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Preface

The Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) Programme is the outcome of the recommendations of the Task Force (TF) constituted by the Government of India in pursuance of the decisions taken in the meeting of the committee of Secretaries held on 29th November, 2009 to make short and medium-term recommendations for efficient management of water, power and other inputs, as well as; subsidy to maximize agricultural production on a sustainable basis. Initially, the programme, as a sub-scheme of RKVY, was launched in the year 2010-11 in seven (07) states of Eastern India including Bihar & Jharkhand based on strategic action plans developed by the concerned states. The objective of the programme is to increase the productivity of rice based cropping system in the resource rich eastern India by intensive cultivation through promotion of recommended agriculture technology relating to water asset building in conjunction with rice and wheat crop production technologies by addressing the underlying ecological constraints in non-NFSM districts. Initially, in the beginning states were given free hand to choose the activities as per their requirements in conformity with the agreed framework under RKVY. However, in subsequent year (2011-12), focused interventions were tailored in cluster mode for convenience in its implementation.

After completion of two years of its implementation, the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India decided to evaluate the programme through its Agro-Economic Research Centres. Accordingly, this Centre was assigned to conduct the study entitled **“End-term Evaluation of the Implementation of BGREI Programme in Bihar & Jharkhand.”** The study has been undertaken, as per the commonly circulated study design by the Co-ordinator of this study, i.e., Agro-Economic Research Centre, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan (VWB).

The study reveals that all the demonstrations organized in Bihar were SRI demonstration devoid of ecological consideration in dispersed mode, whereas these were adopted in cluster approach in Jharkhand. It further reveals that BGREI programme has narrowed down the yield gap in rice in both the states, but it is still away from the potential yields of popular varieties adopted in both the states. Extension workers have played significant role in technical backstopping of the programme in Bihar, whereas in Jharkhand, progressive farmers did so. Monitoring of BGREI programme is needed for effective outcome as found in the study. Suggestions, as perceived from the sample beneficiaries, are also given in the report, which are required to be attended by the SDA & BGREI Cell of the respective states. It is hoped that findings of the study will be useful for the policy managers and other stakeholders.

I have immense pleasure in putting on record the crucial work done by the co-ordinator, namely Professor (Dr) Debasish Sarkar, Ex-Director and Dr. Saumya Chakrabarti, Hon. Director, AER Centre, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan & his team members and all the members of the Project Team led by Dr. Ranjan Kumar Sinha, Research Officer of this Centre. They all indeed deserve my appreciation.

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Acknowledgement

We have indeed great pleasure to undertake this study assigned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. We deem it our duty to acknowledge and appreciate the guidance and co-operation extended by all those, who have greatly helped us to complete this study. First of all, we express our heartfelt gratitude to Professor (Dr) Debashish Sarkar, Ex-Director, AER Centre, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan (WB) for his regular guidance and co-operation in completion of this study. We are grateful to Dr. Somuya Chakravarty, Director, AER Centre Visva-Bharati for providing us valuable comments and suggestions on the draft report, which have been duly incorporated while finalizing this report. We are also grateful to Dr. S Bhawani, Principal Adviser, Dr. J S Sandhu, Agriculture Commissioner and Dr. B S Bhandari, Adviser (AER Division), MoA, GoI for giving us valuable comments and suggestions during presentation of Draft Consolidated Report at AER Centre, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan (WB) on 11-12 July, 2013. Mr. Debanshu Mazumdar, Research Associate, AER Centre, Visva-Bharati deserves our special thanks for repeatedly seeking comments from us on Bihar & Jharkhand states, which we have communicated to him. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. S V Singh, Consultant, BGREI Cell, Government of India, New Delhi, for his sincere guidance and co-operation in conduct of the study.

We record our gratitude to our Director, namely Professor (Dr.) Basant Kumar Jha, for his overall guidance and supervision. We also express our gratitude to the Directors, Agriculture, Government of Bihar and Government of Jharkhand. Our sincere thanks are due to all the concerned DAOs, Government of Bihar & Government of Jharkhand for extending their full co-operation to the research team in collection of field and official level data.

Our sincere thanks are also to be inscribed for all the respondents of the study for sparing their valuable time, providing precious inputs and necessary information, without which the study would not have been completed.

Since the present work is the outcome of the research team, so we take this opportunity to thank all of them.

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