

**BENCH MARK SURVEY REPORTS ON BANSWADA
BLOCK - ANDHRA, SAMALKOT BLOCK - ANDHRA,
AND ERODE BLOCK - MADRAS, 1957**

1. The Study

Special surveys were undertaken in all the evaluation centres to collect more detailed information on various aspects in order to assess the position regarding acceptance of sponsored practices as well as 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 surveys to be undertaken in future at specified intervals. This volumes contains the results of the surveys conducted in the following three blocks.

- i) Banswada Development Block, Nizamsagar Community Project. district Nizamabad;
- ii) Samalkot Development Blocks, Kakinada Community Project, district East Godavari Andhra; and
- iii) Erode Development Block, Lower Bhavani Community Project, District Coimbatore Madras.

2. Objectives

To asses the extent to which the improved practices advocated by the Community Development and National Extension Programmes have been adopted by the villagers and

- ii) To obtain 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 consideration. From each stratum one village was selected with probability proportionate to population.

The survey was conducted in 6 villages in each of the blocks and survey covered 1196 households in Samalkot Development Block, Andhra, 1145 households in Erode Development Block - Madras and 1373 households in Banswada Block of Andhra.

4. Reference Period

The survey was conducted between February and June' 1954 and the data related to the period May, 1953 to January, 1954.

5. Main Findings

Banswada Development Block, Mizamsagar Community Project, District Nizamabad

1. Average size of cultivation holding was about 4.8 acres.
2. The most important crops grown were paddy, mung and urad among the kharif crops and jowar and gram among the rabi crops.
3. 35 per cent of the total cultivated area was irrigated.
4. Only 5.5 per cent of the area under paddy was sown with improved seeds. The use of improved seeds of sugarcane and cotton was reported to be confined to a few cultivators with larger cultivation holdings.
5. The majority of cultivators (83.6 per cent) used farm-yard manure. Chemical fertilizers were used by only about one-third of the cultivators. The use of compost manure was negligible, only 2 cultivators reported its use.
6. The only improved implement in use was the sugarcane crusher.
7. The percentage of literates in sample villages was only 6.8. Among the female population, the percentage was as low as 1.1 against 12.6 among the male population. of the children of school going age i.e. those belonging to age group 5-15, 12.5 per cent were attending schools.
8. Among the diseases reported, malaria was by far the most prevalent, being responsible for 35.3 per cent of the total cases of illness.

9. About 14 per cent of the houses were entirely kutcha in structure with mud plinth and walls and roofs made of mud, bambboo, reed, straw or thatch etc.

10. 19.4 per cent of all households participated in some community activity or the other and contributed in all 447 mandays of labour and Rs.1766 in cash.

11. 36.1 per cent of the total households in sample villages reported membership of cooperative society.

II. **Samalkot Development Block, Kakinada Community**

Project, District East Godavari - Andhra

1. The average size of cultivation holding was 3.5 acres

2. Paddy was the predominant crop accounting for about half of the total cropped area.

3. of the total cultivated area, 96.1 per cent was irrigated.

4. 37.1 per cent of cropped area was under improved seeds. Use of improved seeds had been reported mainly for paddy and sugarcane.

5. 88.7 per cent of cultivators used fertilizers and manures.

6. 5.7 per cent of the households participated in some community activity or the other

7. 27.9 per cent of the households reported membership of cooperative societies.

8. Proportion of 'literate population to the total population was 22.3 per cent. of the children of school going age i.e. those belonging to the age group 5 to 15 years, 36.2 per cent were reported as attending school. The corresponding percentages for male and female children being 40.8 and 31.1 respectively.

9. Among the diseases reported, fever accounted for 31.7 per cent or the total cases of illness.

10. 96.7 per cent of the households owned residential structure. 53.3 per cent of the houses were reported to be completely kutcha in structure.

11. 81.7 per cent of the households were under **debt**. Money lender was the main credit agency which provided about 69 per cent of the total amount of loans outstanding against the sample cultivators.

III. Erode Development Block, Lower Bhavani Community

Project, District Coimbatore - Madras

1. The average size of cultivation holding was 5.6 acres.

2. Group of crops classified as 'other cereals' and which included mainly bajra and ragi was the most important in terms of area covered, as about 59 per cent of the total cropped area was under it.

3. The improved seed had become popular in the area only for cotton crop. For other crops, the use of improved seeds was reported to be negligible.

4. 70.9 per cent cultivators reported use of manures or fertilizers.

5. 39.5 per cent of the gross cropped area was irrigated. wells and canals were the two main sources of irrigation.

6.93 per cent of the cultivators reported ownership of land.

7. Almost cent percent sample households owned residential structure. A large number of houses were entirely kutcha in structure.

8. 77 per cent of the households were under debt. Money lender was the principal source of credit.

9. Only 10.3 per cent of the total number of households in sample villages participated in community activities.

10. only 7.8 per cent of the total number of households in the sample villages reported membership of the cooperative societies,.