

# **Walking Towards Food Sovereignty: Politics of Food in Santhal Life-World**



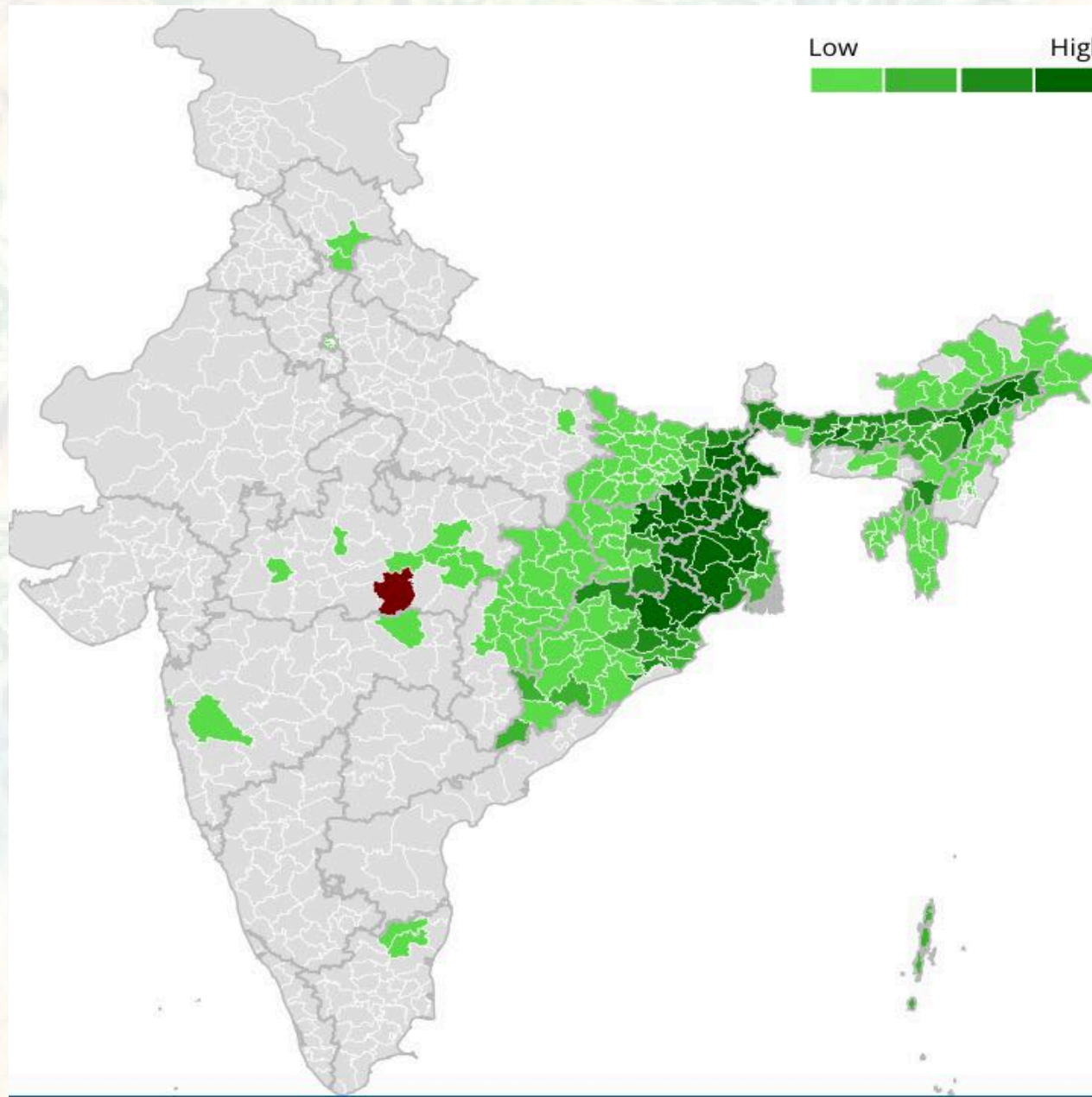
