

STUDIES IN COOPERATIVE FARMING .(REPORTS OF 22 COOPERATIVE FARMING SOCIETIES), 1956

1. The Study

In connection with the work of the Reorganisation Committee of the Panel on Land Reforms set up by the Planning Commission, the Programme Evaluation organisation arranged to conduct during 1955 the study of a number of selected cooperative farming societies in different parts of the country.

i2. Objectives

To obtain accurate information about the working of cooperative farming societies.

3. Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample

22 cooperative farming societies were selected for the purpose of the study.

4. Period of Survey

The studies were undertaken during the year, 1955.

5. Main Findings

Observations on the following aspects are given separately in this volume for each of the 22 cooperative farming societies studied during the course of the survey.

- i) General & Economic conditions of the village;
- ii) Rights in land;
- iii) Rights and Liabilities of members;
- iv) organisation and Management;
- V) Distribution of Farm Income;
- vi) State Assistance;
- vii) Finance;
- viii) Development;
- ix) Dissolution; &
- X) Community Projects & NES.

Some general observations are discussed as under:

1. **Chauriharwa Cane Growers Co-operative Society Ltd. Distt. Champaran, Bihar**

The farm was running efficiently and had adopted improved methods of cultivation. Improved seeds, fertilizers, compost and implements were also used to the maximum. Mechanical farming had been introduced. Japanese method of paddy cultivation had also been introduced on a limited scale. The members were fully satisfied with the working of the farm. However, there was lot of scope for improvements in irrigational and communicational facilities.

2. **Cane Growers' Co-operative Society Ltd., Narha, District Muzaffarpur, Bihar**

There was a definite improvement in the method of cultivation practised on it. Cultural methods e.g. line sowing, making of compost, using of fertilizer and improved implements were examples of such improvements. The only lacuna was an unfamiliarity of methods of plant protection. Finances of the farm were not adequate and needed some improvement. The farm had been running in loss. The parent society regarded the farm as a liability and wanted to do away with it. As per the Executive Officer the urgent needs of the Society were (a) an aid in the shape of subsidy to make good the loss incurred, (b) supply of cheap credit, and (c) irrigational facilities. Proper auditing, provision for a whole-time supervisor and separate registration of the farm were a few essential steps to put the farm on a sound footing.

3. **Subhash Samudayik Sahakari Shetki Sangh Ltd., Manjri, District Poona, Bombay**

Ever since the re-organisation of the Society, it made steady progress and had the reputation of being most successful experiment in collective co-operative farming in the State. The members came together in the hope that they would get land as well as permanent employment. Their expectations had largely been fulfilled. Due to the increased earnings and amenities, the members were showing greater interest in the working of, the Society.

4. **Karlkatti Group Sahakari Samuhik Okkallanada Society Ltd., District Belgaum, Bombay**

The society was started originally with a view to rehabilitate the landless agricultural labourers mainly lamani. The society could not work successfully mainly

because of illiteracy among the members. The society received a subsidy and a loan which was utilised for the purpose other than it was given.

The members were willing to continue in the society as they were receiving land for cultivation. They were, however, not inclined to have collective farming. The 'co-operative' aspect in the working of the Society was completely neglected.

5. **Rasulabad Co-operative.Joint Farming Society
Ltd.; Distt. Baroda, Bombay**

The society took the responsibility of all the standing liabilities of the members which were subsequently recovered from the wage payments. The standard of cultivation maintained by the Society was very high. The cotton sold by the Society in the previous year had earned the highest price in the market. In general, it can be said that this was one of the most successful experiment in the co-operative farming.

6. **The Co-operative Farming Society, Naya Akola,
District Amravati, Madhya Pradesh**

The society was on the verge of liquidation and beyond all the possibilities of revival. The main reasons responsible for this failure were lack of efficient management, losses due to experiments such as use of fertilizers and construction of an irrigation well and failure on the part of the State authorities to make promised facilities, such as interest free loans, available.

