

## STUDY ON EXTENT AND PATTERN OF FARM MECHANIZATION IN WEST BENGAL

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### ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made in the present study is to make an assessment on the extent and pattern of farm mechanization in West Bengal. It comes out from the study that ownership of expensive machines like shallow tube-wells, tractors, etc. is fairly limited in numbers owing to the involvement of higher capital cost, but they are extensively used on hiring basis to perform various farming operations in the study region. Clearly, the time-advantage in mechanization of farming is reflected in this study, especially at comparable costs. This is why it has been found that with comparable costs, the tractor operated machines are gaining popularity in the study region especially in operations like ploughing, marketing and transportation. However, in case of sowing activities, the study finds that the farmers do not use any machines. Similarly, in case of weeding and intercultural operations, no machines are used in the study region. In case of plant protection, manual sprayers are used while in harvesting manual sickles are used. In threshing, it has been found that manually operated thresher machines are used extensively, and irrigation activities are carried out using a diesel pump sets. Nevertheless, animal operated plough and carriages are still operative on a large scale in the study region, particularly among the smaller farms. The study reveals that there is a definite productivity gain in mechanization of farming; the government can further promote mechanization across the farming community.

**KEY WORDS:** extent and pattern of farm mechanization, higher capital cost, small farms