

Dedicated to

*My beloved parents (Sri Sunil Kumar Ghosh and Smt. Chandra Ghosh),
wife (Rinku Saha) and dear Son (Sounak Ghosh)*



समानो मन्त्रः समितिः समानी

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that **Mr. Subrata Ghosh**, a Research Scholar of the Department of Geography & Applied Geography, University of North Bengal has carried out his Ph.D. thesis titled “*AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE FARMERS: A CASE STUDY OF UTTAR DINAJPUR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL*” under my supervision which is being submitted to the University of North Bengal for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Geography & Applied Geography under the faculty of science.

To the best of my knowledge and belief it is his original research work based on extensive field survey and secondary sources of information done by the researcher.

This thesis as a whole or any part of it has not been submitted to any other University/ Institution for any other degree.

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Preface

The preface provides an overview of the chapters comprising the thesis, outlining their content and significance. Each chapter elucidates a distinct facet of agricultural transformation, utilizing a combination of empirical data, analysis, and expert insights. This thesis presents an in-depth exploration of the agricultural transformation taking place in Uttar Dinajpur district, West Bengal, India. The district's agricultural landscape has undergone significant changes, transitioning from traditional cropping practices to more commercially oriented ones. The following chapters systematically analyze various aspects of this transformation, shedding light on its causes, impacts, and future prospects.

The introductory chapter lays the foundation for the study by highlighting the crucial role of agriculture in the Indian economy and its impact on livelihoods. The distinction between the pre-green revolution and post-green revolution eras sets the context for understanding the shifts in agricultural practices. The chapter outlines the research objectives and hypotheses that guide the investigation.

Chapter II provides an insightful overview of the geographical attributes of Uttar Dinajpur district. It delves into the historical context of its formation and elaborates on its geographical area, topographical features, climate, soil types, and hydrology. This chapter aims to offer a comprehensive understanding of the physical attributes shaping the district's agricultural landscape.

The third chapter focuses on the underlying causes driving the ongoing agricultural transformation. Through a detailed questionnaire survey, this chapter uncovers the motivations behind farmers' decisions to shift from traditional crops to transforming crops. Economic incentives, higher production, cropping periods, and ease of cultivation are examined as key factors influencing this transition.

This chapter delves into a comprehensive analysis of the impacts arising from the ongoing agricultural transformation within Uttar Dinajpur district. As the district undergoes shifts in its crop patterns and farming practices, it is essential to understand how these changes ripple through various dimensions of the agricultural landscape and the broader socio-economic context.

Furthermore, the socio-economic impact of agricultural transformation is meticulously assessed. This includes an evaluation of changes in income distribution, employment patterns, and the overall economic vitality of the district. The chapter delves into the potential benefits reaped by farmers who have adopted transforming crops, such as enhanced earnings, improved living standards, and increased access to markets.

Chapter V explores farmers' perceptions and opinions regarding the ongoing agricultural transformation. By engaging directly with farmers, this chapter captures their viewpoints on the changing practices, benefits, and implications for their livelihoods. The voices of the farming community offer a ground-level understanding of the realities of agricultural transformation.

In Chapter VI, the study delves into the production trends of major crops in the district. It analyzes production data to reveal significant shifts in output levels for crops like rice, wheat, maize, and mustard. This chapter unveils the trends in production growth, decline, and transformation, reinforcing the narrative of agricultural transformation.

Chapter VI delves into the changing land use patterns within the district. The chapter uses historical data to illustrate the shifting proportions of various crops over time, emphasizing the growth of transforming crops while traditional ones wane. This spatial and temporal analysis provides insights into the evolving cropping patterns at the block level.

Chapter VII employs forecasting models to project future trends in crop production within the district. Through the application of the ARIMA model, this chapter offers insights into the potential trajectory of agricultural transformation in the upcoming years. It serves as a valuable tool for policymakers and stakeholders seeking informed decisions.

