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.