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*The Indian Council of Agricultural Research*

## **ESTATE FARMING IN INDIA**

*A study in large-scale agricultural enterprises  
in India*



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## INTRODUCTION

**I**NDIA is a land of small holders and the average holdings vary from 12.2 acres in Bombay to 2.5 acres in the U. P. There have always been a certain number of large Zemindaries (estates) but until recent years none of these were organized concerns. The present volume is a description of large-scale farming enterprises carried out by those who have created and managed them and deals with what is in effect a new departure in Indian farming.

There has, throughout the world, been much discussion on the virtues and values of small-scale and large-scale farming and there have been many examples and experiments in the latter, particularly the colossal nationwide experiment of the U.S.S.R. in its system of collective farming.

Of the many advantages accruing to cultivators on the best of the big Indian estates may be mentioned the following :

- (1) The supply of pure seed
- (2) Maintenance of stud animals of first class quality
- (3) Systematic collection of manure and composting of all waste material
- (4) Use and proper care of improved implements
- (5) A regular cropping plan carried over several years with crop laid out in blocks resulting in saving of irrigation water and maintenance of the fertility of the soil by fixed rotations
- (6) Keeping in good repair of irrigation channels
- (7) Pooling and marketing of crops at favourable rates
- (8) Encouragement of subsidiary industries

- (9) Provision for education, medical relief, upkeep of religious and other public buildings
- (10) Entertainment of common visitors and other worthy communal objects.

What has been done on these farms, can be done by neighbouring cultivators co-operating, and there are examples in the Punjab in which cultivators of a village, who are also owners of the land have, by co-operating to farm their lands according to the best practices, doubled and even trebled the yields obtained by the farming in the old individualistic manner. "Union is strength" and, while the small individualistic cultivator may be up against all sorts of difficulties and find himself exploited in the end, a group working together on a well thought-out and technically sound plan and marketing their produce collectively is in a strong position and is on the high road to that better standard of living which they so much require and to the building up a healthy rural community.

W. BURNS.