

COMPARISON OF PRODUCTION FIGURES COLLECTED BY TWO DIFFERENT METHODS

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For collection of data on farm incomes and expenditure in most of the farm business or village surveys in India, the selected families are visited more than once during the reference year. It is often felt that by increasing the number of visits and by spreading out the period of investigation one can expect better reporting than when the investigation is carried out only once at the end of the agricultural year. Such a presumption is mainly due to the fact that in the latter procedure the investigator has to rely almost entirely on the memory of the farmer as no notes or even rough accounts are maintained by the farmer. Here is an attempt to examine the difference between the production figures reported by the farmers for two methods of collecting the data—one by a number of visits during the year and the other by only one visit at the end of the agricultural year. For this purpose the data collected by the Institute during the village survey conducted in Khandali Village of Sholapur District during 1950-51 has been used.

In the above enquiry, the information on production of crops was collected separately through two questionnaires viz. the general family schedule and the farm business schedule. In the general family schedule the quantity of each crop produced, the quantity sold together with the disposals in kind as *balute*, labour charges, owner's share etc. are noted. This schedule was filled in thirteen times during the year — the interval between two visits being four weeks. The reference period for recording the production was four weeks preceding the date of enquiry. An estimate of the total production during the year is obtained by adding the figures of production for all the thirteen visits. The production for an individual crop would obviously be reported only during one or two visits according to its harvesting season. In fact this estimate of the total production could be described as production reported during the harvesting period of the crop or the one reported immediately after the harvesting of the crop. The schedules were filled in 13 times for each family during the period June 1950 to May 1951.

In the farm business schedule filled in at the end of the agricultural year, data relating to acreage under each crop sown during the year, the quantity of seed sown, the quantity produced during the year, have been recorded separately for each crop in Monsoon and for each