddy	2000
Maize	2500
Gram	1000
Lentil	1100
Pea	1200
Arhar	1100
Mustered	-
Linseed	800
Til	600

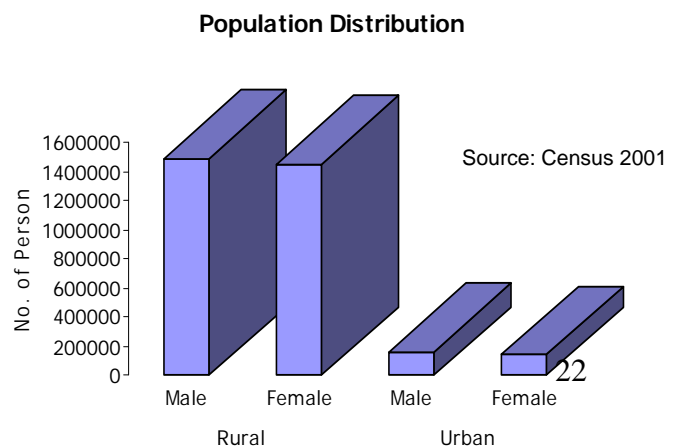
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Plough Animals	158185
Dairy Animals	
(i) Cow	82499
(ii) Buffaloes	109414
(iii) Sheep/ Goat	234640
(iv) Poultry	90000

Data Analysis of few Parameters of Demography

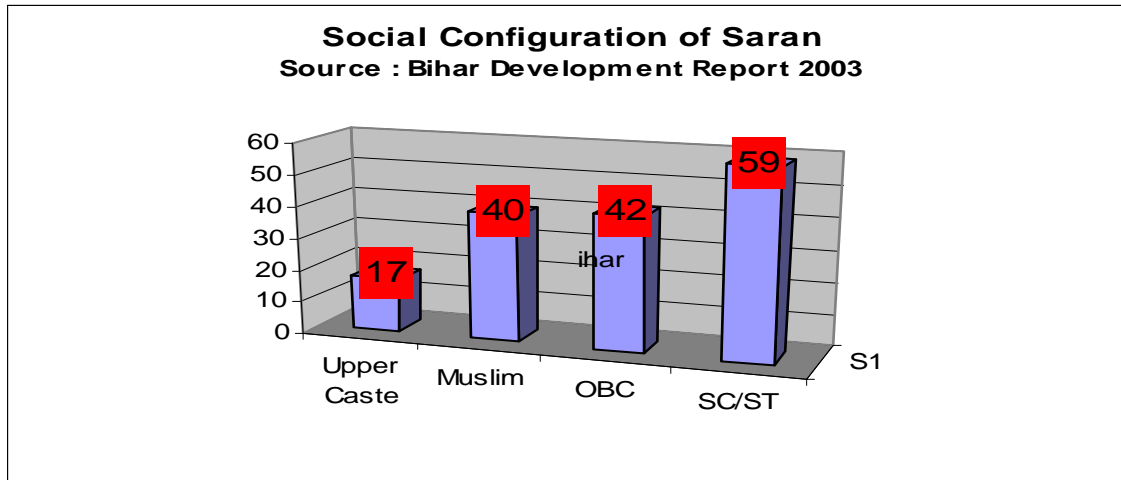
Population

As per the census 2001 the total population of the Saran District stands at **32, 48,701**. The majority chunk of the population resides in rural area of the

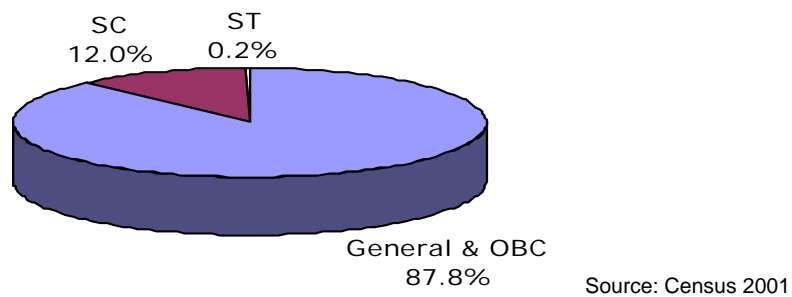


district, as evident from the chart.

The **average population density per square kilometer is 1231**. In context of the social composition of the population of saran district, it can be



Social Composition of Saran



seen from the chart below that **12% of total population belong to Schedule caste category**. Schedule Tribe population is almost negligible and stands at 0.2% only. The census 2001 does not give detail on the size of OBC population but it forms the major chunk of district's population. Analysis of the social composition of the district population is important because studies have revealed significant links between social identity and poverty. Analysis of the incidence of poverty among social group has shown that poverty is dominantly present across social groups, which are traditionally termed as "backward" in caste configuration of Bihar's social fabric. The Bihar Development Report 2003 has shown that the incidence of poverty among SC/STs groups is 59% and among OBC category it is 42%.

This would mean that a sizeable SC & OBC population of Saran district comes under the category of poor or below poverty line status.

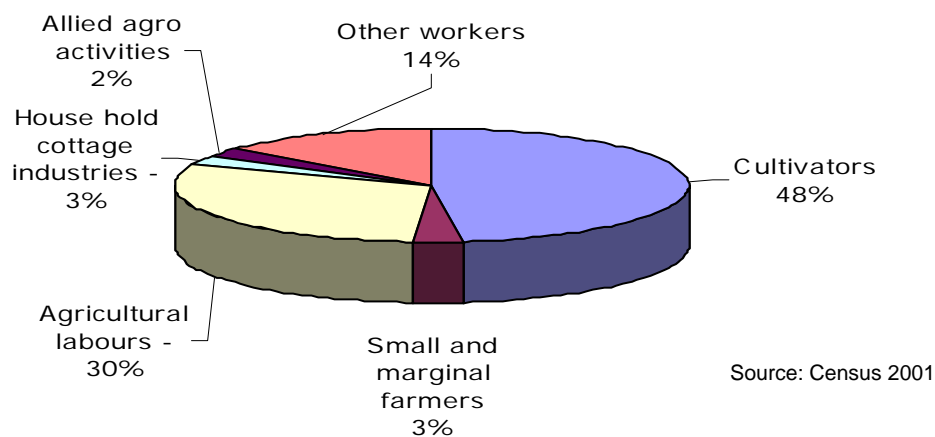
This would therefore form an important indicator for designing development intervention in the district.