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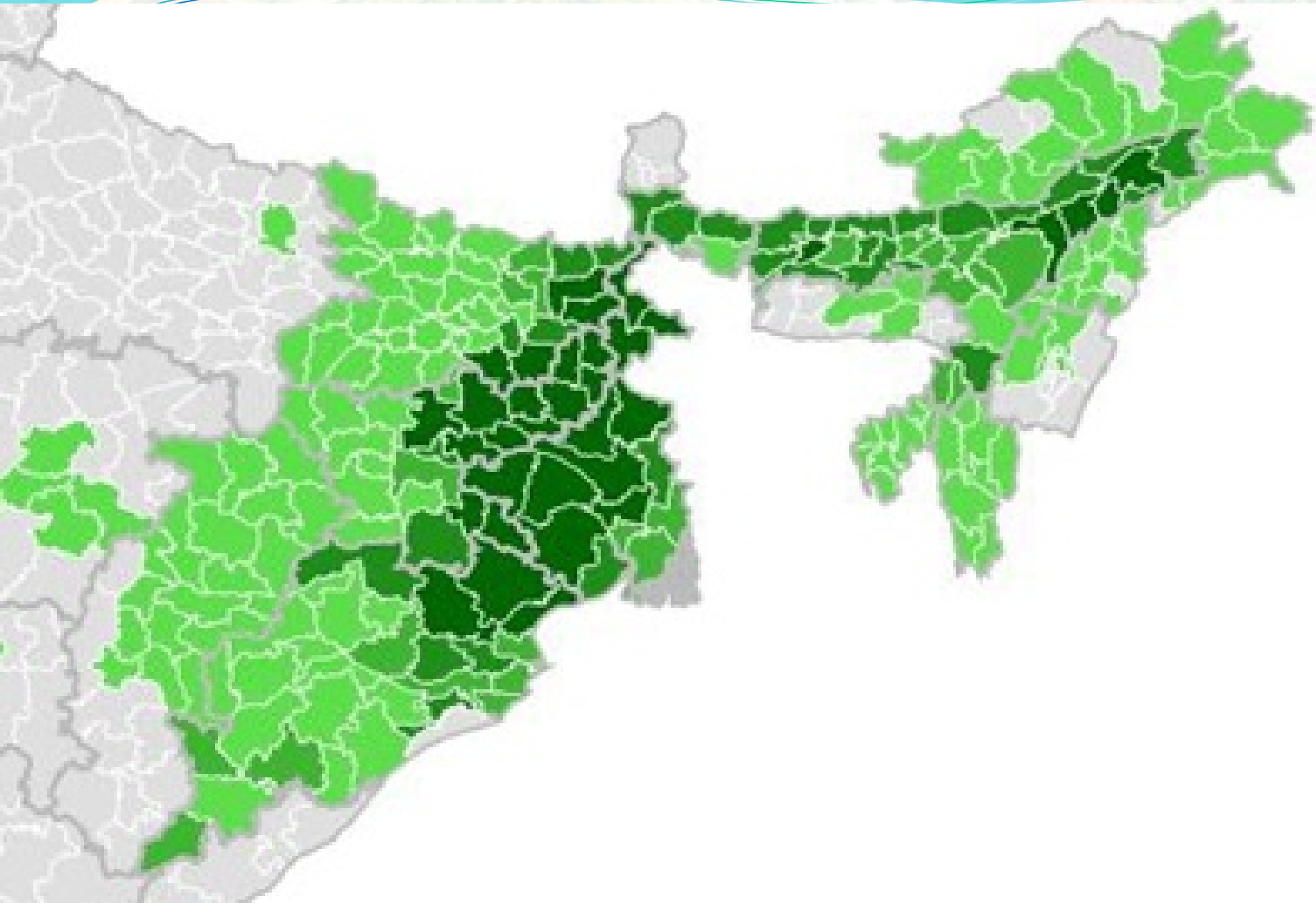
## **Santhal Community:**

