

**BENCH MARK SURVEY REPORTS ON PUSA BLOCK
BIRAR, MOHD. BAZAR BLOCK - WEST BENGAL
AND ARUMACHAL BLOCK - ASSAM, 1957**

1. The Study

It was felt that special survey should be undertaken in all evaluation centres to collect detailed information on various aspects in order to assess the position regarding acceptance of sponsored practices as well as to yield information on certain aspects of the rural economy related to the development programme at the beginning of Project. The survey data were to be used as bench mark for repeat survey to be undertaken at specified intervals. This volume contains the results of the survey conducted in the following three blocks.

- 1) PUSA Development Block - Bihar.
- 2) Mohd. Bazar Development Block - West-Bengal
- 3) Arunachal Development Block - Assam

2.Objectives

- i) To assess the extent to which the improved practices advocated by the Community Development and National Extension Programmes have been adopted by villages.

To obtain an insight into the impact of these programmes upon the economic and social life of the rural people.

3. Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample

The sampling design adopted involved two stages. In the first stage the sampling unit was the village and in the second it was household. The Block was divided into 6 strata of more or less equal population, the division being based on geographical considerations. From each stratum, one village was selected with probability proportionate to population. Exceptions had to be made to this rule 'in some cases, because of peculiar position' of individual blocks. About 1000 households were covered in 6 villages for canvassing of general schedules.

4. Reference Period

The survey was conducted between February & June 1954 and the data were collected for the periods May, 1953 to April, 1954.

Main Findings

PUSA Development Block, PUSA - Samastipur -Shakra Community Project, District Darbhanga, Bihar

1. The average size of holding was 2.7 acres. A large number of cultivators were either small owner cultivators or tenants. A small section of cultivators were big land owners.

2. Nearly 73 per cent of the sample cultivators were in debt with an average amount of debt of RS.688 per indebted household.

3. The money lenders were the most common source of debt as they were responsible for providing 90 per cent of the total-credit.

4. On an average an agricultural labourer reported employment for 119 days and a cultivator-cum-agricultural labourers for 107 days during the period October 1953 to April, 1954.

5. Among all the children of school going age belonging to the age group 5-15, only 29.4% were attending the schools. The percentage of female children of this age group attending the school was only 12.7% as against 43.4% for male children.

6. Among the diseases reported, malaria was by far the most prevalent being responsible for 39.2% of the total cases of illness, the next ones in order of frequency being dysentery, asthma, typhoid and influenza accounting for 7.8%, 6.0%, 4.8% & 4.6% of all the cases respectively.

7. Nearly 75% of the population was agriculturist and about half of them were owner cultivators, About 11% of the households engaged themselves in professions and services e.g. trade, teaching, domestic servants, barbers etc.

8. Only 6.4% of the total cultivated area was irrigated, the principal means of irrigation being wells and tanks.

9. Food crops were the most important crops grown accounting for 66.4% of the total value of output. Further, cash crops accounted for 22.6% of the total value, fodder crops 7.6% and other non-fodder crops for 3.4% * The total value of crops sold by the sample cultivators during the period of survey was estimated at Rs.5,723 which worked out to about 24% of the value of output.

10. Improved seeds was used in this area mainly for wheat and sugarcane. The percentages of the area under these crops sown with improved seed were 10.9 per cent and 82.9 per cent respectively.

11. of the total cultivators 91.1 per cent used either chemical fertilizers or manures or both.

12. The most commonly used improved type of implementation was the iron-plough as it was being used by 39.5 per cent of the cultivators.

13. All the households owned residential structures. The large number of houses i.e. 60.2 per cent used mud for plinth and bamboo, mud, straw or reed for walls and roof.

14. About 64 per cent of the total households participated in some community activity or the other and contributed in all 3170 mandays of labour and Rs.1069 in cash.

