of the Community Development Programme, the progress achieved so far and the functions of village panchayats are also dealt with. The last chapter dealing with agricultural planning assesses the role of agriculture in the first two Plans and the contemplated outlay during the Third Plan.

The author has attempted to present in this book only facts as they are, avoiding all current controversies. Even when he expresses his view preferring co-operative farming to other systems of land pattern, the author keeps off from the enormous amount of conflicting literature that has cropped up recently on this controversial question. In this book, the author has brought together almost all available information that can be culled from blue books, other publications and bulletins published in India and England. It should prove useful to the students who are interested in understanding the basic problems of Indian agriculture.


This is an abridged version of the fourth edition of the book published in April 1959. It traces the history and the growth of the co-operative movement in this country since early times upto the end of June 1958. This abridged edition is divided into eight chapters. Chapter I provides the background to the study by analysing the geographic, social, industrial and political conditions. Chapter II traces the early steps towards co-operation. Chapters III to VI deal with the development of the different types of co-operative societies in India, viz., agricultural credit societies, non-agricultural credit societies, non-credit societies and central societies respectively. A critical evaluation of the present status of the movement, its external handicaps and internal weaknesses as also of its achievements is ably attempted in Chapter VII. The last chapter deals with the recent developments in the movement, especially those relating to planning in the light of the recommendations of the Committee of Direction of the All-India Rural Credit Survey.

It is well-known that the co-operative movement in India was never a spontaneous development in its formal phase but was Government-sponsored and has from the beginning been guided by the Government. Its record under the aegis of the Government has, however, been promising despite its chequered course and the small proportion of even the credit needs of cultivators which it has met. After more than half a century of stagnation, co-operation has secured a place in the plans for economic development of the country. Under the Integrated Scheme of Rural Credit, an attempt is being made to provide strong State support, especially in finance, to enable the co-operative movement to reform its own internal structure and working, hold its own against the powerful urban forces and to enable it eventually to stand on its own feet. The experience gained in the working of the scheme reveals that (i) co-operative marketing and processing have lagged far behind co-operative credit, and linking of credit with production and marketing has not made much headway, (ii) the co-operative credit structure itself, at all levels, but particularly at the primary and district levels, is weak, (iii) the administrative structure needs vast improvement in the shape of more and
better qualified supervisors, auditors, bank managers, secretaries of primary societies and others, (iv) there is need to guard against the 'target mentality.' All this necessitates bigger efforts from the members of co-operative institutions and the various partners in the integrated scheme of rural credit.

Shri Madhava Das' efforts to revise and abridge E. M. Hough's Co-operative Movement in India without in the least impairing its originality, are indeed praiseworthy. It would prove useful to students of co-operation and to the administrative rank and file.


This publication, second in the series of which the first was a similar bulletin on village Suchi in the Rae Bareli district, gives the results of a survey undertaken in the village Chitra in Agra District with a view to studying the three important aspects of the cultivator's financial position, namely, (i) farm economy, (ii) milk cattle economy, and (iii) domestic expenditure. The publication, thus presents the information collected on the cost of production of important agricultural crops and of milk production, the farmers' consumption pattern and their general standard of living. Data were collected from a sample consisting of ten cultivating families and they related to the agricultural year 1949-50.

After describing the layout of the study and the geographical and economic background of the village Chitra in the first two chapters, an examination of the cost of production has been made in the succeeding chapters. Chapters III, IV and V deal respectively with those aspects of the cost of production pertaining to human labour, bullock labour and other miscellaneous factors entering into cost of production such as irrigation charges, cost of manure, seeds, etc. Data in respect of yields collected for the purpose of calculating the cost of production per unit of produce are given in Chapter VI. The various constituent costs are summed up in Chapter VII which gives a comparative picture of the costs of production of different crops for the families concerned. Considering all crops and all families together, the share of bullock labour in the total cost of production was as high as 56.6 per cent while that of human labour accounted for nearly one-fourth. Considering individual crops, the share of bullock labour in the total cost of production was higher than all other constituents, varying from 43.3 per cent in the case of juar to 63.5 per cent in the case of sarson; while the share of human labour varied from 19.4 per cent in the case of bejhar plus sarson to 40 per cent in the case of juar. Seed costs and rent showed wide variations from a minimum of 0.4 per cent in the case of bajra to 9.7 per cent in the case of bejhar and from 1.6 per cent to 8 per cent respectively.

Chapter VIII gives data regarding disposal of the produce by the farmers including sale and consumption. In Chapter IX are given the final farm accounts which were compiled with a view to assessing the net profit or loss of individual families. An interesting finding is in respect of milch cattle, which has been given in Chapter X. After studying the income from milch cattle and the expenditure