- **Tribal**
- **Settled in the region during 19-20<sup>th</sup> century**
- **Great Agriculturist and Great Hunters**
- **Law Obeying Community**

# SANTHAL



# SANTHAL





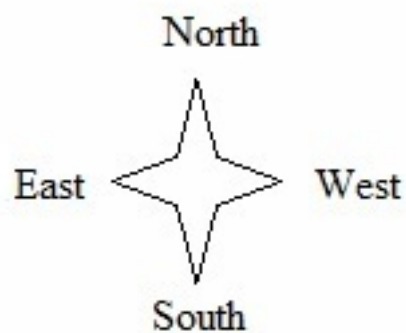
**Bihar**

**Jharkhand**

North  
South  
East  
West

**Jharkhand**

## Jharkhand



## **Chakai:**

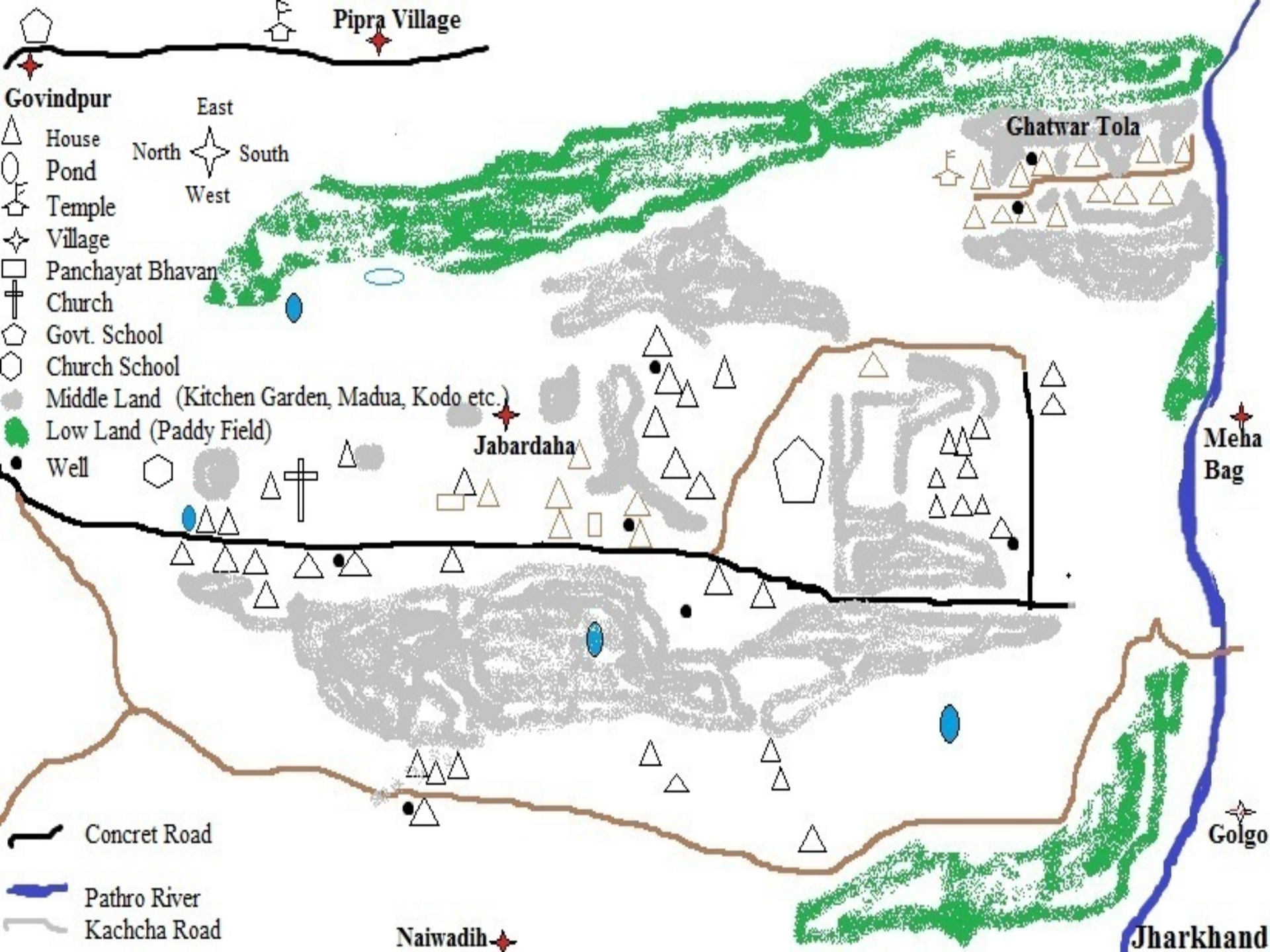
- **Western Boundary of Santhal**
- **Immigration of Caste Hindu**
- **Deforestation**
- **‘Modernization’ of Agriculture**
- **Migration**
- **Permanent Dependency**













