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improvement through food policies and plans lies in influencing the authorities responsible for them, a close link between policy-making and planning organizations on the one hand and food and nutrition services on the other is recognized to be essential.

*Some Successful Panchayats—Case Studies (1960)*, Programme Evaluation Organization (P.E.O.), Planning Commission, Government of India, Delhi, 1961. Pp. v + 214.

*Some Successful Co-operatives—Case Studies (1960)*, P.E.O., Planning Commission, Government of India, Delhi, 1962. Pp. 178.

*Evaluation of the 1958-59 Rabi Crop Campaign in Punjab, Rajasthan and U.P. (1960)*, P.E.O., 1962. Pp. 236.

*Study of Multiplication and Distribution Programme for Improved Seed (1961)*, P.E.O., 1962. Pp. vii + 285.

Annual evaluation of the working of the community development programme has been an important function of the Programme Evaluation Organization since its establishment. Its studies have been designed to give aggregative pictures of the programme in operation. In the first two publications under review, intensive analyses of nine successful village Panchayats and seven successful village co-operatives respectively have been made with a view to providing a deeper insight into the working of the village institutions. The panchayats and co-operatives were selected purposively from different regions on the basis of five broad criteria. The primary purpose of both the case studies is to find out the causes of their success.

Of the nine panchayats selected for intensive study in the first publication under reference, two were from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh respectively and one each from U.P., Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Mysore. All have an existence of over 10-12 years. The study reveals that the following are the important causes of their success. (i) Most of the panchayat villages are favourably situated in respect of communication and contact with towns which must have had a stimulating effect on the villagers. (ii) The relative prosperity of most of the villages has greatly helped the panchayats to raise money, while with higher income the people have developed some appreciation of municipal amenities. (iii) Most of the villages have good leadership. The success of most panchayats has turned greatly on the ability of the villages and village leaders to adjust themselves to changes in organization, procedures, values, social relations, etc. (iv) The panchayat leaders have also shown interest in other organizations in and outside the village, e.g., the village co-operative, block development committees, etc. The studies do not throw any light on the relation between the panchayat and the co-operative.

The second publication presents the results of case studies of seven successful village co-operatives: two from the Punjab, one each from U.P., Maharashtra, Mysore, Madras and Andhra Pradesh. All the selected societies have developed,

in the course of time, from credit to multi-purpose co-operatives. The proportion of rural families covered by these co-operatives varied from about 30 per cent in village Belakavadi in Mysore to 90 per cent in village Athaula in the Punjab. All these societies are favourably located and have succeeded in widely different social milieu. Some of the societies have succeeded in spite of the presence of factions in their villages, due mainly to the factor of leadership. While societies have expanded under competent leaders, their growth has not in all cases synchronised with a comparable development of interest and sense of responsibility among members. In fact, in some cases, inverse relationship has been observed between leadership and the members' interest; the stronger the leadership, the weaker is the sense of responsibility among members. The selected societies owe their success in part to the relative prosperity of the villages and the areas in which they are located. They have also increased their assets, owned and other resources, loans and deposits. While all of them are engaged in distributing loans, most of them have also taken up other non-credit activities which did not prove to be a success. In their credit business, most of the societies have confined themselves to advancing short-term loans. The factor mainly responsible for the success of the societies has been reported to be efficient management. The employment of trained or experienced secretary and the conduct of the members of the managing committee in repaying loans taken by them are the two factors which have played a directly important role in building up the efficiency of most of these societies.

The third publication presents the results of an evaluation of the *Rabi* crop campaign launched in 1958-59 in nine selected districts from three States, viz., Amritsar, Ludhiana and Hissar in the Punjab, Bharatpur, Kota and Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan and Muzaffarnagar, Rae-Bareilly and Deoria in U.P. Detailed information about the campaign was collected from 1,350 respondents drawn from the big, medium and small cultivators in proportion to their numbers, from 90 villages of the selected districts, covering both block and non-block areas. This report presents the results of the investigations separately for each of the three selected States. The treatment of the subject-matter follows the same pattern in all three. Each study starts with an account of the organization of the campaign in the State, presents an evaluation and assessment of the campaign in respect of its organization, administration, impact and role of *Gram Sahayaks* and ends with a summary of the conclusions. Part II deals with the campaign in the Punjab, and Parts III and IV with that in Rajasthan and U.P. respectively. The appendices give data separately for the selected districts, block and non-block areas and for three size-group of holdings corresponding to the three categories of big, medium and small cultivators.

