P R E F A C E

I have ventured to examine the nature of the traditional units of social organisation under the influence of affluent non-tribals and the modern amenities of the scientific development. Agriculture, as it is the main stay of the community, it is chosen for the analysis of the social interaction of individuals in kin and non-kin based groups. An attempt has been made to examine the degree of intra and inter-group cohesion through participation in different agricultural operation. The nature of participation of members of different social units like the family, lineage, clan, bāḍ and the pāṇṭhi have been analysed. The universe of the study is the 'Kiśāns', one of the major scheduled tribes of Orissa inhabiting in its Western districts.

The data are organised in three chapters. The introductory chapter provides the background information called from earlier studies by anthropologists, sociologists and other social scientists, and contains the main objective of the study, hypotheses, field tools and techniques of data collection, etc.
The first section of chapter two is on the ethnography of the Kiṣāns in general and their social organisation in particular. The traditional kin-groups like the family, lineage and clan have been introduced and the non-kin voluntary organisations namely, the bāḍ, and the pāṇṭhi have been elaborately described. The agro-climatic, the demographic and the economic characteristics of the sample village, namely, Turei-Niktimāl, have been dealt in the latter section of this chapter.

Chapter three consists of two sections. The former section describes the agricultural operations, such as, land preparation to harvesting and storing organised, etc., along with its associated factors like climate, seasons, annual work-cycle and working hours, typology of land, sources of irrigation and cropping pattern, etc., of the Kiṣāns of the village. The estimation of labour input in each operation has been made in the latter section. The various levels of participation based on age, sex, sources and nature of employment that focus the pattern of inter-dependency and levels of social interaction among different groups in agricultural activities, have been discussed.

The socio-cultural division of work based on age and sex and the nature of engagement such as working in
one's own family farm and in another's farm either on exchange or on wage have been described. The categories of labour, terms and condition of employment on daily wage as well as annual contract labour have been included in chapter four.

The transliteration of words and terms in the tribal dialect into English is difficult and often does not convey the actual meaning. Hence, certain tribal terms, descriptive of the social phenomena have been retained in the report to have a clear understanding.