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Agricultural productivity growth in Orissa, India: Crop diversification to pulses, oilseeds and other high value crops

A. Amarender Reddy

International Crops Research Institute for Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, Hyderabad, India.

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The extent of India's regional disparities has been an issue since many decades, and this concern has been partly motivated by a desire to alleviate poverty. Agriculture remains an important feature of the economic, cultural and political landscape in India. Orissa is one of the poorest States in India. Over the last four decades, there has been stagnation in agriculture in Orissa. During the period 1991 to 2008 the growth rate of agriculture in Orissa is lower than all India. Orissa agriculture is highly concentrated in low productive and high water consuming paddy cultivation with little diversification towards pulses, oilseeds and other high value crops (HVCs): included sugarcane, fruits and vegetables etc., which fetch higher net returns. It is also characterized by low use of fertilizer, energy and irrigation per unit area compared to other states. There is a need for increase in area under certified seed, irrigation and other productivity enhancing inputs to increase farmers' income in all crops. There are perceptible regional disparities with the Coastal Plain having a distinct advantage in agricultural production compared to the Central Table Land region, Northern Plateau and Eastern Ghats regions as better initial socio-economic conditions in the Coastal plains in 1971 are having positive influence in growth in later years. Significant income gains are possible through crop diversification from paddy to pulses, oilseeds and HVCs in upland rain fed areas in kharif (rainy) season, if proper drainage, institutional and policy support is provided in Eastern Ghats and Northern Plateau of Orissa.

Key words: Sugarcane, oilseeds, productivity, diversification.

INTRODUCTION

The extent of India's regional disparities has been an issue since at least independence, and this concern has been partly motivated by a desire to alleviate poverty (Datt and Ravallion, 1996). Agriculture remains an important feature of the economic, cultural and political landscape in India. Datt and Ravallion (1996) demonstrated that the poverty responds more to rural and agricultural economic growth than urban economic growth in developing countries. In the post-green revolution period, particularly in Asia, productivity growth has been sustained through increased input use and,

more recently, through more efficient use of inputs (Pingali and Heisey, 1999). India is divided into 28 states on administrative reasons. Regional perspectives of the development discourse were seen in the writings of Myrdal (1957) suggesting cumulative causation and core periphery models, which were elaborated upon by many other studies. They were of the view that regional imbalances were likely to widen in the absence of state intervention and narrow with politically necessary interventions, till finally the periphery becomes a beneficiary of the external economies of the core

*Corresponding author. E-mail: a.amarenderreddy@cgiar.org.

(Williamson, 1965). However, after 50 years of planned development in India, many backward regions remain backward. Recently both inequalities among states and inequalities among districts or regions within states are growing across many states due to misguided policy (Audirac, 1997; Kurian, 2000).

Orissa is one of the poorest states located in eastern India where about 85% of the population lives in rural areas (Map 1). Agriculture is the mainstay of the State's economy, providing employment to about 65% of the total work force, but it contributed only 22.5% to the net state domestic production in 2009 to 2010. More than 46% of the population lives below the poverty line in rural areas, as against 37% for all India in 2004 to 2005. Percentage of small farmers (with less than 2 ha of land) is about 57% and landless laborers are about 36% of total households in rural Orissa (Mishra, 2009). In most of the development indicators, Orissa is backward compared to other states (Orissa Development Report, 2004) with large populations of scheduled tribes (22%) and scheduled castes (17%) who are socio-economically backward compared to other population. Orissa is 15.5 million hectare (mha) in geographical area, of which about 5.6 mha is cultivated land with a cropping intensity of 160%, indicating 60% of the net sown area is cultivated with two crops per year. The net irrigated area is 2.0 mha which is 35% of net cropped areas. Roughly 78% of the irrigation potential created is actually utilized as on 2010. Still more than 80% of gross cropped area is occupied by food crops like food grains and oilseeds with subsistence agriculture. The state is characterized by under utilization of natural resources like land and water, with large area under forests and hence is suffering from low productivity.

Orissa is divided into four regions namely coastal plain (CP), central table land (CTL), northern plateau (NP), and eastern ghats (EG) (Reddy, 2009c). The CP region is most prosperous region with an area of 26% of the state. The districts under this region are Baleswar, Cuttack, Puri and Ganjam. The average annual rainfall is about 1454 mm. The soils of this region are mostly alluvial. This region is with the highest land productivity in the state. The CTL region covers an area of 24% of state comprising of districts Bolangir, Dhenkanal, and Sambalpur. The table land gradually rises from east to west and the elevation is within 300 m above mean sea level (MSL). The average annual rainfall of the region is 1484 mm. This region has light to medium textured red soils with low fertility. In addition, there are alluvial soils on hill slopes and river valleys with higher paddy productivity possible. The NP region is a plateau which covers about 18% of the area of the state. There are a number of hill ranges rising to an elevation of 600 to 900m above MSL. This region is comprised of districts namely Mayurbhanj, Kendujhar and Sundargarh. The average annual rainfall is about 1610 mm. The soils in the ridges and slopes are susceptible to erosion. These

soils are acidic and have low fertility with low productivity. The EG region is one of the most backward region, and most of the well known KBK districts fall in this region which occupies the southern part of the state with 32% of the area of the state covering Koraput, Kalahandi and Phulbani districts. The average annual rainfall is about 1500 mm. Soils have low to medium fertility. It is the poorest region with highest scheduled tribes (ST) and scheduled caste (SC) population with lowest literacy rates (Figure 1).