Occupation

Analysis of the occupation pattern in the district presents an interesting picture. As per the census 2001, out of the 636014 working population, the distribution of work force is as depicted in the chart below.

It can be seen that the major part of the work force is directly dependent on

Occupation Pattern In Saran



farm sector for generating livelihood. Around 80% is directly related to agriculture, where 30% generate their income through agriculture labor. This points towards important aspects that **despite of agriculture being the primary occupation almost half of workers don't have land or fall in the marginal farmers' category.** This should be kept as an important bearing in mind while designing any intervention based on occupation sector (Capacity building, support etc).

A very small size of the working population is related to cottage industry. This point towards the fact that **cottage industries have received very low priority in the district as a source of occupation/livelihood.** It is

also evident from the occupation distribution that industry based employment is non-existent in the district.

SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT

A. Strength

Land Availability

The district has total land area of 262568 hectares and does not have any forest cover. Beside the 199300 hectares of the net sown area, the district has 28717 hectares of fallow land open for the potential of cultivation.

Human Resource

The district with its population of 32.48 Lakhs has enough human resource for growth in the service sectors as well as diversified agricultural practice. Cottage industries in the district are still at the infant stage and can receive a tremendous boost by proper investment of human resource in this sector.

Agro-climatic Conditions

The agro-climatic conditions of the district offer excellent opportunity for agriculture and horticulture because the soil is light textured and soil depth is more than 100 cm. **The district has also vast potential for farming of aromatic, medicinal plants, Mushroom cultivation & vermin compost.**

Water Resources

The district is rich in surface and ground water. Saran district is criss-crossed by various small & big rivers; important among them is Ganga, Gandak & Ghagra. Proper exploitation of these water bodies & also the ground water can provide tremendous boost to agriculture in the district.

Education

The district has comparatively good infrastructural facility for promoting education. There are 1265 primary schools, 117 high schools & 6 inter-colleges. These have strong potential of pushing the **current literacy rate of 51.8%** to new heights.

Health

The functional health facility available at the district are one Sadar Hospital located at district headquarter, 3 referral hospitals, 15 primary health centers & 43 Additional PHCs along with 412 sub centers.

Institutions of Local Governance – rural & Urban

The district has in place all its local governance institutions as guaranteed under the 73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. These institutions have the strength of articulating the actual development needs of the local community & can design & implement developmental projects.

B. Weakness

Lack of diversity in agriculture

The cropping pattern of the district is heavily loaded in favor of paddy and wheat. The price of paddy is not making its cultivation remunerative to the farmers, especially in case of share cropping & other informal leasing methods of cultivation. The main agricultural product is paddy and wheat whereas very low ratio of pulse, oilseeds, potato and vegetable contribute to the gross cropped area.

There is ample potential for number of non-traditional crops such as medicines plants and floriculture/horticulture.

Industry

The district is industrially backward. There are no heavy/big industries in the district. In Marhaurah block, three big industries viz sugar mill/distillery, Morton Toffee Factory & Saran Engineering works were running earlier but due to various reasons they were closed, depriving employment to large number of people of the district.

Animal Husbandry

The cross breed cattle population is very low and therefore enormous scope exists for genetic improvement of cattle. **The present quality and number of cattle are insufficient as compared to the demand of milk, milk products. Fish & Poultry products are imported form other districts to cater to the vast & growing demand.**

Infrastructure

The infrastructure of the district, which when seen in terms of number only seems goods, but generally they are in bad shape due to lack of maintenance & funds. Roads, which have acquired utmost importance for development, are also in pretty bad shape in the district.

C. Opportunities

Fisheries

Fishery represent as one of the important sector contributing towards the growth of the economy of the district. Fish culture can promote employment opportunities and become a source of income to small & marginal farmers. There are about 1000 number of ponds/water bodies (water area of about 1400 hectare) and 800 ponds (water area of 600 hectare), which can be utilized for fish culture. If provision of fish seed production centers and fish seed hatchery center are established in the district, it can provide tremendous potential to farmers to generate income from fishery.

The waterlogged areas in 4 to 5 blocks can be seen as an opportunity for aquaculture like ***SWEET WATER PRAWN CULTURE and SHRIMP FARMING***. This will not only bring the economic boom but can generate tremendous amount of job opportunity. Better transport linkage will add value to the industry.

Diversification in agriculture

At present though there is heavy dependence on few crops only, the district with its land availability & potential of developing irrigation facilities has the opportunity of diversifying its cropping system. This will help the farmers in developing better coping mechanism in cases of crop failure as well as generating new market for themselves.

This coupled with institutional arrangement for formalizing land leasing system can also assist small & marginal farmers for increasing their income form agriculture.

Cottage industry

Cottage industry in the district is still in its infant state. Given that agriculture forms the primary occupation of the district, **it has huge potential of developing cottage industries related to agro-products**. This would not only increase the employment opportunity in the district but also increase the gross domestic product of the district.

Dairy Development

The demand for milk & milk related products are great in the district. There has always been demand from the community for establishment of milk collection centers at Gram Panchayat level. If breeding techniques are

improved in the district by animal husbandry department, Dairy projects have got good future in the district. **11 milk-chilling plants are coming up in the district. This has paved tremendous opportunity for the district to develop its dairy sector.**

D. Constraints

Law and order & crime scenario

This is the single biggest threat to the process of development in Saran. High crime graph situation of the district has been the one of the prime reason for business/industrial entrepreneurs hesitating or being reluctant to enter the district.

Negative attitude of banks

The **credit deposit ratio is 27%**, which is extremely poor. There has always been complaining from the community, especially the rural mass, on the non-cooperation of banks in providing credit assistance. Credit forms an important part of rural economy, where from food security needs to agricultural input are heavily dependent on timely & appropriate credit assistance. Banks are the only institutional sources of credit and if they don't take proactive stance, people are forced to go to informal & exploitative sources of credit.

