Agro Economist - An International Journal
Citation: AE: **12**(01): 37-46, March 2025
DOI: 10.30954/2394-8159.01.2025.5
Peer Reviewed Journal

Agricultural Lending and Financing in Gajapati District of Odisha: Schemes and Future Prospects

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Received: 02-01-2025 **Revised:** 25-02-2025 **Accepted:** 01-03-2025

ABSTRACT

More over half of India's workforce is employed in agriculture, which also contributes more than one-fifth of the nation's GDP. Nonetheless, the business is still beset by basic problems including inadequate infrastructure, small and scattered holdings, and limited finance availability. This research investigates the agricultural credit ecosystem in the Gajapati district of Odisha by looking at the availability, use, and recovery of institutional loans by farmers. This descriptive study design made use of information from 110 farmers and 11 banks spread over the Gosani, Gumma, and Rayagada regions. Analytical methods like such as frequency distributions, percentages, and chi-square tests served as a reference for the interpretation. The result indicate a comparatively high level of formal credit knowledge, which has been influenced by programs such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Kisan Credit Card (KCC). Increased inclusion is nonetheless hampered by procedural complexity, insufficient financial literacy, and unequal access. For increased efficiency, this study suggests using digital platforms, improving financial education, and streamlining credit procedures. For an agricultural credit ecosystem in Odisha to be sustainably profitable, gender-responsive and climate-resilient funding must be actively promoted.

Keywords: Agriculture financing, Schemes, Loan Repayment

About 58% of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, and it continues to be the backbone of the Indian economy, contributing between 18% and 20% of the country's GDP. Cereals, legumes, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables, and high-value cash crops like cotton, tea, coffee, and sugarcane may all flourish in the nation's vast agroclimatic variety (Mubashir and Bhat, 2021). National food security was strengthened by productivity gains throughout the decades, which were bolstered by advancements in irrigation, mechanisation, and modern agronomy and accelerated by the Green Revolution (Robinson, 2024). However, the industry still faces structural obstacles, including as fragmented landholdings, an over-reliance on monsoons, inadequate infrastructure for storage and transportation, and restricted access to institutional loans, all of which impede agricultural growth. The India government has launched a variety of programmes to improve rural

How to cite this article: Arshad, Md., Patra, A. and Saha, S. (2025). Agricultural Lending and Financing in Gajapati District of Odisha: Schemes and Future Prospects. *Agro Economist - An International Journal*, **12**(01): 37-46.

Source of Support: None; **Conflict of Interest:** None

prosperity, and stabilise agricultural income. These programmes include PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), the Kisan Credit Card (KCC), and digital agri-services (Patnaik *et al.* 2019).

At the state or regional level, the Gajapati district of Odisha is a prime example of the potential and limitations of Indian agriculture. Limited access to formal funding limits the district's agricultural economy, which is mostly tribal and dependent on farming. This has an impact on productivity, investment, and long-term resilience (Saha *et al.* 2024). Through the cooperative network, the Odisha State Cooperative Bank provides small and marginal farmers with concessional credit (Surendran, 2023); PMFBY provides crop insurance against pests, diseases, and climate damage; NABARD provides long-term loans for farm enterprises, rural infrastructure, and farm mechanisation; and the Kisan Credit Card provides prompt credit for working capital needs (Murti & Rao, 2025). Such finance techniques have a variety of effects. Availity of credit enables farmers to make investments in higher-quality seeds, fertiliser, and agricultural technology, boosting output and return. Through cooperative credit and subsidised loans, PMFBY empowers smallholders to enhance farm operations while reducing the financial shock linked to crop loss from pest infestations, crop diseases, and climate damage.

The trend for the future is a greater combination of technology and sustainability. Digital platforms have the potential to revolutionise agricultural finance by facilitating hassle-free loan distribution, effective claim settlement, and data-enabled farmed activity tracking (Adesiyan, 2025). Diversification along the lines of high-value horticulture, livestock raising, agro-processing, and organic farming can boost resilience and generate new sources of income. The importance of implementing climate-smart technology is further highlighted by climate change, and this should be backed by specific funds for conservation agriculture, water-saving techniques, and ecologically friendly manufacturing methods. Supportive actions including financial literacy programs, farmer education, and market-focused training are necessary to ensure the latter's maximum efficacy (Regmi and Paudel, 2024).

