The Government of India, Government of Odisha and the World Bank signed a US$165 million loan agreement to support smallholder farmers strengthen the resilience of their production systems as well as diversify and improve the marketing of their produce, for increased income.

**ODISHA INTEGRATED IRRIGATION PROJECT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE:**

- It is a collaborative project between Government of India, Government of Odisha and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- This project will be implemented in rural areas vulnerable to droughts and largely dependent on rainfed agriculture.
- The project will strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers against adverse climate by improving access to resilient seed varieties, diversifying towards more climate-resilient crops, and improving access to better water management services.

**Objective:**

- Support the rehabilitation of water tanks
- Support farmers to reduce the current emphasis on food grains (especially paddy and wheat)
- Increase the share of high-value and more nutritious products like fruits and vegetables
- Provide marketing support to farmers who are able to generate a marketable surplus.
- Disseminate improved aquaculture practices and post-harvest management.

**IMPORTANCE:**

In recent years, climate variability has seriously affected agriculture in Odisha, where farming is largely dominated by farmers with landholdings of less than 2 hectares.

- Since 2009, the frequency of droughts in the state has increased from 1 in 5 years to 1 in 2 years. Today, about 70 % of total cultivated area is prone to droughts compared to 40 % in the 1970s.
- Since 2013, floods are now devastating areas beyond the traditional flood zone. Drier areas are projected to become drier, while wetter areas will become wetter.
- Agriculture is also a major source of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in Odisha, responsible for about 25 % of the GHG emissions in the state.