Floods

Some of the blocks of the district adjacent to Ganga, Ghaghra & Gandak are flood prone. These blocks are constantly subjected to flooding situation during monsoon, which causes heavy damage to property & human life.

Vision Statement

The pointers for articulating the vision 2020 statement would be following:

- Agriculture diversification – Promotion of allied crops in agriculture (horticulture, aquaculture, complex farming, tissue culture and medicinal Plants)
- Bring informal agricultural land leasing system under institutional arrangement for maximizing support services (infrastructural & financial) to the small & marginal farmers
- All the net sown area will have access to irrigation facilities
- Allied sectors like fishery, Dairy will be promoted for employment generation & increasing per capita income of the district.
- All the villages will have full-fledged access to quality infrastructural facilities like PHC, roads, electricity etc.
- The district will achieve 100% literacy rate.
- Promotion of cottage industries in the district & increasing its share in employment from the current 3 % to a level that provides ample employment opportunities & contributes in District's GDP.
- Proper implementation of all social security schemes in the district & firm action on corruption.

Vision Statement

"A vibrant district, retaining its past glory through agriculture and allied sector based economy, bringing it at par with developed districts in terms of Human Development Index (HDI)"

Developmental Goals for different sectors

Agriculture

I. Situational Analysis

Agriculture is the mainstay of Saran's livelihood system. Rice is the main crop of the district. It accounts for about 47.1% of the net sown area; wheat covers nearly 10.53% of the net sown area, while sugarcane is grown in only 0.95% of the area. Agriculture is basically rain-fed. Lately the situation has improved little bit with few canal irrigation projects & other allied initiative undertaken by the government. In 5 blocks to be named Isuapur, Dariyapur Masrakh, Garkha and Lahladpur a large chunk of the cultivable land is submerged through out the year destroying the agricultural prospect completely. Beside this the district agriculture department is ill equipped in terms of manpower (only three blocks have full fledged agriculture officer) to handle the challenges effectively. But these all constraint could not dilute the sprit of larger mass of he district in adopting agriculture as their main livelihood option. This gets its reflection in the yields/hec. Farmers of the district are well open to the technological innovations in the field of agriculture making it a sector of immense potential. District agriculture department with its limited resources initiated the process of **seed replacement scheme and within a year recorded the growth of 12% (DAO, Saran).Organic farming was experimented in Jalalpur village of Mukrera panchayat of Rivilganj block of the district with potato and cauliflower farming and 20% growth was recorded. The support like Improved seeds, demonstrations, micronutrients and pumping sets provided under national food security mission experimented in the district recorded growth of 10 quintals per hec.**Subsidies (up to 20,000/- on power thresher, tractors, power tiller etc.) on farm implements has provided opportunity for mechanized

farming to the farmers of the district . The district has very good potential for vegetable production especially potatoes. But due to the lack of storage facility farmers are gradually escaping it. The district has **only 10 cold storages** which are insufficient to provide storage to the produce. It has only **2 markets one in Chapra and other in Barakpur in Sonapur block** of the district to provide market linkage to the agriculture produce of the district.

The table ahead gives an overview of the irrigation coverage in the district

Particulars	Area In Hectare	Percentage
<i>Net Sown Area</i>	<i>199300</i>	<i>NA</i>
Net Irrigated area	101611	51% of the net sown area
Canal	22320	22% Of the net irrigated area
State Tube Well Private Tube Well	72135	71% Of the net irrigated area
Others	7156	7% Of the net irrigated area

Only 51 % of the net sown area is irrigated, thereby leaving a huge area at the mercy of monsoon. Out of the total irrigation, the major chunk is catered through Tube wells, which again is indicator of limited reach of canal projects. If irrigation reach is increased it can boost agriculture in the state to great lengths.

In context of agriculture it is also worthwhile to look at the land distribution system in the district as it has direct implication on the agricultural practices. The average landholding is 0.64 hectare. It is also evident from the

occupation analysis that the no. of marginal farmers in the district is very low. Though the average land holding is only 0.64 acres,

Rural poverty incidence and share by land ownership

Land owned (ha)	50th round (1993-1994)			55th round (1999-2000)		
	% of rural population	Poverty incidence	% share of the poor	% of rural population	Poverty incidence	% share of the poor
No land	9	51	12	10	56	14
0 < * < = 0.4	43	51	55	53	46	61
0.4 < * < = 1	24	34	20	20	29	15
1 < * < = 2	15	28	10	10	30	7
2 < * < = 4	7	18	3	4	16	2
> 4	3	6	0	2	18	1
Overall	100	40	100	100	40	100

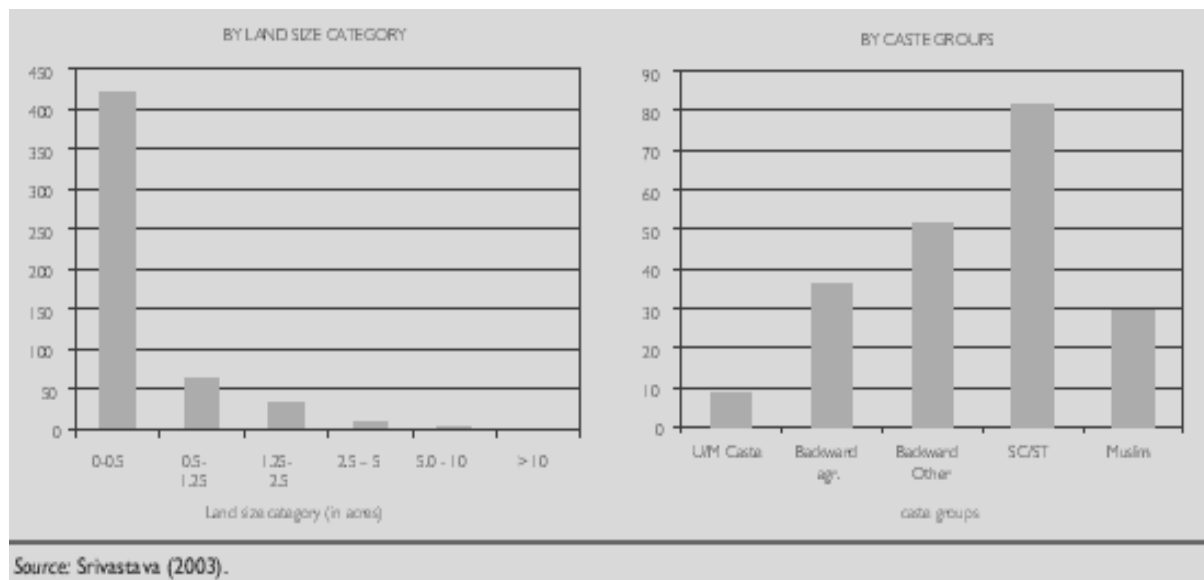
Note: Poverty is defined as per capita consumption rank < 40%