According to empirical data, agricultural financing has also had a major influence on rural economies, increased productivity, and decreased family income volatility (Ma & Rahut, 2024; Mallick, 2018). Additionally, the provision of institutional credit has boosted economic activity, created jobs, and improved the lot of marginalised populations. In order to guarantee inclusivity, future policy paradigms must provide credit to neglected and isolated communities. The resilient, productive, and inclusive agricultural industry in India will be fuelled by more focus on digital financing, sustainable farming methods, and capacity building (Pal *et al.* 2025).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Descriptive research design is used in the research because it provides the description of the characteristics or phenomenon being researched. The research seeks to comprehend the various agricultural lending programs provided to the farmers, the difficulties experienced in obtaining the loan, how the quantum of loan is utilized, and loan repayment behavior.

Study area chosen for this research is Gajapati district, three blocks in particular—Gosani, Gumma and Rayagada selected keeping in view the large number of beneficiaries of agricultural loans in the areas. Primary data has been collected by interviewing 110 farmer beneficiaries through face-to-face interviews with the help of a structured questionnaire. Further, interviews with the bank officials of 11 different banks present in Paralakhemundi, the district headquarters of Gajapati district, have also been done in order to understand loan schemes, eligibility standards, related documents and terms of payment.

Secondary data was collected from government reports, publications by NABARD, guidance notes by RBI, and records of commercial and cooperative banks to fortify the findings of the research. Data interpretation and presentation purposes used analytical techniques like tables, percentages, average, charts, relative frequency, and chi-square tests. The research methodology makes the analysis comprehensive and trustworthy and arrives at meaningful conclusions and recommendations to improve agricultural lending in the district.

OBJECTIVE

1. To know about the different agricultural lending schemes available to farmers.
2. To know the status of agricultural loan / schemes that have benefited the farmers and challenges faced by farmers, if any, to obtain the loans.
3. To know the utilization of the loan amount and the repayment pattern by the farmers.
4. To provide suitable suggestions for improvement of the agricultural lending status.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 : How long have Bank been involved in Agricultural lending

Number of years in Agricultural lending	Number of the Banks
Less than 2 years	2
2-5 years	5
More than 10 years	4
Total	**11**

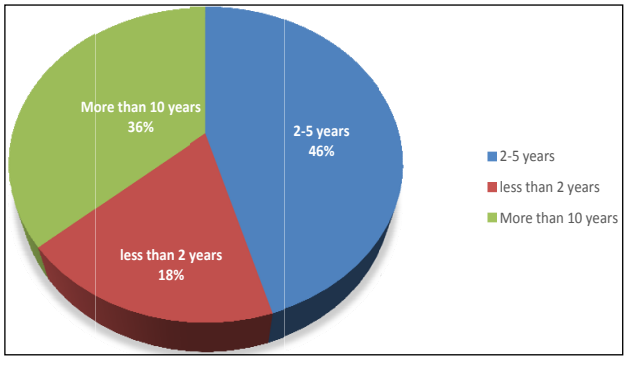

Fig. 1: Bank involved in agricultural lending

Table 1 features different levels of exposure of banks in agricultural lending. Approximately 18% represent new entrants with below 2 years, which may be pilot projects or entry into the rural finance space. Close to 46% belong to the 2–5 years segment, indicating increasing participation spurred by government emphasis and growing market demand. In contrast, 36% of the banks enjoy over 10 years of exposure, which indicates long-term exposure, attained expertise in rural credit, and in-depth knowledge of the farmer's needs, risk management, and sustainably sound agricultural lending practices.

