

Preface

Traditionally Indian farmers relied on equipments, which were simple and could be easily fabricated by village craftsmen. Since introduction of mechanical power, agricultural engineering started gaining importance and thus; organized professional activities started. Though farm mechanization is increasing in India, it is mostly region specific. Besides the region specificity, the growth of agricultural mechanization is mainly hindered by the impediment of decreasing trend in operational land holdings. One of the major factors for poor response of farmers towards mechanization may be that mechanization of small and contiguous groups of land is found to be against economics of scale. Having understood the conformity of farm mechanization with increased production level at lower costs of production; in course of time policy efforts have been made by the Government of India. In addition to two Central Sector Schemes (namely; (i) Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstration, and; (ii) Post-harvest Technology and Management during the 11th Plan Period programmes like; MMA, RKVY, NHM and NFSM), are also being implemented for promotion of mechanization. In the above backdrop and based on the primary survey of 100 farmers randomly chosen (50 each from high and low mechanized villages/strata), this study seeks to study the effects of mechanization on agricultural growth and comparative economics of labour and machinery in Bihar.

While the secondary data sources and information provide the breadth of effects of mechanization in agricultural sector as a whole, the primary data based-inputs provide the depth. We are sure that the Policy Makers; Agricultural Scientists, scholars, practitioners and officers of Agriculture and allied departments will find this study useful for their purposes.

We express our thanks to DES, Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India for assigning this most significant study to this Centre. We will be failing somewhere, if effusive thanks are not extended to Dr. CSC Sekhar, Associate Professor, IEG, Delhi, who provided his able guidance in conduct of the study and also valuable inputs in the form of comments on draft report of this study.

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Our sincere thanks are due to our research team. Since this is the outcome of a team work, so the members of the project team deserve our special thanks.

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