The chapter VIII identifies the challenges and constraints that hinder the smooth progression of agricultural transformation. It investigates issues such as inadequate irrigation, middlemen interference, pesticide overuse, and marketing complexities. By delving into these challenges, the chapter sheds light on obstacles that require strategic interventions for sustainable agricultural growth.

Chapter IX builds on the challenges discussed in the preceding chapter by presenting actionable suggestions to overcome constraints and promote sustainable agricultural transformation.

Recommendations encompass strategies for improving irrigation, marketing, training, and technology adoption, all of which contribute to a balanced shift towards transforming crops

The concluding chapter synthesizes the study's findings and derives meaningful conclusions. It encapsulates the implications of agricultural transformation for Uttar Dinajpur district, weighing the positive and negative aspects. The chapter not only summarizes the research but also lays the groundwork for future studies and policy considerations in the realm of agricultural development.

This thesis aspires to contribute to the understanding of agricultural transformation dynamics in Uttar Dinajpur district, offering valuable insights for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders working towards sustainable agricultural growth and rural development.

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Statutory declaration

All the materials including literatures, maps, diagrams, plates, and any information embodied in this thesis “*Agricultural transformation and its impact on socio-economic conditions of the farmers: a case study of Uttar Dinajpur district, West Bengal*” being submitted by myself (Subrata Ghosh) under the supervision of Dr. Snehasish Saha, Associate Professor, Department of Geography & Applied Geography, University of North Bengal to the Dept. of Geography & Applied Geography, University of North Bengal, Raja Rammohunpur, P.O. NBU, District Darjeeling, Pin-734013, West Bengal. This thesis is in all aspects original and has not been submitted in part or full for any other diploma or degree fellowship or any other similar title or recognition except few parts for peer reviewed journals to partially fulfill the need of pre Ph.D. publication. The work of other authors or any other organizations/agencies wherever made use of, in this study have been duly acknowledged at relevant places with appropriate and possible recognition. The published works either in the form of direct or indirect utilization have also been used with proper courtesy. Any mistake in doing so is purely unwanted and subject to the proper acknowledgement to the concerned author(s), organization or agency etc., though there is hardly little chance of that. In every part of the work the attitude is to establish individuality and uniqueness with the help of establishment of fact through secondary data sources, published literary works, field work, group discussions, interviews etc.

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List of abbreviation

ACF	Auto correlation functions
AOI	Area of interest
AR	Auto regression
ArcGIS	Aeronautical reconnaissance coverage geographic information system.
ARIMA	Autoregressive integrated moving average
ATA	Agricultural transformation agenda
BIC	Bayesian information criterion
CAGR	Compound annual growth rate
CBA	Cost benefit analysis
DTW	Deep tube well
ECA	The economic commission for Africa
ERDAS	Earth resources data analysis system
FGD	Focus group discussion
GCA	Gross cropped area
GeoTIFF	Geographic tagged image file format
GOI	Government of India
HDTW	High capacity deep tube well
HVA	High value agricultural products
J.L	Jurisdiction list
K	Potash
LCL	Lower control limit
LDTW	Low capacity deep tube well
LULC	Land use land cover
MA	Moving average
MDTW	Middle capacity deep tube well
N	Nitrogen
N.O.C	No objection certificate
NB	North Bengal
NTFP	Non-timber forest products

ODW	Open dug well
OLI	Operational land imager
P	Phosphate
PACF	Partial auto correlation functions
RLI	River lift irrigation
SHG	Self-help groups
SID	Simpson's index of diversification
STGs	Small tea growers
STW	Shallow tube well
TIRS	Thermal infrared sensor
TM	Thematic mapper
UCL	Upper control limit
USDA	United states department of agriculture
USGS	United states geological survey
UTM	Universal transverse mercator
VIP	Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines
WGS	Whole genome sequencing

