#### Wage Labour Movements in Rural Western India: Patterns, Causes and Implications

### Czech Conroy Natural Resources Institute University of Greenwich



#### **Survey Blocks and Villages**

Block	Village	Distance from
		Udaipur city (kms)
Girwa	Patukheda	56
	Sagatdi	50
Jhadol	Goran	c.50
	Malpur	c. 50
Kotra	Hasreta	151
	Tulikhaket	81
Pratapgark	n Haripura	?
	Mhendi Kheda	140

### Types of migrant work by village

	Construct	Agric Lab	Driving	Other
Patukheda	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Sagatdi	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Goran	$\checkmark$			
Malpur	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$
Hasreta	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$
Tulikakhet	$\checkmark$			✓(mining)
Haripura	$\checkmark$			
Mhendi Kheda	~			$\checkmark$

# Male migrant labour and its duration in 2 villages

	Type of	Work	Duration	(months)
	Agriculture	Non-Agric	Up to 6	Above 6
Tulikhaket (42 men)	0	42	9	33
Hasreta (60 men)	30 (M&F)	59 (M&F)	22	38

### **Types of Non-Farm Work & their Duration in Sagatdi village**

Type of work	Numbers	Months
Outside Udaipur district (e.g. gas factory, Gujarat)	15	10
Drivers (tractor/truck)	6	10
Assistant in trucks etc.	12	10
Sand extraction & road construction	20	8-10
Sand extraction & road construction	30-40	4-6

#### Incomes (Rupees) & Educational Levels of Migrants in 1 village of Jhadol Block

Educational	No. of	Mean daily	Mean income
status	migration	wage (Rps)	p.a. from
	days		migrant work
Illiterate	137.5	29.9	4108
Primary education	169.3	76.1	12880
Secondary education	239.4	91.2	21833

#### Relationship between Income, Type of Work and Duration

Type of work	Days of migrant work per year	Mean daily income
Unskilled labour	157	47
Skilled labour	180	79
Salaried workers	360	133

#### **Reasons for migration by type of work**

Type of work	Predominant driver(s)
Unskilled labour	Push
Semi-skilled labour	Push and pull
Skilled/salaried work	Pull

#### **Push Factors: Farm and Off-Farm**

- Declining farm size (and livestock units per household)
- Reduced access to off-farm natural resources
  - forests
  - pastures
  - water bodies
- Seasonal scarcity of water and fodder
- Erosion of coping strategies for drought

# Declining contribution of CPRs in coping with drought - Sagatdi

Coping mechanism	1972	1987	1999/2000
Sell/use NTFP(gums,fruits)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	Х
Sell wood/charcoal	$\checkmark$		Х
Fodder available	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	Х
Irrigation-some water available	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	Very little
Animal husbandry spreads risk	$\checkmark$		Less animals
Liquid assets sold - smallstock	$\checkmark$	✓ less	✓ even less

#### Summary of attitudes towards ownfarm agriculture in Pratapgarh

- This is generally preferred to casual labour because:
- It's a more certain source of food than labour
- Casual labour is seen by some as a kind of bondage
- Wage labour outside the village is full of hassles (accommodation issues, exploitative labour contractors and police, threats to women, etc)

## **Potential implications – requiring research**

- Impact on women's farm work
- Impact on farm maintenance & investment
- Impact on men's well-being & on gender relations
- AIDS, STD & women's livelihoods
- Impact on women's financial position & vulnerability

### Thank you for your attention