Source: 50th & 55th NSSO Survey

The table above indicates that the poor typically own less land than the non-poor. Consistent with this a high correlation between land holding and occupation is observed in the NSSO data of 1999-2000, marginal land owners are much more likely to be engaged in agriculture labor, casual non farm labor and self employed activities than large land owner.

In the context of large inequality in land ownership and the high incidence of poverty among marginal farmer and the landless it is important to highlight the role played by contractual arrangement of land leasing in the livelihood of these groups. In 1998 nearly 25% of cultivated land in rural Bihar was leased-in (Srivastava 2003). For small land holders (0.5 to 1 acres), leased-in land was as much as half the size of their cultivable land, for SC/ST

household around 80% of cultivable land was leased-in **land as percentage of cultivable land**



In view of the high incidence of leasing-in of land among the small and marginal farmers and backward social groups, which is present in Bihar therefore in Saran also, the tenurial arrangement – including security of tenure and rental rates have a significant impact on the Gross agricultural produce of the district. The leasing of lands is highly informal in nature (Share cropping, Mani etc) and there is no legal protection over it, as it is not done on pen & paper. This results in exploitation of the tenants in majority of the cases. If this system is formalized it will help tenants to cultivate in more systematic & in cost effective way, thereby increasing the productivity.

II. Developmental Goals for Agriculture

Short term Goals	Medium term Goals	Long Term Goals
To promote diversification in current Agricultural practices to accommodate Horticulture, aquaculture, organic farming, complex farming etc.	Institutionalization and strengthening of input support (seed, KCC, fertilizer, Farm implement Capacity Building) to the farmers and full protection (MSP, insurance) to agriculture sector of the district.	60-70% increase in agricultural production

III. Strategy to achieve the goals

- Bring Crop diversification. The effort would be to link market with the different crops undertaken by the farmers.
- Market and storage facilities in all 20 blocks.
- Establishing Bij Gram and in all 330 pachayats promotion of tissue culture at district level.
- Promoting organic farming at large scale.
- District administration would facilitate formalizing leasing of land on smaller scales. This would help the smaller farmers to access institutional support facilities.
- Improving existing irrigational support from 51% to 100% through Initiation of micro & medium irrigation projects to ensure large coverage.
- Alternate water management system in water-logged area for productive purposes.
- Capacity building initiatives by Agri-departments, ATMA, & colleges for orientation of the farmers on better techniques & technologies.
- Exposure trips to farmers.
- Strengthening the PACS (Panchayat Agriculture Cooperative Society)

Land Development

I. Situational Analysis

In saran District 8.6% of the geographical area is under different types of degraded land, which needs to be developed. The development of wasteland and Diara/Tal land needs to be taken up on community basis by the government. However, other activities of land development like on farm development (land leveling, bunding, terracing), reclamation of sodic land, dry land farming etc needs to be taken farmers on individual basis with assistance from technical institution & appropriate credit support.

Following are the focal areas, which need to be taken care for land development in the district:

- There is no separate soil conservation department or any agency responsible for land development in the district. The agriculture dept.

also looks after this as additional work. It is necessary that soil conservation is taken on priority basis in the district.

- There is a soil testing laboratory at the district headquarter, but it is not able to achieve its targets and cope with requirements in this regard. **For the year 2006-07 it could collect and analyze 3200 sample only.** The capacity of the laboratory needs to be increased so that it can serve a large mass of farmers in the districts.
- No credit linked schemes for land development/soil conservation is under implementation in the district. The future development programmes especially in context of agriculture promotion should focus on this area.

II. Development Goals for Land Development

Short Term Goal	Medium Term Goal	Long Term Goal
<p>Increase the capacity of the soil-testing laboratory.</p> <p>Develop credit linked schemes for promotion of soil conservation</p>	<p>Establishment of Soil Conservation department in the district.</p> <p>Implementation of General land & wasteland development programmes for the district</p>	<p>Different forms of land which have potential of agricultural use would be brought under cultivation</p>

III. Strategy for achieving goals

- Increase the capacities of the laboratory by allocation of modern equipments and additional human power
- Development of dedicated wasteland & other land development projects in the district.

- Establishment of a separate land development department that would exclusively cater to the land development needs of the district.

Fisheries

I Situational Analysis

Fishery represent as one of the important sector contributing towards the growth of the economy of the district. Fish culture can promote employment opportunities and become a source of income to small & marginal farmers. The existing situation depicted below is quite reflective of the potentials of the sector. The available resources are well capable of making the sector a potential growth engine for the economic development of the district. The wider acceptability complemented with the geographical parameters makes it a profit-earning sector of the district.

No. Of water bodies—1000 inclusive of 100 oxbow lakes

No. Of private ponds—800

Area coverage through these water bodies-----2000 Hect.

Fish consumption of the district---20000 tons/annum

Fish production of the district-----10000 tons/annum

Current fish production/hect. /annum—3-4 tons with all the constraints

No. Of Hatchery----1(private in parsagarh of Ekma block of the district)

Capacity of the Hatchery----1000000 spawns

**No. Of Fingerlings produced for fish farming through this Hatchery---
-400000**

No. Of proposed Hatcheries in the district----2 (1 in Sonepur and 1 in Dariyapur blocks of the district) both pvt.