Table 2: Major agricultural loan schemes are offered by Bank

Name of the Bank	Agriculture Schemes			
	Kishan credit card	Agribusiness loan	Machinery loan	Gold loan
Berhampur central Cooperative Bank	✓	✓		✓
Bandhan Bank	✓			
UCO Bank	✓		✓	
Punjab National Bank	✓		✓	✓
Union Bank		✓		
Bank of Baroda	✓	✓	✓	✓
Axis Bank	✓	✓		
ICICI Bank	✓		✓	✓
SBI Bank	✓	✓	✓	
Bank of Maharashtra	✓	✓		
IDBI Bank	✓		✓	✓

The distribution and scope of institutional support offered to farmers in the Gajapati district of Odisha are depicted in the accompanying table, which gives a summary of the agricultural loan initiatives offered by the main banks in the area. Nearly all banks provide the Kisan finance Card (KCC) service, highlighting how important it is for meeting short-term agricultural cultivation finance needs. But each institution has a very different coverage of gold loan, machinery loan, and agriculture loan programs. Bank of Baroda distinguishes itself by offering extensive coverage across all programs, in contrast to other banks like Bandhan Bank and Union Bank, which have restricted product coverage. The disparity is a reflection of the banks' differing risk assessments and strategic positions, which again affect the financial inclusion of smallholder and rural farmers. This disparity highlights the need for more inclusive credit delivery mechanisms, better branch-level outreach, and value-tailored financial products to support agricultural productivity, facilitate mechanisation, and promote agribusiness in the largely tribal and agrarian Gajapati district.

Table 3: General eligibility criteria for farmers

Name of the Bank	Eligibility criteria				
	Land ownership	Agriculture income proof	CIBIL score	Technical knowledge	N0 dues receipt
Berhampur central Cooperative Bank	✓	✓			
Bandhan Bank	✓	✓	✓		
UCO Bank	✓	✓	✓		
Punjab National Bank	✓		✓	✓	
Union Bank	✓	✓	✓		✓
Bank of Baroda	✓	✓	✓		
Axis Bank	✓	✓	✓		
ICICI Bank	✓	✓	✓		
SBI Bank	✓	✓	✓		
Bank of Maharashtra	✓	✓	✓		
IDBI Bank	✓	✓	✓		

The table 3 show that the eligibility criteria used by different banks for agricultural loans in Odisha's Gajapati district, which marks the institutional standards that define farmers' access to formal credit. The majority of the banks favor possession of land and submission of agricultural income evidence as major prerequisites, which indicates the sector's dependency on land collateral and documentable income proof. Further, the majority of the banks also insist on satisfactory CIBIL scores declaring an increased attention to credit discipline and financial creditworthiness among rural credit seekers. Some institutions like Punjab National Bank also take technical knowledge into account in order to ensure the productive usage of the loan, whereas Union Bank also requires the submission of a No Dues Certificate to confirm the history of repayment. Overall, the prerequisites define the risk-averse attitude adopted by the banking institutions in order to avoid credit risk. But in Gajapati's smallholder- and tribe-dominated farming context, such stringent prerequisites may limit the entry of vulnerable groups, which highlights the importance of having more inclusive, flexible, and farmer-centric credit paradigms in order to ensure wholesome agricultural growth and credit empowerment.

Table 4: How many days does it take to process getting a loan from the Bank

Process time to getting loan	No. of the Banks
1 days	1
15 days	2
30 days (Machinery loan)	1
7 days	7
Total	**11**

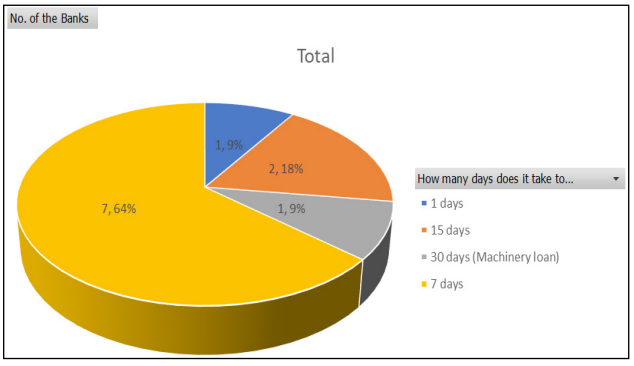

Fig. 2: Process time to getting loan by the Bank

Loan processing times in the banks of Gajapati district are disclosed in the pie chart. A little over 64% processes the loans in 7 days with timely assistance, 18% in 15 days, and 9% in 30 days mainly for machine loans. Another 9% completes the process within 1 day. Although the efficiency is fairly obvious, the deviations reflect the need for higher standardization.

