

### **Description/story for the pictures (pdf, 300-350 words) \***

These pictures were taken as part of my MPhil research in Majuli to understand the Re-theorizing livelihood practices due to twin process of flood and river bank erosion, soil and its materiality for community also how it has changed over decades.

The manifestation of flood in Assam has been a perennial occurrence in Brahmaputra valley and it has been boon and sorrow for the community at the same time. The potter community '*Kumars*' from Salmora (Majuli, Assam) expressed this artistry has been the mainstay of the livelihood and income as the men from the household sail to Sadia, Tezpur, Lakhimpur districts and other neighboring districts to sell the pots on their country made boats. The income generated from it is used as a means of sustenance to cope from deluge. However, due to the rapid flood and river bank erosion, it has been continuously eroding/washing away the '*Kumar matti*' shown in first and second picture used by the potters as they face existential crisis of their traditional livelihood and it has been now dwindling due to the rapid floods. Kumar community from both Dakshinpat Kumar Gaon and Salmora has gone through a major crisis due to river bank erosions per se; the loss of specific types of soil for pottery making has created threat for the traditional livelihood acutely. This in turn affects the islander primarily women potters' source of income. As seen in the first picture this type of clay is obtained from clay pits from about twenty-five to thirty feet depth near the river banks and the sources for this clay are extremely limited. Largely, this clay can be procured from riverbanks, which is constantly eroding. Over the year the traditional potters are forced to use sand or use inferior quality soil (a type of soil locally called '*Lodha-maati*') this not only gives the pots a low-quality finish but also potters get less price for such pots.