List of Tables

Table No.	Table Heading	Page no.
Table 2.1	Physiographic divisions of Uttar Dinajpur district	28
Table 2.2	Elevation and slope characteristics of Uttar Dinajpur district	28
Table 2.3	Block-wise land situation of Uttar Dinajpur district	29
Table 2.4	Monthly distribution of rainfall in millimeters in Uttar Dinajpur district (1993-2017)	31-32
Table 2.5	Forest cover (Area in Km) of Uttar Dinajpur district	36
Table 3.1	Sample villages and number of farmers questioned out of total cultivators	42
Table 3.2	Percent position and Garrett value	44
Table 3.3	Calculated Garrett score of causative factors (marginal farmers)	45
Table 3.4	Ranking of the causative factors of agricultural transformation (marginal farmers)	46
Table 3.5	Calculated Garrett score of causative factors (small farmers)	46
Table 3.6	Ranking of causes of agricultural transformation (small farmers)	46
Table 3.7	Calculated Garrett score of causative factors (medium farmers)	47
Table 3.8	Ranking of the causes of agricultural transformation (medium farmers)	47
Table 3.9	Cost-benefit analysis of aman	54
Table 3.10	Cost-benefit analysis of boro	55
Table 3.11	Cost-benefit analysis of wheat	56
Table 3.12	Cost-benefit analysis of maize	59
Table 3.13	Cost-benefit analysis of tea (adding all five year)	60
Table 3.14	Cost-benefit analysis of jute	62
Table 3.15	Cost-benefit analysis of potato	63
Table 3.16	Cost-benefit analysis of mustard	64
Table 3.17	Crop specific cost-benefit ratio based on farm size	66
Table 3.18	Cropping time period in relation to enterprise cost and profit (Rs.) for transforming and transformed crops	71-72
Table 4.1	Data values and their corresponding Likert scale responses for both the economic and social parameters of marginal farmers in Uttar Dinajpur district	77-80
Table 4.2	Data values and their corresponding Likert scale responses for both the economic and socio parameters of small farmers in Uttar Dinajpur district	82-84
Table 4.3	Data values and their corresponding Likert scale responses for both the economic and social parameters of medium farmers in Uttar Dinajpur district	88-91

Table 4.4	Socio-economic parameter selected for different types of farmer classes to understand data reliability using Cronbach's method	95
Table 4.5	Comparative study of marginal, small and medium farmers of the impact of agricultural transformation	98
Table 4.6	Descriptive statistics among different farming groups	102
Table 4.7	Tests of homogeneity of variances	102
Table 4.8	ANOVA test to identify significant difference among the farming groups	102
Table 4.9	Descriptive statistics for multiple comparisons among the different farming groups	103
Table 4.10	Descriptive statistics for mean comparisons between different farming groups	104
Table 4.11	ANOVA test to identify the significance level among the different farming groups	106
Table 6.1	Delineation of crop combination regions of Uttar Dinajpur district, 1996-97 (After J.C.Weaver)	127
Table 6.2	Delineation of crop combination regions of Uttar Dinajpur district, 2016-17 (After J.C.Weaver)	128
Table 6.3	Compound annual growth rate of production of major crops of Uttar Dinajpur district (1996-97 and 2016-17)	139
Table 6.4	Production of principal crops in the district of Uttar Dinajpur during the period of 1996-97 to 2016-17 (in thousand tonnes)	147
Table 6.5	Production of principal crops in the district of Uttar Dinajpur during the period of 1996-97 to 2016-17 (in thousand tonnes)	147-148
Table 6.6	Production of principal crops in the district of Uttar Dinajpur during the period of 1996-97 to 2016-17 (in thousand tonnes)	148
Table 6.7	Production of principal crops in the district of Uttar Dinajpur during the period of 1996-97 to 2016-17 (in thousand tonnes)	148-149
Table 6.8	Percentage share of crops to gross cropped area (GCA): block-wise (1996-97)	160
Table 6.9	The major crops of each blocks of Uttar Dinajpur district are hereby mentioned below during 1996-97	160
Table 6.10	Percentage share of crops to gross cropped area (GCA): Block-wise (2016-2017)	161
Table 6.11	The major crops of each block of Uttar Dinajpur district are hereby mentioned below during 2016-17	161
Table 6.12	Changes in cropping pattern of Uttar Dinajpur district (Area in Ha)	163
Table 6.13	Changes in cropping pattern (under cereals group) in Uttar Dinajpur district (Area in Ha)	165
Table 6.14	Changes in cropping pattern (under pulses group) in Uttar Dinajpur	166

