



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

Vol XXXI
No. 3

ISSN 0019-5014

CONFERENCE
NUMBER

JULY-
SEPTEMBER
1976

INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



INDIAN SOCIETY OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
BOMBAY

CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURAL DISTRIBUTION OF LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE IN INDIA

L. N. Dahiya*

SUMMARY

This paper attempts to measure the changes in the structural distribution of land ownership and use and also studies the other related aspects of the problem in the rural sector of the Indian economy. The data thrown up by the National Sample Survey 26th Round and Agricultural Census (1970-71) show that the pattern of distribution of ownership and operating holdings is one of inequalities in the extreme degree with concentration of land in a few hands at the top and an overcrowding of a huge number of owners at the bottom. While measuring the extent of inequality of holdings (excluding landless) in terms of Gini concentration ratio it is found that the distribution of holdings both owned and operated is very highly skewed though less sharp in the case of the latter (.586) than in the former (.680).

While studying the changes in the distribution of land over the time period, it is noticed that the inequality in the distribution of operational holdings showed a slight tendency towards narrowing down while in the case of ownership holdings it remained virtually unchanged. From the analysis an inescapable conclusion is reached that the distribution of land, as measured by the Gini ratio, remained about the same being highly skewed for all the three periods, *viz.*, 1953-54, 1960-61 and 1970-71, despite the fact that a good deal of land reform measures had been enacted during the period.

Turning to the problem of tenancy, the practice of leasing, because of variety of reasons, mainly the economic and political ones, is on the decline. It is also revealed that large owners turn out to be the net lessees of land much contrary to the belief commonly held. This may largely be attributed to the fact that the temptation to resume land on the part of large holders has become intense in the wake of technological change in agriculture and also due to land reform measures. It may be argued that the system of leasing though creates several problems, should be allowed to continue in limited and regulated way.

In examining the factors which are supposed to have brought about some changes in the distribution of land, the reasons for some shifts in land among different size-groups of holdings are found more in the purchase and sale of land and less in land reform measures. Land reform measures except the laws for abolition of tenants which have been implemented fairly efficiently, have fallen short of the proclaimed policy and failed to bring about the required changes in the agrarian structure of the country.

Finally, however, in view of the absolute scarcity of agricultural land on the one hand and numerous claimants on the other and also the mounting problem of sub-division and fragmentation caused by the rapid increase in population and breaking up of the joint family system, the lasting solution of the problem of distribution of land appears to lie in the co-operative farming movement which needs to be tried again honestly and soberly.

CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURAL DISTRIBUTION OF LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE IN THE MAJOR WHEAT GROWING STATES OF INDIA

S. B. L. Gupta, M. M. Bhalerao and M. P. Gupta†

SUMMARY

The main objective of the study is to examine the changes in the structural distribution of land ownership, land use and leasing activity in the major wheat growing States of India, namely, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The data used for analysis have been compiled from the NSS reports of 16th and the 26th Round for these States. The data for Punjab from the 16th Round relate to the then existing State of Punjab which included Haryana also, while the data for 26th Round relate to Punjab excluding Haryana. The comparison of the data from

* Lecturer in Economics, Sri Aurobindo College (University of Delhi), Malaviya Nagar, New Delhi.

† Professor, Reader and Research Scholar, respectively, Department of Agricultural Economics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi-5.

the two NSS reports reveals that the inequality in the distribution of area owned and operated has increased in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and decreased in Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan. The share of the small farmers in terms of the number as well as area has increased while the share of the large farmers has decreased. The leasing out activity has also increased in these States. Large farmers have leased out comparatively higher proportion of their owned holdings than the smaller farmers. The proportion of farmers leasing out land is also higher among larger farmers. Without more detailed knowledge of inter-group transfer of lands (entry and exit in different size categories of holdings), it is difficult to confirm the findings of such studies. It is also difficult to judge from the aggregate data as to what actually happens in different categories of farms over time. For meaningful conclusions it is therefore necessary to initiate a large number of micro studies in different regions of the country to be repeated over a number of years.

CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURAL DISTRIBUTION OF LAND IN RURAL INDIA

R. P. S. Malik, B. L. Khodpia and A. S. Guleria†

SUMMARY

An attempt has been made in the present paper to study the changes in the structural distribution of household ownership and operational holdings in rural India, brought about between the period from 8th Round to the 26th Round of the National Sample Survey. The concepts and definitions between the two rounds of the survey differ a bit from each. However by objectively viewing these, it may be concluded that during the period under study (1) the number of household ownership holdings increased while the total area owned declined. (2) A redistribution in the number of households and the area owned by them occurred resulting in an increase in the number of households with small holdings as well as an increase in the area owned by them. (3) The number of household operational holdings increased while the total operated area declined. (4) The number of households operating land less than 6.07 hectares increased and so did the area operated by them. (5) The extent of inequality in the distribution of households according to household ownership holdings was more in the 8th Round while according to household operational holdings it was more in the 26th Round.

CHANGING PATTERN OF LAND OWNED AND LAND OPERATED IN ANDHRA REGION OF ANDHRA PRADESH SINCE TWO DECADES

V. B. R. S. Somasekhara Rao*

SUMMARY

In Andhra region of Andhra Pradesh in recent years, the variation in the distribution of land owned and the land operated is less uneven when compared to 1950's. However, the variation in the distribution of operational land does not seem to be commensurate with the distribution of owned land due to the reduction in rented land. Both the smaller (below one hectare) and the larger (above ten hectares) holdings have declined in number and the number of medium (between one and ten hectares) size of holdings has increased during the last two decades. The concentration of land has declined in Andhra region in 1970-71 over 1953-54 and, as such the size of the smaller holdings has substantially increased and that of the larger holdings has dropped considerably. As the bulk of Andhra farmers possess tiny holdings (those with less than one hectare constitute nearly 50 per cent of total farmers in Andhra region) they are unable to contribute adequately to agricultural production and thus they are not in a position to compete with the well-to-do farmers of the region. Unless these farmers are provided with adequate help and protection, both from the sources of government and institutional means, their contribution to agricultural production will continue to be negligible.

† Agro-Economic Research Centre, Himachal Pradesh University, Simla.

* National Institute of Community Development, Hyderabad (A.P.).

CHANGES IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF LAND HOLDING AND ITS USE IN ASSAM

P. D. Saikia, K. Gogoi*
and
A. K. Bora†

SUMMARY

The data collected by the Agricultural Labour Enquiry, the National Sample Survey, Agro-Economic Research Centre for North East India, etc., indicate that the pressure of population on land in Assam has been increasing. It is further revealed that the number of small, marginal and landless farmers has increased greatly which is mainly due to fragmentation of land holding on account of partition of families as well as sale of landed property. Most of the small and marginal farmers in Assam have failed to utilize their land efficiently because of lack of infrastructure facilities like irrigation, enhanced cost of inputs, natural hazards like floods and scarcity of water in the winter months, etc. Contrary to the expectation of being 'leasers-in,' the small and marginal farmers with uneconomic holdings use to lease out a considerable portion of their land to medium and big farmers. This has naturally aggravated the situation. The farm sizes are gradually becoming smaller and uneconomic units. Under the 20-Point Economic Programme land is being distributed to the landless households and it is expected that all the landless households in the State will be provided with land very shortly. But this will solve one aspect of the problem because most of the farmers will own small farms. The landless people who are provided with land may not utilize the land fruitfully under the existing situation. There is every possibility that such farmers will lease out the same to the medium and big farmers when they find it to be uneconomic. This unhappy trend can be halted only if necessary infrastructural facilities are provided to make the small and uneconomic farms viable units. The Government of Assam is taking up certain urgent steps in this regard under the 20-Point Economic Programme.

STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN LAND HOLDINGS DISTRIBUTION, BIHAR

