



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.*

No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.

THE INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

(Organ of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics)

Vol. XII

APRIL—JUNE 1957

No. 2

CONFERENCE NUMBER

PROCEEDINGS
of the
SEVENTEENTH CONFERENCE
held at Cuttack, December 1956

SUBJECTS

1. PATTERN OF EMPLOYMENT OF HIRED LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE IN INDIA.
2. EFFECTIVENESS OF PROVISION IN THE TENANCY LEGISLATION FOR (i) SECURITY OF TENURE AND (ii) IMPROVEMENT IN TENURIAL STATUS OF TENANTS.
3. TRENDS IN THE OPERATION TECHNIQUES AND ORGANISATION OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING IN INDIA.

Rs. 6·50

CONTENTS

	PAGE
WELCOME ADDRESS—DR. P. PARIJA	1
INAUGURAL ADDRESS—SHRI RADHANATH RATH	3
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS—PROF. D. G. KARVE	6
PATTERN OF EMPLOYMENT OF HIRED LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE IN INDIA	
(1) S. BHATTACHARYA AND CHITTA MITRA	18
(2) A. S. KAHLON AND M. L. BHARDWAJ	23
(3) D. D. JENA	28
(4) G. D. AGRAWAL	34
(5) N. A. MUJUMDAR	37
(6) V. SUNDARA RAJAN	43
(7) SHRIDHAR MISRA AND PREM BEHARI LAL VAISH	48
(8) R. C. PATNAIK	58
(9) P. K. MUKHERJEE	66
(10) M. S. PRAKASA RAO	72
(11) J. K. PANDE	77
(12) DANIEL AND ALICE THORNER	84
(13) M. SRINIVASAN	97
DISCUSSIONS	109
EFFECTIVENESS OF PROVISION IN THE TENANCY LEGISLATION FOR (i) SECURITY OF TENURE AND (ii) IMPROVEMENT IN TENURIAL STATUS OF TENANTS	
(1) MAHESH CHAND	114
(2) B. MISRA AND B. JENA	117
(3) P. N. NARASINGA RAO	121
(4) M. K. SHINGAREY	126
(5) D. D. JENA	135
(6) M. BALASUBRAMANIAN	142
(7) C. H. SHAH AND TARA SHUKLA	151
(8) B. S. MAVINKURVE	156
DISCUSSIONS	168
TRENDS IN THE OPERATION TECHNIQUES AND ORGANISATION OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING IN INDIA	
(1) M. L. DANTWALA	182
(2) E. T. MATHEW	186
(3) A. VENKATESWARLU	196
(4) A. V. RANGACHARI	201
(5) M. B. GHATGE AND R. V. S. RAO	211
(6) N. P. PATIL	222
(7) ABU SALIM	229
DISCUSSIONS	233

APPENDICES

	PAGE
(1) SUBJECTS FOR THE NEXT CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY	239
(2) CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY	239
(3) REPORT OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY AND TREASURER FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1956	240
(4) BALANCE SHEET AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1956.	244
(5) LIST OF DELEGATES AND MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE CON- FERENCE	250
(6) LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY AS ON MARCH 31, 1956. ..	252
(7) LIST OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE SOCIETY 1940-1956.	260
(8) ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRIZE AWARDS 1956 AND PRIZE AWARDS FOR 1957.	262

PREFACE

The current issue of the Journal contains the Proceedings of the 17th Annual Conference of the Society held in December 1956 at Cuttack. The Conference was attended by nearly 130 members from Central and State Governments, Universities and Research Institutions.

The subjects chosen for discussion at the Conference were :

- 1) Pattern of Employment of Hired Labour in Agriculture in India.
- 2) Effectiveness of Provision in the Tenancy Legislation for (i) Security of Tenure and (ii) Improvement in Tenurial Status of Tenants.
- 3) Trends in the Operation Techniques and Organisation of Agricultural Marketing in India.

An unusually large number of papers were received and read on Subject I, while on the other two subjects also there were select contributions. The level of discussions was maintained at the usual high level.

Unlike the previous Conference, it was not possible to arrange for a tape-recorder to record the discussion. Instead, arrangements were made to take down notes of the discussion by stenographers. However, notes have not been taken of the speeches of all the participants in the discussion. Hence, the discussion part on the respective subjects contain only reports which could be made available.

We take this opportunity of thanking the Utkal University under whose auspices the Conference met. We specially record our grateful thanks to Dr. S. Misra, the Local Secretary of the Conference, who had made excellent arrangements and to the Members of the Reception Committee for their generous hospitality.

15th May, 1957

Manilal B. Nanavati

President

PATTERN OF EMPLOYMENT OF HIRED LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE*

G. D. Agrawal

Agricultural Economist
Government Agricultural College, Kanpur

This paper is based on a study of about 600 holdings in two districts of West U.P., where along with various other observations, data on pattern of hired labour employment in agriculture were also collected in 1954-55. The facts reveal that the demand for wage-paid employment in agriculture and its extent and pattern are determined mainly by the following :

1. Dispersion of size of holdings
2. Major crops grown
3. Duration of working seasons for various field operations
4. Intensity of cultivation
5. Traditions and social attitudes to farm work
6. Extent of mechanisation

SIZE OF HOLDING

It is the most important single factor influencing the demand for wage-paid employment. A commonly observed fact of agricultural economy is that the size of family and the number of workers in it do not increase in the same ratio as the size of holding as will be clear from the table given below.