Since the formation of the Orissa state in 1936, the state government has given utmost priority exclusively to the CP ignoring more than half of the population of the state inhabited in about 73% of land area. Orissa is inhabited by more than 24% of tribal population concentrated mostly in EG and NP and CTL regions of the state. Due to the negligence of all successive state governments, the development of these three patches is far behind the CP by any parameter even though these regions are full of minerals and natural resources. The successive governments also concentrated on every developmental activity in and around the state capital Bhubaneswar (which is also located in CP) at the cost of neglected regions like EG, NP and CTL. Since last two decades, many developmental programs were introduced into lagging regions but still these regions are not able to catch up.

In the backdrop of high rural poverty, backward agriculture sector and distinct regional differences in Orissa agricultural sector, the paper explores:

1. What is the productivity levels of Orissa compared to other competing states and all India?
2. Explore the reasons for backward agricultural sector, low growth rates in productivity and production of major crops like paddy, pulses and oilseeds during 1971-2008
3. Examine the reasons for high concentration of area under low productive kharif paddy and low crop diversification to pulses, oilseeds and HVCs and
4. Keeping high regional disparities in Orissa, the paper also examined regional variations in agricultural productivity and efficiency and what are the choices to increase production at district level?

METHODOLOGY

Data

Inter-state comparison of agricultural sector with special emphasis on Orissa is done from 1971 to 2008 by using data from statistical abstracts of various states. The district level data of Orissa on agricultural production, other development indicators like markets, credit etc., was examined to know the regional or district level variation in agricultural sector. The ICRISAT district level database from 1971 to 2008 is used for the study. The analysis is done for the old undivided 13 districts for the purpose of showing changes in development indicators since 1971, though 13 districts were divided into 30 districts in 1993. The whole study period from 1971 to 2008 is divided in to two periods (Period-I: 1971 to 1990 representing

Table 1. Percentage area under different crops in 1971, 1991 and 2008 in Orissa.

Crop	1971	1991	2008
Paddy	66.1	45.9	50.0
Other cereals	6.3	5.8	5.0
Pulses	12.5	22.2	22.0
Food grains (cereals plus pulses)	84.9	73.9	77.0
Oil seeds	4.9	12.1	9.0
Food crops (cereals plus oilseeds)	89.8	86.0	86.0
Fibre crops (jute and mesta)	1.2	0.9	1.0
HVCs (Sugarcane, vegetables, fruits, spices, cotton)	8.1	12.4	13.0
All crops	100	100	100
GCA (m ha)	5.6	6.3	9.0
Cropping Intensity (%)	133	141	158

Source: Orissa Agricultural Statistics (2011), various issues.

2. Gross Irrigated Area (1000 ha),
3. Rural Agricultural Workers (1000 nos),
4. Total adult male buffalo and cattle population,
5. Tractor (number of tractors),
6. Fertilizer use (tons),
7. Area under HYVs (1000 ha) and
8. Time (years). The variables which may influence the efficiency of a district are
 - (i) Loans (Rs. 1000),
 - (ii) Rainfall (mm),
 - (iii) Rural literates (1000 nos),
 - (iv) Length of roads (km),
 - (v) Pulses area (1000 ha),
 - (vi) Oilseeds area (1000 ha),
 - (vii) HVCs area (1000 ha),
 - (viii) Central Table Land dummy,
 - (ix) Eastern Ghat dummy and
 - (x) Coastal Plain dummy. All variables are in log-form except regional dummies and time.

The stochastic production function, defined in equation (1), is a linearised approximation of a Cobb-Douglas production function, hence the regression coefficients are direct estimates of elasticity of GVAP for respective input. Using the elasticities of GVAP (Y_{it}) with respect to area under pulses, oilseeds and HVCs (sugarcane, cotton, fruits and vegetables and spices) one can estimate the Value of Marginal Product (VMP) per one unit (per ha) shift in area from paddy to pulses, oilseeds and HVCs.

$$\text{VMP/ ha of pulses area} = \beta_{(\text{pulses area})} * (Y/\text{pulses area}) \quad (3)$$

$$\text{VMP/ha of oilseed area} = \beta_{(\text{oil seed area})} * (Y/\text{oilseed area}) \quad (4)$$

$$\text{VMP/ha of HVCs area} = \beta_{(\text{HVCs area})} * (Y/\text{HVCs area}) \quad (5)$$

RESULTS

Stagnation in agricultural production and productivity

Out of the Gross Cropped Area (GCA) of 9.0 mha in

2008, 77% is under food grains. Thus, only 23% of the GCA was under non-food grains, which includes oilseeds, fibre crops, and HVCs. Paddy occupies about 50% of GCA, followed by pulses (22%), oilseeds (9%) and HVCs (13%). Area under paddy decreased from 66% in 1971 to 46% in 1991, then again increased to 50% by 2008, while area under oilseeds increased from 4.9% in 1971 to 12% in 1991, then declined to 9%, and pulses area increased from 12.5% in 1971 to 22% in 2008 (Table 1). Area under HVCs increased from 8.1% in 1971 to 13% of GCA in 2008. Cropping intensity increased from 133 % in 1971 to 158% in 2008.