S. Bhattacharjee and M. N. Singh‡

SUMMARY

The objectives of the paper are (i) to find out the proportion of households and land that are characterized by diseconomies of small size and (ii) the proportion of land that suffers from disincentives of tenures. The sources from which data have been collected are (a) National Sample Survey 8th Round, 16th and 17th Rounds and 26th Round, (b) Agricultural Census, (c) village studies conducted by the Agro-Economic Research Centre, Visva-Bharati. The decline in the average size of holding in Bihar may be explained by the increase in the pressure of population and the subdivision of family holdings due to the break up of joint families. The proportion of operators and operating households at the lowest level (0-2 hectares of land) was quite high during all the periods for which data were available, while a tiny proportion at the upper level (with more than 10 hectares of land) was always found to be associated with nearly 10 per cent of the cultivated area. The concentration ratio was found to be on the increase over the years. To sum up, the pattern of land holdings in Bihar was characterized by not only extreme inequity but also by a preponderance of small and marginal farms even in 1971-72. The marginal and small farms were leasing in more and more land in 1971-72, while the reverse trend was observed in the case of medium and big farms. This fact is also corroborated from the findings of the village surveys conducted by the Agro-Economic Research Centre, Visva-Bharati. Crop-sharing was the most important term of tenancy. The share-croppers have no security of tenure and have to pay exorbitant rents. These factors have curbed the spirit of the share-cropper who is left with no incentive at all to raise productivity. Land reform measures have till now failed to reduce inequality and protect the share-cropper. The situation is alarming and needs to be tackled immediately.

* Agro-Economic Research Centre for North East India, and † Department of Tea Husbandry and Technology, respectively, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam.

‡ Agro-Economic Research Centre, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan (West Bengal).

STRUCTURAL DISTRIBUTION OF LAND HOLDINGS IN HARYANA

M. L. Sharma, Ram Kumar and Chander Bhan*

SUMMARY

An attempt is made in this paper to examine the structural distribution of land holdings in Haryana. The structural distribution of land holdings in pre-partition Punjab from 1924 to 1939 showed an increase in the area held by large land holdings and a decline in their strength. The number of holdings over 50 acres decreased by 0.9 per cent but the area held by them increased by 12.3 per cent. At the same time, the number of holdings upto one acre increased by 2.3 per cent with a decrease of 0.3 per cent in the area held by them. After Independence the trend is reversed. Over the decade from 1961 to 1971 there was an increase of 15.08 and 6.87 per cent in the number of marginal and small holdings respectively in Haryana with a decrease of 20.95 per cent in the number of large holdings. In 1939 the holdings with more than 25 acres claimed 52.8 per cent of the area which declined to 34.18 per cent in 1971.

In Haryana State 59.40 per cent of the holdings are small, accounting for 19.21 per cent of the total area. The largest number of holdings (1,72,679) was in a single size-group of 2.5 to 5 acres. As many as 1,32,049 holdings are not more than one acre in size. The average size of holding in the State is 9.35 acres whereas that of the big farmers is 39.25 acres. The average size of holding, number of holdings and area held by them differ from district to district in the State. The maximum number (1,76,930) of holdings with the highest average size (12.30 acres) is found in Hissar district. The smallest average size (6.75 acres) and number of holdings are in Ambala and Jind districts respectively. Ambala, Gurgaon, Sonapat, Karnal, Rohtak, Mohindergarh, Kurukshetra, Jind, Hissar and Bhiwani districts are in a descending order with respect to small and marginal farmers. The structural distribution of land holdings in the State has been primarily governed by the land reforms, Hindu Law of inheritance, populational changes, new technology and irrigation facilities.

STRUCTURAL AND TENURIAL SYSTEM OF LAND HOLDINGS IN JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE

M. K. Dhart†

SUMMARY

The total number of operational holdings in Jammu & Kashmir State was 4.05 lakhs (NSS, 8th Round) in 1953 and this number increased to 5.31 lakhs in 1960 (NSS, 16th Round) and 9.79 lakhs in 1971 (Agricultural Census.) The holdings have been sub-divided at a much faster rate in 1960's when compared to 1950's. The steep sub-division in the holdings can be attributed to the increase in the population by 29.65 per cent in the last decade in comparison with 9.44 per cent from 1950 to 1960. To study the size distribution of the farms in the State the area was classified into four categories of small, medium, large and extra large farms (0.2, 2.5, 5-10 and 10 and above acres). It was found that 63.83 per cent of the total farms in the State were cultivating an area of 23.45 per cent in the size-group of 0.2 acres whereas in the size-group of 10 acres and above 2.59 per cent of the farms cultivated 26.16 per cent of the total cultivated area. The average size of the operational holding which was 3.98 acres as per the 8th Round of the NSS declined to 3.53 acres in 1960-61 and to 2.31 acres in 1971. The study revealed that the ownership holdings constituted 56.03 per cent, which operated 53.12 per cent of the total area. Pure and mixed tenant households constituted 23.27 and 20.70 per cent and cultivated 19.63 and 27.25 per cent of the area respectively.