The main findings of these studies are as follows. In all the three States, the campaign was most successful in respect of arrangements for the supply of improved seeds and fertilizers. About 46 per cent of the selected cultivators in U.P. depended on institutional agencies for getting improved seeds. Certain shortcomings were, however, noticed in regard to some other organizational aspects of the campaign. In all the three States, the campaign remained, more or less, an official affair. The unevenness of the tempo of the campaign was another shortcoming observed in the States selected for study. The campaign effort was spread unevenly in these States. In Rajasthan and Punjab, targets of additional pro-

duction which were laid down, did not have much significance. The impact of the campaign was in consequence felt unevenly by the different parts of each State. In U.P. all the three selected districts felt the impact of the campaign. It was felt only in the block area in Ludhiana in the Punjab and Bharatpur block in Rajasthan. On the other hand, the campaign had practically no effect in Hissar (Punjab) and Kota (Rajasthan). The campaign reached all the categories of cultivators. All the improved agricultural practices registered improvements in the levels of adoption in *Rabi* season 1958-59, though the progress achieved varied from item to item. The proportion of cultivators who were influenced by the campaign was higher in the case of basal application and top-dressing where the old levels were low than in that of the use of improved seed which had been already widely followed.

It is extremely difficult to assess the contribution of the campaign to either the yield per acre or the total output of wheat, for the data supplied by respondents in regard to yield, the condition of the season and the impact of the campaign were all merely statements which cannot be objectively measured. This difficulty was solved by introducing certain statistical refinements in the analysis. In the Bharatpur and Deoria blocks, the yield per acre of wheat recorded a perceptible increase among the farmers influenced by the campaign, while in the case of those who were not influenced by it, the yield tended to remain the same between the two years, *Rabi* 1957-58 and *Rabi* 1958-59. In Ludhiana, on the other hand, the differences between the two groups of farmers in the extent of adoption of improved practices did not appear very significant.

Generally, the *Gram Sahayaks* gave a lead to other farmers in adopting improved practices, though in some instances they lagged behind. They were not quite effective as agents of propagation except in U.P. The results of the campaign suggest that it should be followed by more campaigns and the succeeding campaigns should be more selective in respect of the emphasis on different practices.

*The Study of Multiplication and Distribution Programme for Improved Seed* which was conducted by the P.E.O. in 1961, analyses the operation and impact of the improved seed programme on the basis of field data collected at different levels, seed farm, village, registered grower and cultivator-household and points out the difficulties faced in its implementation as also the problems presented by institutional rigidities and people's attitudes. The field enquiry covered 1,830 cultivator-households and about 969 persons in the knowledgeable group in 182 villages in 61 blocks selected from 32 districts from 14 States excluding Jammu and Kashmir. The method of sampling was purposive at the district or equivalent level and stratified random below it. The sample selected was representative of areas of the country having sources of irrigation, minor and major. The results of the field survey are representative primarily of the selected districts in each State and are given below.

In the two Five-Year Plans, the stages of seed multiplication concerned with the production of nucleus seed and breeder's stock did not appear to have received much attention. Improved varieties, especially of paddy introduced during the last decade did not generally show as high a performance in respect of yields as those released earlier. Only 5 per cent of the sample seed farms took the necessary precautions to maintain the purity of the seed produced by them. Over

two-thirds of the gross cropped area of the seed farms were utilised for the multiplication of seed in 1959-60. The supply of nucleus or breeder's stock seed of wheat and paddy was not adequate to meet the full requirements of the seed farm multiplying these crops for distribution. In regard to agencies of seed distribution, it was noted that institutional agencies accounted for only 3.4 per cent of the total quantity of paddy seed used by the sample cultivators. About three-fourth of the improved seed were reported to have been retained by the cultivators out of the farm grown produce in the previous year, while 21 per cent was obtained from other cultivators on credit, barter or cash payment. The institutional agencies, however, supplied in 1959-60 a larger quantity and proportion of improved wheat seed than of paddy. About 39 per cent of the sample cultivators and 57 per cent of the knowledgeable cultivators growing paddy used some variety of improved seed. In the case of those using improved varieties of wheat, the corresponding proportions were 46 per cent and 67 per cent. The main reasons inducing the use of improved varieties of seed were expectation of higher yield, superiority of the variety to that used earlier, instinct to imitate neighbours, desire for experimentation and trial and availability of additional irrigation. The main agencies helping to adopt improved seed are, in order of importance, neighbour, village level worker, meetings and demonstrations and the block extension staff. The report contains important recommendations in regard to the policy aspect of seed multiplication and distribution as well as the programme contents. The report also raises a number of issues for consideration by the governments and agencies responsible for the implementation of the programme for the multiplication and distribution of improved seed.