FARMER REGISTRATION

Odisha is located on the eastern coast of India

The State borders West Bengal in the Northeast, Jharkhand in the North, Andhra Pradesh in the South, Chhattisgarh in the West, and the Bay of Bengal in the East. It is the 9th largest State in India, spread over an area of 1,55,707 square kilometers. The State has 30 districts and is further divided into 58 subdivisions, 314 blocks and 317 tehsils.

Over two decades, the State has transitioned from a state of deficit to surplus in the production of paddy. Currently, the State ranks 4th in the country and annually contributes 9% of the total production of paddy in the country.

Pre Scenario

From Kharif Marketing Season 2003-04, Odisha became a Decentralized Procurement (DCP) State. Under the DCP Scheme of Government of India, FSCW Dept. , Government of Odisha procures paddy from around 10lakh farmers at multiple locations, mandis through Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) and Pani Panchayats during Kharif and Rabi Marketing Season (KMS) every year. Procurement operations are conducted twice a year – for Kharif Crop and for Rabi crop within the overall Kharif Marketing Season (KMS). The KMS commences on 1st October and ends on 30th September of the following year.

Procurement of paddy was meant to benefit the farmers but there were a lot of bottlenecks. Initially till KMS 2012-13, there was no uniform system to identify farmers across the State, there were no farmer's database, and there were involvement of middlemen, no proper decision support system at procurement centers, vast manual documentation at each step and most importantly there was no transparency in the entire system for monitoring the process. On the other hand, lacks of option to calculate the surplus, the farmers were always apprehensive about the sale of their paddy, resulting distress sale of paddy.

Challenges:

The major bottlenecks in the entire process of procurement were:

> Progress of procurement could not be monitored on real time basis due to huge information gap between the actual purchase of paddy and the information reaching the District or State offices

> The farmer data required for documentation and elimination of fake purchases was taking months to compile even after close of KMS not serving the real purpose.

> Reconciliation of paddy stock between the societies (PPCs) and mills is essential but was taking long to complete, thus delays the final accounting of OSCSC/ other

procurement Agents.

> Poor Infrastructural facilities at Paddy Procurement Centres cause harassment to farmers in receiving their paddy, its quality testing, its weighing and delay in payment.

Solution

This Farmer Registration System by CSM was developed to create a clean & correct database of farmers cultivating paddy and willing to sell their surplus paddy to the State agencies through the PACS/LAMPCS. The data collection and digitisation was proposed to be done through a crowd sourcing method where each farmer would provide the details like personal information, bank account info & cultivated land info in a pre-designed form to his/her PACS along with documentary proof. The registration form is issued to each farmer by the PACS and they are also guided by the society to fill it up correctly. It is the responsibility of the PACS to digitise the filled up forms submitted by the farmers after some preliminary scrutiny of the form with that of the documents like bank passbook & record of rights (ROR). In order to facilitate the registration of share croppers (who cultivate on land owned by another), documents such as consent letter from the landlord, authorization from the sarpanch or manual verification report submitted

by officials from Revenue or Agriculture department are accepted. The farmer data is digitized by the PACS in the web based Farmer Registration module visible in the homepage of the FS&CW Department portal www. foododisha.in. Land information derived from the data provided by farmers & entered by PACS is integrated with the Bhulekh database for authentication.

Similarly, the Bank account information is collated Bank and branch wise and reports are generated for verification by concerned Bank Branches. After verification, district officials have been allowed to update the farmer database by incorporating the changes/corrections made by the Banks/RIs. Since registered farmers are tagged to PACS, advance assessment of surplus (per PACS) is done through this system. This enables the State to plan flow of funds and scale of procurement operations to be conducted at society level. Advance assessment of surplus and farmer details are fed as an input to the Paddy Procurement Automation System (P-PAS).

Post-scenario

Through this system, Odisha became the first state in India to link its farmer database to the land records (Bhulekh). This linkage has been instrumental in ensuring that the right owner (farmer not the middleman) sells his produce to the Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies. Also, forecasting and advance calculation of surplus have become transparent, thus providing a macro view of the procurement situation in the state at any point of time. The system also ensures that not just farmers but small , marginal and share croppers are also a part of farmer registration and the procurement system which is first of its kind in the entire country.

Achievements So Far

No of Society Users	:	2606
No Of CSO Users	:	30
No of Farmers Registered	:	14,71,377
No of Plots Registered	:	1,16,23,950
Area of Land Verified in acre	:	70,82,262
Admission Taken	:	6,72, 762