The State has been the first in the country to introduce the fundamental agrarian reforms and thereby placing a ceiling of 22½ acres (except on orchards and fuel and fodder reserves). In this manner nine thousand proprietors surrendered 4.5 lakh acres of land held in excess of ceiling of which 2.31 lakh acres were transferred to the tillers and 2.2 lakh acres were vested in the State. The State is coming up with a new agrarian bill called as J & K Agrarian Reform Bill 1976. Under the provisions of this bill, the ceiling on land has been kept at 12½ standard acres and the ownership rights will be given to tenants. By the adoption of this bill it is expected that 26 per cent of the total cultivated area shall be declared surplus which should be allotted to the size class of 0.2 acres and the lands allotted to them need to be consolidated with their present operational holdings to increase their agricultural productivity.

* Associate Professor and Head, Lecturer and Research Assistant, respectively, Department of Sociology, Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar (Haryana).

† Lecturer in Agricultural Economics, Government Agriculture College, Wadoora (Sopore), Kashmir.

CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURAL DISTRIBUTION OF LAND HOLDINGS IN KARNATAKA

N. Vyramudi Gowda†

SUMMARY

The main object of the study is to find out the magnitude of the inequality and the shift in the distribution of land holdings from period to period, both in respect of ownership holdings and operational holdings. These aspects are studied with the help of the data collected on land holdings during 1955-56, during the 16th, 17th and 26th Rounds of National Sample Survey and during the 1971 Agricultural Census. The frequency distribution of the agricultural households in respect of holding size is skewed to the left and the distribution of the aggregate area is skewed to the right. This will indirectly show that there is larger degree of inequality in the distribution of agricultural land. When the cumulated percentages of aggregate area are plotted in a square chart against the cumulated percentage of households, the curve takes the shape of the Lorenze curve. Hence, the Pareto's ratio of concentration can be used as a coefficient to measure the inequality in the distribution. The shift in the distribution from period to period can be known with the help of the magnitude of the ratio of concentration. The concentration in the bottom 10 per cent and top 10 per cent is also used to measure the shift in the distribution of land holdings.

In respect of operational holdings, the curve in respect of the 26th Round of the NSS is above all the other curves. This means that the inequality as per the 26th Round data was less in Karnataka State compared to the levels prevailed during 1960-61, 1961-62 and the early period of 1971. The value of the coefficient of inequality 'D' shows that the inequality in the distribution of agricultural land was in existence and has continued. If the value of 'D' decreases, the inequality also decreases resulting in a shift in the distribution. This can be noticed in respect of the distribution of the NSS data. The value of 'D' decreased from 0.4164 during 1959-60 to 0.3782 during 1971-72. But the magnitude of the shift is very negligible. The 1971 Agricultural Census data show that the inequality is higher in 1970-71 ($D = 0.4176$) and the pattern of distribution of the holdings has not changed.

The end concentration shows that there was not any significant shift in the distribution from period to period. But the trend shows that the shift has taken place on a micro level in the distribution. In respect of distribution of ownership holdings, the coefficient of inequality 'D' shows that there was not any change in the distribution pattern from period to period. The value of 'D' also has not changed and, in fact, it has increased during 1971-72 as per the 26th NSS Round data. The disequilibrium can be reduced and necessary shift in the distribution of agricultural land is achieved when the value of 'D' is reduced. In order to achieve this, the large proportion of area held by the top minority must be reduced. This can also be achieved by reducing the number of households depending upon agriculture.

A STUDY OF LAND OWNERSHIP IN TWO VILLAGES OF MADHYA PRADESH

D. K. Marothia*

SUMMARY

The present study is an attempt to examine the nature and extent of land ownership in two villages of Madhya Pradesh by size-groups. The data were collected through survey of 70 farmers selected at random, classified under four size-groups of holdings, viz., small (below 2 hectares), semi-medium (2-4 hectares), medium (4-10 hectares) and large (10 hectares and above). The data pertain to two villages (Karanwas and Khanpura) of Biaora block of Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh. All the farmers in the selected villages were enumerated and 70 farmers comprising 19, 20, 17 and 14 in the above-mentioned size-groups of ownership holdings according to their proportionate distribution in each size-group were selected. The data refer to the year 1973-74 (July, 1973 through June, 1974).

