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INDIAN SOCIETY OF
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Aims and Objects

To promote the study of social and economic problems of agriculture and rural areas and also to promote technical competence for teaching and research in Agricultural Economics and allied subjects through :

- (a) research in problems of agricultural economics and rural development;
- (b) periodical Conferences and Seminars;
- (c) publication of books, reports, papers or summaries of papers, either separately or collectively, or in a periodical which may be issued under the auspices of the Society;
- (d) co-operation with other institutions having similar objects, such as the International Association of Agricultural Economists and the Indian Economic Association, etc.

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PROFESSOR D. R. GADGIL
(1901-1971)

PROFESSOR D. R. GADGIL

(1901-1971)

It was with sorrow that we learnt about the sudden demise of Professor D. R. Gadgil. He was an eminent educationalist, economist of International repute, co-operator, scholar, planner, social visionary and parliamentarian with a record of over four decades of dedicated service to the nation.

He was closely associated with the activities of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics for a number of years. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Society in 1941 and 1958 and from 1961 to 1964. He was elected as a Vice-President of the Society during 1942-47 and 1955-56. He served as a member of Society's Research Programme Committee during 1960-61. He was elected President of the Fifteenth Session of the Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics in 1954. Even much earlier, he was elected President of the Indian Economic Association in 1940.

He made equally important contribution to the promotion of agricultural economics research in India. The surveys on fruit marketing (1933), farm business in Wai taluka of Satara district (1940) and the inquiry into the economic effects of irrigation (1948) were pioneering studies undertaken by him at the Gokhale Institute. He took an enduring interest throughout his life in the study of the problems of rural indebtedness and tenancy. He studied the problem of rural indebtedness as early as in 1938-39 and formulated his ideas on rural credit in the Report of the Agricultural Finance Sub-Committee of the Government of India (1944-45)

of which he was Chairman and in the Report of the All-India Rural Credit Survey of the Reserve Bank of India (1951-54). Detailed proposals for the re-organization of co-operative credit were formulated by him. In 1947-48 he formulated the crop loan policy for the Bombay State Co-operative Bank. His experience with the working of this new policy emboldened him to recommend it in the Report of the All-India Rural Credit Survey. This policy has since been accepted by the Government and constitutes one of the cornerstones of the new co-operative credit policy. Besides a number of articles written by him on these subjects in the *Servant of India*, he contributed an excellent note on "Agricultural Rent" which was published in the Proceedings of Third Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics in 1941. In this article he expressed his misgivings about the concept of a perfect market and the functioning of a competitive market. To quote him: "on *a priori* grounds, the assumptions of perfect competition and full employment are not even remotely justified in Indian agricultural conditions." He stressed the need for constructing a more satisfactory explanation of the manner in which agricultural income is shared by different classes. In his Presidential Address to the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, held in December, 1954, he enunciated his views on the problems of tenancy and land reform. He opined that a land policy for a developing economy must face up to the serious problem of the re-organization of the small production units and recognized the need for and the problems in re-organization of land management units in India.

His views on the Bhoodan and Gramdan movement initiated by Vinoba were well received by the profession. He did not dismiss the Bhoodan approach either as irrelevant or ill-directed in the static situation

but he considered it unsuitable in the context of rapid economic development conceived in terms of advanced techniques and comparatively complex forms of economic organization. When the emphasis shifted from Bhoodan to Gramdan, he heartily welcomed this development and visualized Gramdan as being a powerful instrument of initiating the rapid socio-economic changes in the country. He elaborated his views on this movement in an article entitled "Gramdan Implications and Possibilities" published in the *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, October-December, 1957.

Professor Gadgil also made significant contribution to the formulation of food policy in India and in Maharashtra in particular. The monopoly purchase scheme being followed in Maharashtra was formulated by him in 1964. He was a member of the Foodgrains Policy Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1966. He carved out a permanent niche for himself in the field of co-operative movement. He established the first successful co-operative sugar factory in Pravanagar and was its Chairman from 1949 to 1960. His experience and knowledge in the field of co-operation were unrivalled.

He also took keen interest in the promotion of village and small-scale industries. As a member of the Village and Small-scale Industries (Second Five-Year Plan) Committee appointed by the Government of India (1955), he helped in the formulation of a framework of rational policy involving common production plans for hand and machine sectors in village and small-scale industry. In 1962, he was appointed a member of the Rural Industries Planning Committee of the Planning Commission. He favoured the development of "intermediate technology" to suit the needs of rural industries.

Professor Gadgil was associated with many other official and non-official organizations and research institutions, both in India and abroad and his advice and guidance were available to many of these organizations.

His wide knowledge, his sharp intellect and his keenness and ability to apply it to find solutions to diverse intricate problems evoked deep respect from all those who came in contact with him. He was a man of conviction.

In Professor Gadgil's demise, the country has lost a renowned economist, educationist and a great patriot.

In his demise, the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics has also suffered a loss. Being a stalwart in the profession, he was a source of inspiration to many. His personal guidance and interest in the growth of the Society were very valuable.