# Economic Characterization of Predominant Farming Systems in Red Lateritic Belt of West Bengal, India

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**Abstract**—*An attempt has been made to identify, characterize and economize the predominant farming systems across red lateritic belt of West Bengal, India. Kashipur and Santuri, blocks of Purulia district has been chosen purposively for its peculiarities and uniqueness in terms of soil characteristics, topography, socio-economic situation, livelihood status of farming community and income generation. The study reveals that rice-based cropping system dominates the entire red lateric belt of Purulia district (around 85%) as the region is well known for problematic soil region in monocropped situation. There is a minimum scope of diversification of cropping system into a well directed farming model. Lack of knowledge as well as employment opportunities would be the prime constraint in this region. There is a least chance to improve the overall livelihood status of the poor farmers in the region as kharif rice being the sole crop cultivated in the rainfed situation. Also acute shortage of ground water and lack of irrigation facilities becoming the prime barrier for developing the agriculture and allied sector (e.g. dairy, poultry etc.) in this region.*

**Keywords**: *Characterization, diversification, farming systems, red lateritic belt, West Bengal.*