TABLE I

Size Group (in acres)	Sample 1			Sample 2		
	No. per family		Workers per acre	No. per family		Workers per acre
	Total	Workers		Total	Workers	
Below 2.5	5.83	1.75	1.02	5.76	2.39	1.34
2.5—5	6.69	1.80	0.46	5.63	2.05	0.54
5—7.5	6.88	2.17	0.34	7.29	2.69	0.43
7.5—10	7.23	2.12	0.24	7.11	2.86	0.33
10—15	7.05	1.96	0.16	6.93	2.68	0.23
15—20	9.18	3.07	0.18	7.93	2.98	0.16
20—25	9.26	2.45	0.11	8.72	3.28	0.15
25 and above	8.40	3.20	0.10	7.92	2.77	0.07
Average	7.30	2.18	0.21	6.85	2.60	0.27

With the increase in the size of holding there is also an increase in the size of family and the number of workers per family but the increase in the number of workers is much smaller as compared with that in the size of holding. The average number of workers per holding in the size-group 'less than 2.5' is 1.75 and 2.39 respectively in Samples 1 and 2. As compared with this group in the

* The thanks of the author are due to the Research Programmes Committee, Planning Commission, Government of India, for use of the data for this paper from the study financed by it.

size-group of 20—25 acres, the number of workers increased hardly by 50% while the size of holding increased by about 12 times. On a per acre basis, the number of workers decreases with increase in the size of holding, the number being 1.02 workers per acre in the lowest size-group but only 0.1 in the size-group of 20-25 acres and above. The need for supplementing the family labour on larger holdings with hired labour is, therefore, quite obvious. The smaller the holding the less is the demand for hired labour. The dispersion of holdings in various size-groups is given below.

TABLE II

Size-Group (in acres)	No. of holdings	Percentage of holdings employing permanent labour
Below 2.5	42	—
2.5—5	126	6.34
5—7.5	108	16.66
7.5—10	96	26.00
10—15	109	34.86
15—20	57	56.14
20—25	29	82.75
35 & above	23	100.00
Total	590	—

There is permanent hired labour employed only on 28% of the holdings and there is more than one permanent labour on only 9% of them. These permanent labourers are employed mainly on holdings in the size-group of 7.5—10 acres and above. Only 15% of the total permanent labour is employed on holdings below 7.5 acres. On the sample holdings nearly 87% of the total farm labour is supplied by family members. The contribution of temporary hired labour is to the extent of 13%. Temporary wage-paid labour has to be engaged even by the farmers of the lowest size-group of holdings and accounts for about 9% of the total farm labour. In the region under reference the temporary wage-paid labour is usually engaged during *kharif* and *rabi* harvests in September, October, March and April and for weeding in sugarcane in April and May. Occasionally such labour is also employed for irrigation.

CROPS

Some crops, e.g., potato, sugarcane and transplanted paddy are labour-intensive, i.e., the labour requirement of these crops is more as compared with wheat, gram, barley, etc. Therefore in the regions where labour-intensive crops are grown to a larger extent or where a number of such crops are grown which compete with each other for their labour requirements during the same part of the year, the available supply of family labour falls short of the requirement and wage-paid labour has to be employed to complete the work in time.

PERIOD OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATION

In certain regions climatic conditions are such that very few days are available for preparation of seed-bed and sowing of *kharif*, i.e., rainy season or *rabi*,

i.e., winter crops. In such regions the family labour force has to be supplemented with hired labourers.

INTENSITY OF CULTIVATION

The total farm labour requirement is greatly dependent on the conditions of farming and standard of cultivation. It is usually highest in irrigated areas following intensive methods of cultivation. There is large variation in demand for labour according to method of irrigation. The demand for labour is the highest under well irrigation. Therefore, in irrigated areas with intensive system of cultivation, the need for wage-paid labour is felt on holdings of fewer acres as compared with the unirrigated area with extensive system of farming.

TRADITIONS AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES TO FARM WORK

This is also an important factor in determining the pattern of employment of hired labour. The practice of exchange of labour among the farmers is very common in the region to which the study refers particularly in hoeing, harvesting and crushing of sugarcane which is the most labour consuming crop grown there. Owing to this practice, the requirement for hired labour is significantly reduced. Another characteristic feature of the region is that the farmer howsoever big or rich he is, he works with his own hands and does all farm jobs from ploughing to bringing of grass from fields for his cattle. Farm work is not looked down socially in this region. In certain districts in East U.P. some members of the farming community consider it below their dignity to plough their fields with their own hands even when they have no other work to do. In consequence, even with smaller holdings as compared with the Western U.P., the hired labour is employed there to a larger extent.

MECHANISATION

Indian agriculture is not yet mechanised to any appreciable extent. But mechanisation can change the entire pattern of employment of hired labour as it enables the farmer to control a much larger area than what is possible under the existing technology with bullock as the chief motive force. It also reduces considerably the time required for farm work such as preparation of seed bed, sowing, harvesting and threshing of crops and to that extent the demand for temporary labourer during peak or rush periods of work is cut down. The extent of mechanisation is a material factor in influencing the pattern of wage-paid employment. In partial mechanisation the demand for permanent labour would go down but that for temporary labour would continue but the greater the degree of mechanisation the less is the demand for both, permanent and temporary hired labour.

To conclude, the pattern of wage employment of paid labour is determined, by and large, by size of farms, nature of crops grown, conditions of farming and social attitudes to farm jobs in the farming community. The tract to which this study refers is agriculturally a well developed region and even in this region with a labour-intensive crop like sugarcane, the permanent labour is employed to a very limited extent. This is true for most parts of the country. Generally the family labour predominates and hired labour is engaged either when the holding is large or during peak periods of farm work.
