



Constraints of Land Oriented Economy in Rural India: a Case Study of Puruliya District in the State of West Bengal

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Abstract

Land oriented economy in Puruliya is closely related to the ecological history of the tribal people of the district. The colonial period saw breakdown of the age-old customary system and introduction of market-linked systems of land resource utilization. Post-colonial era experienced random invasion of hybrid seeds, indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and introduction of groundwater irrigation techniques by the name of 'green revolution'. The result was catastrophic as it permanently altered the sustainable nature of agriculture in Puruliya.

Constraints of land resource utilization in Puruliya are divided into physical and socio-economic groups. Harsh climate, particularly high summer temperature and vagaries of monsoon, highly erosive soil, scarcity of water and sometimes biotic influences cause severe loss to agriculture. On the other hand, instability in tenancy, recurring fragmentation of land and poverty restrict farmers to take initiative to improve the situation. Conservation of land resources starts with making utilization process eco-friendly. Switch over to less moisture demanding crops and efficient irrigation techniques can bridge the gap between supply and demand of water. Besides practice of agro forestry and animal husbandry in commercial way can reduce the vulnerability of farmers from crop failure.

Keywords: Rural India; Land Resource Utilization; Land Economics.