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Title of Entry	: Institutional Innovations in rice seed provisioning in Odisha, India: A Critical Analysis
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**Abstract** : Poor seed replacement rate (SRR) coupled with its provisioning system in eastern India is the foremost restraints in achieving potential rice yield. A well-organized system for developing rice seed-provisioning is thus an essential strategy for Odisha. Private interventions through large scale seed production and marketing since the year 2010 have accelerated the SRR, albeit the total market share is marginal. This study analyzed present institutional arrangements and public-private liaison for the improvement of quality seed provisioning system at farm level. More than 500 rice farms, 50 rice seed growers and 50 rice seed dealers were primarily sampled across 10 districts of the state during 2017-18 for the present study. A mixed method of survey design was adopted to ascertain the facts and figures of rice seed provisioning system at farm level. For better conceptualizing the functioning of public and private stake holders in seed provisioning system, secondary published database on cultivar wise seed sale was analyzed during 2000-2016. Numerous disintegrated public seed provisioning agencies are entangled through developmental programs, causing duplication of efforts and subsequently resulting inefficacy of the entire system. The subsidized public seed provisioning system i.e. Odisha State Seeds corporation is not only a hurdle to private sectors' expansion, but also in terms of quality seed provisioning. The public seed system is not only suffering from mounting public revenue deficit in operating Seed Corporation but also quality seed production and delivery. Moreover, the inappropriate implementation of direct benefit transfer (DBT) in rice seed provisioning has resulted into sharp decline in SRR of rice during the last two years. Farmers are still constrained with timely availability of quality seeds of desired rice varieties. Public sector seed provisioning system needs to be inevitably reformed in terms of private sector's participation. Enhancement in rice productivity is thus remained in the hands of institutional reform and organizational cooperation. A paradigm shift is thus envisioned for improvement in seed research and development which calls for a pluralistic approach for the ultimate benefit of pro poor in rural Odisha.

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