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Vol XVI
No. 4

ISSN 0019-5014

OCTOBER-
DECEMBER
1961

INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



INDIAN SOCIETY OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
BOMBAY

be only fair to state that this is not the universal view. Some consider, on the contrary, that the net effect of these changes, have been to reduce the solidarity of the hamlet. Another paradox is that land reform and its effects apart, the solidarity of the hamlet tends to vary roughly in proportion to the degree of its isolation. The more isolated, solidary hamlets are often spoken of as the most 'backward' as judged by the strength of the community sentiment itself, as well as the small degree of urbanization and the prevalence of old customs, yet it seems, paradoxically, that of recent years it is these very 'backward' hamlets which often exhibit the greatest innovating zeal and provide greater social energy for reforming leadership to work with and mobilize a greater willingness to co-operative.

Consumer Price Index and Wages for Agricultural Labour in the Western Range of West Bengal, Agro-Economic Research Centre for East India, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, 1960. Pp. 90. Rs. 5.00.

The volume presents a series of consumer price index numbers for agricultural labour families in the Western Range of West Bengal (Burdwan and Birbhum areas) for the period of 1939-1959, alongside an index of actual wages for the greater part of this period. The Consumer Price Index Numbers have been compiled according to the Laspeyres formula. The retail prices quoted at the Bolpur market centre have been used for the purpose since this centre serves a fairly wide area of South Birbhum and parts of Burdwan. For the first few years, the week ended August 31, 1939 has been selected as the base period which has been shifted to annual average 1949 from the year 1949 onwards. The weights were obtained from the Agricultural Labour Enquiry Report and supplemented by some unpublished data obtained from the Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Labour. A real wage index has also been constructed by deflating actual wages by the Consumer Price Index.

Some of the principal findings of the study may be stated here. At the end of the Second World War, the level of consumer prices (with 1939 as base) for agricultural labour at Bolpur stood at more than three times the pre-war level; between 1949-1959 (with 1949 as base), the index rose by 66 per cent. The index of clothing was always ahead of the index for food upto 1949 except for a few months in 1943 when famine conditions prevailed in Bengal. After 1949, however, the rice index in particular and the food index in general showed tendency to over-take the index for clothing. Among the articles showing wide fluctuations were vegetables, *gur* and straw. The study confirmed the well-known view that wages lag behind prices. From an analysis of the movements in real wages, it would appear that employment situation for agricultural labourers in the area was better during 1939-49 than during 1950-59. The series presented here, it is claimed, represents the first attempt made in India to construct consumer price index numbers specifically for agricultural labour.

Harijan Vegetable Growers (A Case Study of Masihgarh, A Settlement of Chamars, near Okhla Sewage Works, New Delhi), Q. U. Khan, Jamia Institute of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi, 1961. Pp. v+88. Rs. 2.50.

This publication presents the results of a detailed investigation conducted in Masihgarh village for studying the costs of production and returns in vegetable

farming and the general income position of the Harijan vegetable growers who were initiated into this occupation recently. It also contains data collected during the course of two earlier surveys conducted by the Institute—both on vegetable cultivation—in the Jamia Development Circle and village Jasola.

The five selected families of Masihgarh form part of a group of landless labourers belonging to the Harijan (*Chamars*) caste, originally working with vegetable growing castes such as *Sainis*, *Malis* and *Kachchis* who had acquired a leasehold on the neighbouring land after it was irrigated by sewage water. The landless labourers who came to own a 2-acre plot each distributed by Christian missionaries, took to vegetable growing themselves. It is significant to note that the farmers are now able to earn almost Rs. 2,000 per annum and their assets have appreciated in value to the level of Rs. 12,000 on an average.

Data on the main aspects of vegetable growing, namely, employment provided, the various inputs made and the outputs obtained in vegetable growing as well as cattle-keeping which was an additional occupation of the selected families are given in the report. A study of their budgets shows, however, that their mode of living has not changed owing to lack of proper guidance. But the fact that there exists an excellent avenue of employment for landless labourers in vegetable production when sewage development takes place is sufficiently borne out by the enquiry.

Resurvey of Village Chimna, District Ludhiana, Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab (India), Economic and Statistical Organisation, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh, 1961. Pp. 77. Rs. 3.95.

This report presents the results of a resurvey of village Chimna in Jagraon tehsil of Ludhiana district of the Punjab, conducted in 1957-58. The object of the resurvey was to ascertain and analyse the socio-economic changes that had taken place during a period of 15 years since it was surveyed first in 1943-44. It studies the extent of development in respect of literacy, health and sanitation, occupational structure, cropping and cultivation practices, tenancy system, land holdings, indebtedness, mortgages and sales of land. It contains a brief summary of the findings of the resurvey.

During 1943-1957, the population of the village increased by 34 per cent or 2.4 per cent per annum from 1,146 to 1,540, the number of families increasing from 232 to 258. The average size of family increased from 5.5 to 6.2 persons during the same period. The percentage of literacy increased from 22.1 in 1943 to 31.7 in 1957. It is interesting to note that while in 1943, 78.4 per cent of the total families were wholly or partly dependent on agriculture, this proportion declined to 67 per cent in 1957. Cottage industries like shoe-making, tailoring, blacksmithy, carpentry, *ban*-twisting provide subsidiary occupations to the villagers. These industries supported 61 families or 23.6 per cent of the total families in 1957 as compared to 37 families or 11.6 per cent of the total in 1943. There was however an increase in the proportion of rent receiving families from 27 per cent to 37.5 per cent during the period. There was no landless tenant in the village during both the periods. Of the total area of 1,438 acres in the village, about 94.5 per cent was under cultivation in 1957-58. The percentage of irrigated