

“KRIKHAK BAZAR”

The pandemic of COVID-19 has brought in an unprecedented experience in the ecosystem of socio-economic scenario. In Golaghat, around 75% of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities. During Lockdown period, the farmers were struggling for a market to sale their produce. Therefore, to provide a platform, a model namely 'KRISHAK BAZAR' was mooted out so as to ameliorate the gap of the producer and the market. The concept of Krishak Bazar acted as flip to garner the confidence of the distressed farmer whose produce was supposed to be damaged in the field itself.

Under the initiative of District Administration, Golaghat and in co-ordination with the office of the District Agriculture Officer, Golaghat and Golaghat Municipal Board, it was decided that a model of 'farmers' vegetable market' would be brought in to give direct access to the farmers where they would sell their vegetable produce at a reasonable price during Lockdown. Accordingly, the unutilized bus stand at Aerangapara was selected for the purpose.

The lockdown, due to the pandemic, imposed certain restrictions, resulting in a centralised system of distributing network of essential services; one such being door to door availability of vegetables by vehicles permitted by municipality to operate within designated wards of the town. At the same time, all kinds of bazars, hats etc are to remain close during the period of lockdown. However, during this period, the administration gathered two types of information which were diabolical in nature viz.:-

- i) Farmers under distress were looking for a market and they were compelled to sell their produce at throwaway price or allowed to perish the produce in the field itself;
- ii) On the other hand, the consumers in an around of the Golaghat township were paying very high prices in the plea of non-availability/shortage of vegetables either at the doorstep or in the market.

In the backdrop of such scenario, a meeting was organised by the District Administration with Agriculture Department and Golaghat Municipal Board under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Golaghat. A sustainable model of a *wholesale vegetable market* for the lockdown period was the need of the hour which can cater to the demand of the town area at affordable prices and at the same time, a wholesale market for the farmers where they can sell their produce at reasonable prices. Accordingly, a model was decided on with three (3) key principles:

