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Vol XXV
No. 4

ISSN 0019-5014

OCTOBER-
DECEMBER
1970

INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



INDIAN SOCIETY OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
BOMBAY

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUBJECTS SELECTED AND THE VENUE FOR THE NEXT CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY

The Thirty-first Annual Conference of the Society will be held sometime in December, 1971 under the auspices of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

The following subjects are selected for discussion at the Conference:

1. Problems of Dry Farming.
2. Agricultural Prices : Problems and Policies.
3. Institutional Credit for Agriculture.

Those desirous of submitting papers for discussion at the Conference, are requested to send in their papers *in triplicate* along with the summary (500 words) so as to reach the Society's Office latest by 31st July, 1971.

SYNOPSSES

(1) *Problems of Dry Farming*

The extent of dry farming—the prospects for converting dry areas into irrigated areas—the cost and returns of converting dry areas into irrigated areas.

The twin problems of instability and growth:

The problems of instability—measures of instability—incidence of uncertainty—adjustment of production and resource-use to uncertainty—selection of production processes—selection of products—diversification of cropping pattern—diversification through mixed farming—product and resource-use flexibility—liquidity and assets structure—crop insurance—forward contracts.

Resource conservation measures—institutional implications of conservation measures—the financial implications of conservation—reorientation of extension set-up.

Relative profitability of different enterprises—optimum crop combination—economics of fallowing—maximizing returns in dry areas—the micro and macro aspects—green revolution and dry areas—long-term strategy for the development of dry areas.

(2) *Agricultural Prices: Problems and Policies*

Objectives of Price Policy; the precise meaning of the formula; prices should be fair to producers as well as consumers.

Criteria for judging the 'right' price level for individual crops and agricultural commodity group; Parity formulas, Input-Output Price ratios and profitability; Cost of living; Impact on prices of industrial products with implications for export.

Response of production to prices—for individual and/or substitutable crops and for aggregate sector production; market supply responses.

Price policy in the context of inflation.

Price policy in conjunction with marketing policies:

- (a) Scarcity Situation—Statutory price control, rationing, zonal transport restrictions, compulsory procurement, public distribution, buffer-stocks, consumer subsidies.
- (b) Excess supply, buffer-stocks, support prices, stimulating demand through lower prices.

Price policy for modernization of agriculture/technological transformation.

Cob-Web phenomenon—special case of sugarcane.

(3) *Institutional Credit for Agriculture*

Recent trends in institutional credit—co-operative credit for short, medium and long-term—multi-agency approach—entry of commercial banks—trends in supply of credit by banks.

Assessment of credit requirements—short and long-term.

Green revolution and short and long-term credit needs for production and investment.

Self-finance and borrowings.

Problems relating to expansion of credit within (a) the co-operative sector and (b) commercial banks sector—competition between banks and co-operative agencies—utilization by borrowers—recovery—mobilization of rural savings—integration of credit and marketing.

Interest rates—structure—differential rates for different types of borrowers and purposes—real rate of interest paid by borrowers—margins of lending agencies.

Role of Reserve Bank in supply of credit to agriculture. Agricultural Refinance Corporation.

Terms and conditions of finance—repaying capacity of borrowers—mortgage of land and movable assets—guarantee corporations—group finance.

Special types of finance—financing agricultural projects—Agricultural Finance Corporation—financing supplies of inputs, machineries, etc., to producers.

Fertilizer Corporation—Irrigation Corporation—Problems of small farmers : Small Farmers Development Agency.

Refinancing facilities—Technical problems—Evaluation of projects—Economic and financial feasibility—Security documents—Supervision.

Organizational problems. Lead Bank Programme—Three-tier or two-tier co-operative structure, etc.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON "INDIAN EXPERIENCE OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT"

The Society proposes to hold an International Seminar on "Indian Experience of Agricultural Development" sometime in 1971. A guideline statement of the main theme of the Seminar is given below. It is proposed to bring out a Volume containing a collection of a few selected papers already published by eminent authors on the main theme of the Seminar, which would serve as a basis for discussion at the Seminar. Papers based on the main theme of the Seminar prepared by Indian scholars will also be considered on merit for discussion at the Seminar. The Papers should be sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Society not later than June 30, 1971.