Over all, food grain production increased from 5.6 million tons (mt) during triennium ending average (TE) 1973 to 7.4 mt in TE 2008, entirely contributed by increase in paddy production from 4.2 mt in TE 1973 to 6.0 mt in TE 2008. Pulses production stagnant at 0.8 mt and oilseed production is also stagnant at about 0.5 to 0.6 mt (Table 2). This indicated the dominance and increased importance of paddy in the state. However, productivity of paddy still low, increased slowly from 964 kg/ha to 1335 kg/ha in Orissa, whereas it increased from 1312 kg/ha in period-I to 1940 kg/ha in Period-II for all India. Productivity of pulses declined (from 503 kg/ha to 441 kg/ha) and oilseeds stagnant (from 683 kg/ha to 669 kg/ha) between two periods. The productivity of all major crops was lower in Orissa than all India in both the periods. During Period-I, growth in production of food grains is lower in Orissa compared to all India, while growth in pulses and oilseeds is higher. During Period-II, the growth rates for all the crops (food grains; including paddy, pulses and oilseeds) in production, area and productivity are lower (and reduced) in Orissa than all India. This shows the decline or stagnation in Orissa agricultural sector during both the periods, but it is alarming during recent period. The over emphasis on paddy at the cost of pulses, oilseeds and other HVCs resulted in stagnation in productivity of the later crops during period-II (Reddy, 2004, 2009a; Reddy et al., 2011).

Table 2. Trends in area, production and productivity of major crops.

Parameter	Year	TE 1973 (period-I)		TE 2008 (period-II)	
		Orissa	India	Orissa	India
Food	Area (mha)	6.6 (0.89)	125.8 (0.15)	6.7 (-0.34)	122.6 (-0.13)
	Production (mt)	5.6 (2.46)	129.0 (2.64)	7.4 (0.69)	196.6 (1.27)
	Yield (kg/ha)	847 (1.57)	1024 (2.49)	1089 (1.02)	1603 (1.40)
Paddy	Area (mha)	4.4 (-0.42)	39.6 (0.54)	4.5 (-0.05)	43.3 (0.13)
	Production (mt)	4.2 (1.50)	52.3 (2.83)	6.0 (0.78)	83.6 (1.26)
	Yield (kg/ha)	964 (1.92)	1312 (2.29)	1335 (0.82)	1940 (1.16)
Pulses	Area (mha)	1.6 (4.92)	22.9 (0.16)	1.8 (-0.69)	22.5 (-0.10)
	Production (mt)	0.8 (6.02)	11.6 (0.92)	0.8 (-2.14)	13.3 (0.25)
	Yield (kg/ha)	503 (1.10)	504 (0.76)	441 (-1.45)	592 (0.36)
Oilseed	Area (mha)	0.7 (7.10)	18.2 (1.37)	0.9 (-2.67)	25.3 (0.04)
	Production (mt)	0.5 (8.09)	10.9 (3.05)	0.6 (-3.38)	22.2 (1.54)
	Yield (kg/ha)	683 (0.99)	595 (1.68)	669 (-0.72)	873 (1.49)

Note. Figures in parentheses are annual compound growth rates (%) in Period-I and Period-II.

Table 3. Inter-state comparison of Indicators of Agricultural Development TE 2008.

State	Orissa	West Bengal	Andhra Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Punjab	Haryana	India
Productivity of food grains (kg/ha)	1348	2332	2120	1177	3964	2862	1717
% irrigated area to GCA	27.5	27.5	43.1	25.8	94.1	78.8	38.7
Credit-deposit ratio (%)	39.8	45.2	63.8	49.2	39.1	41.4	50.8
Bank branches/1000 (km ²)	3.9	8.3	4.7	3	5.9	4.2	6.0
Agril. GDP (Rs./ha)	11839	39872	21443	10881	41534	33741	22907
Poverty (%)	48	31.9	11.1	37.1	6.4	8.3	20.6

Source. Annual Statistical Abstracts (2011) of various States.

Comparison of Orissa agriculture with other States

The comparative status of Orissa in agricultural sector for the TE 2008 is presented in Table 3. The productivity of food grains in Orissa was much lower (1348 kg/ha) than the neighboring States like West Bengal (2332 kg/ha) and Andhra Pradesh (2120 kg/ha) was equivalent to less developed state like Madhya Pradesh (1177 kg/ha). The average productivity of paddy (single most important crop in Orissa) is only 1348 kg/ha compared to the all India average of 2046 kg/ha. The reason for low productivity of paddy in the state is that, it was cultivated mostly in kharif (rainy) season (about 93% of total paddy area is from kharif season) which is characterized by low and uncertain productivity as most of the area is rain-fed. Development indicators like fertilizer consumption (just 43.8 kg/ha in Orissa compared to 136 kg/ha in West

Bengal and 155.5 kg/ha in Andhra Pradesh), Credit Deposit ratio (40% in Orissa as against 51% for all India) and number of bank branches/1000 km² (3.9 in Orissa as against 6 for all India) in Orissa were one of the lowest in India (Reddy, 2006). Irrigated area is just 27.5% of total cropped area in Orissa as against national average of 38.7%, even though the state had higher irrigation potential with many perennial rivers with annual rainfall of 1400 mm against national average of 1100 mm. Even though gross irrigated area is less, most of the irrigated area is occupied by paddy (65% of GIA), followed by vegetables (17% of GIA), pulses (7% of GIA) and oilseeds (5% of GIA) (Orissa Development Report, 2004). As a result of all these factors, agricultural GDP/ha is just Rs 11839 /ha in Orissa as against Rs 39872/ha in West Bengal and Rs 21443/ha in Andhra Pradesh in TE 2008.