No. Of fishers cooperative societies in the district---38

No. of trained Fish farmers---30 (from Kakinada in Andhra)

(Source-District fishery department)

Government sponsored schemes for the promotion of fish farming in the district—

- Bank loan of Rs1200000/- with subsidy of Rs.80000/-for the establishment of hatcheries of capacity 1000000 spawns

- Bank loan of Rs.200000/- with subsidy of Rs. 40000/- for initiating fish farming in 1 hect.
- Supply of fingerlings to desired farmers on 50% subsidized rate.
- Interest free Govt. loan of Rs.24000/-/acrs for growing of Fingerlings
- Subsidy of Rs.12000/- on the loans for renovation of ponds for fish farming activities.

Expect the first two schemes rest are very successful in the district and bearing the desired results. The district also finds its place in the list of total 33 districts where fish farming development Agency has been formed to promote fish seed production. Target allotted to the district for the production of fish seeds in 2.4 hect means supporting 12 farmers with .2 hect of water bodies. Expected productions of fingerlings are 12.00 lakhs for the current financial year.

II. Development Goals

Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Improving fish farming through creation of new opportunities and cooperative movement.	Creation of hatcheries, market opportunities storage and transportation facilities.	To increase the production from 10000 tons to 30000 tons in order to make the district self-sustainable and growth oriented in terms of Fish farming as well as improving the economy of the district.

III. Strategies to achieve the Goal

- Developing at least one hatchery in each block for improved quality of Fingerlings.
- Trying portable hatchery developed by central institute of fresh water aquaculture (CIFA) of Orissa, as it costs only Rs. 1.5 lakh.
- Improving the existing status of water bodies with support from Govt.
- Channalising water sources to the existing water bodies under institutional arrangements.
- Promoting well-equipped Nurseries for seed production.
- Providing more subsidies for promotional activities.
- Giving management of ponds under direct control of Panchayats
- Providing required support infrastructures like storage, transportation, insurance, bank loan, market etc.
- Improving attitude of banks to make the loan process easy.
- Providing market linkages to the sector.
- Creation of new water bodies for the purpose.
- Training and supports to farmers on latest technologies.
- Equipping fishery department to provide technical assistances to these cooperatives under institutional arrangements.
- Creation of well equipped market for Fish selling.

Diary Development

I. Situational Analysis

Next to crop rising, dairy development is the most important activity in the district. The agro climatic condition of the district is quite suitable for dairy development activities. With greater socio- economic acceptability and its popularity among the small and marginal farmers, this activity has the potential of becoming an important driver for feeding the growth process of the district. The district has two milk chilling centers located at Marhaura & chapra sadar. The capacity of Chapra plant is 5000 liters per day. Marhura plant is at present defunct. Already 40 milk cooperative societies exist in three blocks to be named as Sonapur, Dighwara and Dariapur of the district. They are **supplying 2500 liters of milk to Hajipur dairy per day**. Works

are on to establish **11 new milk chilling plants of 2000 liters capacity/day. These new chilling plants will collect milk from 85 cooperative societies including the 40 existing one.** The objective is to make the district compete with the norms of operation flood. The available veterinary services/facilities of the state government are as below:

Veterinary dispensaries/ First Aid center	36
Artificial insemination centers	16
AI centers under Intensive Cattle Development Project	73
Disease Diagnostic Center	1
Veterinary Hospital	1

Despite of the above physical provisions in the district, most of the units of veterinary services are not functioning effectively. Out of the 73 A-I centers under Intensive Cattle Development Project only 9 are presently providing services. For distribution of medicines on payment basis very limited budget is provided.

In order to make diary as a strong sector for pushing the districts on the wheels of development, the above-mentioned drawbacks needs to be immediately addressed.

II. Development Goals

Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Increasing milk production through improvement in existing infrastructure and cooperative movement	Creating market opportunities collection, storage, processing units and transportation facilities.	To develop the district as a self-sustainable and growth oriented in terms to Dairy needs as well as improving the economy of the district.

III. Strategies to achieve the Goal

- Strengthening timely veterinary care at block & district level.
- Establishing Furnished & fully operational Veterinary Hospital
- Promoting Artificial insemination facilities at Block and Panchayat level.
- Enhancing milk & meat production through Breed Up gradation
- Promotion of milk federation and training on Animal husbandry management.
- Ensuring scaling up of activity by development of forward linkages - Chilling Plant and milk collection centre, feed etc.
- Linkage with Financial institution for credit
- Establishment of Feed Manufacturing unit.
- Establishment of more Chilling Plants at least one in each blocks & milk collection centre at panchayat level.
- Bank Loans for development of animal husbandry.
- Para veterinary and management training to animal rearers.

Health

I. Situational Analysis

The table ahead depicts few basic indicators of health situation prevailing in the district. The district boasts sex ratio of 966, which is higher than the national average.

District Health Profile of Saran District		
1	Sex Ratio	966 Per thousand
2	Birth Rate	33.75 Per thousand
3	Growth Rate	2.1
Total No. of Health Centers in Saran District		
1	District Sadar Hospital	1
2	Referral Hospital	3
3	Primary Health Center	15
4	Add. Primary Health Center	43
5	Health Sub Center	412
6	Woman Hospital, Sitabdiyara	1

The total no. Of Primary health center are 15, which are short of the ideal number of 20, keeping in mind that the district has 20 blocks (One health center for population of 50,000). The total number of sub center is 412, which makes roughly to an average of 1 sub-center per GP (Saran has total of 330 GPs).

Depending on the population of the district a wider network of Sub-centers would be required for providing health services to the people. Together with the aforementioned, the real issue here would be the quality of the services delivered at these facilities.

II. Developmental Goals

Short term Goals	Medium term Goals	Long Term Goals
Improving the outreach of health services to larger population.	Fully equipped District /divisional Hospitals, PHC and sub centers to Discharge their mandatory services.	Access to quality health services by all population in the district.