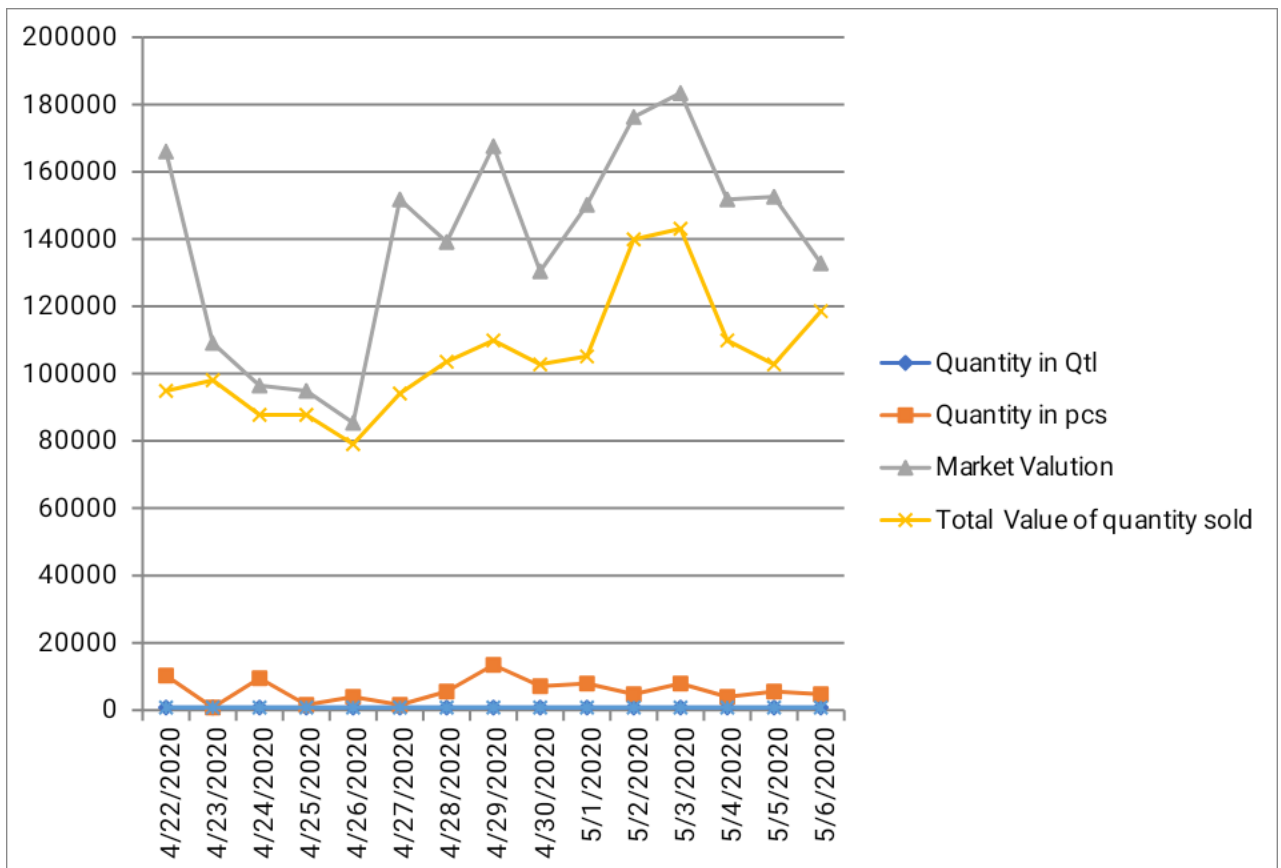
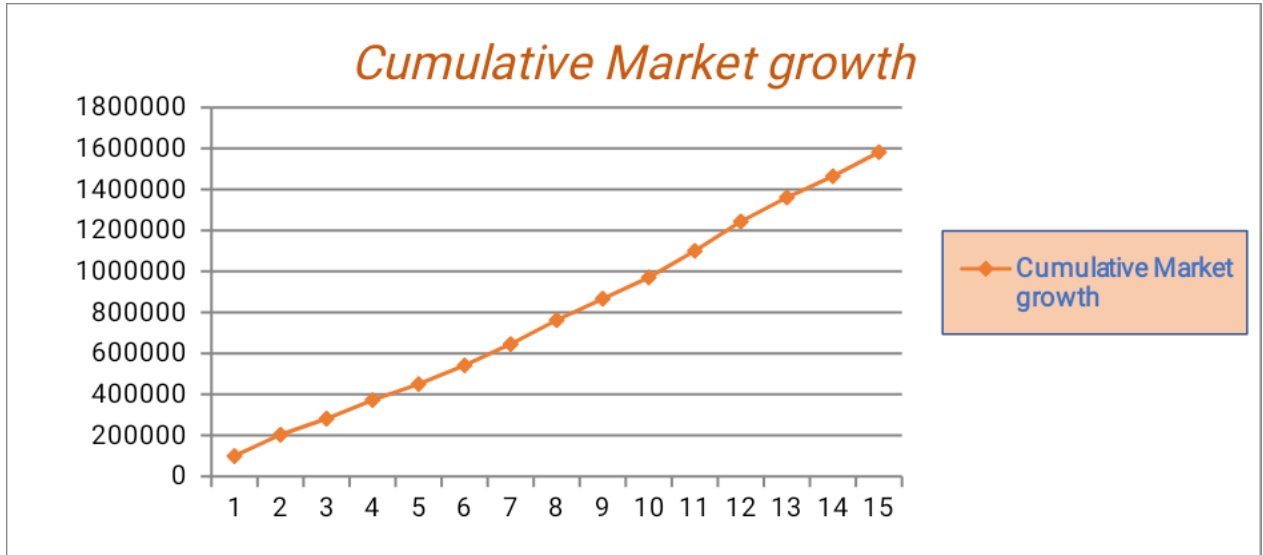
1. Municipality will calculate and place an approximate quantitative demand for different vegetables for the consecutive day before the Agriculture Dept.
2. As per demand received, Agriculture Department will then identify the Circles for supply, and place approximate quantitative requirement/supply to the concerned ADOs.
3. ADOs shall then identify and give the input to the farmers of his/her respective Circle. The farmers will make preparations accordingly to bring his/her produce next morning at the wholesale market, to be bought by retailers having permits of

municipality for door to door delivery.