Overall, it appears that low input use per ha (including

Table 4. Power consumption for agriculture as percent of total consumption.

Year	Power consumption for agriculture as % of total consumption		power consumption (million units) for agriculture	Fertilizer consumption (kg/ha)	
	Orissa	India		Orissa	India
	1991	4.7	26.4	229	20.0
2001	3.1	26.8	186	41.0	90.1
2007	1.4	22.9	130	53.0	115.3

Table 5. Seed replacement rate (%) in TE 2008.

State	Paddy	Maize	Urd	Moong	Arhar	Mustard	Cotton
Orissa	6.0	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.6	17.5	9.0
India	24.2	34.4	16.4	12.6	10.4	56.7	21.6

fertilizer, power etc) and high concentration in paddy, low priority given to pulses and oilseeds characterize the Orissa agricultural sector. There is a need to increase area under irrigation in pulses and oilseeds, by reducing area under high water consuming crops like paddy in both kharif and rabi seasons.

In the last two decades, the use of modern inputs is like fertilizer increased from 20 kg/ha to 53 kg/ha in Orissa, as against from 67.5 to 115 kg/ha for India (Table 4). Share of agricultural sector in total power consumption in Orissa decreased from very lower level of 4.7% to just about 1.4% from 1991 to 2007, while, share of agricultural sector for all India is hovering around 23 to 26% during the same period. In absolute terms also power consumption decreased from 229 million units to 130 million units. It indicates that the agriculture in Orissa is trapped in low input low output vicious cycle. Seed is most important input in increasing agricultural productivity. The seed replacement ratio (SRR) is defined as the percentage of area sowed with new seed every year. It is much lower in Orissa than all India for many crops including main crop paddy (Table 5). To enhance agricultural growth, we need to increase application of inputs like seed, fertilizer, power consumption and irrigated area. The lower SRR is also due to high logistic costs in seed production and distribution in the remote villages with low infrastructure and lack of farmer's ability to pay for high priced seed (Reddy, 2004) resulted in reluctance of private seed companies in the seed distribution. Further, an analysis of trends in the number of operational holdings and area operated reveals that the number of operational holdings with less than 2 ha (small and marginal farmers) increased from 80.3% in 1972 to 83.8% in 2005. Reduced farm size is a hindrance to adopt high input incentive seed fertilizer irrigation agricultural technology (Orissa Development Report, 2004).

Efficiency estimates

The results of Battese and Coelli (1995) model applied to district level data revealed that, GCA, cattle population and number of rural agricultural workers has positive and significant influence on district level GVAP (Table 6). This indicates that the Orissa agricultural sector productivity is still heavily dependent on traditional inputs like GCA, human labour and bullock labour. Another important variable 'time' is not significant, which infer that there is no significant technological progress during the past 37 years. As expected, inefficiency of district crop production is negatively affected by rainfall, number of rural literates, and area under pulses, oilseeds and HVCs. In other words, efficiency at district level is positively and significantly influenced by rainfall, rural literacy, and area under pulses, oilseeds and HVCs. Among regional dummies, EG dummy influenced inefficiency positively, in other words districts of EG are most likely to have low efficiency compared to NP (which is taken as a reference category).

Growing inter-regional differences in agricultural development

Region wise production trends of major crops are given in Table 7. CP was the largest producer of paddy, followed by CTL, EG and NP, but the productivity is higher in CTL (1799 kg/ha), followed by CP (1667 kg/ha), NP (1464 kg/ha) and the least recorded in EG region (1402 kg/ha). While, in case of pulses CP and EG were large producers, in case of productivity all regions reported less than 600 kg/ha which was quite low compared to national average. In case of oilseeds, CP and CTL are large producers with higher productivity. Overall, the productivity, area and production of paddy and oilseeds

Table 6. Regression Results (Battese and Coelli, 1995) model (Dependent variable: log (GVAP of districts in Rs.10000).

Variable	B	t-ratio	Mean
Constant	9.80	0.69	
Gross Cropped Area (1000 ha)	0.69*	6.90	661
Gross Irrigated Area (1000 ha)	-0.01	-0.23	199
Rural Agricultural Workers (1000 nos)	0.10*	1.84	313
Total adult male buffalo and cattle population	0.10*	1.85	1016
Tractor (number of tractors)	0.02	1.51	59
Fertilizer use (tons)	0.01	0.35	14723
Area under HYVs (1000 ha)	0.02	0.67	162
Time (years)	0.001	0.11	
Inefficiency effects			
Constant	4.85	0.34	
Loans (Rs. 1000)	-0.02	-1.29	75784
Rainfall (mm)	-0.15*	-3.80	1417
Rural literates (1000 nos)	-0.11*	-2.62	748
Length of roads (km)	-0.04	-1.41	10661
Pulses area (1000 ha)	-0.19*	-5.25	137
Oilseeds area (1000 ha)	-0.12*	-5.08	60
HVCs area (1000 ha)	-0.06*	-2.89	7
Central Table Land dummy	-0.07	-1.40	0
Eastern Ghat dummy	0.25*	5.73	0
Coastal Plain dummy	0.08	1.67	0
Sigma-squared	0.04	15.03	
Gamma	0.31	0.03	

