



Procurement of Ragi in Odisha: Farmer registration and other concerns¹

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Abstract: This brief estimates 2.3 lakh ragi farmers in the seven first phase districts under OMM. It also points out the need to increase the pace of registration of ragi farmers for procurement. To facilitate this, help of other civil society groups may be considered, more people may be put up for verification of land records, norms may be put in place for land verification to guard against possible exclusion of traditional forest dwellers as also tenant farmers and those without record of rights in their names, and request banks through SLBC/DLBC to prioritise account verification.

Introduction: The first phase of Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) started in Kharif 2017 in seven districts and compared to a baseline the yield more than doubled in programme areas. In 2018, the programme has expanded to additional areas and the Government of India has also declared 2018 as the year of millets. Further, the Government of Odisha is keen on improving farmers' income and addressing nutrition security through OMM. In this backdrop, the Government of Odisha has decided to procure finger millet (ragi/mandia) from the seven first phase districts comprising 69 blocks. Some concerns with regard to procurement of ragi are addressed in this brief.

Estimating number of Ragi producing farmers: There are no existing numbers for ragi farmers. We compute the same through the following steps.

- First, we calculate the average area under ragi per farmer household for each block. This we calculate from baseline survey data for 2016-17 for 26 blocks. From these baseline data, we also computed a average area under ragi per farmer household for the district, which we use for the remaining blocks of the respective districts. See column 4, Annex 1.
- Second we take the 2017-18 estimates for area under ragi for each block in Kharif 2017-18 (column 5, Annex 1).
- Third, we divide the total area under ragi in each block by the average area per farmer household (column 6=[column 5/column 4], Annex 1).
- From these calculations, the total number of ragi farmers in these seven districts in 2017-18 is 2,30,114 (or 2.3 lakhs).

This estimate of 2.3 lakh ragi farmers is an approximation that may be used as a possible target for registering farmers for procurement, but one should be cautious to guard against possible underestimation so that no farmers are left out (see Kalahandi, columns 2, 3 and 10, Annex 2). The relatively higher numbers in Kalahandi could be because of OMM interventions.

The largest number/proportion of estimated farmers producing ragi is from Koraput (1.31 lakh/57 per cent, columns 2 and 9, Annex 2) and this districts also has the largest number of OMM blocks (ten). This district may require greater attention for procurement.

Filling up of registration forms: The first step towards registration is to fill up the forms and submit the same to appropriate authorities. These are being helped by staff from Line Departments, Programme Secretariat, Facilitating Agencies and Community Based

¹ This policy brief is an outcome of discussion with different stakeholders and an analysis of baseline and provisional secondary data available at Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies (NCDS), Bhubaneswar.

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Organisations. As on 23 Oct 2018, the number of forms submitted in these seven districts is 23,957, that is, 10.4 per cent of the estimated number of total ragi farmers (columns 3 and 10, Annex 2). It is less than 10 per cent in Koraput, Malkangiri and Raygada. Steps need to be taken to increase this. The Programme Secretariat should explore partnership with other civil society groups and the Directorate/Department may initiate steps to bring in other partners (like Odisha Livelihood Mission) to facilitate this process.

Data entry of submitted forms: This is being facilitated by large area multipurpose cooperative societies (LAMPS), primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS) and others who have experience in procurement of paddy or other commodities. As on 23 Oct 2018, the number of forms entered is 17,402, that is, 72.6 per cent of the forms submitted (columns 4 and 11, Annex 2). It is less than 60 per cent in districts of Gajapati, Koraput, Malkangiri and Raygada. With harvest likely to start soon and the possibility of a sudden spurt in submission of forms, the need for additional hands to enter data may be considered. From the entered forms, one observes that 96.2 per cent are from blocks where production intervention is happening under OMM (columns 5 and 12, Annex 2). Efforts need to be taken up beyond OMM blocks.

Land verification by Revenue Inspector: The submitted/filled in forms are to be verified to authenticate land records. If the land data is in the system then it would be done digitally (bhulekh), otherwise it has to be done manually after field visits. Ragi areas being different from where paddy is grown, are not likely to be in the system. And hence, most land records may require manual verification. From the data entered, 35.0 per cent (or 6,089) is pending for land record verification as on 23 Oct 2018 (columns 6 and 13, Annex 2). The districts where the proportion pending for land verification is more than 35 per cent are Gajapati, Kandhamal and Koraput. To speed up land record verification and to address a possible spurt in submission, more people need to be involved in this exercise. Besides, the possibility of excluding traditional forest dwellers (who generally grow these crops) as also tenant farmers and others who may not have the record of rights in their names should be kept in mind. At the least, all such farmers enrolled under OMM for production interventions and similar farmers elsewhere should have their land registered for procurement. In any case, dual entries (one for receiving a payment for taking up new agronomic practices and another for procurement) is a strain on resources, and hence, entry at only one level may be considered.