Data Analysis of the first fifteen days of the wholesale market:

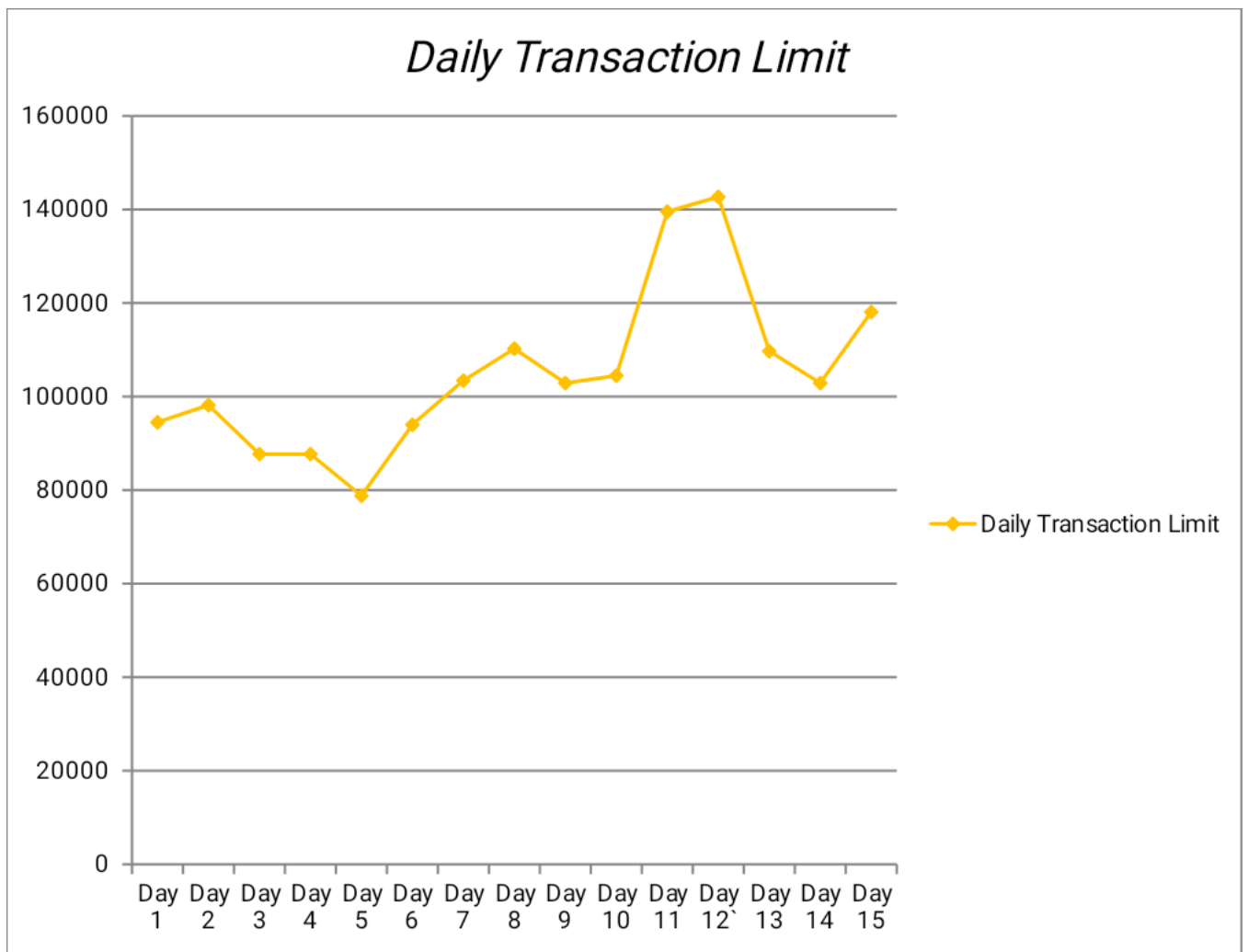
The market started at six in the morning of 22nd of April, 2020. A team comprising of officials from Agriculture Dept and Municipality led by District Administration put in place to coordinate and push for sustainability of the nascent model. All raw data pertaining to demand/supply are maintained in a standard format so as to be later processed for interpretation.

