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Details regarding the actual conduct of the pilot survey is given in the second chapter. It also discusses the problems of selection of gardens and of collection of data and the difficulties involved in generalizing the findings of the survey. Chapter 3 examines the causes of economic weaknesses of the selected tea gardens while formulation of a policy towards economically weak tea gardens is discussed in the fourth chapter. The main features of the report are summarised in the last chapter.

The study reveals that nine out of the 15 tea gardens included in the pilot survey incurred loss. Their unsound position was due to the combined effect of technical and economic factors. The technical causes were related to plantation as well as manufactures. The main drawbacks were a high percentage of vacancy (40-45), oldage of the bushes (50-55 years) and the unscientific technique of cultivation. The processing of green leaf suffered due to worn out machinery and inefficient handling and a high percentage of non-utilisation (40-45) of the capacity of the factory made it relatively costly. The important economic factors that created difficulties were : heavy indebtedness (Rs. 900 per acre), paucity of capital, inefficient management, transport difficulties and price fluctuations. The task of improving the condition of the uneconomic garden is indeed difficult and the application of some general remedies would not yield an effective solution to the problem.

As a pragmatic approach to the problem, the report recommends a techno-economic investigation of individual estates. Some schemes of assistance for uneconomic units covering transport, tea machinery and technical advice have been initiated by the Tea Board on limited scale. But the facilities provided by these schemes were not fully availed of by the uneconomic units. To remedy this situation, it is recommended that side by side with the introduction of schemes of assistance, adequate steps should be taken to ensure their effective implementation. It recommends the development of an extension service for tea and stresses the need for strengthening training and advisory facilities. Measures for increasing the yield, improving the quality and reducing relatively the cost of production of the uneconomic units are indicated. While the official policy of encouraging co-operative effort of tea manufacture is laudable, the report suggests the need to consider other possibilities of reorganisation.

Soil Erosion by Wind and Measures for Its Control on Agricultural Lands, Prepared by the Agricultural Engineering Branch, Land and Water Development Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 1960. Pp. viii + 88. $1.00.

Soil erosion by wind is a common phenomenon in semi-arid and arid regions, the most susceptible areas being North Africa, Near East, parts of Southern and Eastern Asia, Australia and southern South America, and certain parts of North America. The basic cause of wind erosion in agricultural areas is the removal or depletion of vegetation or vegetative residues which protect the land.

This brochure prepared by the F. A. O. Land and Water Development Division throws useful light on this problem. Major areas of occurrence and damages caused by wind erosion of soils are briefly described in the beginning of

the study as an indication of the scope and serious nature of the problem in many agricultural areas. The wind action and the soil particle movement leading to soil erosion are described in some detail. The effect of erosion on the soil, the dominant soil and land surface conditions relating to soil erodibility are also discussed since they are the basis of control measures. The various control measures, which may be grouped under four basic methods successfully developed in some advanced countries like North America, Australia, etc., are then described in the course of a chapter. Emphasis is laid on the part that improved tillage and cultural practices play in dry farming areas.

Soil erosion by wind poses a continuing threat to the land resources of the less developed countries, which are most commonly found in tropical or subtropical regions. It is essential in these regions to procure equipment which leaves a surface resistant to wind erosion. Further it is also necessary here to avoid over-grazing as animal numbers increase.

This brochure also draws attention to the existing legislation in certain countries, *e. g.*, U. S. A., which provides for monetary and other forms of assistance to farmers in applying soil conservation measures. Legislative measures can also be adopted to impose limitations on certain practices which create conditions conducive to soil erosion by wind.

A list of selected references is appended to the paper.

Mechanization in Agriculture, Edited by J. L. Meij, North Holland Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1960. Pp. xi + 379. 55s.

This volume is part of the series on "Studies in Industrial Economics," the principal aim of which is to stimulate study and research in this branch of economics and to further an exchange of ideas and results on an international level. Mechanization in agriculture is an important phenomenon in agriculture. Its impact on the way the farm ought to be managed as well as on the conditions under which the farmer has to work is the main theme of this volume. It contains a collection of nine papers on different aspects of mechanization in agriculture, contributed by several specialists in this field. The contributions are based upon experience of the countries of Europe and U. S. A. A short review of the development of agricultural tools and machines in the past and the influence of prevailing economic conditions on them is contained in the opening chapter. The next two chapters examine the conditions for mechanization in Europe and U. S. A. respectively. The fourth chapter deals with the influence of farm mechanization on farm management whereas the fifth chapter examines to what extent mechanization can solve farm labour problems. In Chapter 6 are considered some financial aspects of farm mechanization. The factors influencing the mechanization of small farms in the Netherlands are discussed in Chapter 7. It also illustrates the possibilities of mechanization on small farms by means of two case studies. The next chapter discusses the effects of farm mechanization on farm output and marketing organization. The last chapter makes some comparisons between industrial and agricultural mechanization and their consequences.

Although the different contributions overlap each other, such overlapping is inevitable in a study like this where specialists are inclined to see only the aspects