Log likelihood function = 107.1; LR test of the one-sided error =143.7. Note: all variables are in log-form except regional dummies and time.

are much higher in CP and CTL compared to NP and EG regions, while production of pulses is more in CP and EG but with very low productivity. Orissa is one of the most disaster prone states in the country, every alternate year there is high probability of either drought or flood. The Orissa agricultural production is characterized by high volatility as the % irrigated area is less (Table 8). The instability is higher in oilseeds production (coefficient of variation is 107%) followed by pulses (56%) and the least in paddy (55%). While instability in area is also higher in oilseeds (80%) followed by pulses (54%) and paddy (35%), but instability in productivity was higher in oilseeds (48%) followed by paddy (35%) and the least in pulses (14%). The less instability in productivity of pulses indicates their tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses compared to paddy and oilseeds. One interesting feature is that instability increased in oilseeds and paddy increased in recent period. Overall, the instability is higher in EG for all the major crops followed by NP and CTL and the least in CP.

Percent share of each crop in GVAP at constant prices of 2004 to 2005 is given in Table 9. The share of paddy in GVAP decreased from 56% in TE 1973 to 54% in TE 2008. Share of pulses stagnant at 13%, while share of

oilseeds increased from 7 to 9% and share of fruits and vegetables increased at faster rate from 6 to 10%. In terms of contribution of regions to GVAP, share of CP region decreased from 42 to 38%, share of EG increased from 19 to 22%, while share of CTL and NP regions are stagnant at 26 and 14%, respectively. Indicating catching up of EG with CP. Share of paddy is higher in both NP and CTL, but slightly decreased in TE 2007. In case of pulses, share of EG and CP is higher in both the periods. While in case of oilseeds, EG and CTL dominate in both the periods. Share of fruits and vegetables is about 10% of state GVAP, and its share is higher in NP with 12%.

Table 10 shows that during TE 2008, cropping intensity is higher in CP followed by CTL, EG and the least in NP. In the same way CP (53.4 kg/ha) and CTL (48.5kg/ha) regions ranked the highest in fertilizer consumption, while NP region ranked the lowest with 30 kg/ha. In credit (Rs/ha of GCA), CTL region ranked the highest, while EG ranked the least. So credit uptake is higher in developed region than less developed region. CP ranked the highest and EG ranked least in rural literacy. The above all development indicators show that the CP is the developed region and the EGs are the least developed region, while NP and CTL fall in the middle.

Table 7. Region wise trends in area, production and productivity of food crops TE 2008.

Region	Production (1000 t)					Productivity (kg/ha)			
	Paddy	Pulses	Oilseeds	Sugarcane	Fruits and Vegetables	Paddy	Pulses	Oilseeds	Sugarcane
CP	8168 (72)	986 (30)	721 (190)	330 (19)	2836 (497)	1667 (90)	429 (-13)	1197 (21)	6634 (-2)
CTL	6096 (87)	575 (148)	509 (111)	119 (-26)	1446 (545)	1799 (99)	384 (-29)	629 (-29)	7183(14)
NP	3268 (79)	258 (155)	126 (36)	7 (-74)	1767 (718)	1464 (88)	459 (0)	412 (-32)	5632 (-4)
EG	4015 (110)	750 (184)	470 (121)	351 (117)	1243 (748)	1402 (69)	516 (13)	601 (17)	7325 (44)
Orissa	21546 (83)	2568 (90)	1827 (130)	806 (29)	7292 (587)	1610 (87)	442 (-10)	730 (0)	6990 (15)

Note: figures in the parenthesis are % increase from TE 1973; region wise productivity figures were not available.

Table 8. Coefficient of variation (%) of area production and productivity of major crops in Orissa.

Region	Period	Paddy			Pulses			Oilseeds		
		Production	Area	Yield	Production	Area	Yield	Production	Area	Yield
CP	1971 - 1990	38	29	29	46	41	12	91	60	33
	1991 - 2008	34	24	41	34	29	12	52	37	75
CTL	1971 - 1990	44	31	30	59	50	10	74	65	25
	1991 - 2008	53	35	28	31	25	9	92	79	105
NP	1971 - 1990	36	23	20	46	40	18	58	45	26
	1991 - 2008	51	32	92	12	9	5	66	45	93
EG	1971 - 1990	57	48	27	60	50	21	58	40	26
	1991 - 2008	59	47	34	55	48	21	84	65	102
Orissa	1971 - 1990	51	40	26	74	73	6	108	70	37
	1991 - 2008	55	35	35	56	54	14	107	80	48

Inter regional differences in land and labour productivity and efficiency

Land and labour productivity are two important indicators of performance of agricultural sector in

region. The land and labour productivity indices along with efficiency indices measured from Battese and Coelli (1995) model are given in Table 11. Mean efficiency in the state is 37%, with average land productivity of Rs.6872/ha and

average labour productivity of Rs. 13779/agricultural worker in 1991 to 2008. The highest efficiency was reported in CTL (46%) and CP (43%) followed by EG (32%) and the least in NP (25%). In similar lines, the land productivity is

Table 9. Region wise % share of major crop groups in GVAP in TE 1973 and TE 2008 at constant price of 2004/2005.