Date	Quantity in Qtl	Quantity in pcs	Market Valuation	Total Value of quantity sold	Supply Demand difference	Cumulative Market growth	Remarks
22-04-20	86.93	9770	165947	94465	43.0752	94465	First day uncertainty
23-04-20	83.27	437	108793	97833	10.07418	192298	Stable
24-04-20	26.83	9460	96438	87473	9.296128	279771	Stable
25-04-20	43.27	1343	94507	87395	7.525368	367166	Stable
26-04-20	40.82	3210	85158	78558	7.750299	445724	Stable but Rainy Weather
27-04-20	70.98	1215	151084	93996	37.7856	539720	Excess supply of Ginger
28-04-20	62.11	5161	138550	103072	25.60664	642792	Diversified commodities
29-04-20	58.81	12956	167400	109721	34.45579	752513	Excess supply of Ginger & Pumpkin
30-04-20	70.68	6485	129906	102521	21.08063	855034	Excess supply of Tomato & Pumpkin
01-05-20	54.84	7221	149647	104426	30.21845	959460	Excess supply of king chilli & Pumpkin
02-05-20	84.51	4224	175514	139502	20.51802	1098962	Stable
03-05-20	84.83	7570	182752	142542	22.0025	1241504	Excess of Ridge Gourd, Ginger tomato & Pumpkin
04-05-20	77.19	3800	151149	109298	27.68857	1350802	Excess of cabbage, tomato, assamese potato. Lockdown 3.0 started
05-05-20	80.48	4829	151891	102643	32.42325	1453445	Assam lemon, ridge guard and cabbage in large quantities. Farmers preferred to stock for next day. Price of green chilli coming down
06-05-20	53.91	4479	132217	118002	10.75126	1571447	stable



Day 1	94465
Day 2	97833

Day 3	87473
Day 4	87395
Day 5	78558
Day 6	93996
Day 7	103072
Day 8	109721
Day 9	102521
Day 10	104426
Day 11	139502
Day 12	142542
Day 13	109298
Day 14	102643
Day 15	118002



The above data analysis portrays the market dynamics irrespective of day to day challenges. The first day humble beginning with 16 variety of vegetables which has

extrapolated to around 50 variegated items. The turnover of the market had the humble beginning of Rs.94,465/- which has registered at around Rs.1.60 lacs per day. Around 979.46 Quintals of vegetables produce in first 15days were sold in the market.

Now, Golaghat is self-sufficient with its own vegetables produce in the field except few items like- spike gourd, point gourd, cauliflower etc. simultaneously similar market is being practiced in Dergaon also for the benefit of the local farmers.

Experience suggests that for the first time, the farmers are getting market price without the sword of Damocles of middlemen. The platform has boosted the local cultivators. The system has reassured the farmers to become interdependently independence.

The officers and staff engaged in the activities:

- 1.Papu Gogoi, ACS, Asst Commissioner, Golaghat.
- 2.Santanu Dutta, ADO
- 3.Sanjeev Saikia, ADO
- 4.Siddartha Dutta, ADO
- 5.Jaya Goswami, ADO
- 6.Rupam Kakoty, ADO
- 7.Sanjeev Saikia, ADO
- 8.Sanghamitra Sarma, ADO
- 9.Arup Jyoti Bordoloi, APART official
- 10.Pranab Gogoi, APART official
- 11.Arunjyoti Phukan, APART official
- 12.Jitu Gogoi, Assistant
- 13.Ajit Kalita, Assistant
- 14.Nitupal Saikia, Assistant