**MEASURING TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY OF PADDY CULTIVATORS IN LALA BLOCKS OF HAILAKANDI DISTRICT: A STOCHISTIC PRODUCTION FRONTIER APPROACH**

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**Abstract**

This study attempts to measure technical efficiency of paddy cultivators in Lala Block of Hailakandi Disrtict on the basis of farm level primary data by estimating a Cobb-Douglas production frontier model with inefficiency effects. Only the 2021 cropping season is considered in the current study. Data on various farm inputs and paddy output in physical units is collected at the cultivator level using the standard interview method employing a well structured pretested agricultural survey schedule. The study concludes that human labour is the most important and statistically significant factor in determining paddy output at the cultivator level. Other factors like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are found statistically insignificant. The study finds substantial differences in farm level technical efficiency across different size classes of farmers. Among the non-input factors quality of life has a positive influence on technical efficiency. The study prescribes more credit facilities for cultivators belonging to the below 1 hectare size class. The study suggest that cultivators proper awareness in order to have more involvement in agricultural activities .It has been observed that hectares and hectares of paddy field are not used for cultivation, even though there is enough chance for huge production. Moreover, the government should pay attention towards controlling informal money lending besides expanding round the year irrigation facilities along training programmes for HYV cultivation in the district for significant improvements in farm technical efficiency and thus for improvements in overall quality of life.

* **Key words**: technical efficiency, inefficiency effects, quality of life.