

## CERTAIN DIFFERENCES IN THE CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS USED IN FARM MANAGEMENT STUDIES

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THE studies "Economics of Farm Management" are a series of investigations sponsored by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture. These are aimed at collecting Farm Management data in many regions all over the country. In the first series, six regions were covered and the reports of the investigations carried in these regions during the period 1954-55 to 1956-57, are already published. In the second series which commenced in 1957-58, the investigations were completed in another six regions. With studies like this, one prime requisite is that of maintaining uniformity in the concepts and methodology adopted. With the prevailing diversity in the agricultural practices among the regions, maintenance of uniformity may not be always possible. But, for the data to be useful especially for purposes of comparison uniformity should be maintained at least in such concepts which are not affected by local conditions.

The present paper attempts to point out some of the dissimilarities existing in the first series investigations. The regions covered are (1) Bombay (2) Madras (3) Madhya Pradesh (4) Punjab (5) Uttar Pradesh and (6) West Bengal. The comments are based mainly on the 'Explanation of terms and Methods used' appended to the reports and wherever possible verification from the original reports is done.

### I *Size of holding*

This is a measure of the total area held for cultivation by the family. As such the size of holding excludes the area leased out but includes the area leased in by the family. The point that requires clarification is whether the size includes the uncultivated and uncultivable land. At one extreme are the reports of Bombay allowing for inclusion of all such land. At the other extreme are the reports of Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal,<sup>1</sup> including only the net cultivated area and land kept as current fallows. Bombay reports define the size as<sup>2</sup> "the area consisting of all land operated either by a single cultivator alone or with others irrespective of title of ownership". An

<sup>1</sup> Basak, K.C. and Choudhury, B.K., *Studies in Economics of Farm Management in West Bengal, Report for the year 1954-55*. Issued by Director of Economics and Statistics, Appendix C, p. 126.

<sup>2</sup> Driver, P.N. and Desai, D.K., *Studies in Economics of Farm Management in Bombay, Report for the year 1955-56*, p. 380.