

## **PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN PART OF WAI TALUKA—A Review\***

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**THIS** book written in Marathi by Shri M. B. Jagatap is indeed a welcome addition to the growing literature on rural change. The title of the book, however, connotes a much wider theme than what it deals with. It does not so much deal with the progress of agricultural development in the region as with the changes in the farm business of a selected number of farmers in three villages in the Wai taluka, located about fifty miles south of Poona. Nevertheless, it is a unique study in which a selected number of farmers or their descendants have been studied for thirty years by an observer who comes from the farming community belonging to the region under observation. Though the author does not have any formal university training, his intimate knowledge of the region and its problems, together with the training and experience of research which he received through his long association with Prof. D. R. Gadgil and Prof. V. M. Dandekar more than compensates for it.

The three villages, located in a belt of assured and adequate rainfall, and the 121 farmers under observation were originally selected for a farm-business study carried out by the Gokhale Institute during 1937-38. Similar data were collected by the author from these farms by surveys repeated in 1959-60 and in 1966-67. The number of farmers had increased during these years to 160 owing to the partitioning of the farms. Though the author does not inform us how these farmers were originally selected, it appears that a large number of these were the bigger farmers according to the definition given by the author. The average holding was about 13 acres, of which about 16% was irrigated.

The author, in spite of a very methodical study spread over such a long period, does not come up with any startling conclusions. He

\* M. B. Jagatap, **बाई तालुक्याच्या पूर्वे भागातील शेती विकासाची वाटचाल (1937-38 to 1966-67)**, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, 1970, p. 162, Rs. 10.