PREFACE
Agriculture is the fundamental basis of the rural economy of Orissa. Almost the entire population of Orissa has always been associated with agriculture in some way. For most of them it has been the only source of their livelihood up to the end of the first half of the twentieth century there was almost no industry worth the name in Orissa to absorb at least some of the working population. There was a lack of enterprise among the people and a farmer was satisfied if he was able to grow enough food stuffs to see himself and his family through the year. Agriculture thus had a vital role to play in the entire economic life of Orissa.

There has been some research into the agrarian structure of Orissa during the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century. But little attempt has so far been made to study agricultural development and its impact on the economic condition of the people of Orissa. This work is an humble attempt to provide an indepth study of various aspects of agricultural development in the province of Orissa.

Andrew Stirling's work, "An Account (Geographical, Statistical and Historical) of Orissa proper or Cuttack",
published in 1825, gives a brief general outline of Orissa from ancient times to that time. But it contains very scanty information on the agricultural history of Orissa. William Hunter's "History of Orissa", in two volumes, published in 1872 and 'Statistical Account of Bengal', Vol.XVII and Vol.XIX, published in 1887 provide some information about agriculture in Orissa. Hunter also attempts in his works a brief account of the development of irrigation and drainage systems in Orissa. John August Voelckar, the British Chemist who came over to India in 1889 with the aim of studying the agricultural situation in the country wrote what he called a 'Report on the Improvement of Indian Agriculture', published in 1893. This work represented the first serious endeavour to find ways and means of improving agriculture in the country, especially with the application of scientific methods of farming. But it has to be admitted that very little attention was paid to Orissa in this voluminous Report. In 1898 was published N.N.Banarjee's report entitled, "Report on the Agriculture of the District of Cuttack". He was the first person who made sustained efforts to write about agriculture in the district of Cuttack.

But his work does not contain much information about the other districts of Orissa. S.L.Maddox in his "Final Report on the Survey and Settlement of the Province of Orissa, 1890-1900", in two volumes, published in 1900,
provides some insight into the agricultural history of the coastal districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore. In his report Maddox also briefly discusses irrigation, embankments, drainage and climate. But his work is primarily concerned with settlement operations and is restricted to the coastal districts. P. Mukharjee's report, "Irrigation, Inland Navigation and Flood problems in North Orissa during British Rule", published in 1967, provides an outline on the irrigation system undertaken by the British Government in coastal districts. M.S. Randhawa's book, A History of Agriculture in India", in four volumes, published by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1982, provides a systematic history of agriculture in India. But if we consider the study from a regional perspective, it fails to provide a complete picture of the state of agriculture in Orissa.

From a perusal of the work already existing on the subject, it is clear that no single study has dealt with all the aspects of agricultural development in Orissa. There is enough scope for further intensive studies on the topic. The present work includes within its ambit, many new areas not explored previously by scholars.

Keeping all aspects of the subject in view, the thesis has been divided into seven chapters besides an
introduction. Each chapter is divided into suitable sections and subsections so as to study the difference topics in minute detail.

The introduction gives a broad outline of the geographical features of Orissa. In this connection soil, climate, rainfall and temperature of various parts of Orissa have been highlighted.

Chapter I, highlights "Agriculture in Orissa During Pre-British period". It studies the practice of agriculture in ancient, Mughal and Maratha periods in Orissa. Chapter II entitled "Agricultural Implements and Methods of Cultivation" studies the relevant matter in its historical perspective what the methods and implements were before the advent of the British and how they changed after that time. It also examines how this change improved cultivation and the life of the peasants. Chapter III, deals with the "Evolution of Agricultural Policy". It tries to give a detailed account of the formation of the Department of Agriculture. It also examines various aspects of the remedial measures adopted by the British Government. It also analyses the major findings and recommendations of the Famine Commission, Voelckar's recommendations, the reforms of 1919, the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, and Russell's report. Chapter IV is entitled the
"Development of Irrigation in Orissa". After the Great Orissan Famines of 1866, the British Government intended to develop a system of irrigation in Orissa. This chapter brings to light certain measures undertaken for the construction of canals by the British Government. It also analysis the intention of the British Government in improving irrigation in Orissa. Chapter V, on "Improvement of Agriculture and Extension of Cultivation", describes the various steps taken by the British Government for the improvement of agriculture in Orissa. In this context, construction of embankments for the protection against floods, steps taken by the British Government to improve the condition of indebted peasants, the role of the co-operative movement in the improvement of agriculture, and the importance of agricultural education are analysed. It deals with the attitude of the British Government towards the control and development of the marketing system. Chapter VI, tries to present a detailed picture of "The System of Farming in Orissa". It highlights the role of demonstration farms, model farms and the Agricultural Experimental station for the improvement of agriculture. It also deals with the establishment of the Botanical sub-station, the Rice Research Scheme, the Paddy Seed Multiplication Scheme and the pulse research station. Further various experiment tables are also mentioned in this chapter. As a whole the scientific way of cultivation which enabled the peasants of Orissa to improve their condition has been analysed here.
Chapter VII, is the final chapter dealing with the Summary, the Synthesis of findings and recommendation and the conclusion arrived at in the course of research.

The methodological framework of the study is primarily based on a detailed survey of contemporary literary works. To the best of my ability all original materials available on the subject have been consulted. The original source material for the project was collected from different centres where archival papers as well as relevant documents are available. The records of the period available in a manuscript form were studied in the National Archives of India, New Delhi, the West Bengal State Archives, Calcutta, the Bihar State Archives, Patna, the Tamil Nadu State Archives, Chennai, the Orissa State Archives, Bhubaneswar, the Record Room of the Orissa Secretariat, Bhubaneswar, the Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar, and the District Collectorate Record Rooms of Ganjam, Koraput, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Phulbani, Puri and Dhenkanal. Original materials like Government records, reports, sanads, treaties, despatches, gazetteers and a few other contemporary works have also been consulted in the libraries attached to those institutions. Besides, the contemporary vernacular newspaper and periodicals and other printed materials have also been studied in the National Library, Calcutta, the Asiatic Society Library, Calcutta, the Board of Revenue Library, Orissa, Cuttack, the Kanika Library, Ravenshaw College,
Cuttack, the Orissa State Library, Bhubaneswar, the Orissa Settlement Library, Cuttack, and Orissa Irrigation Department Library, Bhubaneswar. Private libraries of some of the feudatory Rajas of Orissa have also been used for the purpose.

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