

**BENCH MARK SURVEY REPORT ON MALAVALI BLOCK IN
MYSORE AND CHALAKUDY BLOCK IN KERALA, JULY 1957**

1. The Study

Special Surveys were undertaken in all the evaluation centres to collect detailed information on various aspects in order to assess the position regarding acceptance of sponsored practices and yield information on certain aspects of the rural economy related to the development programme at the beginning of the Project or shortly thereafter. The survey data were to be used as 'bench mark' for the repeat surveys to be undertaken in future. This volume contains the results of the survey conducted in the following two blocks.

Malavali Development Block - District Mandya, Mysore

Chalaky Development Block, District Trichur, Kerala

2. Objectives

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

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

Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample

The sampling design involved two stages. In the first stage, the sampling unit was the village and in the second it was the household. In most of the cases, 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. In all 1194 households in Malavalli Block, Mysore and 1,149 households in Chalakudy Development Block - District Trichur, Kerala were covered.

4. Reference Period

The survey was conducted between February and June, 1959 and the data were collected for the period October 1953 to March 1954.

5. Main Findings

Malavalli Development Block, Mysore

1. The average size of cultivation holdings worked out to 4.8 acres.
of land.
2. All the sample households reported ownership
3. 96.7 per cent of the households reported ownership of residential structures.
4. 80 per cent of the households were in debt with an average amount of debt of Rs.607 per indebted household. The main source of loan was the agriculturist and non-agriculturist money lenders.
5. only a limited number of cultivators incurred expenditure on fertilizers and manures & they were mostly large cultivators.
6. The percentage of the literates to the total population was 11.3, the corresponding figures for the males being 20.4 and for the female as low as 1.8.
7. Among the diseases reported, malaria was the most prevalent, being responsible for 20 per cent of the total cases of illness. The others in order of-frequency were rheumatism, dysentery, influenza , **asthama** and typhoid accounting for 10.7%, 8.5%. 7.3%, 6.7% and 4.9% respectively of the total cases of illness.
8. Of the total cultivated area in the sample villages, only 10.7 per cent was irrigated. Canals were the main source of irrigation account
9. A negligible proportion (0.4%) of the total cropped area was under improved seed. Improved seed was used mainly for paddy.
10. While nearly all cultivators reported use of farmyard manure, use of chemical fertilizers was very limited.

11. of all the cultivators in sample villages, only 6 reported use of iron plough, 4 of improved seed drill and 3 of improved type of burrows.

12. 32.7 per cent of the total households participated in some community activities or the other and contributed in all 1,286 mandays of labour and Rs.914 in cash.

13. 11.9 per cent all of the households in the sample villages reported membership of the cooperative societies.

Chalaky Development Block - District Trichur, Kerala

1. The average size of a cultivation holding worked out to 2.3 acres.

2. About 83 per cent of the sample, cultivators owned land.

3. 63 per cent of the cultivators were in debt and the average amount of debt per indebted household worked out to Rs.496. Agriculturist money lender was the main source of loans.

4. None of the sample cultivators reported expenditure on chemical fertilizers.

5. Of the total cultivated area, 25.2 per cent was irrigated. Wells were the principal, source of irrigation accounting for 61 per cent of irrigated area.

6. Improved seeds were reported to have been used to a very limited extent.

7. Use of Chemical fertilizers was limited, but majority of cultivators used farmyard manure, green manure etc.

8. Hardly any improved implement was being used in the sample villages. only one cultivator reported use of an improved iron plough.

9. Only 6.5 per cent of the sample households participated in some community activity or the other.

10. only 12.4% of the selected households in sample villages reported membership of cooperative societies. Participation in co-operative societies was maximum among the larger cultivators.