Table 5: How much precent interest Bank taking from farmers

Interest rate charged	No. of banks
7 percent	9
9 percent	1
11 percent	1
Total	11

The following table indicates the rates of interest on agricultural loans in Gajapati district. The majority of the banks (82%) offer 7% through the scheme of Kisan Credit Card, showing government-supported policy. Punjab National Bank offers 9%, and Axis Bank offers 11%. The Agri-machinery and gold loans vary between 7–15%, whereas Axis Bank's scheme of Kisan Samarth charges higher rates for consumption purposes.

Table 6: Popular loan Schemes

Popular loan Schemes	No. of the Banks	Percentage
Crop loans	2	18 %
Farm equipment loan	2	18 %
Kisan credit card	7	64 %
Total	11	100 %

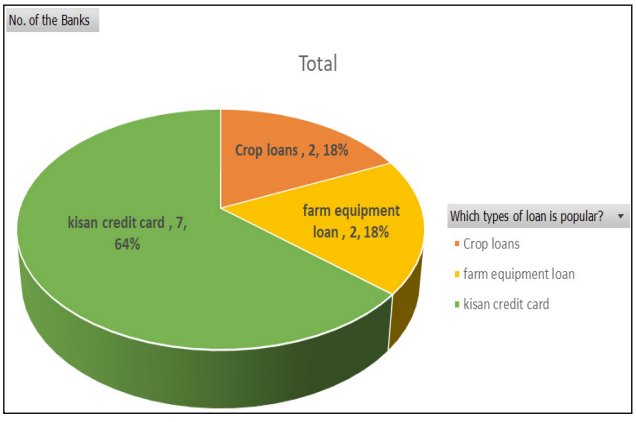

Fig. 3: Popular loan schemes

Loan scheme preference in Gajapati district is revealed in the pie chart. The much-dominated Kisan Credit Card is provided by 64% of banks because of the scheme's popularity stemming from flexibility and subsidies. There is limited adoption in crop and farm equipment loans at 18% each. This indicates the dominance of KCC but also shows the potential to develop other focused credit products to cater to various agricultural requirements.

Table 7: What percentage of Crop insurance is given to farmers by the Banks

Bank provide crop insurance	No. of the Banks
50%	1
60%	2
70%	6
100%	2
Total	11

The bar graph indicates loan waiver percentages given by banks within Gajapati district. The majority of banks (six) offer a 70% waiver, an indication of high risk protection. Others give 60% (two banks), 100% (two banks), and 50% (one bank).

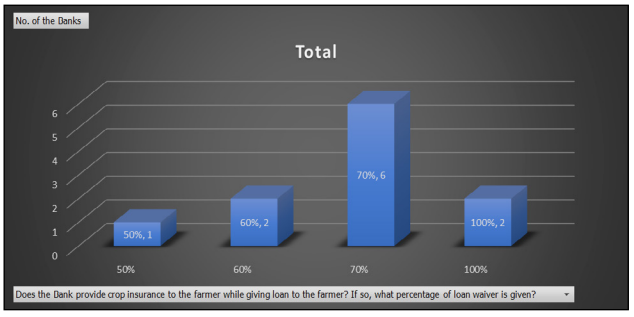

Fig. 4: Percentage of crop insurance

Although coverage is high, differences indicate potential to increase higher waivers for farmers' resilience.

Table 8: Promote to farmers about agriculture loan schemes

Name of the Bank	Promote to farmers about agriculture loan schemes					
	Awareness campus	Personal visit	Leaflets / Pamphlets	SAMAROH activity	Collaboration with local bodies	Door to Door camping
Berhampur central Cooperative Bank					✓	
Bandhan Bank	✓				✓	
UCO Bank	✓				✓	
Punjab National Bank	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Union Bank	✓	✓	✓			
Bank of Baroda	✓	✓			✓	
Axis Bank	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
ICICI Bank	✓	✓				
SBI Bank	✓	✓	✓			
Bank of Maharashtra	✓	✓	✓		✓	
IDBI Bank	✓	✓			✓	

