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# INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



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They did contact extension officers (32 out of 68 farmers) and consulted them but their contact was at the best casual (p. 83). They did not benefit from this contact. They employed women and children on farm but would withdraw their labour as soon as their income would rise (p. 78).

Most of the land they cultivated they owned, unowned being 7.5 per cent (p. 93) and more than half of the unowned land was of relatives and rent free. Rent per acre was £1 to 2 (p. 113) against average land value of £35 per acre and the lowest of £15 to £17 per acre. Despite low rent, soil being poor, many of them found difficult to meet this cash commitment.

Barring the history of slavery and tenure, the above picture would fit description of the small farmer in most of the low income countries. Even this little detail—per acre yield is higher on small farms—also fits well. Against 38 per cent of land under small holdings, their contribution amounted to 50 per cent of gross farm output. The author has concluded that the small farm in Jamaica is “technically bad, but economically it appears to represent a reasonable response to the conditions under which farming is practised.” It is worth noting that technical improvement would depend on entrepreneurship as much as on the type of technical research. The technical research in Jamaica till recently was geared to the needs of exports and large farms particularly and for mango and citrus tree crops, once again an experience common to most of the low income countries. And this proves a hard obstacle to overcome for finding an enduring solution in most of the under-developed countries.

We would welcome the study for what it contains rather than complain about the scientific representativeness of the sample.

C. H. SHAH

*Food, Land and Manpower in Western Europe*, Lamartine P. Yates, Macmillan & Co. Ltd., London, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1960. Pp. xiii + 294. 35s.

Western Europe is facing a new situation. There is a new desire for prosperity, a new dynamism in industry, and a new scarcity of labour. In the light of this new situation, what are the changes required in the organisation of food production? The purpose of this book is to provide an answer to this question. The problem is more sharply posed by relating the probable increase in food production with the probable demand for food.

A descriptive account of the levels of consumption and nutritional status in each country precedes an estimate of the increase in farm-gate demand for food production in 1970. Basic characteristics of farmers in each country, a review of farm organisation and efficiency, and of programmes undertaken to strengthen and to stabilise the family farm and to modernise agriculture precede an estimate of the increase in agricultural output in 1970. A statistical account of exports and imports of food in each country is given to complete the picture of demand for and supply of food output.

The conclusion of the study is that farm-gate demand for food production in Western Europe may increase by only 27 per cent over the fifteen years (1955-1970) while there is a theoretical possibility for farm output increasing by 45-55 per cent over fifteen years. Export possibilities are limited. Surplus may develop quite soon in these countries and the theoretical possibility of 45 to 55 per cent increase in food production will not be realised, and farm output will increase only by 1.5 to 2 per cent per annum. Hence it is argued that transfer of manpower out of agriculture and agricultural modernisation are necessary. Assuming that Europe's gross product will increase between 1955 and 1970 by just under 55 per cent—a compound growth rate of nearly 3 per cent per annum—a guess is made that non-farm employment will increase by around 2 per cent per annum, and this will absorb the entire increase in manpower due to population growth plus a transfer of more than 1 per cent per annum from the farm labour force. These two movements in combination over a fifteen-year period would increase output per farm worker by 50 to 60 per cent.

The concluding chapter is devoted to "Principles of Future Policy", and is mainly addressed to the European politician, whose policies, according to the author are founded on "out of date beliefs and fighting out of date battles." The author makes a plea for giving up agricultural policies which protect the marginal producer, "the man who ought to be helped to move rather than bribed to stay." He argues for a three pronged programme concerned respectively with prices, manpower and technology; recasting the price structure to bring more rewards to enterprise, assisting redundant manpower to find permanent employment in other sectors and expanding the programmes for bringing technical knowledge to those remaining in agriculture.

Written in a fascinating and an effective style, and with great conviction, this book makes a delightful reading. It is not an easy task to bring together the problems of Western Europe comprising countries at various levels of development. One could easily get lost in details. The chapter on "Europe's Farmers," which covers as many as sixteen countries within a brief compass of thirty-eight pages is a testimony to the outstanding ability of the author to perceive the core of farming in each of the countries under study. The description is picturesque, but the emphasis is always on the relevant. The account on "What the People Eat" and on "Nutrition" makes a refreshing contrast to the position obtaining in India. Barring the four Mediterranean countries, namely, Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal, in each of the central and northern countries, the national average diet is so well provided with calories, proteins, vitamins and minerals that no sizable segment of the population can be malnourished, and if any malnutrition still exists it must now indeed be due to ignorance. The review on the role of research and extension in promoting the progress of European agriculture is particularly instructive. Technical progress in agriculture is made possible by (a) the army of "backroom boys", the workers in agricultural research and experiment station, (b) a second army, that of extension workers, and (c) a variety of types of agricultural training and education. Details regarding programmes undertaken in various European countries for stabilising and strengthening the family farm should also be of interest to the Indian reader.

The extensive discussion on the limitations of household budget studies as well as the time series data for purposes of projection should be of value to those who attempt forecasting.

The book will be found interesting and useful by a wider circle—general readers as well as specialists—though its primary appeal is to the European politician.

G. PARTHASARATHY

*Report of the Study Team on the Working of the Co-operative Movement in Yugoslavia and Israel*, Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, Government of India, Delhi, 1960. Pp. iii + 118.

This is the Report of the Study Team sponsored by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, Government of India. The team was sent to Yugoslavia and Israel, countries where the co-operative movement has made a distinct impact on the economy, and has proved its viability and strength. The sponsors of the team had rightly anticipated that the experience of these countries will suggest many lessons to learn for this country.

The terms of reference given to the team were fairly comprehensive. It was required to study in detail the institutional framework within which various co-operative agencies function, the activities encompassed by the movement, agencies operating the movement, the inter-relation between these agencies, the method of training and education and relationship between the co-operative sector and other economic sectors. The team was required to make a special study of co-operative farming, co-operative marketing and service co-operatives in these countries. In the six-men team the Government officials concerned with the general developmental and co-operative activities and officials of co-operative societies were equally represented.

The team spent about five weeks in Yugoslavia and a similar period in Israel. Looking to the short period of time and handicap of not knowing the languages of the countries visited, the team has done a commendable job in faithfully describing the genesis, structure and working of the co-operative movement in these countries.

This achievement of the team can be further appreciated in view of the complicated nature of co-operative organizations in these countries, and the vicissitudes to which they were subjected during the last few years. In Yugoslavia, the co-operative movement in the post-war years was made an instrument in fulfilling the objectives of the collectivization and socialisation of the economy. The state farms were given top priority and next to them Peasant Workers' Co-operatives were placed. These co-operatives were essentially collective farm organizations. Co-operation in other fields was largely absent as most of the functions were looked after by the State Planning department.

With the general shift in the state policy towards more and more decentralisation of power and a general reversal of the policy of 'statism', other forms of