7. **Vihad Co-operative Rehabilitation Collective
Farming Colony Ltd, Distt.Chanda, Madhya Pradesh**

The members had very little idea of co-operative farming and no tangible efforts were made to guide them with regard to co-operative methods. The members came to the colony with the hope of better prospects of resettlement on land. They were under the impression that they would ultimately become the owner cultivators of lands allotted to them. The members had grievances as they were not provided facilities under the scheme for resettlement.

8. **Andhiyur Land Colonisation Co-operative Society,
District Erode, Madras.**

The society was functioning very efficiently. The objects of the Society were fully understood by all its members. Their expectations were fulfilled to a large extent except for the fact that permanent occupancy rights had not been conferred on them. Though agricultural methods were not improved considerably, the traditional one were followed with a fair degree of efficiency.

9. **The Gopabandu Joint Co-operative Farming Society, District Puri, Orissa**

This farming society was the result of the efforts of a single-individual, who with the intention of rehabilitation of the landless and the agricultural labourers gathered members from the villages which were in the radius of 20 miles from the site of the farm located in an isolated Jungle area. The progress of the farm was slow. Famine, destruction of crops by wild animals, soil erosion etc. were some of the reasons that affected the working of the farm. It was felt that no amount of subsidy or government aid alone could be of any avail unless the society was properly reorganised by taking in more sincere and interested members who could devote themselves to make the farm self sufficient.

10. **Sulia Joint Farming Co-operative Society,
District Puri, Orissa**

The society was functioning quite efficiently. All the members were sincere, hard working and co-operative. The yield rates of the farm compared favourably with that obtaining in the neighbouring farms under similar conditions and the society was making all effort-s to improve the standard of cropping.

11. **The B.G.S. Co-operative Farms Ltd., Shahabpura, District Gurdaspur,
Punjab.**

The main objective of forming the society was to preserve their large holdings from any possible repercussions of the land reform legislation and obtain substantial loans which they could not obtain so easily individually. The society was managing the mechanised farm successfully, and the standard of cultivation was fairly high. The scientific rotations were followed and improved seeds of all the important crops were used by the society. The average yield of important crops was higher than the one obtained on the individual farmer's land in this tract under similar conditions. The members were satisfied with the working of the society. The society desired financial aid from the state Government for purchase of a heavy tractor.

12. **The Undata Fazapur Co-operative Farming Society Ltd., District Julundar, Punjab.**

The Society was started originally with a view to have the joint management to save expenditure of individuals, to make bigger unit for mechanised of the Punjab Tenancy Act. The society had adopted improved practices such as green manuring, use of better seeds etc. Yield per acre on the farm was comparable with that obtaining under similar conditions on individual farmer's land. The numbers were happy about the way in which the society was functioning. The objects of the society were fully understood by its members.

In general, though the society was a success the fact that it was more or less of family concern prevents one from considering it as a genuine experiment in the co-operative farming as such.

13. **Co-operative Farming Society, Janura, District Jhansi, U.P.**

The society was formed with the idea that Government assistance, financial, material and technical would be more readily available to the society than to the individuals. Secondly, that better cultivation and development of the fields would be achieved with the formation of the society. Thirdly, that it would lead to economy in expenditure and less strain in supervision. The members were satisfied with the working of the society generally and their expectations had largely been fulfilled. They wanted more grants-in-aid or subsidy from the government for a tubewell. They wanted also reduction in land revenue and irrigation rates.

14. **The Co-operative Farming Society, Darauna, District Jhansi, U.P.**

The society was formed with the expectations that it would lead to economy in expenditure on crop production, saving of time taken by individual cultivation, improvement of land and availability of cheap credit facilities. These expectations had largely been fulfilled. The financial position of the society was sound as it had been running in profit regularly since its inception. The yields per acre on the farm were almost the same as on individual farmer's land in the area. This was because the society had not adopted any of the improved practices to an appreciable extent; the use of fertilizers and manures was insignificant and use of improved seeds was limited to wheat only.

15. **Soddy Co-operative Farming Society Ltd., District Burdwan, West-Bengal**

The promises given by the Ministers and other dignitaries for free supply of fertilisers, manures, seeds, subsidy and loan induced the members to form a co-operative society. The performance of the society was not good as compared to individual cultivators. The members suggested the following steps necessary for improving the functions of the society.