Account verification by District Manager of Lead Bank: There is a need to verify the accounts to enable direct cash transfer for the quantity procured from farmers. From the data entered till 23 Oct 2018, 73.9 per cent (or 12,853) is pending for verification (columns 7 and 14, Annex 2). The proportion of bank accounts pending for verification is more than 80 per cent in the districts of Kandhamal, Koraput and Malkangiri. Further, from those verified, the bank accounts are not matching for 518 (or 11.4 per cent) cases (columns 8 and 16, Annex 2); the proportions are relatively higher for Kandhamal and Koraput. This needs to be follow-up and addressed. To speed up account verification, the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and the District Level Bankers' Committee (DLBC) may be requested to accord priority to this activity.

Concluding remarks: This exercise estimates 2.3 lakh ragi farmers in the seven first phase districts under OMM. These numbers may be taken as a benchmark target, but one should guard against possible underestimation, as in Kalahandi. Steps need to be taken to involve other civil society and staff of relevant line departments to facilitate filling up of and submission of forms for registration, put in more people for verification of land records, set up norms for verification of land records to guard against exclusion of traditional forest dwellers and others without record of rights in their names, and request SLBC/DLBC to accord priority to verification of bank accounts.



Annex 1

Block wise Estimates for number of ragi farmers in seven Phase I OMM districts

District	Baseline survey (Yes/No)	Blocks	Average area (hectare, ha), 2016-17	Total area (ha), Kharif, 2017-18	Number of farmers (estimated)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Gajapati	Yes	Gumma	0.45	2129	4752
		Mohana	0.22	374	1731
		R.Udayagiri	0.27	516	1925
		Rayagada	0.59	950	1605
	No	Gosani	0.34	384	1121
		Kasinagar	0.34	923	2694
		Nuagarh	0.34	464	1355
Total				15184	
Kalahandi	Yes	Langigarh	0.28	105	375
		Narla	0.47	67	143
		Thuamula Rampur	0.34	103	299
	No	Bhawanipatna	0.35	97	277
		Dharamgarh	0.35	2	6
		Golamunda	0.35	2	6
		Jaipatana	0.35	3	9
		Junagarh	0.35	4	11
		Kalampur	0.35	2	6
		Karlamunda	0.35	19	54
		Kesinga	0.35	7	20
		Koksara	0.35	2	6
		Madanpur Rampur	0.35	37	106
Total				1318	
Kandhamal	Yes	Daringbadi	0.20	12	59
		Kotagarh	0.49	545	1117
		Phiringa	0.48	86	181
		Raikia	0.27	866	3184
	No	Balliguda	0.27	46	170
		Chakapad	0.27	115	426
		G.Udayagiri	0.27	6	22
		Khajuripada	0.27	57	211
		Nuagaon	0.27	11	41
		Phulbani	0.27	57	211
		Tikabali	0.27	29	107
		Tumudibandha	0.27	350	1296
		Total			
Koraput	Yes	Boipariguda	0.52	3549	6878
		Borigumma	0.52	2707	5246
		Dasmantapur	0.41	6807	16522
		Kundura	0.36	3189	8958
		Lamtaput	0.43	10685	24965
		Nandapur	0.46	8692	18896
		Semiliguda	0.44	5038	11450
		Total			
	No	Bandhugam	0.44	2346	5332
		Jeypur	0.44	694	1577
		Koraput	0.44	3576	8127
		Kotpad	0.44	1129	2566
		Laxmipur	0.44	3555	8080
		Narayanpatana	0.44	1696	3855
		Pottangi	0.44	3797	8630
Total				131080	