	district (Area in Ha)	
Table 6.15	Changes in cropping pattern (under oilseeds group) of Uttar Dinajpur district (Area in Ha)	166
Table 6.16	Changes in cropping pattern (under Fibre group) of Uttar Dinajpur district (Area in Ha)	167
Table 6.17	Changes in cropping pattern (under miscellaneous group) of Uttar Dinajpur district (Area in Ha)	168
Table 6.18	Changes in cropping pattern (individual crop wise) of Uttar Dinajpur district (Area in Ha)	171
Table 6.19	Area of tea cultivation in Uttar Dinajpur district (Area in Ha)	173
Table 6.20	Number of tea garden (no. of plots used for tea plantation)	173
Table 6.21	Changes in cropping pattern in different blocks (individual crop wise) of Uttar Dinajpur district (Area in Ha)	174
Table 6.22	Changes in cropping pattern in different blocks (individual crop wise) of Uttar Dinajpur district (Area in Ha)	175
Table 6.23	Changes in cropping pattern in different blocks (individual crop wise) of Uttar Dinajpur district (Area in Ha)	176
Table 6.24	Changes in cropping pattern in different blocks (individual crop wise) of Uttar Dinajpur district (Area in Ha)	177
Table 6.25	Compound annual growth rate of area under major crops of the district of Uttar Dinajpur district	180
Table 6.26	LULC change from 1996 to 2016 in Uttar Dinajpur district	191
Table 6.27	Spatio- temporal changes of cropping practices indicating discontinued crops as signature of wide agricultural transformation (Based on farmer's perception)	192
Table 6.28	Categorization of productivity indices	194
Table 6.29	Productivity index for individual crops: block-wise (1996-1997)	195
Table 6.30	Productivity index for individual crops: block-wise (2016-2017)	195
Table 6.31	Spatio-temporal changes of land holding size	205-206
Table 6.32	Spatio-temporal changes in land holding number	208-209
Table 6.33	Indicators of traditional to modern agricultural systems in Uttar Dinajpur district	210
Table 6.34	Temporal modification (1996-1997 to 2016-2017) of agricultural equipment	211
Table 6.35	Area irrigated by different sources in the district of Uttar Dinajpur (Thousand hectares)	214-215
Table 6.36	Sources of irrigation in the district of Uttar Dinajpur (in numbers)	215
Table 6.37	Area irrigated by different sources in the blocks of Uttar Dinajpur (Area in hectare)	215-216
Table 6.38	Fertilizer consumed in the district of Uttar Dinajpur (thousand tonnes)	216

Table 7.1	BIC values of fitted ARIMA models	242
Table 7.2	BIC values of fitted ARIMA models	242
Table 7.3	Calculation of forecast values of aus production using ARIMA model	249
Table 7.4	Calculation of forecast values of aman production using ARIMA model	249
Table 7.5	Calculation of forecast values of boro production using ARIMA model	250
Table 7.6	Calculation of forecast values of wheat production using ARIMA model	251
Table 7.7	Calculation of forecast values of maize production using ARIMA model	252
Table 7.8	Calculation of forecast values of mustard production using ARIMA model	252
Table 7.9	Calculation of forecast values of potato production using ARIMA model	253
Table 7.10	Calculation of forecast values of jute production using ARIMA model	254
Table 7.11	Calculation of forecast values of tea production using ARIMA model	255
Table 8.1	Area irrigated by different sources in the district of Uttar Dinajpur (in thousand hectares)	258
Table 8.2	Sources of irrigation in the district of Uttar Dinajpur (in numbers)	258-259
Table 8.3	Area irrigated by different sources in the blocks of Uttar Dinajpur (area in hectares)	259
Table 8.4	Fertilizer consumed in the district of Uttar Dinajpur (in thousand tonnes)	260
Table 8.5	Average price of green leaves in Uttar Dinajpur district (2015-2019)	261