Region	Paddy	Pulses	Oilseeds	Sugarcane	Fruits and vegetables	Rs. Million	% to state GVAP
TE 1973							
CP	54	26	8	0.71	7	50456 (100)	42
CTL	62	13	13	0.68	6	30398 (100)	25
NP	67	11	10	0.21	7	15624(100)	13
EG	46	19	15	0.88	7	23778 (100)	20
Orissa	56	19	11	0.67	7	120256(100)	100
TE 2008							
CP	54	20	14	0.49	10	86562(100)	37
CTL	60	17	15	0.26	8	58354(100)	25
NP	63	15	7	0.03	13	30039(100)	13
EG	41	23	14	0.81	10	56059(100)	24
Orissa	54	19	13	0.45	10	231013(100)	100

Table 10. Region wise indices of agriculture in TE 2008.

Region	Cropping intensity (%)	Fertilizer/ha (kg/ha)	Rainfall (mm)	% irrigated area	Credit (Rs./ha)	average farm size (ha)	% rural literacy
CP	176	53	1454	45	3855	1.1	46
CTL	158	49	1484	32	3023	1.5	37
NP	134	30	1610	27	2128	1.4	33
EG	157	38	1500	30	1432	1.7	22
Orissa	159	45	1500	35	2783	1.3	35

Table 11. Trends in efficiency and productivity indices.

Region	Period	Land productivity (Rs./ha)	Labour productivity (Rs./agril. worker)	Efficiency estimates from B&C 1995 model (%)
CP	1971 - 1990	6153	16500	35
	1991 - 2008	7596	15760	43
CTL	1971 - 1990	6004	16216	33
	1991 - 2008	8185	18134	46
NP	1971 - 1990	4542	9419	20
	1991 - 2008	5445	9290	25
EG	1971 - 1990	4266	9775	22
	1991 - 2008	6021	11272	32
Orissa	1971 - 1990	5311	13248	28
	1991 - 2008	6872	13779	37

higher in CTL (Rs.8185/ha) followed by CP (Rs. 7596/ha), EG (Rs.6021/ha) and NP (Rs.5445/ha). The labour productivity is also higher in CTL (Rs.18134/

agricultural worker) followed by CP (Rs.15760), EG (Rs.11272) and NP (Rs.9290) with state average at Rs.13779. CTL improved its efficiency from 33 to 46%,

Table 12. District wise indices of agriculture in TE 2008.

Region/ district	Food grain productivity (kg/ha)	Cropping intensity (%)	Fertilizer/ha (kg/ha)	Rainfall (mm)	% irrigated area	Credit (Rs./ha)	% rural literacy
CP							
Baleswar	1654	143	99	1203	54	5338	48
Cuttack	1597	187	42	1372	47	3539	52
Puri	1576	187	44	1044	42	3587	51
Ganjam	1898	184	45	1150	38	3458	33
CTL							
Bolangir	1745	151	32	862	28	1532	31
Sambalpur	1949	148	77	1059	39	3203	38
Dhenkanal	1515	168	22	1090	25	4379	42
NP							
Mayurbhanj	1580	129	37	1029	29	1885	29
Kendujhar	1485	150	28	1006	24	1965	35
Sundargarh	1265	125	24	1090	26	2626	34
EG							
Koraput	1539	153	38	1151	29	1581	14
Kalahandi	1214	161	45	1051	33	1334	24
Phulbani	1497	163	21	1043	24	1172	30
Orissa	1610	159	45	1088	35	2783	35

CP improved from 5 to 43%, EG improved from 22 to 32%, NP improved its efficiency from 20 to 25%, and over all state average efficiency improved from 28 to 37% between Period-I and Period-II. It indicates that, even though all regions improved their efficiency, still large gaps exist. There is good scope of increasing efficiency in NP (scope of increasing 75% efficiency) and EGs (scope of increasing 68% efficiency) compared to only 54% improvement in CTL and 57% improvement in CP region given their low efficiency under given socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions.

Inter-district variations

Inter-district variations in productivity of food grains shows that, it ranges from the highest 1949 kg/ha in Sambalpur to the lowest 1214 kg/ha in Kalahandi during TE 2008 (Table 12). Percentage share of irrigated area to GCA is the highest for Baleswar (54%) and the lowest for Kendujhar and Phulbani with 24%. The districts, Baleswar and Sambalpur are ranked the highest in fertilizer consumption (kg/ha of GCA) with 99 kg/ha and 77 kg/ha respectively. While districts Dhenkanal and Phulbani are ranked the lowest with 22 and 21 kg/ha. In credit disbursal Baleswar (Rs.5338/ha of GCA) and Dhenkanal (Rs.4379/ha) stand first, while Kalahandi (Rs.1334/ha) and Phulbani (Rs.1172/ha) ranked the least. Cuttack,

Puri and Baleswar are three CP districts ranked the highest in rural literacy rate, while Koraput, Kalahandi and Mayurbhanj were ranked the lowest. A careful analysis of the data for different districts reveals that the four CP districts (Balasore, Cuttack, Puri and Ganjam) and two districts (Sambalpur and Bolangir) of CTL region are agriculturally more advanced than other districts. The agricultural success of four CP districts is due to well developed irrigation facilities with higher doses of fertilizer consumption, high literacy rates and infrastructure. Districts of NP region namely Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundergarh, and Koraput of EG are found to be the most backward districts. A significant proportion of cropped area in these districts is under rainfed agriculture with frequent droughts and low cropping intensity. Phulbani of EG is the only district with declining agricultural development index over the study period.

