

FACTORS INFLUENCING CROPPING PATTERNS ON INDIVIDUAL HOLDINGS

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THE Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics conducted a preliminary enquiry into "factors influencing cropping patterns on individual holdings" by investigating 29 holdings in the village Karkheli, in the Nanded district of the Bombay State, in accordance with Model Scheme No. 1 prepared by the Agricultural Economics Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. An attempt is made here to adopt and employ a procedure for analysis of the data collected by the enquiry and note therefrom deficiencies, if any, in the data, collected by utilizing the schedule proposed in the Model Scheme. This being, however, a preliminary enquiry having a fairly small sample and a large number of variables, the analysis given here is not in anticipation of results but is to illustrate the procedure and also to reveal deficiencies in the data which will have to be rectified if and when larger investigations are undertaken.

The cultivators selected for the enquiry were contacted in May 1957, a month before sowing, and were asked about their cropping plans and some aspects of their farming environment. They were contacted again, both after sowing of the *kharif* crops and the sowing of the *rabi* crops, and the deviations between their plans and their actual cropping patterns were recorded. The cropping plans and the actual cropping patterns are, thus, the two sets of data available for the analysis of the cropping patterns as collected in the Model Scheme schedules.

The following considerations have to be taken into account in adopting a procedure for analysis of these data.

What a farmer actually cultivates may be sometimes different from what he may plan to cultivate. His plan may reflect the influence of the relatively stable component of his environment and his expectations about the unstable component. His actual cropping pattern might, however, deviate from the plan due to unexpected variations in the latter component such as variations in the availability of certain resources like credit, rainfall, etc.

There would be, thus, two processes connected with cropping on individual holdings. One would be crop planning and the other would be the execution of the plans. Both these processes being governed by different factors, they would have to be treated separately in the analysis.

An attempt can, therefore, be made, in the first instance, to see how far the cropping patterns planned by the individual cultivators are in-