continued



District	Baseline survey (Yes/No)	Blocks	Average area (hectare, ha), 2016-17	Total area (ha), Kharif, 2017-18	Number of farmers (estimated)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Malkangiri	Yes	Korukonda	0.40	1530	3825
		Mathili	0.33	2010	6054
	No	Kalimela	0.38	785	2066
		Khairput	0.38	1045	2750
		Kudumuluguma	0.38	1025	2697
		Malkangiri	0.38	957	2518
	Podia	0.38	648	1705	
Total				21616	
Nuapada	Yes	Boden	0.48	747	1543
		Komna	0.49	712	1459
		Sinapali	0.27	337	1257
	No	Khariar	0.42	555	1321
		Nuapada	0.42	459	1093
Total				6674	
Rayagada	Yes	Gudari	0.28	344	1229
		Gunupur	0.21	203	976
		Rayagada	0.42	1645	3954
	No	Bissam Cuttack	0.31	2365	7629
		Chandrapur	0.31	412	1329
		K. Singpur	0.31	1280	4129
		Kasipur	0.31	4290	13839
		Kolnara	0.31	1451	4681
		Muniguda	0.31	1641	5294
		Padamapur	0.31	647	2087
		Ramnaguda	0.31	642	2071
Total				47217	
All 69 blocks					230114

Notes and Sources: Average area in column (4) is based on baseline survey data for 2016-17 Kharif from 26 blocks and from these one also obtained district-specific averages that were used as average area for the remaining 33 blocks.

In column (5), the estimates for total area under ragi for blocks in Kharif 2017-18 was provided by Programme Secretariat who obtained it from Directorate of Agriculture and Food Production.



Annex 2

Registration for Procurement and Related Verification

Districts	Estimated farmers	Forms Submitted	Data entered	Data entered (OMM blocks)	Land verification pending	Bank account verification pending	Bank account not matching
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Gajapati	15184	3268	2210	2200	1103	1594	0
Kalahandi	1318	2565	2094	2090	618	1504	0
Kandhamal	7025	3200	2657	2657	1451	2391	73
Koraput	131080	8271	5525	5321	2125	4734	357
Malkangiri	21616	2000	1312	1312	11	1077	0
Nuapada	6674	2050	2010	1569	295	925	48
Raygada	47217	2603	1594	1594	486	628	40
7 districts	230114	23957	17402	16743	6089	12853	518
continued							
Districts	Share of (2) across districts ¹	(3) as % of (2) ²	(4) as % of (3) ³	(5) as % of (3) ⁴	(6) as % of (3) ⁵	(7) as % of (3) ⁶	(8) as % of [(4)-(7)] ⁷
(1)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
Gajapati	6.6	21.5	67.6	99.5	49.9	72.1	0.0
Kalahandi	0.6	194.6	81.6	99.8	29.5	71.8	0.0
Kandhamal	3.1	45.6	83.0	100.0	54.6	90.0	27.4
Koraput	57.0	6.3	66.8	96.3	38.5	85.7	45.1
Malkangiri	9.4	9.3	65.6	100.0	0.8	82.1	0.0
Nuapada	2.9	30.7	98.0	78.1	14.7	46.0	4.4
Raygada	20.5	5.5	61.2	100.0	30.5	39.4	4.1
7 districts	100.0	10.4	72.6	96.2	35.0	73.9	11.4

Notes: ¹ Koraput has the largest proportion (57 per cent) of estimated farmers; hence, this district may require greater attention.

² The proportion of forms submitted in Kalahandi being nearly double that of the estimated farmers for the district may be on account of OMM interventions.

³ The proportion of submitted forms for which data have been entered is the highest in Nuapada. It is less than 60 per cent in Gajapati, Koraput, Malkangiri and Raygada.

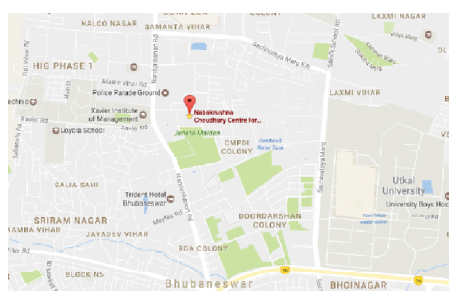
⁴ Almost all the data entered are from OMM blocks. Nuapada has the largest proportion of data entered for farmers from non-OMM blocks.

⁵ From among the data entered, the districts where land record verification pending is more than 35 per cent are Gajapati, Kandhamal and Koraput.

⁶ From among the data entered, the proportion of bank account verification pending is the least in Raygada (39 per cent), and at 46 per cent in Nuapada. In all the other districts it is more than 70 per cent, and it is more than 80 per cent in the districts of Kandhamal, Koraput and Malkangiri.

⁷ The bank accounts not matching after verification is a concern in the districts of Kandhamal, Koraput, Nuapada and Raygada.

Sources: For column (2) on estimated farmers, Annex 1. For all other columns, Farmer Registration Report of 23 Oct 2018 provided by Programme Secretariat, Odisha Millets Mission (OMM).



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