15. Only 6.8 per cent of the total households in survey villages reported membership of the co-operative societies.

Mohd. Bazar Community Development Block, District Birbhum - West Bengal

1. The average size of holding was 8.3 acres. 92 per cent of the cultivators owned land.

2. About 55 per cent of the households were under debt. Moneylender was the most common source of credit.

3. 37 per cent of cultivators reported expenditure on chemical fertilizers and 48 per cent on organic manures.

4. Of the children of school going age i.e. those belonging to the age group 5-15, 42.2 per cent were reported as attending schools. The corresponding percentages for male and female children were 58.2 & 22.1 respectively.

5. Among the diseases reported, malaria was by far the most prevalent, being responsible for 46.4% of the total cases of illness. The other diseases in order of frequency were influenza, dysentery, typhoid and rheumatism accounting for 10.1 per cent, 0.4 per cent, 6.6 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively of all the Cases.

6. About 80 per cent of the households had reported agriculture as their principal occupation.

7. Paddy was the principal crop grown and it covered 93.4% of the gross cropped area. Of the cultivated area 16.9% was irrigated. Tanks were the principal means of irrigation accounting for 90.1% of the total irrigated area. Canals and wells were also used for irrigation though only to a very limited extent.

8. Only 3.6 per cent of the area under paddy was sown with improved seed and it was used in the bigger holdings alone. About 14.7 per cent of the area under wheat and 10.1 per cent of the area under sugarcane was sown with improved seed though these crops were grown only to a limited extent.

9. 77.3 per cent of the cultivators reported use of farm yard manure and 20.2 per cent of compost manure. The use of chemical fertilizers or even organic manures was very limited.

10. None of the small cultivators and only a negligible number among the large cultivators reported use of modern implements and appliances.

11. Only 24 per cent of the households reported participation in some community activity or the other or made some contribution in terms of cash or labour.

12. 4.1 per cent of the total households in the survey villages reported membership of the co-operative housing societies.

III. **Arunachal Development Block Cachar Community Project, District Cachar Assam**

The average size of land holding was 4.8

2. About 70 per cent of the sample households were in debt and the money lender was the main source of loan.

3. The practice of incurring expenditure on chemical fertilisers did not reach the cultivators at large, and even the few who bought fertilizers had done so in very small quantities.

4. On an average, an agricultural labourer reported employment for 133.2 days during the six months of the survey.

5. Among the children of school going age i.e. those belonging to the age group 5-15, 40.3% were attending the schools, the corresponding percentages for male and female children being 55.0 and 24.6 respectively.

6. Among the diseases reported, Malaria was by far the most prevalent being responsible for 39.5% of the total cases of illness. The others in order of frequency were dysentery, influenza, typhoid, rheumatism and asthma and accounted for 17.4% 5.8%, 2.5% & 1.3% of the total number of cases of illness.

7. 66.2 per cent of the households reported agriculture as their principal occupation.

8. The home weaving of cloth which had traditional importance in Assam provided part-time employment to a large number of women in the area who were reported as earning dependents. 42.3% of the total households reported having a subsidiary occupation.

9. Of the total sample households, 98.3 per cent owned residential structures. The largest number of houses (88.9%) were entirely kutcha in structure having mud plinth, walls made of mud, bamboo or reed and roof made of straw. Only 8.9% of houses had walls made of timber and tin sheet. Cement, stone or bricks were used in less than 1% of the houses.

10. There was hardly any need for artificial irrigation in the area because of heavy rainfall.

11. **Paddy was** the principal crop as this **accounted** for 95.5 per cent of the total gross cropped area.

12. Only 2.1 per cent of the total gross cropped area in the sample villages was covered with improved varieties of seed.

13. Only 19.6 **per cent** of the cultivators reported use of **chemical fertilizers** or manures.

14. The traditional implements continue to be in vogue in the area and **the use** of improved implements had not been reported.

15. In all the sample villages, only 12 per cent of the total households participated in community activities and contributed in all 611 mandays of labour and Rs.77 in cash.

16. Only 7.1 per cent of the total households in the survey villages reported membership of the co-operative societies.