# **Food Security:**

- **Production Centric**
- **Carbohydrate Centric**
- **Top-Down Approach**
- **Dependency**

# **Reformed Food Security:**

- **Consumption Centric**
- **Health Centric**
- **Marketized**
- **Dichotomy: Production Vs Hunger**
- **Non-Material Meanings of Food Still Missing**
- **Neglects Diversity of Food System**
- **Further Increases Dependency**

# Food Sovereignty:

- **Community Centric**
- **Small Scale Farming**
- **Organic Farming**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Localism**
- **Women**
- **Prices Vs Value**



# **Critique of Food Sovereignty:**

- **Does not talk about Poorest of the Poor**
- **Anti-Trade**
- **Does not address food shortage**
- **Slow**

## **But Still:**

- **Still Health Centric**
- **Largely Production Centric**
- **Materialist**
- **Over- Romanticization**
- **Dependency**
- **Fits into Neo-Liberal Regime**



# **Development Practice: Interventions**

- **Rejects Revivalist/Reformist Approach**
- **Re-Imaginative Approach**



## **My Work Addresses:**

- **Gape Between Production, Consumption and Distribution**
- **Both Materialist & Structural**
- **Beyond Health**
- **Beyond Dependency Model**
- **Jackfruit as Reference Point**

# Why Jackfruit

- It give space for consumption centric approach
- Rejects Dependency
- Rejects both revivalist as well as reformist approach

# **Santhal-Jackfruit**

- **Part of Kitchen Garden**
- **Cultural relation**
- **One of the most important fruit of Hindustan**
- **Stigmatization**
- **Some varieties has been lost**
- **Loss of sovereignty over local food system**
- **Endangered their Food security**



# Method:

- Inside-Out—Outside-In
- Politics of Space
- Theatre



## **Theatre:**

- **First Two Women Theatre Group of Chakai (Ghatwari & Santhal)**
- **More than 100 performances across Chakai**
- **Worked on six script (Agriculture, Health, Violence against Women)**
- **Jackfruit & Theatre Coming Together**