- a) Provision for medium and long term loans in order to facilitate marketing of paddy, timely purchase of manures etc.
- b) Subsidy for the purchase of a vehicle.
- c) Reduction in rent, water tax, etc.
- d) Improvement in Communications.
- e) Timely supply of fertilizers and manures at concessional rate.

16. **Barari Co-operative Farming Society, District Burdwan, West Bengal**

The society was organised to facilitate the use of tractor and import of labour from distant places twice or thrice a year in view of scarcity of local labour. For improvement of the working of the society the following suggestions were made by the members:-

- i) In exchange for their straw, the government should arrange to supply to the society all manures and fertilisers free of cost in addition to bearing the cost of repairs of the tractor.
- ii) medium and long term loans must be provided to the society as early as possible.
- iii) The society should be given monopoly business in fertilizers.
- iv) Communication should be improved by constructing a pucca road.

In general, the members still wanted to continue the society and increase its scope of operation. They also wanted to undertake some ancilliary occupations which would provide them employment and income.

17. **The Co-operative Tenant Farming Society,
Malakapur, District Nalgonda, Hyderabad**

The society was formed with the idea to get vast area for cultivation and assistance from different government sources. All members were determined to make a success of the co-operative activity they had undertaken. Members had expressed satisfaction at the way the society was being run. The yields of the crops were very encouraging and thus had prompted the society to undertake increased area.

18. **Halaganahally Depressed class Residential
Agricultural Co-operative Farming Society Ltd.,
District Kolar, Mysore.**

This was the best run co-operative farming society in the State. The economic condition of the members had improved and their major problems of food, clothing and shelter had been fully solved. However, the efficiency in agricultural operations on the farm was not as high as on the neighbouring private holdings. The average yield per acre of different crops was also not in any way higher than those obtained under similar soil and irrigation in the adjacent area. So there was further scope for improvement in this direction.

19. **Vallabhapara Co-operative Farming Society,
Thalikatte Kaval, District Chitldroog, Mysore**

The lands and yields per acre on the farm lands had improved considerably after the inception of the society. But the yields per acre did not compare favourably with yields under similar conditions of soil on individual farmers' lands. More frequent and strict supervision of the farm activities by senior officials of the concerned departments would improve psychology and working efficiency of members and in this way the society might prosper.

20. **Joint Farming And Multi-purpose Co-operative
Society, Ltd., Kavekere, District Hassan, Mysore**

Although the society had been able to introduce a few new crops like potatoes,,garlic and onions and some improved methods of cultivation, there had not been any appreciable improvement in the agricultural standard over those existed before the society started. The yield per acre had also not been increased mainly because of low rainfall resulting in inadequate source of supply of water in the tank. Proper and timely audit, more irrigation facilities, cash contributions from the

members towards the assets of the society were some of the measures which should be immediately adopted so that the society might continue to prosper.

21. **The Sewanagar Co-operative Society, District
Kapurthala, PEPSU**

The society was working quite efficiently. The standard of cultivation was high. The fields were well planned and well maintained. The yield per acre on the farm was higher than that in the neighbouring individual holdings. In all, the affairs of the society were being managed smoothly and efficiently. The expectations of the members to a large extent had been satisfied. The members were willing to continue the society but they were not inclined to extend the area of operation of the society.

22. **Vadayar Karshika Co-operative Farming Society
Ltd., District Kottayam, Travancore Cochin**

The society was formed with the aims and objectives like encouraging thrift and self reliance, to distribute agricultural implements, to propagate and practise co-operative principles, to consolidate bits of lands and bring them under co-operative farming, to distribute cattle and manures, to undertake irrigation works, to popularise quality seeds, to undertake marketing, to propagate improved methods of cultivation and give demonstrations, to undertake direct cultivation and so on. The society achieved some success in providing irrigation facilities and bringing down the dewatering cost to a bare minimum. However, the achievements compared to the aims and objectives were not very encouraging.