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There are many lessons which India can learn from the experience of the co-operative movement in Yugoslavia and Israel. The team dealt with all the good points of the movement in these countries and have examined their efficacy in Indian setting. But they have failed to stress adequately two points, which need to be emphasized. One, the experience of these two countries further confirms that the co-operative movement is essentially an ideological movement. In both the countries the movement has worked in the context of certain widely held tenets like, an abhorrence for the exploitation of man by man and, an acceptance of the idea of the social ownership of means of production. In Yugoslavia the ideological bias is more explicit, but in Israel also, the fact that all the co-operatives have flourished under the "roof-organization" of Histadrut—the Israel labour movement—is a pointer in the same direction. It also suggests that if the basic characteristic of the movement—its non-exploitative and communistarian character—is kept in forefront, all the adjustments which become expedient can be made without a fear of polluting the movement. With a firm ideological base, even the legislation by which the movement is governed becomes of secondary importance. It may come as a surprise to many that the Israel's Law of Co-operative is exactly patterned after Bombay Co-operative Societies Act of 1925!

While this is a lesson with a normative ring, there is another lesson which needs all the emphasis in a backward country like India. For the agricultural co-operative movement to become virile and pervasive it is essential that the marketing of the products should be fully taken care of. In Yugoslavia, where a number of concessions are given to the private peasant, they are under obligation to sell their products to co-operatives, excepting a small portion which they can sell to the direct consumers. There is a similar element of compulsion in Israel as far as the marketing of agricultural products is concerned. Learning from the experience of these countries, one can maintain that it is time that in India also the main emphasis is shifted to the co-operative marketing of agricultural products.

The report of the team suffers from an ambiguity in grappling with these broad issues of ideology and policy. It does not suffer from any such handicap in its description of the organization and functioning of the co-operative institutions in these two countries, which it had done with great clarity and economy.

V. S. VYAS

*Farm Studies in Iraq (An Agro-Economic Study of the Agriculture of the Hilla-Diwaniya Area in Iraq)*, A.P.G. Poyck, Laboratory of Agricultural Economics of the Tropics, Agricultural University, Wageningen, H. Veenman En Zonen N. V., Wageningen, Netherlands, 1962. Pp. 99.

This is an outcome of the study, conducted by the author to collect the data regarding the agricultural economic conditions and prospects which would be needed for an evaluation of the proposed Irrigation Project in Iran and drainage project in Iraq. This study has the objective of providing the agricultural basis for the technical designs.

The author has attempted to gain a thorough insight into the general and economic conditions of the farmer in the Hilla-Diwaniya area. The present farming standard, the income level, the consumption pattern and the subsistence aspect have been studied. For this purpose, the region has been divided into six typical blocks, three of tenant-cultivators and three of owner-farmers. Aerial photography has been made use of for mapping out the Hilla-Diwaniya area and demarcating the six regions, the basis being, (i) Large holding areas (villages owned by Sheiks or landlords and cultivated entirely by tenants on share-cropping basis ; (ii) Medium holding areas (tenant cultivation) ; (iii) Farm owner areas ; (iv) Communal farms—jointly cultivated by families owning the land; (v) and (vi) Date-palm areas.

Each of these regions presents a different farm structure, conditions of tenancy, productivity, employment pattern, and even cultivation practices. On an average, tenants operate a larger size of holding than owner-farmers.

Only a small percentage of land is cropped in summer, the fallow land being used for grazing camels and cattle. In winter only half the cultivable land is generally cropped; this is necessitated due to extreme salinity which requires this rotation cropping. The drainage project will help solve this difficulty.

Wheat, barley, vegetables are the main winter crops whereas in summer rice, millets and sesame are grown. Since planting trees confers right of ownership, the tenants are not allowed to grow date-palms. Livestock provide a major source of subsidiary income to all the farmers, specially the milch cattle. The proximity of the Hilla-Diwaniya towns provides a ready market for milk, *yoghurt* and ghee, meat and wool.

The conditions of tenancy are fairly stringent, the share of the tenant being less than half, in most cases; the actual working and a descriptive account of tenancy can be perused from the book. The size of farm unit, number and type of livestock owned, the nature of implements used, etc., have been dealt with in great detail by the author.

Net income per farm and per acre has been calculated for each region, by deducting from gross value of produce value of seed, depreciation of tools and draught animals, fodder, taxes, labour, hired services, farm buildings (rare) and rent. The cost of manuring has not been deducted. Since a large number of cattle are maintained by most of the farmers, it would be surprising if farmyard manure was not applied.

The consumption pattern of the area reveals that on an average the dietary habits and food intake in terms of calories, proteins and fat roughly conform with the average needs as per the F.A.O. standard.

The pattern differs among different regions only in that the tenants consume more of barley and the owner-farmers more of dates. By means of scatter diagrams, Engel's law regarding level of living has been tested; tenants have a slightly higher level of living than farm-owners (as calculated by welfare factor

$$W = \frac{\text{Total income}}{\text{Expenditure on food}}).$$

The fifth and last chapter has been devoted to a discussion of the subsistence farming aspects of the agriculture of the Hilla-Diwaniya area. The author theoretically deduces that (using symbols) in a subsistence farming, (1) farm size and labour force are directly related; (2) yield of barley decreases with increasing farm size; (3) net income increases with farm size; (4) gross and net income are positively correlated with labour force.

To deduce these, a number of assumptions have been made such as the homogeneity of farms, equality of rotation factor, etc. These equations have been tested in the context of two out of the six regions and the correlation coefficients are sufficiently high (0.7 to .9) in all cases except in the regression of yield of barley on farm size. The scatter diagram showed too great a scatter to warrant any further analysis.

The average marginal quantities of area per labour unit, net income per area unit, gross and net productivity per labour unit have also to be calculated. Had the author tried fitting multiple regression equation of the type given by him (page 72, Chapter V) rather than stop at the analysis with these simple regressions, it would have been perhaps more useful and a better proof of the subsistence nature of the Hilla-Diwaniya rural economy.

In Chapter II, sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 discuss in detail, the sampling technique, the advantages and limitations of interview method, the steps (theoretically) involved in editing and tabulating the data, etc. This information may be unnecessary for an agricultural economics study since any elementary book on sample surveys discusses these topics exhaustively. Nothing new is substantially contributed thereby.

In spite of the careful design, the final choice of farmers was left to the investigator since "this gave the investigator the possibility to replace persons who were difficult to interview by persons who were more willing to answer questions." (page 14). This will necessarily involve not only investigators' bias but a large amount of respondents' bias. This is one of the limitations of the study. Secondly, how far the author is right in assuming the accuracy of the data "because for the illiterate farmer it is hardly possible to hoodwink the investigator constantly" is a matter open for question. This is certainly not true in the Indian context. Moreover, considering the fact that the investigators did not belong to Iraq and carried on the interview with the help of an interpreter, it is quite possible that facts were misrepresented, whether intentionally or otherwise.

There are many rather irrelevant details that clutter the second chapter which could very well have been condensed without any loss to the study.

The Report is amply illustrated by charts, graphs, maps and photographs; there are also quite a number of tables—all these help the reader get a fuller picture of the agricultural economy of the region.

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