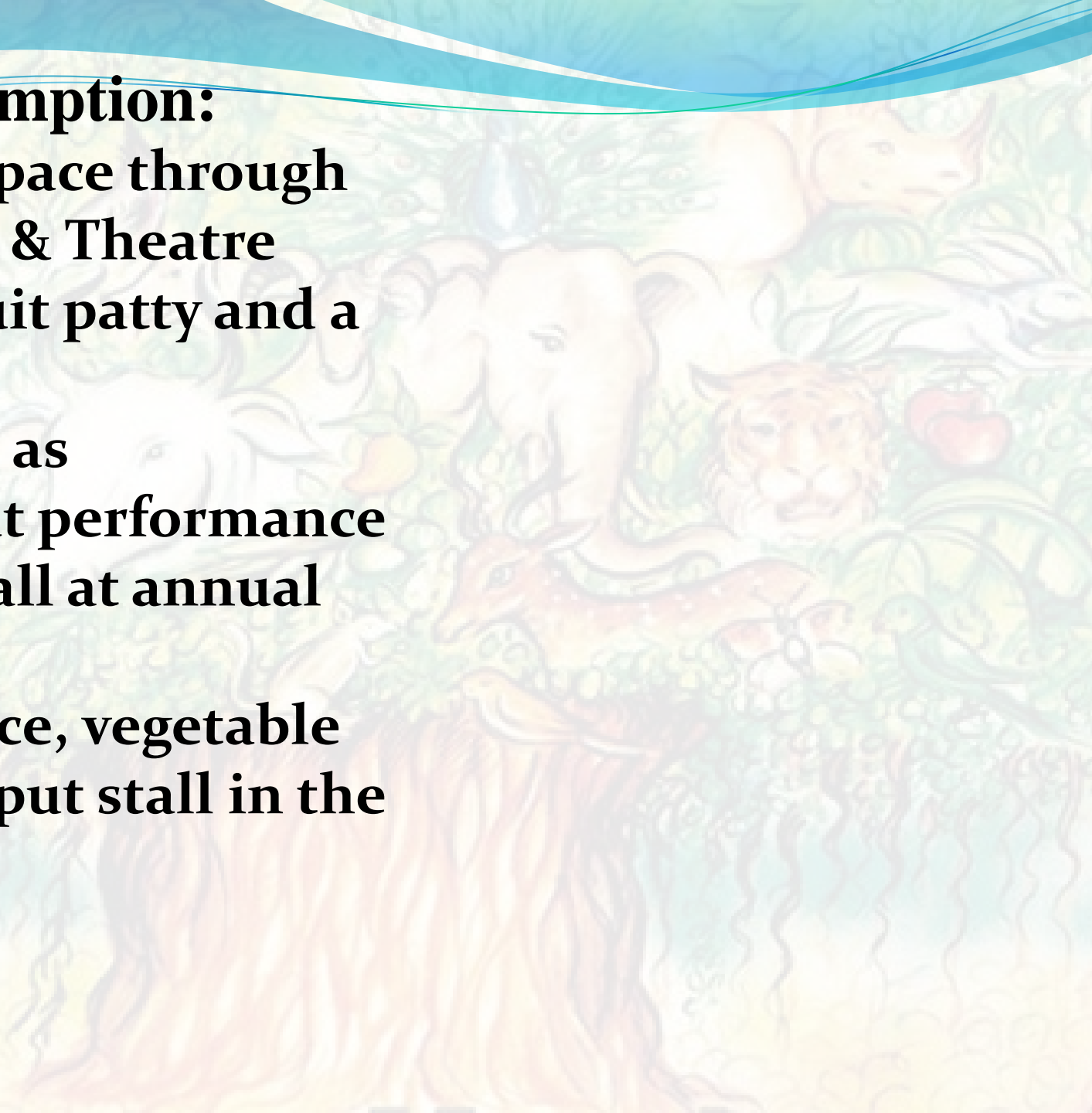
# Theatre and Jackfruit

- Food centric scripts
- Food Calendar
- Male Jackfruit flowers
- Male jackfruit flower patty, pickle,
- Ripen Jackfruit Halwa
-



## **Consumption:**

- **Kitchen as space through food calendar & Theatre**
- **Male jackfruit patty and a kind of pickle**
- **Distributed as refreshment at performance**
- **Jackfruit Stall at annual meet**
- **Failure: sauce, vegetable**
- **Planned to put stall in the other fairs**



## **Distribution:**

- **Local Haats**
- **Community to Community Distribution**
- **Surplus Produces**
- **Vegetable Market**

## **Production:**

- Lost varieties
- Grafting
- Plantation
- Pruning
- Medication



## **Conclusion:**

- **Action as Method**
- **Politics of Space**
- **Inside Out—Outside In**





# **Thank You**

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