III. Strategy to achieve the Goals

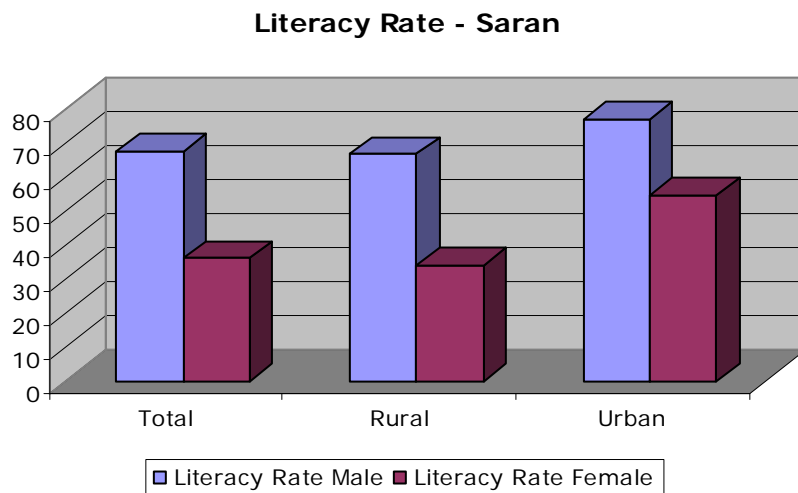
- Strengthening emergency services and availability of ambulance for transportation of the ailed will be the key strategy to achieve the health goals in the district.
- Increased outreach of health services i.e deploying adequate no of medical / paramedical staff, sufficient supply of medicines and quality performance of Health infrastructures.
- Access to referral services is one of the key areas for improvement as it would ensure timely treatment and reduction in mortality rate.
- Construction of well equipped district hospital and PHCs and Sub centers to provide quality health services to the population.
- Ensuring cleanness and better work environment in Health centers.

Education

I. Situational Analysis

The literacy rate of the district as per census 2001 is 51.8%. This is higher than the state average. But when the figure is broken down further, it projects little worrisome picture.

The chart ahead depicts the literacy rate among male & female in both urban & rural area of Saran district.



It can be seen from the chart that there is wide disparity in level of literacy among male & female in both urban & rural area. This is despite of the fact that the district has higher composite literacy rate than the state itself. The reason for low literacy among female is primarily because of non-enrolments of females in school and drop-outs. The major factors responsible for the aforementioned are non existence of appropriate education infrastructural facilities for female, economic condition of the poor family and patriarchal beliefs within the community.

The figure ahead gives a brief overview of the education infrastructure facility existing in the district

Total No. of teachers	
Sanctioned Post	6506
Working	4424
No. of Middle Schools	341
No. of Upgraded Middle School	266
No. of Govt. Basic School	22
No. of Sanskrit School	17
Madarsa	4
Primary Schools	1265
High Schools	117
Inter College	6
Teacher's Training College	3
ITI	1
Colleges	
Constituents	11
Affiliated	3
Navoday Vidyalay	1
Central School	3

From the table above it can be seen that only 68% of teachers are working against the total sanctioned/required teachers in the district. This could be a major deterrent for education not reaching to all in the district. Teachers are the only interface between the educational infrastructures & the students. If this interface is missing than buildings & books does not have any meaning.

Going just by the figures as stated in the table above, the infrastructure related to education seems to be sufficient. But in actual reality all the schools, colleges & other educational institutions are plagued by the problem of insufficient fund, lack of maintenance. This is an area where the district has to improve considerably.

II. Developmental Goals

Short term goals	Medium term goals	Long term goals
Access to elementary educational facilities to all children (6-14yrs) within the village.	Access to quality education at middle, higher and college level to all social category & Gender through quality institutions.	Achieve 100% literacy rate in the district.

III. Strategy to achieve the Goals

- Awareness creation on the importance of education.
- Fixing accountability to PRI, NGO, and other social groups in the community.
- Increasing the no. of schools especially at middle & higher level for wider coverage among eligible population.
- Maintaining appropriate teacher student ratio at all level for better education to the students.
- Access to quality education can be achieved through improving the infrastructure base of the educational institutions especially at middle and high School level.
- Wider Coverage of marginalized and poor students through Kasturba Vidhayalay and other related education projects.
- Facilities such as Library, Science laboratory, computer training, Playgrounds, Urinals especially for girl students must be developed at required levels to promote overall development and meet the needs of the students.
- Inclusion of vocational courses at required levels.
- Training on Multi-grade teaching and refresher would help in ensuring quality education among the children.

Infrastructure

I. Situational Analysis

Roads, airports sewage, water system, electricity, educational institutions, health care and other such facilities, which facilitate the promotion of standard of life and economic activities in an area, may be termed as infrastructure support.

The comprehensive status of the development of infrastructure in the district vis-à-vis the state average is furnished below:

Sl no	Infrastructure Component	District	State
1	Electricity		
	a. Percentage of village electrified	70.2	70
	b. Percentage of village electrified but power is not supplied due to different reasons	44.5	
	c. Percentage of villages electrified where power is also supplied	25.7	
	d. Percentage of rural consumers to total consumers	43.5	
2.	Transport		
	a. Road Density	1010 Kms	210 Kms
	b. No. of transport vehicles of all types per 1000 sq Km	24600	
	c. Villages connected by Pucca Road	399	
3	Communication		
	a. No. of telephone Lines per 100 population	2.16	1.09

	b. people served per post office	8357	8792
	c. Average area served per post office (sq km)	6.8	9.92
4	Water Supply		
	% of villages having drinking water supply	100	
5	Agriculture marketing		
	No. of unregulated agriculture markets and rural mandis per 100 sq. km	8.78	

Source: NABARD, Potential Linked plan 2008-09

Some other basic data related to infrastructure is as below:

ROAD-

National High Way -	192 km
PWD Road -	298 km
Kacchi Road	1052 Km
Pakki Road	119 Km
Brick Soling Road	225 Km

RAILWAYS:-

Length of Rail Road	91.04 Km
No. of Railways Station (broad gauge)	16
No. of Railways Station (meter gauge)	7
No. of Railways Halt	2

