

BENCH MARK SURVEY ON MORISI BLOCK, BOMBAY-1956

1. The Study

Bench Mark survey were conducted in the original 18 evaluation centres for a proper assessment of the impact of development programmes under community development and National Extension Service programmes. This survey was carried out in six selected villages i.e Ashtoli, Belura, Katsur, Kawthal and Pandi of the first block of the Amravati-Morsi-Daryapur Community Project.

2. Objectives

- i) To assess the extent of adoption of improved practices advocated by the Community Development and National Extension Service programmes;
- ii) 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, in the second the house hold. For the purpose of selection of villages the block consisting of 61 villages was divided into six strata, each having more or less equal population. one village from each stratum was selected at random with probability proportional to its population. Total number of house-holds surveyed were 1234.

4. Reference Period

Survey was conducted between Feb. and June, 1954 and data was collected for the period May, 1953 to January, 1954.

5. Main Findings

1. Average size of cultivation holding for the six villages worked out to 15.1 acres.
2. Bullocks were the predominant type of working animals used for cultivation in this block. Buffaloes were unimportant.

3. Cotton was practically, the only crop for which improved varieties of seeds were used. 29 per cent of the total area under cotton was under improved varieties.

4. Majority of cultivators used farm yard manure and some big cultivators used ground nut cake. Only 22 per cent of cultivators reported the use of ammonium sulphate or other chemical fertilisers.

5. The implements used in selected villages of the Block were generally of the age old type. So far as popularising improved implements was concerned, very little had been done in the Block. The soil turning plough of the Kirloskar brand was the only improved implement which had achieved some popularity.

6. Improved methods of cultivation were being adopted only to a very limited extent and there was great scope for improvement in this direction.

7. 82.7 per cent houses were self owned alongwith the sites.

8. The house made of mud plinth, mud walls and country tiled roof was the most common type of residential house. Nearly 90 per cent of the residential houses were having such kutcha structures which was vulnerable to damage or destruction in abnormal weather conditions.

9. Only about 13 per cent of the households participated in one or the other village bodies or social activities.

10. About 45 per cent of the total number of sample house-holds were under debt at the time of the survey. Two major purposes for which outstanding loans were taken were capital expenditure and current expenditure on farms. These two together accounted for 86 per cent of total outstanding loans.