GUIDELINE STATEMENT ON THE MAIN THEME OF THE SEMINAR

Growth rates in the agricultural sector have varied a great deal from country to country in South-East Asia. Judged by this as well as some other criteria, some countries are regarded as having succeeded and others as having failed in their agricultural strategy.

Can we identify the elements of agricultural strategy which have contributed to the success in some countries and failure in others? Most of us do not know enough about the agricultural strategies in other countries. But from our own experience and with such acquaintance as we have regarding other countries, we can examine the various facets of agricultural policy in our country over the last 15 years and give our evaluation of the role that they have played in stimulating or retarding agricultural developments.

In the outline given below, the various facets of the agricultural strategy have been divided in six major groups and the topics falling under each have been indicated.

International experience on factors which promote or retard agricultural development

I. Economic Policy

1. Social and Economic Ideology: Approach to Agricultural Development in National Plans.
2. Investment Priorities in Planning.
3. Agricultural Price Policy: Regarding Input Prices as well as Output Prices; Relative Price and Terms of Trade; Support Prices.
4. Other Economic Incentives and Disincentives: Taxation, Export Subsidies/Agricultural Taxation; Distribution Controls and Procurement, Zonal Restrictions.
5. Intensive Area Approach; IADP-HYVP Programme.

II. Institutional Reforms

1. Institutional Arrangements to Reduce Risk and Uncertainty in Agriculture.
2. Land Tenure Reform.
3. Institutional Credit; Marketing; Factor and Product Markets.
4. Rural/District Administration Departmental Agencies, Panchayati Raj, Block Development Organization, Extension Personnel, Voluntary Organizations, Class Organizations, Political Party Cadres.

III. Technology

1. Assessment of the Role of Technology in Green Revolution; Mechanization of Agriculture—Economic Implication.
2. Next Steps in Technology, Research, International Co-operation.

IV. Evaluation of Social and Economic Progress

1. Impact of Increase in Production and Agricultural Incomes on Rural Welfare with special emphasis on Income Distributional Aspect Embracing Various Cross-Sections of the Agricultural Population: Regional Disparities—Small Farmers, Landless Labour, Share-Croppers, Backward Regions, Tribal Areas.
2. Trends in Rural Employment/Unemployment; Impact of New Technology on Employment.

V. International Academic Co-operation: Scholars, Universities, Research Centres, Professional Societies.

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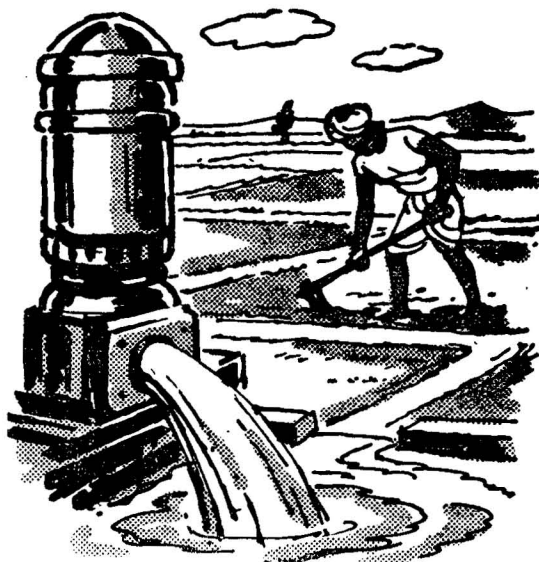
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Quarterly Journal of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics,
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Vol. X

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Volume 18, No. 2

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THE AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Published by the Australian Agricultural Economics Society