POST OFFICE:-

GPO	02
Sub- Post Office	54
Branch Post Office	312

ENERGY AND ELECTRICTIY:-

(i) Length of Distribution Network (in KM)	
(a) High Tension	2008.64

	11 KV line	
	(b) Low Tension	2538.77
	11 KV line	
(ii)	Town Electrified	
	(a) Number	05
	(b) Percentage of	
	Total no. of Town Electrified	100%
(iii)	Village Electrified	
	(a) Number of Village	1635
	(b) Percentage of	
	Total no. of Village Electrified	74%

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:-

Name of the lead Bank	Central Bank of India
No. of Branches of lead Bank	17
No. of Other Scheduled Banks	12
No. of Branches of the other	
Scheduled Banks	72
Name of Regional Rural Bank	Saran K.G. Bank
No. of Branches of Regional Rural Banks	64
No. of Branches of Co-Operative Banks	18
No. of Branches of LDB's	06

Here also it is very difficult to judge the status of facilities just by going through figures. Though the district has got fairly good road connectivity but almost every road needs immediate quality repairing & renovation work. At present the government has sanctioned 279 projects for construction of 1117.3 Kms of new roads under PMGSY to connect all villages with the district head quarter. The district is only 85 Km. away from state capital and have better connectivity through NH 19(Hajipur to Gazipur in U.P).Rail connectivity with other parts of country is very good. It is also being connected to state capital through rail route as the rail over bridge from Patna to Pahlega in sonapur block of the district is under construction.

One of the important aspects is that the district does have provision for basic infrastructural facilities, also the potential of developing it, which many districts in Bihar does not have. The basic issue of concern over here the quality of the services given to the people by the district. The control over the quality aspect would speed up development process in the district.

II. Developmental Goals for the District:

Short term Goals	Medium term Goals	Long Term Goals
To provide basic Public amenities at all locations of the district.	To ensure essential infra structure and communication for supporting human movement and economic activity efficiently	Well established infrastructure and communication to promote overall development

III. Strategy to achieve the Goals

- Special focus on construction and maintenance of Roads and Bridges has to be taken on priority basis to ensure rapid restoration of communication system to promote faster and cheaper movement of goods and human traffic with comfort.
- Attention to cover as many roads possible for construction and repair under various CSS/ SSS to ensure quick restoration of road communication in the district.
- Similarly construction of Public amenities can be taken up under various ongoing schemes.
- Electricity Projects can be identified and should be taken up with concerned department.
- As the economy of Saran is agriculture dependent setting up of regulated market with yard facilities at block and district level are required

Cottage Industries

I Situational Analysis

Owing to its surplus agricultural produce and better connectivity to other parts of the state through rail and road; the district has immense potential for setting up of the agro based cottage industries.

Net Sown Area	199300(hec)
Cropping pattern	Paddy, Wheat, Maize, Arhar,Gam, Lentil, Linseed, Petil
Cropping intensity	200%
Agricultural Production Yields Rates (Kg/Hectare)	573000 MT
Wheat	2500
Paddy	2000
Maize	2500
Gram	1000
Lentil	1100
Pea	1200
Arhar	1100
Mustered	-
Linseed	800
Til	600

As per an assessment done by NABARD in its PLP 2008-09, the district has surplus production of maize of 100000 tons, potato of 137000 tons, paddy of 57000 tons and of wheat 59400 tons. **Therefore the district has the potential for setting of production catchments/ consumption pattern based food processing units.** The growth of

these units will be complimented with the fact that the district has good connectivity with the state capital by both rail (under construction) & road. It is also connected well to the adjoining UP state. Besides month long cattle fair at Sonapur can provide better market opportunity and publicity to these products.

II. Developmental Goals for the District:

Short term Goals	Medium term Goals	Long Term Goals
Creating awareness and scaling up of skills among unemployed youths	Creating essential infra structure to support Cottage Industries	Well established net work of agro based cottage Industries catering to the needs of the district as well as other adjoining district/state

III. Strategy to achieve the Goals

- Organizing skill up gradation trainings on food processing and preservation technologies.
- Creating required support infrastructures.
- Ensuring bank and insurance linkage to these units.
- Providing market linkages to the products.

Growth Engines of the District

Saran has a situation where there is overdependence on agriculture, steady increase in population, faulty land tenurial system, social biasness affecting the livelihood pattern, education varying with caste and gender. Exercise at the Gram Panchayat points towards the improper implementation of schemes and programme & people generally demand facilities that are very basic to life. On the basis of the analysis done on the secondary data & the visioning exercises that were conducted, following are the prominent sectors if put in positive order can be the potential growth engines for development:

- **The present need is, is to bring diversification in occupation pattern in larger mass of Saran.**
- **Diversification in agriculture pattern to accommodate Horticulture, aquaculture, tissue culture, complex farming and other cash crops like sugarcane etc.**
- **Ensuring better Agriculture support mechanism like establishment of Bij Gram in Every panchayat, Strengthening PACS, Improvement in financial support, More subsidy on farm implement etc.**
- **Alternate water management system in the 5 water logged blocks of the district to improve crop production as well as reduce dependency on rain for irrigational needs.**
- **Diary & poultry is another sector, which can lead the district on the path of development and strengthen economy of the district as well as provide livelihood options to the larger mass.**

- **Fish farming can be another growth engine for the district. The district has huge demand of fish and its supply is done from Andhra Pradesh. Looking at the vast availability of water bodies in the district, fish rearing can be taken up at both individual & large scale.**
- **The district has the potential for growth of production catchments/ consumption pattern based food processing units. The growth of these units will be complimented with the fact that the district has good connectivity with the state capital by both rail (under construction) & road. It is also connected well to the adjoining UP state.**
- **Proper implementation of development programme & schemes would have direct and positive impact on the lives of the people of the district.**
- **Capacity Building of women elected representatives in PRI to capitalize on the inherent managerial skill of women for development purposes.**
- **To safeguard the interest of the poor, an effective & operational institutional system is required to regulate the dealings attached with land leasing.**
- **The infrastructural facilities, especially related to Health, electricity, roads & support institutions, needs to improves in terms of quality as well reach to the larger mass of the district. These are the basic drivers, which would help in driving developing of other sectors also like agriculture, cottage industries, education etc.**