Scope from crop diversification towards high value crops

In the Battese and Coelli model, both the dependent and independent variables are in log form, regression coefficients reveal elasticities that is, percentage change in GVAP for a 1% change in independent variables. Given the high proportion of area under water intensive paddy, and need for judicious use of water with the

Table 13. Increase in GVAP (Rs/ha) from crop diversification from paddy at 2004/2005 prices.

Crop	CP				CTL			EG			NP			
	Bolangir	Cuttack	Ganjam	Puri	Balasore	Dhenkanal	Sambalpur	Kalahandi	Koraput	Phulbani	Keonjhar	Mayurbhanj	Sundergarh	Orissa
Pulses	6920	5140	4210	5650	11710	4710	12040	3660	8160	4000	6380	10140	6710	6220
Oilseeds	3890	10650	7190	10640	9500	5430	3650	14880	4020	3470	15640	9120	4790	5990
HVCs	123250	58560	58110	64520	22520	48680	145600	16960	82320	26740	88030	224750	63650	50430

Note: Estimates of marginal increase in gross revenue are based on elasticity of gross revenue for pulses, oilseeds and other HVCs are estimated as 0.19, 0.12 and 0.06.

cultivation of irrigated dry crops like pulses, oilseeds and other HVCs which increase land productivity through cropping intensity, estimates of marginal effects due to shift in area from paddy to pulses, oilseeds and other HVCs are estimated and presented in Table 13. On average, shift of 1 ha of area from paddy to pulses, oilseeds and HVCs resulting in an increase of GVAP by Rs.6220/ha, Rs.5990/ha and Rs.50430/ha, respectively at state level. At district level, shift of area to pulses in Balasore, Mayurbhanj and Sambalpur gives higher returns per unit area, while shift to oilseeds generate more returns in Cuttack, Kalahandi, Keonjar and Puri districts. Shift to HVCs may result in higher increase of gross returns in Bolangir, Mayurbhanj and Sambalpur districts. The return is huge, given the average gross returns/ha in the state is only Rs 11000/ha and more than 50% of cropped area is under paddy. However, it requires development of drainage facilities as about 70% of area in Orissa is submerged frequently due to high incidence of flooding. Supply of inputs like improved seed, fertilizer, credit and development of markets are essential for growing HVCs like fruits and vegetables and sugarcane. In focus group interviews local sugarcane farmers expressed that the local sugar factories were closed down due to uncertain supply and production of raw material (cane) since a decade and many more sugar factories are planning to windup.

District level productivity indices are given in Table 14. In terms of land productivity Cuttack, Dhenkanal and Ganjam are top three districts, while in terms of labour productivity Dhenkanal, Puri and Cuttack are top three districts belongs to CTL and CP. While, in land productivity bottom three districts are Surendergarh, Keonjhar and Phulbani and in labour productivity bottom three districts are Koraput, Mayurbhani and Koenjhar. Most of the districts of CP and CTL were showed higher efficiency, while districts of EG and NP showed the lower efficiency. Cuttack, Sambalpur, Dhenkanal are top three districts, while Surendergarh, Keonjhar and Phulbani are bottom three districts in terms of efficiency.

Low productive kharif paddy and options for crop diversification

The area under paddy during kharif season is about 4.12 mha and during rabi 0.33 mha in 2008 (Table 15). Kharif paddy occupy 93% of total paddy area in the state with 58% of area under rainfed, hence suffering from low productivity (1658 kg/ha as against 2393 kg/ha in rabi) with higher variability (Coefficient of variation for kharif paddy is 24% against 7% for rabi paddy) in productivity. Whereas, rabi paddy suffers from higher variability in area sown (21.6% as against 1.3% in kharif area) due to uncertain irrigated

area. Further, there is stagnation in area under rabi paddy that is, area is hovering between 0.14 million ha in 1971 to 0.33 million ha in 2008. As the rabi-paddy productivity is much higher, options to increase area under rabi- paddy, coupled with replacement of low productive kahrif paddy area with rainfed or irrigated-dry crops like pulses and oilseeds needs to be explored.

In Orissa, Kharif Paddy is grown on all types of lands irrespective of its suitability. Paddy grown on high-lands under rainfed conditions is most vulnerable to moisture stress, leading to drastic productivity reduction in years of poor rainfall. It is therefore necessary to diversify this area. The extent of high land paddy in the state is about 1.03 million ha (Table 16). Diversification from paddy to the above crops to be done in CTL, EGs and NP regions, as productivity of paddy in these regions is low and higher water scarcity. Since most of the small farmers who cultivate the high lands prefer to grow paddy for reasons of food security, partial substitution of paddy with alley cropping (Mixed cropping) is considered to be more appropriate measure to achieve the crop diversification.

Generally farmers practice single crop per year with mixed farming practices like Paddy + Arhar (41% of mixed crop area), Arhar + Mung (23%), Arhar + Groundnut (20%), Ragi + Arhar(4%), Maize + Arhar (3%), Maize + Cowpea (2%) etc. The steps are also to be taken to produce and distribute improved seeds of early-type varieties of

Table 14. District wise estimates of efficiency and productivity indices (mean 1971-2008).