The main findings of the present study are as follows: (1) The proportion of owned area to the operated area was more than 85 per cent on the sample farms. The proportion of irrigated area, which is a major determinant of land productivity, was more than 34 and 29 per cent of the

† Deputy Director, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.

* Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, J. N. Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur (M.P.)

owned and operational area respectively on the sample farms. The intensity of cropping increases with the size of ownership holdings. (2) Transactions in leasing-in and leasing-out land were prevalent on the sample farms during reference period. However, such transactions of land were only confined to the unirrigated land area. (3) Nearly 66 per cent of the farmers owned their entire operated area and more than 22 per cent of the farmers augmented their own agricultural holding by leasing-in additional land on share-cropping basis. Share-cropping arrangements are infrequent on the medium and large farms (6 to 7 per cent), more among semi-medium (15 per cent) and by far the highest among the small farmers (26 per cent). Apart from leasing-in land by share-cropping, another notable feature on the sample farms is the extent of leasing-in by cash payment and purchase of land area by the medium and large farmers only. The proportion of farmers who purchased land varied from 6 to 14 per cent in the medium and large size-groups respectively, while the proportion of farmers who leased in land on cash payment was 11.76 per cent in the medium size and 7.14 per cent in the large size-groups. The proportion of farmers leasing-out was 5.75 per cent and those selling land constituted 4.50 per cent. Among different size-groups the sale of land was more on the small and semi-medium than on the medium farms, but there was no sale of land on the large farms. The proportion of farms which were net leasers-in (22.85 per cent) was more than those of net leasers-out (11.43 per cent).

AN ANALYSIS OF THE STRUCTURAL DISTRIBUTION OF LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE IN MAHARASHTRA

M. P. Dhongade*

SUMMARY

The paper aims at analysing the changes in the distribution of land ownership holdings and their operation (use) among the different size classes over a period of about two decades in the State of Maharashtra. The data collected in the 8th Round, 16th Round and 26th Round of the National Sample Survey relating to the rural sector of Maharashtra have been used. The analysis is restricted to the distribution of household ownership holdings, household operational holdings and leasing-out and leasing-in by size classes. As the data for the 8th Round relate to the old Bombay State, they are not comparable but can be taken as indicative. The number of households as well as the area owned increased during 1960-61 over 1954-55. This was mainly due to the reorganization of the State. Similar increase during 1971-72 as compared to 1960-61 may be due to an increase in the population and due to additional area brought under cultivation. The comparison of 8th and 16th Rounds indicates that the number of households as well as area owned declined in the smaller size classes and increased in the larger ones. This trend, however, was reversed in the 26th Round. This may be due to the impact of land reforms.

As regards the operational holdings, the comparison of 16th and 26th Rounds shows that the bigger size classes of holdings had lost their lands considerably while the smaller size classes, especially '5.00 — 7.49 acres' and '2.50 — 4.99 acres' were the gainers. The gains in the smaller size classes may, in addition to the impact of land reforms, be also due to the sub-division of holdings. The relatively low coefficient of variation in the 26th Round shows the declining disparity in the distribution of operational holdings. However, the difference in the coefficients is not much. This shows that the impact of land reforms is relatively less in the case of operational holdings as compared to that in the ownership holdings.

The data on leasing-out show that the proportion of both the number of households and the area was substantially reduced during the 16th Round as compared to that in the 8th Round. It may be partly due to the reorganization of the State and partly due to the effect of land reforms. The comparison of 16th and 26th Rounds indicates that the proportion of holdings leasing-out had increased but the proportion of area leased out declined. No systematic trend in the distribution of leased-out area over size classes was discernible.

The proportion of leasing-in households as well as their area was considerably more during the 8th Round. During the 26th Round, it had declined. The difference in the leasing-out and leasing-in was also found to be reduced during the 26th Round. In conclusion, it can be said that there has been some impact of the land reform measures on the distribution of land in different size classes during the last two decades. The impact has been relatively more in the case of distribution of ownership holdings as compared to the operational holdings. However, as indicated by the recent data relating to the 26th Round of the NSS, there is still more concentration of larger area with relatively less number of bigger land holders.

* Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune-4.

