

**PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION IN AGRICULTURAL
PROGRAMMES, 1965**

1. The Study

This study was undertaken by the Programme Evaluation Organisation at the instance of Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Food & Agriculture to assess the bottlenecks and difficulties faced in the implementation of agricultural programmes at the district and block levels, with the focus on problems in achieving coordination.

2. Objectives

To study the main bottlenecks and difficulties faced in the implementation of agricultural programmes at the district and block levels, with the focus on problems in achieving coordination between different administrative agencies and organisations directly and indirectly connected with the implementation of agricultural programmes.

3. Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample

20 districts were selected for the study from the 15 States. The agricultural schemes included in the Third Five Year Plan were classified according to the predominant nature of the activities involved, into four groups or types, namely works, supply, credit and extension. From each of these four groups one or two schemes considered important for that area and had received emphasis in implementation, were taken up in each of the districts selected for the study.

4. Reference Period

The study was conducted in 1964 and the data was collected for the years 1962-63.

5. Main Findings

1. The programme got diluted at three stages : at the stage of supply of breeders stock to the seed farms utilisation of the area of the seed farms for production of foundation seed which again is dependent on the development of irrigation and other facilities on the farm land and at the stage of certification, procurement, testing and storing of seed.

2. In the first three years of the Third Five Year Plan, shortfall in achievement in the target was often sought to be made by frequent upward revision of the targets. But unless targets are worked out rationally, carefully and in a coordinated manner, the succeeding stages of the programme gets started on a wrong basis. The high target fixed for the Fourth Plan would precipitate all the problems thrown up by the case studies viz., the arrangement of timely despatch of fertiliser to consuming centres, their prompt distribution to cultivators and provision of credit.

3. No single agency - panchayat samiti, cooperative society or the department concerned seemed to be effective in meeting the various types of credits needed by the cultivators for different programmes. The emergence of the panchayat samiti in the matter of distribution of loan funds of different departments had not been done away with either due to the inefficient utilisation of credit or delay in its sanctioning. The distribution of credit solely through the cooperative agency had not emerged on an extensive scale. In the Fourth Plan, with a greater requirement of credit for agricultural production, the cooperative structure would show more strains if the responsibility of disbursing credit for agricultural production was to be discharged by them.

4. Agricultural demonstrations on cultivators' farm had become the most important aspect of the agricultural extension programmes. Except in the IAP districts, demonstrations were planned and executed more with an eye on the basis of an analysis of their promotional and educational value. The targets were generally set too high for each V.L.W. the supervision of them was inadequate; the selection of plot was many times defective; the practices were half heartedly adopted and they were not seen as demonstrations by many cultivators.

6. Major Suggestions

1. The cooperative organisations will have to develop in all dimensions, if they are to successfully discharge the heavy responsibility. It will also have to be ensured that the loan given in the form of fertilisers is availed of by the cultivators and used by them on their farms. Similarly, insistence on buying unpopular fertilisers alongwith popular ones should have to be judiciously used so that the objective is not defeated by malpractices.

2. In the planning of agricultural programmes, the gestation period required for the execution of new ideas and practices, leading to their eventual acceptance, has to be kept in mind. This gestation period may get prolonged because of inadequate technical competence of extension workers, and inadequate supervision and guidance from higher officers and specialists in different branches of agriculture. The extension programme and its intensity has to keep pace with the technological improvement in agriculture.

3. There has to be proper assessment of areas requiring different land improvement works such as soil conservation, land reclamation and minor irrigation. The individual resources of the cultivators, the community resources in terms of voluntary labour and State resources in terms of loans, grants and subsidies, as well as technical know-how, are to be estimated in advance so as to match the requirements and potentialities of each local area. Problems of coordination in this sphere arise mainly because of differential rate's of the individuals and the community in discounting the future increments in income, the procedural difficulties impending the supply of credit, the non-availability, of essential construction material and equipment.