Vol. 14

December, 1970

No. 2

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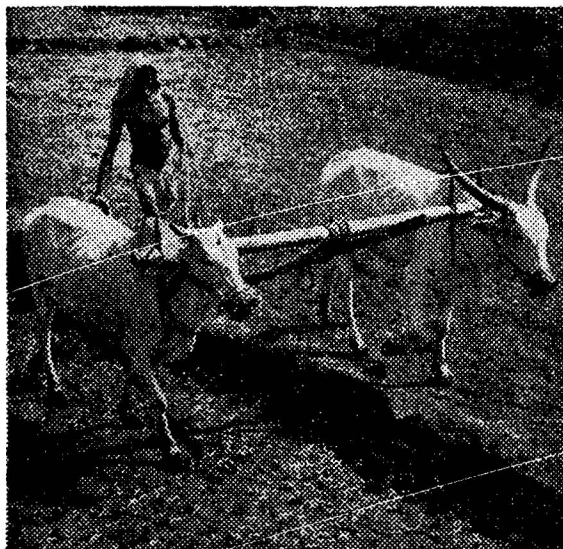
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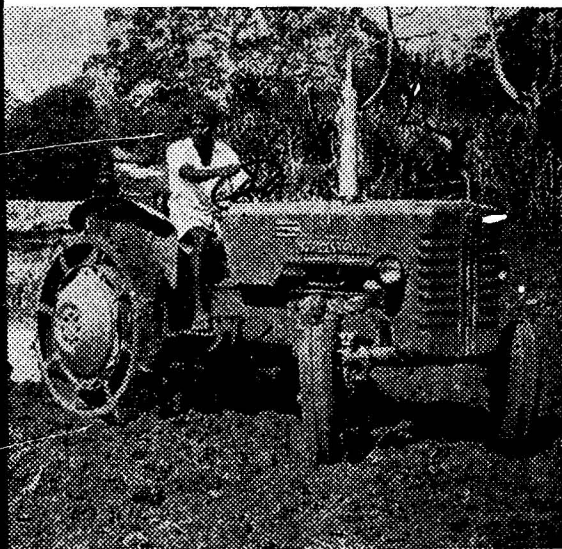
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Quarterly Journal of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics,
Poona-4 — INDIA

Vol. 12, No. 3

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They saved the ancient banyan tree and now their daring knows no bounds

'Let it stand,' someone said of the banyan tree as the site was being cleared for the Hindustan Lever Research Centre, at Andheri.

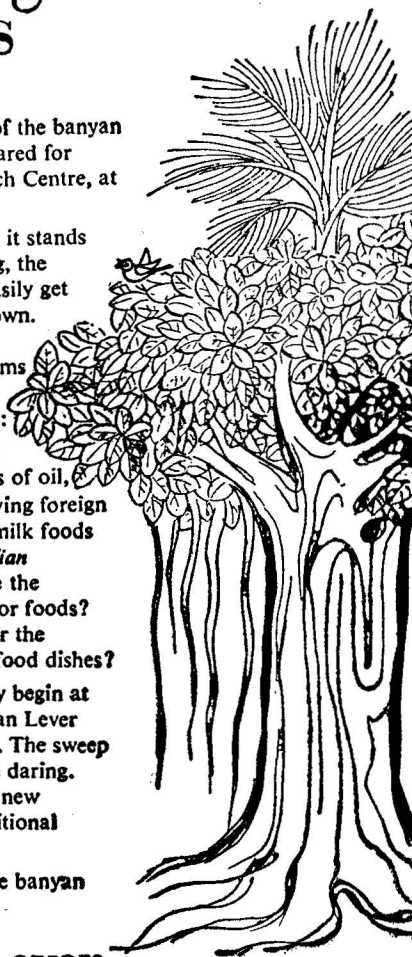
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Research on all this can only begin at home. It has, at the Hindustan Lever Research Centre in Andheri. The sweep and thrust of the studies are daring. The scientists are producing new devices for old, making traditional things happen in new ways.

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2.	Repairs to Wells	35,829	Rs. 3.66
3.	Oil Engines & Electric Motors	1,49,531	Rs. 53.96
4.	Tractors	3,447	Rs. 6.43
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