List of Figures

Figure No.	Figure Caption	Page no.
Figure 1.1	Location map of the study area	4
Figure 2.1	Administrative set-up of Uttar Dinajpur district in West Bengal	25
Figure 2.2	Location of Uttar Dinajpur district in West Bengal	26
Figure 2.3	Climatic scenario of Uttar Dinajpur district	30
Figure 2.4	Mean monthly temperature and rainfall of Uttar Dinajpur, 2000	31
Figure 2.5	Soil classes of Uttar Dinajpur district and their aerial coverage	33
Figure 2.6	Drainage network of Uttar Dinajpur district	34
Figure 3.1	Comparison of total operating cost (cost-A) of transforming and native crops	68
Figure 3.2	Comparison of total enterprise cost (Cost-D) of transforming and native crops	68
Figure 3.3	Comparison of gross profit (in Rs.) of transforming and native crops	69
Figure 3.4	Comparison of net Profit (in Rs.) of transforming and native crops	69
Figure 3.5	Comparison of return to total cost (in Rs.) of transforming and native crops	70
Figure 5.1	Farmers perception regarding the adaptation rate of agricultural transformation	111
Figure 5.2	Perception of agricultural transformation has been started in Uttar Dinajpur district	112
Figure 5.3	Perception on benefits regarding agricultural transformation in Uttar Dinajpur district	113
Figure 5.3 (i)		
Figure 5.3 (ii)	Perception of agricultural transformations has increase the net income of a farmer in Uttar Dinajpur district	113
Figure 5.4	Perception of exist any affect regarding soil fertility due to new cropping pattern in Uttar Dinajpur district	114
Figure 5.5	Perception on satisfaction level regarding changing cropping pattern	115
Figure 5.6	Perception about women-participation towards agricultural transformation	116
Figure 5.7	Perception of youths about agricultural transformation	117
Figure 5.8	Perception on associated problems of agricultural transformation	118
Figure 5.8 (i)		
Figure 5.8 (ii)	Perception of major problem of agriculture/ or regarding agricultural transformation in Uttar Dinajpur district	118
Figure 6.1	Crop combination of Uttar Dinajpur district (1996-97 to 2016-17)	126
Figure 6.2	Trend line of aus production (1996-97 to 2016-17)	129
Figure 6.3	Trend line of aman production (1996-97 to 2016-17)	130