Region	District	Labour Productivity	Land productivity	Efficiency
		(Rs/labour)	(Rs/ha)	(%)
CP	Bolangir	12469	6051	30
	Cuttack	20992	7489	47
	Ganjam	10455	6730	38
	Puri	20866	6717	39
CTL	Balasore	13845	5937	32
	Dhenkanal	21415	7096	41
	Sambalpur	15756	7674	43
NP	Keonjhar	9540	4593	21
	Mayurbhanj	8295	5287	24
	Surendergarh	10264	4862	22
EG	Kalahandi	12554	5866	30
	Koraput	7827	4424	29
	Phulbani	10793	4677	20

Table 15. Season wise paddy production scenario.

Year	Area (mha)		Production (mt)		Productivity (kg/ha)	
	<i>kharif</i>	<i>rabi</i>	<i>kharif</i>	<i>rabi</i>	<i>kharif</i>	<i>rabi</i>
1971	4.33	0.14	3.91	0.19	902	1387
1991	4.19	0.21	4.84	0.43	1156	2019
2008	4.12	0.33	6.83	0.79	1658	2393
CV%	1.3	21.6	24.1	25.6	24.2	7.1

Table 16. Proposed crop diversification plan in Orissa (2007/08).

Diversification from	%	Diversification to	%
Rice fallow land (with pulses, oilseeds)	37.7	Pulses	34.6
Diversion from high land paddy	19.5	Vegetables	18.9
Drought affected medium land paddy	17.5	Cereals	14.8
Aromatic rice	15.6	Oilseeds	13.9
Saline inundated area	3.3	Fibres	6.7
Sand dune	2.9	Sugarcane	6.4
Rice fish culture	1.9	Horticultural	2.4
Minor millets	1.6	Spices	2.3
Total area (1.03 million ha)	100	Total	100

paddy along with seeds of pulses, oilseeds and fruits and vegetable seeds.

Policy options for improving efficiency of Orissa agricultural sector

Orissa is one of the poorest states in India with about

85% of population lives in rural areas mostly dependent on agriculture. Over the last three decades (1971 to 2008) there has been stagnation in crop production in Orissa with low input and low output vicious cycle dominated by only paddy cultivation. Paddy occupies 50% of gross cropped area and contributes to 54% to Gross Value of Agricultural Production (GVAP). The area under pulses is 22% (19% of GVAP), while area under

oilseeds is about 9% (with 13% share in GVAP) and area under other crops which include sugarcane, fruits and vegetables is 13% (in value terms contributes only 10%). However, cost of production of pulses, oilseeds and other crops are low compared to paddy, hence net returns per hectare to economy and to the farmers are high compared to paddy (Reddy, 2009a, 2009b, 2010b; Reddy et al., 2011). To enhance district level GVAP, Orissa needs to diversify its crop sector towards pulses, oilseeds and HVCs through creation/development of enabling factors like certified seed, credit, fertilizers, drainage facilities, supplementary irrigation and infrastructure for marketing, which also increases farmers income (Reddy, 2004).

The growth rate of vital inputs like seed replacement ratio, fertilizer and energy use is slow and less than all-India, which needs to be improved (Orissa Agricultural Statistics, 2011). Literacy rate, irrigation, marketing infrastructure and transport facilities are crucial for increasing GVAP at district level, as the level of these inputs are not even reached to a threshold level to significantly influence productivity levels (Reddy and Kumar, 2006). District level average efficiency is very low (only 37%). This indicates that with the existing resources and technology and given agro-climatic conditions, an average district can enhance GVAP by another 64%. It is important that, all these inputs should be supplied to the farmers under one roof, so that transaction costs to farmers can be minimized. Within state, there is significant regional differences, mainly Coastal Plain and Central Table Land regions are endowed with good natural resources, hence efficiency, land and labour productivity is higher and stable than other two regions Northern Plateau and Eastern Ghats which are less resource endowed. However, there is slow progress in efficiency and productivity during 1991 to 2008 over 1971 to 1990 in all the regions. In the successive five year plan (2002 to 2007) very little funds are devoted to agricultural sector (2.18%) compared to irrigation and flood control (22%), special area program (13%), social services (26%).

There is a greater need to directly focus on agricultural sector with more funds with the following objectives:

1. Drought proofing,
2. Improved agricultural productivity through crop diversification to pulses, oilseeds and other high value crops and
3. Improved quality input and output markets like credit/banking facilities, seed production and distribution at local markets, policies to increased use of fertilizer, electricity and technology in backward regions like EG, NP and CTL.

In order to achieve these objectives, the following strategies seem appropriate: Building rural productive infrastructure (e.g., roads, bridges, drainage and irrigation

projects, tanks, watershed development, markets and warehouses) (Reddy, 2011). Agricultural development on sustainable basis for transforming low-input-low-output agriculture to high-input-high-output agricultural sector especially in backward regions like Eastern Ghats and Northern Plateau (e.g., productive rural infrastructure, agriculture development programs, seed production and distribution and micro-credit support, targeting scheduled tribes and castes). Interventionist policies by removing barriers to factor mobility and ensuring minimum standards in basic services across the state will reduce regional disparities (Shankar and Shah, 2003).

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