The table reveals the various promotion methodologies adopted by the banks within the Gajapati district of Odisha in order to create awareness among farm households about agricultural loan programs. Most of the banks actively hold awareness camps

and periodic village visits in order to demonstrate interest in increasing farmer outreach and expanding coverage of formal credit. Banks such as Punjab National Bank, Axis Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra exemplify a variety of approaches by making simultaneous uses of numerous channels—leaflets and pamphlet distributions, participation in activities of the celebration of the Queen's Baton Relay, and door-to-door activities—to achieve broader and effective communication. Moreover, banks such as Axis Bank and IDBI Bank work in partnership with local authorities in order to expand the reach and authenticity of outreach activities. In contrast, some regional and cooperative banks exist solely on limited awareness activities in order to signal potential in expanding farmer education and outreach activities. Overall, the chart shows that although several banks are making significant progress in developing agricultural loan programs, more work must be done to promote financial inclusion and aid in the growth of agriculture throughout the Gajapati region. This involves utilising both conventional and digital techniques to integrate, standardise, and localise awareness efforts.

Table 9: What common difficulties do farmers face when applying for loans

Name of the Bank	Common difficulties			
	Lack of proper documentation	Lack of Awareness about schemes	Lack of knowledge	Low Creditworthiness
Berhampur central Cooperative Bank	✓	✓	✓	
Bandhan Bank				✓
UCO Bank				✓
Punjab National Bank		✓		
Union Bank		✓		
Bank of Baroda	✓	✓		✓
Axis Bank	✓		✓	
ICICI Bank	✓	✓		
SBI Bank	✓	✓		✓
Bank of Maharashtra	✓			✓
IDBI Bank	✓	✓		✓

The table highlights the common challenges faced by farmers in accessing agricultural loans in Gajapati district. Inadequate documentation, low creditworthiness, little scheme understanding, and low financial literacy are significant issues. These barriers to official credit all hinder farmers' access to it, underscoring the need for clearer procedures and strong financial literacy initiatives in rural areas.

Table 10: How often do Bank observe loan defaults among farmers

Loan defaults among farmers	No. of the Banks	Percentage of Bankers
Frequently	3	27 %
Occasionally	7	64 %
Rarely	1	9 %
Total	11	100 %

The table shows the trends in farmer loan defaults in the Gajapati district. Repayment issues are shown by the fact that 64% of banks have occasional defaults and 27% have frequent defaults. Very uncommon defaults occur in just 9% of cases. In general, the findings highlight the necessity of better monitoring, credit risk management, and financial education in order to provide agricultural loans that are sustainable and long-lasting.

Table 11: Main reasons for defaults

Main reason for defaults	No. of the Banks
Loan misuse	5
Natural Climates.	2
Political propaganda	1
Poor yield	3
Total	11

The chart indicates that farm loan defaults are primarily a result of the misuses of the loans (5 cases), poor yield (3), unfavorable weather (2), and political interference (1). Financial illiteracy and improper credit utilization become the most significant challenges that arise from this chart.

Data analysis based on Farmer's responses

The table indicates Gajapati district agricultural lending distribution. Gosani block has the majority of 65% while Gumma has 33% denoting active credit

activity. There is limited outreach and a wide gap for access to agricultural financing by the contribution of 2% by Rayagada.

Table 12: Number of Respondents Block-wise

Name of the Block	N0. of the respondent	% of respondent
Gosani	72	65 %
Gumma	36	33 %
Rayagada	2	2 %
Total	110	100 %

Table 13: Age of farmers

Age of farmers	No. of farmers	Percentage (%)
20 - 30	6	5.45%
30 - 40	32	29.09%
40 - 50	43	39.09%
50 - 60	20	18.18%
60 above	9	8.19%
Total	110	100 %

The most prominent component is 40–50 years (39%), followed by 30–40 years (29%) and 50–60 years (18%). Farmers aged 60+ are 8% and those aged 20–30 are just 6% representing very minimal youth contribution to farming.

Table 14: Gender

Gender	No. of respondents
Female	48
Male	62
Total	110

According to the table, 44% of agricultural lenders in the Gajapati district are women and 56% are men. Despite men's small dominance, improvement is seen in the increased engagement of women. To further encourage gender participation and equitable access to agricultural financing, women-focused loan programs, financial literacy, and capacity-building initiatives should be expanded.