Figure 6.4	Trend line of boro production (1996-97 to 2016-17)	130
Figure 6.5	Trend line of total paddy production (1996-97 to 2016-17)	131
Figure 6.6	Trend line of wheat production (1996-97 to 2016-17)	132
Figure 6.7	Trend line of maize production (1996-97 to 2016-17)	132
Figure 6.8	Trend line of pulses production (1996-97 to 2016-17)	133
Figure 6.9	Trend line of mustard production (1996-97 to 2016-17)	134
Figure 6.10	Trend line of jute production (1996-97 to 2016-17)	135
Figure 6.11	Trend line of potato production (1996-97 to 2016-17)	136
Figure 6.12	Trend line of tea production (1996-97 to 2016-17)	137
Figure 6.13	Compound annual growth rate of production of aus and aman (1996-97 to 2016-17)	141
Figure 6.14	Compound annual growth rate of production of boro and total paddy (1996-97 to 2016-17)	142
Figure 6.15	Compound annual growth rate of production of wheat and maize (1996-1997 to 2016-2017)	143
Figure 6.16	Compound annual growth rate of production of musur and maskhalai (1996-97 to 2016-17)	144
Figure 6.17	Compound annual growth rate of production of total pulses and Mustard (1996-97 to 2016-17)	144
Figure 6.18	Compound annual growth rate of production of jute and potato (1996-1997 to 2016-2017)	145
Figure 6.19	Compound annual growth rate of production of til and total oilseeds (1996-1997 to 2016-2017)	146
Figure 6.20	Percentage share of aman to gross cropped area (1996-1997 and 2016-2017)	151
Figure 6.21	Percentage share of boro to gross cropped area (1996-1997 and 2016-2017)	152
Figure 6.22	Percentage share of total paddy to gross cropped area (1996-1997 and 2016-2017)	153
Figure 6.23	Percentage share of wheat to gross cropped area (1996-97 and 2016-17)	154
Figure 6.24	Percentage share of maize to gross cropped area (2016-17 and 2008-09)	155
Figure 6.25	Percentage share of pulses to gross cropped area (1996-97 and 2016-17)	156
Figure 6.26	Percentage share of mustard to gross cropped area (1996-97 and 2016-17)	157
Figure 6.27	Percentage share of jute to gross cropped area (1996-97 and 2016-17)	158
Figure.6.28	Percentage share of potato to gross cropped area (1996-1997 and 2016-2017)	159

Figure 6.29	Changes in cropping pattern of Uttar Dinajpur district	164
Figure 6.30	Changing cropping pattern of Uttar Dinajpur district(1996-1997 to 2016-2017)	170
Figure 6.31	Area of tea cultivation in Uttar Dinajpur district (2003-04 to 2014-15) (area in Ha)	173
Figure 6.32	Number of tea garden in Uttar Dinajpur district (2003-04 to 2014-15)	173
Figure 6.33	Changing cropping pattern of Uttar Dinajpur district (percent change from 1996-1997 to 2016-2017)	178
Figure 6.34	Compound annual growth rate of area of aus and aman (1996-1997 to 2016-2017)	181
Figure 6.35	Compound annual growth rate of area of boro and total paddy (1996-1997 to 2016-2017)	181
Figure 6.36	Compound annual growth rate of area of wheat and maize (1996-1997 to 2016-2017)	183
Figure 6.37	Compound annual growth rate of area of musur (lentil) and maskhalai (1996-97 to 2016-2017)	184
Figure 6.38	Compound annual growth rate of area of mustard and til (1996-1997 to 2016-2017)	185
Figure 6.39	Compound annual growth rate of area of jute and potato (1996-1997 to 2016-2017)	186
Figure 6.40	Changes of LULC in the study area (1996 to 2016)	190
Figure 6.41	Spatial distribution of productivity index of aus (a) 1996-1997 (b) 2016-2017	196
Figure 6.42	Spatial distribution of productivity index of aman (a) 1996-97 (b) 2016-17	197
Figure 6.43	Spatial distribution of productivity index of boro (a) 1996-1997 (b) 2016-2017	197
Figure 6.44	Spatial distribution of productivity index of wheat (a) 1996-1997 (b) 2016-2017	198
Figure 6.45	Spatial distribution of productivity index of maize (a) 1996-1997 (b) 2016-17	199
Figure 6.46	Spatial distribution of productivity index of musur (a) 1996-1997 (b) 2016-2017	199
Figure 6.47	Spatial distribution of productivity index of maskalai (a) 1996-1997 (b) 2016-2017	200
Figure 6.48	Spatial distribution of productivity index of til (a) 1996-1997 (b) 2016-2017	201
Figure 6.49	Spatial distribution of productivity index of mustard (a) 1996-1997 (b) 2016-2017	202
Figure 6.50	Spatial distribution of productivity index of jute (a) 1996-1997 (b) 2016-2017	203