A MICRO LEVEL STUDY INTO THE LAND LEASING PRACTICES OF THE FARMERS IN WESTERN MAHARASHTRA

D. V. Kasar and T. K. T. Acharya*

SUMMARY

The latest amendment to the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act was made in 1955 and implemented from 1st April, 1957, the so-called, Tillers' Day Amendment in Maharashtra was an example of such legislation. Here an attempt has been made to analyse the pre-amendment position of a single village by way of a case study. Accordingly, a village, viz., Kalas from Indapur block of Poona district was selected for the study. The objective of the present investigation was to study the nature and extent of land leasing practices followed by the farmers before the implementation of the tenancy legislation in the village. The relevant information for the study was obtained by examining the revenue records as well as by interrogating the tenant farmers by survey method during the year 1969-70.

The study revealed that a larger number of landlords from the medium and smaller size-groups of owned holdings together 'leased out' 66.38 per cent of the total leased-out land. The small land-owners had a greater tendency to 'lease out' the land than the big landlords. The proportion of the absentee landlords was more in the smaller size-groups of owned holdings. The study also observed that it was not as if the small land owning tenants 'leased in' only small amounts of land and the large land owning tenants, large amounts of land. It was noted that the smaller tenants had relatively higher proportion of 'leased-in' land as compared to their owned holdings. The study also brought out a conclusion that the implementation of tenancy legislation in the village has resulted in checking the practice of land leasing to a larger extent among the farmers. This is because of its motto of personal cultivation by abolishing tenancy cultivation.

CHANGES IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE (1953 AND 1973) — A CASE STUDY

Vishwa Mittar and J. R. Gupta†

SUMMARY

In the present paper the distribution of land ownership during 1953 and 1973 has been examined in a developed village of Punjab. To examine the effect of leasing-in and leasing-out of land, the distribution of land in use has also been taken into account. The association of caste hierarchy both with land ownership and land in use has also been studied. It is found that the share of the first four quintiles of households in the total village land ownership had declined while that of the top quintile increased. It clearly indicates more unevenness in the distribution of owned land in 1973 than in 1953. The Lorenz curves as well as Gini Coefficients also confirm this result. The distribution of land in use was almost the same as the distribution of land owned in the village. But the analysis of the movement of households along the agrarian ladder confirms that the majority of households moving up the agrarian ladder in terms of land ownership were big farmers. Even the land leased in by different classes of farmers does not alter this picture. In the practice of leasing-in land the big farmers are on the forefront. While identifying the castes who have improved their land ownership, it is observed that the high caste households are the principal beneficiaries. This is also true even in respect of land leased in by different caste groups. Thus the development seems to have led to more unequal distribution of land ownership in this village. Big farmers are the principal beneficiaries from the sale and purchase deeds of land performed during the last twenty years. The practice of leasing-in land has also favoured the big farmers. The distribution of land also seems to be closely associated with caste hierarchy.

* Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics and Professor and Head, respectively, Department of Agricultural Economics, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri (District Ahmednagar, Maharashtra).

† Centre for Research in Economic Change, Punjabi University, Patiala.

CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURAL DISTRIBUTION OF LAND OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION IN RURAL RAJASTHAN

B. L. Kumbhar†

SUMMARY

This paper examines the changes in the structural distribution of land ownership and operation in rural Rajasthan during 1960-61 and 1971-72, with the help of the results of data collected on land holdings in the 16th and 26th Rounds of NSS. The comparison of two points data brings out the following broad changes. The number of ownership holdings had increased both in absolute and relative terms and that of landless households declined. The average area owned per farm declined only marginally by 0.01 hectare. The reduction in the number of operational holdings has been more pronounced in the case of marginal farmers but it is encouraging to note that there has been an increase in the area operated in all the size-groups upto 10.12 hectares. Though the distribution was extremely concentrated with a small majority owning/operating a very large part of the land, there is some reduction in the inequality as between the size classes. This reduction in inequality was slightly higher in the owned area as compared to the operated area. The concentration ratios of owned and operated area declined from 0.658 and 0.645 in 1960-61 to 0.608 and 0.597 in 1971-72 respectively. It is interesting to note that during the process of change, the medium stratum farmers have benefited more, both in terms of their number as well as area owned and operated. The above change can be said to be a combined effect of the working of so many factors such as recent technological changes in agriculture, pressure of population on land and implementation and operation of laws of land ceilings and tenancy.

STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE OWNERSHIP AND DISTRIBUTION OF RUBBER PLANTATIONS SINCE INDEPENDENCE

V. Haridasan*

SUMMARY

Rubber is a plantation crop mainly raised in the southern States of India. Immediately after Independence, *viz.*, in 1949, the area under rubber in India was 67,915 hectares and 72.85 per cent of the area under rubber was in the erstwhile Travancore State. Travancore, Cochin and Madras together accounted for 97.59 per cent of the total area under rubber in 1949. Between 1955-56 and 1974-75, the area under rubber increased by 163.83 per cent. The largest increase took place in the case of small holdings (20 hectares, and below). The area under small holdings increased by 328.33 per cent in 1974-75 over 1955-56 while that of estates (above 20 hectares) increased only by 38.36 per cent during the period. During the same period the number of small holdings increased by 377.15 per cent and the estates by 37.44 per cent. There is no significant shift in the geographical distribution of rubber area. Rubber continues to be cultivated mainly in the State of Kerala. At the time of Independence it was mainly cultivated in the constituent parts of the present Kerala State. The major increase in the area and the number of small holdings took place during 1955-56 to 1959-60. The reasons that can be attributed for the increase are the agrarian relations legislation of Kerala which exempted rubber from land ceiling, the Plantations Labour Act which exempted small holdings of 10.117 hectares, the Agricultural Income-Tax of Kerala, which allows differential slab rates and exemptions, incentives and assistances given by the Rubber Board to small rubber growers, the inheritance law, and the population pressure in Kerala. The major increase in area in the estates took place in 1965-66. This is mainly due to the entry of State Governments in a big way in rubber plantation field. There is considerable change in the ownership of estates. In 1952-53, 66.02 per cent of area under estates was controlled by limited companies. This fell to 44.54 per cent by 1972-73. During the same period public sector estates increased their share of area from 0.07 to 23.06 per cent. In the small holdings sector, the area belonging to limited companies is negligible, as it used to be at the time of Independence. The increase in small holdings has not however led to the decline in productivity. In 1950 the small holdings contributed about 22 per cent of the total production, while their area was about 32 per cent of the total. In 1974-75 their share in production was 62 per cent while their area was 70 per cent. This shows that their productivity has increased over the years, though the increase has not been proportionate to that of the estates.

† Agro-Economic Research Centre, Vallabh Vidyanagar (Gujarat).

* Economist, Rubber Board, Kottayam (Kerala).

STRUCTURAL CHANGES AND JOINT HOLDINGS

B. N. Asthana and P. C. Shukla*

SUMMARY

The present paper highlights the structural changes of ownership of land with special reference to individual and joint holdings. The data are taken from the 8th Round and 26th Round of NSS of Uttar Pradesh State. The linear rate of growth of individual and joint holdings during the reference period showed an increase of individual holdings by 0.73 per cent per annum at an aggregate level. This varied between 0.15 per cent to 4.03 per cent per annum in different size-groups. Among the joint holdings the rate of decrease was 4.80 per cent per annum at an aggregate level, the rate of decrease varying from 2.73 to 5.16 per cent per annum in the different size-groups. The view which gives weight only to intensification of inputs and establishment of service organization and which neglects the need for structural changes of size fails to come to grips with some of the most significant obstacles in the way of agricultural advance.

STRUCTURAL DISTRIBUTION OF LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE
IN WEST BENGAL

K. Sain†

SUMMARY

The data on distribution of ownership and operational holdings as contained in the NSS studies: 8th Round, 16th Round and 26th Round, All-India Report on Agricultural Census, 1970-71 and data collected in 5 clusters of villages in four agro-climatic zones of the State of West Bengal are analysed to detect any change in the distribution of holdings. Mainly Gini Coefficients, Relative Mean Inequality and Atkinson's Inequality Index are relied upon as tools for the analysis. Lorenz ratios calculated from data collected through different sources do not reflect any definite trend. But the Gini concentration ratio and the inequality indices indicate clearly that the distribution of both ownership and operational holdings remains significantly skewed and leave enough scope for enhancing aggregate social welfare through redistribution of holdings.

* Hon. Director and Senior Investigator, respectively, Agro-Economic Research Centre, University of Allahabad, Allahabad-2.

† Reader in Agricultural Economics, Bidhar Chandra Krislu Viswa Vidyalaya, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal.