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PROJECTIONS OF SHIFTS IN CROPPING PATTERN OF PUNJAB

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The cropping pattern in Punjab has enjoyed a fair degree of stability over the last few decades. Whatever minor changes that occurred during this period were mainly due to the extension in cultivated area and provision of additional irrigation facilities. The farmers responded to price changes also to some extent. There occurred, however, no major technological developments or violent changes in the relative price structure of agricultural commodities. No discernible adjustments in the cropping pattern of the State through this time could, therefore, be located.

The New Forces

The last two years witnessed some developments with possibilities of major adjustments in the cropping pattern of the State. The evolution of high yielding varieties of wheat, paddy, bajra and maize was a major breakthrough brought about in Indian agriculture during the past few years. With the enormous yield potentials of these varieties, the cultivation of these crops became relatively more paying. The increased availability of chemical fertilizers, increasing awareness of the improved technology, the enhanced irrigation facilities, and the recent advances in the production technology are some of the forces that demand new optima in the production programme of the farmers. The Punjab farmers have been found to be fairly rational in their farming decisions and production programmes.¹ They will not, therefore, be found wanting in switching over to a crop-mix that would maximize net returns to their fixed resources under the changed situation with regard to resources and production alternatives.

The restraints:—There are several restraints, however, which restrict the scope of this adjustment. The adoption of high yielding varieties and other improved techniques involves a high level of consumption of scarce farm resources such as fertilizer, irrigation, labour and capital.

The problem:—The problem, therefore, is to work out rational farm production plans that would yield maximum net returns to the farmers within the framework of production possibilities and resource restraints that would obtain over the next few years. These production plans aggregated would represent estimated future cropping pattern of the State. The farmers, the policy-makers, the extension workers and the traders, all will be deeply interested in this information.

The Objectives

The objectives of this study are (i) to find out the existing production plans of the farmers representing different type of farming regions of the State ; (ii) to work out optimum cropping plans for each representative holding under different re-

1. Raj Krishna, "The Optimality of Land Allocation : A Case Study of the Punjab," *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, January-March, 1963, pp. 63-73.

Resource Restraints

The resource restraints for this analysis included land with its use capability classes, irrigation from different sources, permanent family and hired labour, liquid capital and availability of scarce inputs such as fertilizers. A part of the land and other resources was set aside to meet the fodder needs of the farm animals. Only the balance was considered available for raising commercial crops.

PROGRAMMING SITUATIONS

In order to analyse the possible shifts in cropping patterns, normative production plans were worked out under six assumed situations with respect to the varieties of crops (high yielding or indigenous), level of technology, fertilizer supplies and availability of capital, land, labour and irrigation. The characteristics of these situations are summarized in Table I.

TABLE I—PROGRAMMING SITUATIONS FOR PROJECTING CROPPING PATTERNS IN PUNJAB

Situation	Crop varieties	Technology	Fertilizer supply	Land, labour and irrigation supply	Liquid capital supply
A	Existing	Existing	1966-67 level	1966-67 level	1966-67 level
B	Existing and high yielding	Improved	1966-67 level	1966-67 level	1966-67 level
C	Existing and high yielding	Existing and improved	1966-67 level	1966-67 level	1966-67 level
D	Existing and high yielding	Improved	1970-71 level	1966-67 level	No restraint
E	Existing and high yielding	Existing and improved	1970-71 level	1966-67 level	No restraint
F	Existing and high yielding	Improved	No restraint	1966-67 level	No restraint

Fertilizer availability at the 1966-67 level was only 19 kgs. of calcium ammonium nitrate (C.A.N.) and 1.4 kgs. of superphosphate equivalents, while at the 1970-71 level, it is expected to be 80 kgs. of C.A.N. and 40 kgs. of superphosphate equivalents per acre.⁴

Aggregation of Data

The normative cropping plans for the different synthetic holdings under the above situations provided the basis for working out the proportion of the total cropped area under different crops. An average percentage was then worked out for each crop for the State. This percentage was used to estimate the acreage of different crops under these situations. At the existing level of technology

4. The estimates are based on the quantities of fertilizers supplied during the year 1966-67 and the expected allocation during the year 1970-71.

production estimates were based on the current yield levels of the State as a whole, while in the case of improved technology the yield levels were worked out in conference with the specialists of the Punjab Agricultural University.

RESULTS

The normative cropping pattern obtained for different situations through linear programming analysis, and the estimates of production are presented in Table II. Some major characteristics of these cropping patterns are shown in

TABLE II—ESTIMATED ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS UNDER DIFFERENT PROGRAMMING SITUATIONS IN PUNJAB

Crop	Situation						
	Actual (1964-65)	A	B	C	D	E	F
(Percentage of cropped area)							
(a) Foodgrains							
Wheat	30.9	28.5	1.3	19.8	27.3	23.5	24.8
Maize	7.5	9.3	—	7.1	2.2	7.6	10.3
Rice	5.7	2.8	0.4	3.4	0.3	2.7	1.4
Bajra	3.1	3.2	13.9	6.8	23.8	16.0	33.8
Gram	14.8	8.4	1.5	8.2	10.0	12.7	11.8
Barley	2.0	1.8	27.6	10.7	5.5	1.8	0.1
Wheat and Gram	0.0	5.0	0.0	2.4	—	0.8	0.0
Total foodgrains ..	64.0	59.0	44.7	58.4	69.1	65.1	82.2
(b) Non-foodgrain crops							
Cotton	9.7	9.0	—	8.3	0.4	7.5	0.0
Sugarcane	2.4	5.1	0.3	2.5	1.7	2.9	0.9
Oilseeds	4.7	6.2	16.0	10.0	9.6	8.0	1.9
Others	19.2	20.7	39.0	20.8	19.2	16.5	15.0
Total	36.0	41.0	55.3	41.6	30.9	34.9	17.8
Grand Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
(Area in thousand acres)							
(a) Foodgrains							
Wheat	3,861	3,210	76	2,190	3,047	3,145	3,689
Maize	946	1,048	0	786	245	1,007	1,536
Paddy	709	315	22	376	33	357	209
Bajra	395	360	812	752	2,656	2,129	5,040
Gram	1,838	947	89	907	1,116	1,703	1,759
Barley	251	203	1,609	1,184	614	242	15
Wheat and Gram	—	563	—	266	—	110	—
Total foodgrains ..	8,000	6,646	2,608	6,461	7,711	8,693	12,248
(b) Non-foodgrain crops							
Cotton	1,202	1,013	0	918	45	1,008	0
Sugarcane	301	575	18	277	190	389	134
Oilseeds	595	698	933	1,106	1,071	1,077	283
Other crops	2,531	2,333	2,276	2,301	2,143	2,206	2,237
Total	4,629	4,619	3,227	4,602	3,449	4,680	2,654

(Contd.)

Crop	Situation						
	Actual (1964-65)	A	B	C	D	E	F
Production in thousand tons							
(a) Foodgrains							
Wheat	2,360	2,134	46	1,458	4,300	4,118	8,146
Maize	488	541	0	406	278	669	3,072
Paddy	351	160	26	186	40	177	564
Bajra	61	55	491	408	1,597	2,305	6,012
Gram	666	445	67	405	670	1,043	1,301
Barley	72	104	2,327	880	550	146	9
Wheat and Gram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,998	3,439	2,957	3,743	7,435	8,458	20,004
(b) Non-foodgrain crops							
Cotton	146	122	0	111	14	123	0
Sugarcane	444	874	54	407	570	780	402
Oilseeds	215	242	561	315	664	567	179
Other crops	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE III—MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF PROJECTED CROPPING PATTERNS IN PUNJAB UNDER DIFFERENT PROGRAMMING SITUATIONS

Characteristics	Situation						
	Actual (1964-65)	A	B	C	D	E	F
Cropped area ('000 acres)	12,629	11,265	5,835	11,063	11,160	13,373	14,902
Intensity of cropping (%)	133	117	58	115	116	139	155
Seasonal distribution (%) acreage)							
(a) Rabi	52.8	55.5	60.1	56.9	58.6	50.3	43.9
(b) Kharif	47.2	44.5	39.9	43.1	41.4	49.7	56.1
Net returns per acre (Rs.)	388	395	172	415	617	745	1,219
Cash needs (Rs. per acre)	67	37	130	38	92	96	245
Fertilizer needs per acre (kg.)							
Calcium ammonium nitrate	19	19	19	19	80	80	268.2
Superphosphate	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	40	40	114.0

Table III. The salient features are as follows.

Situation A

In this situation programming was done on the basis of the existing crop activities followed by the farmers with their own technology and the current resource supplies. The fertilizer availability was restricted to the 1966-67 level of 19 kgs. of C.A.N. and 1.4 kgs. of superphosphate per acre. This situation was designed to see if returns to fixed farm resources could be increased through a reallocation of the available resources without introducing new varieties or new technology. The results of this situation when compared with the actual cropping pattern of the State indicated that the existing land use pattern was reasonably

rational. The total cropped area of the State under this optimum dropped from the actual acreage of 12,629 thousand to 11,265 thousand acres with a consequent fall in cropping intensity from 133 to 117 per cent. This could be partially accounted for in the restriction of land use in the programming analysis in respect of unirrigated areas. Here an assumption was made that unirrigated land cannot be double cropped. In actual practice, however, this might be done in the event of a good rainfall. Foodgrains claimed a major part of the land in this situation. The results indicated the need for some adjustments. For example, the net returns could be increased by increasing area under maize, sugarcane and oilseeds slightly. Cotton acreage could be decreased to some extent. The increase in farm returns to fixed farm resources per acre was Rs. 7 per acre for the State as a whole. In some regions, however, the increase appeared to be possible to the extent of 27.36 per cent through a more rational allocation of farm land resources.

The major restraint under the existing technology was found to be the supply of nitrogenous fertilizers. The use of phosphatic fertilizers was not very high. Neither irrigation nor labour appeared to be a restraint during any of the peak work periods.

Situation B

This situation assumed a complete replacement of the existing technology with improved technology as recommended by crop specialists, without, however, increasing the supplies of crucial inputs such as fertilizers.

The normative solutions indicated that insistence on a switch-over to improved technology without augmenting fertilizer supply would lead to a tremendous fall in cropped acreage under a rational allocation of resources. The cropped area would drop to only 5,835 thousand acres from the current level of 12,629 thousand acres. The cropping intensity would be only 58 per cent against the existing intensity of 133 per cent. Foodgrains acreage would fall to the extremely low level of only 2,608 thousand acres. Wheat which is the major crop of the State would retain only 76 thousand acres out of its present area of 3,861 thousand acres. Maize would be eliminated, while paddy and gram would figure in only marginally. Bajra and barley would, however, occupy a larger acreage. Among the non-food crops, cotton would be the worst casualty, retaining no area; and sugarcane acreage would decline to only 18 thousand acres. But oilseeds would gain substantially. Thus Punjab would emerge as a highly deficit State in foodgrains and sugar, with no cotton or paddy to export. Farmers' net income would fall from the current level of Rs. 388 to only Rs. 172 per acre. This would happen in spite of the fact that cash input would be Rs. 130 per acre which is nearly twice the current needs of only Rs. 67 per acre. The major restraint in this situation turned out to be fertilizer supply. These results demonstrate clearly that forcing a complete switch-over to the recommended technology with the present level of fertilizer resource supply is irrational and unrealistic and carries no chances of success.

Situation C

Since the current supply of fertilizers does not permit the adoption of improved technology over the entire available land, it is obvious that a rational

cropping pattern must include cropping activities at the traditional level of technology also. In situation C, therefore, the restraint on technology was relaxed so that the analysis included both the existing and the recommended technology. Fertilizer and other resource restraints, however, were retained at the current level.

The optimum cropping pattern under this situation gave a total cropped area of 11,063 thousand acres which is nearly twice the cropped acreage possible under situation B. The intensity of cropping rose to 115 per cent. This was, however, lower than the existing intensity of 133 per cent. Foodgrains claimed 58.4 per cent of the total cropped area, about one-third of which was under wheat. Maize retained its normal acreage. The position of bajra and barley improved, whereas gram acreage declined. Among the non-foodgrains, oilseeds covered nearly twice their present acreage. Sugarcane and cotton both suffered a decline in area. These adjustments slightly reduced the production of foodgrains, cotton and sugarcane, but considerably added to oilseeds production as compared with the existing level of production. Farm income improved to Rs. 415 per acre as against the current level of Rs. 388 only.

The major restraint in this situation also was fertilizer supply. In the presence of fertilizer restraint none of the other resources like labour, irrigation or cash acted as a restraint.

Situation D

With the serious efforts being made by the Government to increase production of fertilizer, one should expect substantial improvement in the fertilizer supply position. It is estimated that by the end of the Fourth Five-Year Plan, the availability of fertilizers would increase to 80 kgs. of C.A.N. equivalent and 40 kgs. of superphosphate equivalent per acre. It was, therefore, considered desirable to work out optimum cropping pattern at this higher level of fertilizer supply, which was treated as an operative restraint in situation D. In this situation the choice of enterprises was restricted to crop activities at the recommended level of technology only, in order to see how far a complete adoption of improved technology was possible with the improved fertilizer supply. Restraints in respect of labour, land and irrigation applied at the present level, but cash restraint was removed with the assumption that sufficient credit would be forthcoming.

The optimum cropping pattern under the conditions assumed in this situation estimated a total cropped area of 11,160 thousand acres which is a little below the present level. The intensity of cropping worked out to 116 per cent which was almost twice that obtained under the comparable situation B, which assumed a low fertilizer supply. Foodgrain acreage rose to 7,711 thousand acres which is slightly below the current area; production of foodgrains, however, was nearly twice the present production because of higher per acre yields under the improved technology. This increase was mainly in wheat, bajra and gram. Cotton acreage fell to 45 thousand acres only, with production falling to 14 thousand tons from the 1964-65 level of 146 thousand tons. Sugarcane retained only 190 thousand acres compared to its present area of 301 thousand acres. Its production, however, increased to 570 thousand tons against the current level of 444 thousand tons. Oilseeds acreage almost doubled itself and their production

increased to 644 thousand tons which is about three times the present production of 215 thousand tons.

As a consequence of these adjustments, returns to fixed farm resources rose to Rs. 617 per acre as against the present level of Rs. 388 only. In this situation the requirements of liquid capital also increased to Rs. 92 per acre as against the current needs of Rs. 67. The additional requirement was mainly due to the higher level of fertilizer use.

Even with the increased availability of fertilizers assumed in this situation, fertilizers would still remain as the principal restraint. A large part of the available land and other resources such as labour and irrigation would remain idle.

Situation E

As brought out in situation D, it would not be possible to fully utilize the land with improved technology even at the fertilizer availability expected at the end of the Fourth Plan. It is, therefore, obvious that the existing technology would continue over a large area. In situation E, therefore, the restraint of technology was relaxed so as to include crop activities with the existing production technology also. Fertilizer supply was assumed at 80 kgs. of C.A.N. and 40 kgs. of superphosphate per acre as in the last situation. Labour and irrigation restraints were taken at the current level. Capital was not kept as a restraint, but was estimated from the optimum plans to assess the capital needs.

The analysis showed that it would be possible to raise foodgrain acreage to 8,693 thousand acres which would be higher than the current level by 693 thousand acres. Production of foodgrains worked out to 8,458 thousand tons as against the current production of 3,998 thousand tons only. Bajra appeared to be the major crop responsible for this increase. Cotton regained a large part of its acreage lost under situation D, and its production improved to 123 thousand tons, which was still lower than the current production of 146 thousand tons. Sugarcane acreage was estimated at 389 thousand acres which is slightly higher than the present area. Its production was, however, much higher—780 thousand tons against the present production of 444 thousand tons only, because a large part of it was under improved technology. Oilseeds acreage was approximately the same as in situation D, although their production slightly fell. In comparison to the present situation, however, the acreage as well as production of oilseeds was much higher in this situation.

Since the conditions assumed in this situation appear to approximate very nearly with those likely to prevail in the State at the end of the Fourth Five-Year Plan, the cropping pattern described above would appear to be the normative cropping pattern at that time. It would permit a cropping intensity of 139 per cent and would yield an income of Rs. 745 per acre to the farmers. The cash needs would be only Rs. 96 per acre. The enterprises would be distributed between *rabi* and *kharif* season almost evenly. Fertilizer supply would be the chief restraint limiting the use of land, labour and other resources in this situation also.

Situation F

The analysis made under the different situations brought out that the most crucial input determining and influencing the production plans of the farmers is

fertilizers. With the concerted efforts being made to increase fertilizer production it is logical to visualize a time in the future when fertilizer supply would become abundant not to act as a restraint. It would, therefore, be useful to project an optimum cropping pattern for such a situation and to estimate the actual fertilizer needs for carrying out such production plans. Accordingly in situation F, the fertilizer restraint was removed. The only restraints that applied in this analysis were land, labour and irrigation. There was no cash restraint either, as in some earlier situations. Cash needs were rather considered to be a resultant and were estimated.

The analysis of the normative cropping pattern so developed indicated the need for major adjustments in this situation. All the major activities were followed at the improved level of technology. The plans leaned heavily in favour of foodgrains, claiming 12,248 thousand acres out of the total cropped area of 14,902 thousand areas. Bajra figured up as the most potential foodgrain. Wheat and gram nearly retained their present acreage. Maize doubled its area, while paddy and barley acreage declined considerably. Production of foodgrains worked out to about 20 million tons, which is a tremendous increase over the present production of 3.998 million tons only.

Among the non-food crops, cotton faced complete elimination from production plans unless relative price level moves in favour of this crop or the production technology gets improved significantly, as the farmers would find it more profitable to grow food crops under the present price structure. Sugarcane and oilseeds acreage would also suffer. Their production, however, would not fall significantly, because of the higher yields per acre resulting from the adoption of improved technology.

The cropping intensity under this situation increased to 155 per cent. The returns to fixed farm resources rose to Rs. 1,219 per acre. This shows that the income of the farmers could be raised to three times the present level, provided fertilizers could be supplied to the extent required. Such a cropping pattern did not involve any strain on the available resources of labour and irrigation. However, this would necessitate a much higher fertilizer use, viz., 268.2 kgs. of C.A.N. and 114 kgs. of superphosphate equivalents of fertilizers per acre. On this basis the State as a whole would need a total supply of 2.58 million tons of C.A.N. equivalent and 1.1 million tons of superphosphate equivalent of fertilizers. Liquid capital requirements would work out to Rs. 245 per acre, which is much higher than the present average availability of Rs. 155 only. Additional credit would thus have to be provided. Action needs to be initiated on these aspects so that the possibilities of production indicated above can be exploited as soon as fertilizer supply ceases to be a restraint.

Limitations

The projections are subject to the following assumptions:

1. Relative prices of inputs and products will remain unchanged.
2. In the programming analysis, we assumed zero opportunity cost for land outside of agriculture and as such programmed the situation with zero opportunity cost.

3. No high yielding varieties will be available in the case of crops other than wheat, maize, bajra and paddy, and there will be no other major technological developments to upset the relative profitability of crops in the State during the next few years.
4. The high yielding varieties will be cultivated at the recommended level of fertilizer use.
5. There will be no expansion of irrigation in the State.

SUMMARY

The evolution of high yielding varieties of wheat, maize, paddy and bajra has made these crops relatively more paying than the other crops commonly grown in the State. There is also an increasing awareness of improved techniques of raising crops. These developments demand major adjustments in the cropping pattern of the State which has enjoyed a fair degree of stability over the last few decades. Fertilizer shortage, however, limits the scope of these adjustments. This study projects and analyses the shifts in cropping patterns that are likely to maximize returns to the farmers' fixed resources at varying levels of fertilizer availability.

Optimum cropping plans worked out for synthetic holdings representing different type of farming regions in the State indicate that the Punjab farmers are fairly rational in decisions relating to allocation of land resource. The relative acreage under different crops appeared to revolve round the availability of fertilizers. At the current level of fertilizer supply (19 kgs. of C.A.N. and 1.4 kgs. of superphosphate equivalent per acre), shifts in favour of bajra, barley, and oilseeds were indicated. With fertilizer availability improving to the expected 1970-71 level (80 kgs. of C.A.N. and 40 kgs. of superphosphate equivalent per acre), bajra acreage appeared to increase further. Other foodgrains very nearly retained their present acreage except paddy which lost nearly half of its present area. Cotton acreage declined while oilseeds cultivation continued at the previous level. Production of foodgrains almost doubled itself. Sugarcane and oilseeds production also rose substantially, whereas production of cotton appeared to fall. At the current level of fertilizer supply, the existing technology would continue side by side with the improved technology, relaxation of the fertilizer supply restraint estimated production plans highly in favour of foodgrains. Their acreage rose by 50 per cent, while production increased to almost five times the current level. Cotton faced complete elimination. Sugarcane and oilseeds lost about one-half of their present acreage, although the fall in production was not so marked.

APPENDIX I

GENERALIZED TYPE OF FARMING AREAS IN PUNJAB

Region	Annual rainfall in millimetres	Mean temperature	Areas included (tehsils)
I	High (1050 and above)	Low (below 12°C)	<i>Bet</i> areas of Gurdaspur, Pathankot and Una.
II	High	Low	<i>Non-bet</i> areas of Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Una and Batala.
III	Medium (650-1050)	Low	<i>Bet</i> areas of Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Garhshankar and Rupar.
IV	Medium	Low	<i>Non-bet</i> areas of Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Garhshankar, Rupar and Kharar.
V	Medium	Medium (12° - 24°C)	<i>Bet</i> areas of Ajnala, Amritsar, Kapur- thala, Phagwara, Nakodar, Nawanshahr, Phillaur, Ludhiana, Jagraon, Samrala and Zira.
VI	Medium	Medium	<i>Non-bet</i> areas of Ajnala, Amritsar, Nako- dar, Nawanshahr, Phagwara, Hoshiarpur, Jagraon, Jullundur, Malerkotla, Barnala, Sangrur, Patiala, Sirhind, Rajpura and Kapurthala.
VII	Low (below 650)	Medium	<i>Bet</i> areas of Ferozepur, Patti, and Tarn Taran.
VIII	Low	Medium	<i>Non-bet</i> areas of Ferozepur, Patti and Tarn Taran.
IX	Low	High (above 24°C)	<i>Bet</i> areas of Fazilka and Mansa.
X	Low	High	<i>Non-bet</i> areas of Muktsar, Fazilka, Bhatinda and Mansa.

APPENDIX II

PRICES OF DIFFERENT COMMODITIES AND INPUTS USED

A. Crops (per quintal)							Produce (Rs.)	Seed (Rs.)
Wheat	..	..	..	..	..	..	65	80
Gram	..	..	..	..	..	..	75	80
Barley	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	70
Maize	..	..	..	..	..	..	70	70
Cotton American	..	..	..	..	..	..	130	80
Cotton <i>Desi</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	80
Sugarcane	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5

(Contd.)

Crops (per quintal)	Produce (Rs.)	Seed (Rs.)
Sugarcane <i>Gur</i>	65	—
Rice	40	55
<i>Toria</i>	144	150
<i>Massar</i>	100	100
Bajra	60	60
<i>Guar</i>	60	60
Wheat + Gram	70	—
Peanut	100	150
B. By-products (per quintal)		
Wheat <i>Bhusa</i>	8	
Wheat + Gram <i>Bhusa</i>	5	
Gram <i>Bhusa</i>	4	
Maize <i>Karvi</i>	2	
Barley <i>Bhusa</i>	6	
Bajra <i>Karvi</i>	2	
Paddy straw	1	
Peanut <i>Bhusa</i>	4	
Cotton sticks	2	
C. Others (inputs) (Rs.)		
Compost (per ton)	6	
Calcium ammonium nitrate (per quintal)	38.50	
Superphosphate (per quintal)	34.50	
Labour (per day)	4.00	