	2016-2017	
Figure 6.51	Spatial distribution of productivity index of potato (a) 1996-1997 (b) 2016-2017	203
Figure 6.52	Block wise distribution of land-holding size in 2000-2001	206
Figure 6.53	Block wise distribution of land-holding size in 2005-2006	206
Figure 6.54	Block wise distribution of land-holding size in 2010-2011	207
Figure 6.55	Block wise distribution of land-holding number in 2000-2001	207
Figure 6.56	Block wise distribution of land-holding number in 2005-2006	207
Figure 6.57	Block wise distribution of land-holding number in 2010-2011	208
Figure 6.58	Marketing system of agricultural crops in Uttar Dinajpur District (past and present condition)	214
Figure 6.59	Consumption of fertilizer in the district of Uttar Dinajpur in thousand tons (2001-2002 to 2016-2017)	217
Figure 7.1a	Auto Correlation Factor distribution pattern for aus	233
Figure 7.1b	Partial auto correlation factor of distribution pattern for aus	234
Figure 7.2a	Auto correlation factor distribution pattern for aman	234
Figure 7.2b	Partial auto correlation factor distribution pattern for aman	235
Figure 7.3a	Auto correlation factor distribution pattern for boro	235
Figure 7.3b	Partial auto correlation factor distribution pattern for boro	236
Figure 7.4a	Auto correlation Factor distribution pattern for wheat	236
Figure 7.4b	Partial auto correlation factor of distribution pattern for wheat	236
Figure 7.5a	Auto correlation factor distribution pattern for maize	238
Figure 7.5b	Partial auto correlation factor of distribution pattern for maize	238
Figure 7.6a	Auto correlation factor distribution pattern for mustard	239
Figure 7.6b	Partial auto correlation factor of distribution pattern for mustard	239
Figure 7.7a	Auto correlation factor distribution pattern for jute	240
Figure 7.7b	Partial auto correlation factor of distribution pattern for jute	240
Figure 7.8a	Auto correlation factor distribution pattern for potato	241
Figure 7.8b	Partial auto correlation factor of distribution pattern for potato	241
Figure 7.9	Residual ACF and residual PACF of aus	244
Figure 7.10	Residual ACF and residual PACF of aman	244
Figure 7.11	Residual ACF and residual PACF of boro	245
Figure 7.12	Residual ACF and residual PACF of wheat	245
Figure 7.13	Residual ACF and residual PACF of maize	246
Figure 7.14	Residual ACF and residual PACF of mustard	246
Figure 7.15	Residual ACF and residual PACF of potato	247
Figure 7.16	Residual ACF and residual PACF of jute	247
Figure 7.17	Residual ACF and residual PACF of tea	248
Figure 7.18	Observed and expected values of aus production (Forecasting) of Uttar Dinajpur district (2025) based on ARIMA model	248

Figure 7.19	Observed and expected values of aman production (forecasting) of Uttar Dinajpur district (2025) based on ARIMA model	249
Figure 7.20	Observed and expected values of boro production (forecasting) of Uttar Dinajpur district based on ARIMA model	250
Figure 7.21	Observed and expected values of wheat production (forecasting) of Uttar Dinajpur district (2025) based on ARIMA model	251
Figure 7.22	Observed and expected values of maize production (forecasting) of Uttar Dinajpur district (2025) based on ARIMA model	251
Figure 7.23	Observed and expected values of mustard production (forecasting) of Uttar Dinajpur district (2025) based on ARIMA model	252
Figure 7.24	Observed and expected values of potato production (forecasting) of Uttar Dinajpur district (2025) based on ARIMA model	253
Figure 7.25	Observed and expected values of jute production (forecasting) of Uttar Dinajpur district (2025) based on ARIMA model	254
Figure 7.26	Observed and expected values of tea production (forecasting) of Uttar Dinajpur district (2025) based on ARIMA model	254

List of Photographs

Plate no.	Plate caption	Page no
Plate 6.1	Paddy field encroached by tea garden	218
Plate 6.2	Highland (Dangi) dominated by tea garden and low land (Nichanpara) dominated by paddy	218
Plate 6.3	Tea leaves being cut by the machine	218
Plate 6.4	Woman engaged in tea plucking showing over time job and income opportunity	218
Plate 6.5	Insect infested tea plants and leaves (looper) identifying one of the dangerous problems of transformed agriculture	219
Plate 6.6	Tea leaf severely attacked by insects and signifying damage in agricultural output	219
Plate 6.7	Woman engaged in maize cultivation as a new avenue for income after adoption of transformed crops	219
Plate 6.8	Man engaged in maize cultivation as a new innovative job prominence	219
Plate 6.9	Maize field indicating intensive and cash farming innovation and exhibiting over exhaustion of land in view of fertility	220
Plate 6.10	Tea-pineapple and paddy cultivating simultaneously showing major agricultural-association in Uttar Dinajpur district	220
Plate 6.11	Harvesting paddy and threshing by hand to extract grains mostly practiced during 1996-97 indicating old techniques of farm mechanization before adopting transforming crops	221
Plate 6.12	Harvester being used in the field indicating advanced techniques of farm mechanization symbolization adoption of agricultural transformation	221
Plate 6.13	Pilot use of harvester indicating agricultural transformation scenario during field investigation, November 2023	221
Plate 6.14	Close view of tractor blades ready for preparation of land after second season of a three-rotation system paddy field of Uttar Dinajpur	221
Plate 6.15	Mechanised threshing of paddy grains and separation of hays during pre-1990s	222
Plate 6.16	More advanced threshers being used in contemporary times symbolizing steady continuation of agricultural transformation in the district	222
Plate 6.17	Cleaning, sorting and collection of paddy grains after harvesting	222
Plate 6.18	Advanced cleaning, threshing and multiple user machines very readily used for farm machinery attesting the future trends of agricultural transformation in Uttar Dinajpur district	222
Plate 6.19	Farmers actively using root level sprinkling with water to the newly and tendering corn saplings by pipe irrigation facilities indicative of	223

	advancement of agricultural transformation	
Plate 6.20	Use of wheel-ladders for weeding of dead undergrowth to safeguard the saplings from pests and rotting chances of the stems	223
Plate 6.21	Tractors of heavy machinery types being mostly used after 2008-09 in most of the blocks in the district signifying preparatory field works techniques by advanced machinery	223
Plate 6.22	Sprayer containers for saving the saplings from pests and rodents and nematodes by using pesticides, rodenticides, nematicides etc mostly capacities of the well-to-do farmers signifying competencies of financial strengths after adoption of transformed crops	223
Plate 6.23	Use of even-spaced installed sprinklers by the large farmers after adopting tea as transforming crops	224
Plate 6.24	Protecting tea from tea-bugs by using pesticides signifying market-oriented cropping intentions and to minimize crop failures	224
Plate 6.25	Megascopic view of advanced type chaff cutters ready to be used to harvest tea leaves which is indicating excessive demand vs. ready plucking of tea leaves after agricultural transformation with newly and upcoming tea gardens in the district	224
Plate 6.26	The operation of the technique (Ref. to plate O) in the field to mechanically pluck tea leaves as like blade levelers	224
Plate 6.27 (a, b, c & d)	Different stages of mechanical operations very much enhancing after adoption of agricultural transformation and upcoming several tea gardens in the district of Uttar Dinajpur which was very much a shrink scenario before 1996-1997 and most common after 2008-2009 with the continuous dividends of the farmers by adopting tea as transforming crop and invading paddy and jute	225
Plate 6.28	Mulch-stripping as natural manuring and moisture retaintion process very rare after adoption of transforming crops	226
Plate 6.29 (a, b & c)	Field activities being very common operations after adopting newer varieties of corn, vegetables and tea being more delicate than older indigenous varieties	226