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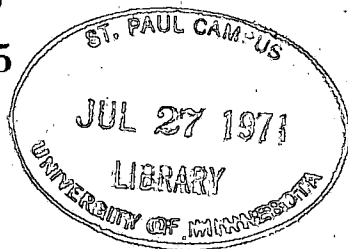
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**INTERNATIONAL
JOURNAL OF
AGRARIAN AFFAIRS**
Vol. IV, No. 6, August 1965



**Contemporary
Problems in
the Economics of
Agriculture—1964**

*Produced by the
University of Oxford Institute of Agrarian Affairs
in conjunction with the International Association
of Agricultural Economists*

Price 10s. 6d. net

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
LONDON

GROUP 4 (b). LAND-TENURE PROBLEMS

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The group recognized the importance of a rational land-tenure system, an increase in agricultural production, the raising of farm incomes and the planning of social and economic development of a country.

With this basic understanding the group considered the different tenure systems prevailing in various countries of the world. Discussion covered different land-tenure systems, including group and individual farming arrangements, from the standpoint of capital use, technological innovation and other aspects. It was agreed that each type of tenure system has its advantages and disadvantages under a certain set of social, political and economic conditions. One system may be more fitted in a particular country or area than in another. No single system is applicable to all the countries of the world or even to all the agricultural regions within a country.

Land-tenure goals may vary from country to country and from time to time. However, farm ownership, increased farm production, better distribution of income and social justice were commonly stressed by participants. The experiences of Israel, Mexico, Taiwan, Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and several other countries gave evidence to illustrate this point. The group also thought that an effective land-reform programme should be carried out in such a way that support and co-operation could easily be obtained.



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The concept of Land Reform in modern times is more comprehensive, because it includes, in addition to profound changes in land-tenure systems, the creation of means to provide credit to farmers, to improve their technical knowledge, to promote the creation of farmers' organizations, including efficient administration of local government and an infrastructure that permits a better utilization of resources available to them.

While improving the basic education and training of farmers is fundamental for upgrading agricultural productivity, it was stressed that the accomplishments of the reform should be protected through legal means. The system should provide incentives to farmers to utilize more efficiently the resources and the technology at their disposal.

During the meetings it was stressed that economies of scale favour large farm size, permitting the more efficient use of capital and labour force. It was also pointed out that in a family farm-tenure system, co-operation between farmers, joint utilization of resources in production and marketing, standardization of practices, &c., could lead to the achievement of the same goals. Improvements in technology have permitted certain countries with family farm-tenure systems to increase the size of these farms with improving levels of production per unit of land, labour and capital.

The problems and solutions of settlement in newly developed areas are complex: they cannot be solved by an appropriate land-tenure system alone, nor can all land-tenure problems be solved by settlement programmes. Construction and development programmes have either to be implemented before or after the actual settlement takes place. Roads must be built, water supply and health programmes developed and farm equipment has to be provided, at the same time as the system of tenure is being readjusted in the course of settlement development. Many projects in various parts of the world have encountered such problems. Planners and administrators need to improve their knowledge of different aspects of social and economic development related to settlement.

The group felt that a comprehensive study of different land-tenure systems is needed.

Among the subjects included in such a study the group discussed the following:

1. Effective use of resources.

2. The promotion or discouragement of new technology.
3. Suitability of the local organization for the contemplated programme.
4. Social effects of the reform.
5. Promotion of mobility between economic sectors.
6. Influence upon the distribution of income.
7. Different tenure systems under controlled conditions.
8. Political power and social force influencing reform.
9. Maintenance of economically viable units as land is transferred from one generation to another.

In view of the importance of this subject, especially for the less-developed countries, the group suggests that the Council should consider the possibility of including some papers on land-tenure problems at the XIIIth meeting of the Association.

Such a study could have the support of international agencies dealing with agricultural development and could be conducted not only in countries where land-reform programmes have been recently implemented, but also in countries whose general experience is useful. This experience could be a basis of comparison, and at the same time could be used as a guide for those countries who are contemplating the initiation of such programmes.

While the above listed items are not exclusive, the group recognized the importance of including them in the proposed land-tenure study.