Table 15: Caste

Name of the Caste	No. of respondents
General	10
OBC	57
Scheduled castes	1
Scheduled Tribes	42
Total	110

The table shows the caste distribution of the respondents, with OBC accounting for 52%, Scheduled Tribes (ST) for 38%, General for 9%, and Scheduled Castes (SC) for a meagre 1%. This illustrates the dominance of marginalised groups in both financial and agricultural participation, especially OBC and ST.

Table 16: Education

Education	No. of respondents
12th	4
4th	1
5th	12
6th	1
8th	23
9th	7
B. tech Engineering	1
Graduate	5
Graduate (Retired teacher)	1
Illiterate	55
Total	110

The majority of the respondents, roughly 60%, are illiterate, while just a tiny portion finished fifth or eighth grade, and even fewer finished ninth or twelfth grade or postgraduate education, according to the statistics. Professional or technical qualifications are few. This discrepancy in illiteracy draws attention to challenges for development strategies and emphasises the necessity of focused awareness and education programs.

Table 17: Occupation

Occupation of farmers	No. of respondent
Agriculture + Business (Cashew, Turmeric)	1
Agriculture + Business (Candle Business)	1
Agriculture + Business (grocery + Hardware + Fertilizers)	1
Agriculture + Business (Plot Business)	1
Agriculture + Business (tractor Business)	3
Agriculture + Business (Tractors)	2
Agriculture + Business (Van Business)	1
Agriculture + fishery	1
Agriculture + Gas agency	1

Agriculture + House wife	3
Agriculture + kerosene dealer	1
Agriculture + Labour	41
Agriculture + Pandit	1
Agriculture + Sarpanch	1
Agriculture + Teacher	2
Total	110

According to the data, the majority make agriculture their primary source of income, frequently with the help of labour or animal husbandry. Some also work in the gas company, business, teaching, or housekeeping. In rural areas, where most households rely on many sources of income, agriculture often predominates.

Table 18: Annual Income

Annual income	No. of the Beneficiaries	Percentage
25k - 48k	24	22 %
49k - 72k	11	10 %
73k - 96k	25	23 %
97k above	50	45 %
Total	110	100 %

The recipients' average incomes likewise vary greatly. Up to 45% of people earn more than ₹ 97,000 annually, 22% earn between ₹ 25,000 and ₹ 48,000, and 10% earn between ₹ 49,000 and ₹ 72,000. The remaining 23% fall between 73,000 and 96,000.

Table 19: Family Type

Family types	Count of Family Type
Joint family	52
Nuclear family	58
Total	110

As a result of technology, urbanisation, and the desire for independence, nuclear families are obviously more common than joint families, according to the poll. For lifestyle and financial reasons, smaller units are also more sustainable. Such understandings are crucial for politicians to design assistance programs that adapt to evolving family shapes.

Table 20: Size of landholding

Size of landholding	No. of respondent	Percentage
0.5 acre – 2 acres	30	27 %
2 acres – 4 acres	46	41 %
4 acres – 6 acres	25	23 %
6 acres – 8 acres	9	9 %
Total	110	100 %

According to the distribution of landholdings, small to medium-level farming is indicated by the fact that the majority of farmers (42%) own between two and four acres. About 23% have 4–6 acres, while 27% are marginal farmers with 0.5–2 acres. Only 8 percent own 6 to 8 acres. This suggests that marginal and tiny holdings need financial and technical support.

Table 21: Are you aware that banks provide agricultural loan

Banks provide agricultural loan	Count of farmers	Percentage
Yes	110	100 %
No	0	0 %
Total	**110**	**100 %**

110 farmers' findings show that all of them are 100% aware of agricultural loans offered by banks, indicating a high level of knowledge of institutional credit availability.

Table 22: Have you ever taken an agricultural loan

Have you ever taken an agricultural loan	Count of farmers	Percentage
Yes	97	88 %
No	13	12 %
Total	110	100 %

Out of 110 farm owners, 88% have taken out farm loans and have demonstrated a high level of reliance on institutional finance, while 12% have never done so.