- **Education is a primary area, which would require special attention in the district, because it has the requisite potential to achieve higher rate of literacy. Special attention on women education is required as the literacy rate is very low in comparison to male literacy rate. Education would help in exploring new potentials for the district.**
- **Tourism can also be important growth engine of the district as the district is rich in its religious heritage, attracts tourists from different parts of the country.**

Annexure: Visioning exercise

a. Method/Process

Two-pronged method was adopted to develop the vision document of Saran district. The first process entailed following steps:

- Conduction of district level orientation cum visioning exercise
- Conduction of block level orientation cum visioning exercise
- Facilitation of Micro-level Planning exercise in five Gram Panchayat

The events at district also coincided with formation of district level planning team & respective Block level planning teams. The dates on which the events took place are as follows:

SI No	Particulars	Date	Participants
1	District Level workshop	20 th March 08	Zilla Parishad Members All Block Pramukh Line Department Heads
2	Baniapur Block workshop	16 th April 08	Block Pramukh, All Mukiyas & selected Ward members, BDO
3	Lahlahadpur Block workshop	16 th April 08	- do -
4	Manjhi Block workshop	19 th April 08	- do -
5	Akma Block workshop	19 th April 08	- do -
6	Sonepur Block workshop	21 st April 08	- do -
7	Dighwara Block workshop	21 st April 08	- do -
8	Jalalpur Block workshop	22 nd April 08	- do -
9	Nagra Block workshop	22 nd April 08	- do -
10	Parsa Block workshop	24 th April 08	- do -
11	Dariapur Block workshop	24 th April 08	- do -
12	Chapra Block workshop	25 th April 08	- do -
13	RevealGanj Block workshop	25 th April 08	- do -

14	Garkha Block workshop	26 th April 08	- do -
15	Makeer Block workshop	26 th April 08	- do -
16	Madaura Block workshop	28 th April 08	- do -
17	Aamnaur Block workshop	28 th April 08	- do -
18	Mashrakh Block workshop	2 nd May 08	- do -
19	Panapur Block workshop	2 nd May 08	- do -
20	Taraiya Block workshop	5 th May 08	- do -
21	Ishuarpur Block workshop	5 th May 08	- do -

The meetings stated above provided important insight into the development issues related to the district.

Stakeholders from different departments, Panchayat units (Zilla, Block, GP) discussed and deliberated on wide variety of issues. E.g. in district level workshop, the head of the Agriculture department pointed towards the need of developing of cropping system that would



suit the flood situation that prevails in large area of Sara. Similarly, Animal Husbandry department proposed for research on improving the breeding methods.

The micro planning exercise conducted in five GPs provided the most important insight into the development needs at the grass root and thereby direction towards development of the vision.

The second method that was adopted was review & analysis of secondary data that were available on Saran. Sector-wise analysis of secondary data helped in assessing the prevailing situation in the state pertaining to poverty among social groups, status of agriculture, health, infrastructure etc & the gaps for future action. This analysis was coupled with SWOC analysis, thereby making the picture clear for articulating the Vision 2020 for the district.

b. Sample Micro-planning exercise

As stated in the section above, the conduct of micro-level planning exercises provided the most important headway in articulation of the “development” vision for the district. Five exercises were conducted on a sample basis. The micro-planning exercises were conducted in the following GPs:

SI No	Name of the Gram Panchayat	Name of the Block
1	Sadadhala	Chappra Sadar
2	Madarpur	AAmnaur
3	Purshotimpur	Lalhladpur
4	Baleshar	Manjhi
5	Pirouna	Garkha

Focused group discussions were conducted with gram Panchayat representatives and Gram Sabha members. Through the FGD, effort was made to articulate the development need of the people. This resulted in the formation of a wish list, which would bring the Gram Panchayat to an ideal state of development. Transect walk was also done to minutely study the issues of the Gram Panchayat.

In 2 Gram Panchayat an innovative method was adopted to conduct the discussion. The need for innovation came out of the felt need to manage discussion in a more effective way. The discussion group was divided in terms of age group viz; old age, middle aged & young and separate FGDs were conducted for each group. This helped in understanding the needs from the perspective of age. E.g. the old age wish list comprised of items that would ensure social security for them like old age pension, old age shelter home etc, the middle age group wish list comprised items like seed bank, credit institution, better infrastructural facilities like hospitals, electricity, roads, drainage, PDS at ward level, better implementation welfare programme (curbing corruption) etc. The younger group wish list contained items like park, Gym, skill-training institution, computer training institution with Internet facility, career-counseling center etc.

In the table ahead the wish list made across all the five Gram Panchayats has been divided into broad categories, which are:

agriculture	Health	Infrastructure	Education	Social Security	others
Irrigation for land	TBAs in GPs	Milk Marketing	Proper running of schools	Improvement of Dalit Basti	Curbing corruption in implementation of schemes
Timely availability of seed & agriculture	Proper running of PHC	Electricity supply	School Building (construction & maintenance)	Proper running of PDS system	Removing land encroachments – especially encroachment by strongmen
Kisan credit cards to the deserving	Availability of medicine in sub PHCs	Construction & proper maintenance of roads, drainage etc	Checking drop out from schools	Universilization of old age scheme	Special provisions for the Handicapped
Lack of animal hospitals & artificial insemination facilities	Proper sanitation facilities in village	Play ground, Parks	Scholarships to poor students	Old age shelter homes	Generation of employment opportunities
Fodder for livestock	Proper functioning of Anganwadi Kendra	Bank Branches at GP level	Computer education centers at GP level		Setting up of small industries
Training on allied agricultural activities		Public information centers	Special financial support to poor girls for education		Credit support for starting new initiatives

The table above gives an idea on the direction on which future development should focus at. The broad category should be guiding parameters for designing any development interventions at GP level.

Space for Comments