Table 23: Have you applied for an agricultural loan from a bank

Applied agricultural loan from a bank	Count of farmers	Percentage
Yes	110	100 %
No	0	0 %
Total	**110**	**100 %**

All the 110 surveyed farmers (100%) claimed to have applied for agricultural loans, indicating full awareness and access to formal credit networks.

Table 24: How easy is it to apply for loan

How easy to apply loan	Count of farmers	Percentage
Difficult	1	1 %
Easy	46	42 %
Neutral	63	57 %
Total	**110**	**100 %**

According to the table, 42% of farmers find the loan application process straightforward, 1% find it difficult, and 57% are neutral. The high neutral answer suggests awareness or experience gaps even while access is improving. To boost confidence and get the full benefits of agricultural finance programs, education and assistance may be improved.

Table 25: What Document were you asked to provide

Document required	No. of farmers	Total no. of respondent	Percentage (%)
Aadhar card	110	110	100%
Income certificate	17	110	15.45%
Bank Passbook	110	110	100%
R-O-R copy	23	110	20.90%
Passport size photo	110	110	100%
Land document	47	110	42.72
Contact number	110	110	100%

The table also shows that all 110 farmers provided Aadhaar, bank passbook, phone number, and picture for advances but fewer provided land (43%), ROR (21%), and income certificates (15%). This inequality in the provision of land and proof of income may constrain access to schemes, highlighting the need for furthering the financial inclusion and support for the farmers.

Table 26: How much time did it take for the loan to be sanctioned

Days of process	No. of farmers	Percentage (%)
1 – 3	11	10%
4 – 5	44	40 %
6 – 7	40	36 %
Above the 7	15	14 %
Total	110	100 %

The table also shows that a mere 10% of the farmers received services between 1–3 days, while 40% took 4–5 days and 36% took 6–7 days. Further 14% took longer than a week. Although the majority obtained services within seven days, serious delays are evident that affect the timely running of farming activities and budgeting.

Table 27: Was the loan amount sufficient for your farming needs

Loan amount sufficient for farming needs	Count of farmers	Percentage
Yes	110	100 %
No	0	0 %
Total	110	100 %

There are 110 respondents (100%) that agreed that the agricultural loan released by the bank was sufficient to satisfy their agriculture needs. This indicates the efficiency of the release of the loan to implement the necessary agricultural activities such as purchase of inputs, machinery, and other related expenditures.

Table 28: Repayment period

Repayment period	Count of farmers	Percentage
2 Years	9	8 %
2 years (Monthly wise)	37	34 %
6 months	64	58 %
Total	110	100 %

According to the table, 34% of farmers chose a two-year monthly payment cycle, 58% chose a six-month payment cycle, and just 8% chose a two-year lump sum plan. Despite short payment cycles, which might be caused by seasonal trends or lender requirements, predominate, flexible month-end plans are becoming more and more popular. Poor planning is shown in the sparse usage of lump payments.

Table 29: Interest rate charged

Interest rate	Count of Types of farmers
3%	64
7%	10
22.75%	36
Total	110

The table show that 58% of the farmers paid back 3%, 9% paid 7%, and 33% paid 22.75% interest. While the majority utilised subsidised loans, most likely from the government or cooperatives, a third depended on expensive private borrowing for items like healthcare or education. Uneven loan availability and the need for inclusive finance changes are reflected in the discrepancy.

CONCLUSION

According to the report, all farm households are aware of and using institutional credit, which has expanded throughout the Gajapati area. Yet there are persistent inequalities in the industry: lengthy repayment delays, burdensome documentation, and unequal access to subsidised loans with lower interest rates all prevent participation. The use of expensive loans from commercial moneylenders indicates structural limits, notwithstanding the increased accessibility of government-sponsored programs like as the PMFBY and Kisan Credit Card. Examples of remedial activities include the simplification of bank processes, the improvement of financial literacy among farm households, and the creation of repayment plans appropriate for agricultural businesses that are reliant on the seasons. Increased use of digital channels, the promotion of gender-sensitive finance, and investments in climate-resilient agriculture will further improve the sustainability and engagement of farm families. Odisha has to take a holistic strategy that includes capacity building, technology-based transformation, and institutional reform in order to establish a strong and inclusive rural credit network.

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