

**GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS, POONA 4**  
**AGRO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH UNIT**

**Assessment of Progress and Evaluation of  
Co-operative Farming Societies in Pilot Projects  
MAHARASHTRA STATE**  
( Districts : Dhulia and Wardha )

**S. W. MURANJAN**

**November, 1964**

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PART I

INTRODUCTION

## I - HISTORICAL GROWTH OF CO-OPERATIVE FARMING IN MAHARASHTRA

The beginning of Co-operative Farming in the Maharashtra State can be traced back to the second decade when the Co-operative Societies Act (II of 1912) was passed. Under the original Act of 1904, it was not legally possible to register non-credit societies for production, supply and marketing. The initial attempts in pooling the land were, however, restricted to pooling it for some specific purpose only, such as fencing the area for protection against wild animals. The pooling of land for the varying processes in production made a beginning with the organization of two joint cultivation societies registered in 1922-23. One of these was organized in the village Arjunsanda in the Sholapur district and the other in the village Bhambora in the Ahmednagar district. It was expected that if these societies were to be successful, they would provide an example for expansion of such an activity which could not only provide the solution to the problem of sub-division and fragmentation of holdings but also to the execution of the schemes of land improvement and adoption of improved methods of farming. These societies, however, could not succeed. The Bhambora Society had to be liquidated in 1924-25 and the other in 1927-28. Among other reasons, the high rents going upto 10 to 12 times the land revenue and factions amongst the members led to the failure of this experiment. Another experiment was undertaken at the end of the third decade in the village Lakhampur in the Nasik district to bring good cultivable Government waste land under the plough through joint efforts. It also could not make any progress and had to be liquidated subsequently.

The Co-operative Societies Act (II of 1912) was providing unsuitable to the various developments that were taking place in the movement since its enactment. Several points of amendment were brought to the notice of the Government. The subject of Co-operation was also transferred to the Provinces and it was, therefore, considered that a time had come to replace the Act by a provincial enactment. The Bombay Co-operative Societies Act (VII of 1925) was, therefore, passed and it governed the Co-operative Farming Societies till its replacement by the recent Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960, subject, however, to the amendments which followed later.

Not much progress could be made in respect of the organization of Co-operative Farming Societies in the fourth decade. By the end of this period, the Collectors were asked to send the lists of available cultivable Government waste lands to the Registrar for preparing a scheme of joint cultivation on Government waste lands. A society was formed at Rokda in the East Khandesh district which took over on lease from private landlords a large block of lands till then occupied by Government Cotton Breeding Farm. Though the original objective of this society was to carry on joint cultivation, the society worked as a better farming society. Most of the land was divided into blocks and leased to individual members for cultivation. The Society provided for improved agricultural requisites and arranged for the joint sale of the produce. Only a small unallotted area having irrigation facilities was cultivated jointly. In 1944-45 a joint cultivation society was organized at Karda in Poona district to improve and develop the lands of persons serving in the army. The society admitted cultivating owners of adjoining lands and also absentee owners for more economic cultivation. One more society

was registered at the same time at Pimpalwad Nikumbh in East Khandesh. A scheme of reclaiming Government forest and waste lands adjacent to three villages in Kolaba district for settling ex-servicemen into a co-operative colony was also under consideration of the Government. These societies were being worked out as experiments to find out conditions which would ensure their success as genuine joint farming societies.

The Bhansali Mehta Committee had recommended better farming societies operating over compact areas. Thereafter better farming societies were being encouraged for general agricultural propaganda and popularization of improved methods. As many as 66 better farming societies were registered in the then Bombay Province by 1945-56.

In 1944, the Provincial Rural Development Board advised Government that there was considerable scope for experimenting with Co-operative Farming in the Province and that it would be beneficial to agriculture. Soon after the Congress Ministry took office in the Bombay Province in 1946, it took up the question and appointed Captain Mohite to investigate the suitability of schemes of farming societies of various types. Government considered the recommendations made in his Report as also the recommendations on the subject made in the Report of the Co-operative Planning (Saraiya) Committee 1946, and passed orders in 1947 declaring its decision to encourage very actively Co-operative farming experiments in the Province and assist them with loans and subsidies. The Co-operative and Agricultural Departments and where the problem of irrigation came in, the Public Works Department were directed to make districtwise surveys and submit to the Government a joint plan for development of co-operative farming. A leaflet containing detailed instructions was



also issued in which the different forms of co-operative farming viz. (1) Better farming, (2) Tenant farming, (3) Joint farming, and (4) Collective farming, Societies were defined, classified and the suitability of each type under different conditions and in different tracts was indicated. A scheme for organization of co-operative farming societies of different types was formulated and submitted to the Government in 1948.

Agreeing with the Recommendations of the Co-operative Planning (Saraiya) Committee, Government took steps to amend the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act, 1925, by which the provisions of compulsion over 33 per cent of the owners not willing to join a Crop Protection Society though in its jurisdiction, were extended to Co-operative Farming Societies. The definition of a Farming Society was also added to the Act and an explanation was added to the definition dividing the Farming Societies into two classes, viz. (1) Better Farming Societies and (2) Co-operative Farming Societies in accordance with their predominant objective. Most of the Better Farming Societies undertook simple activities like propaganda, demonstration of improved agricultural methods and supply of improved seed, manure, implements etc. which were undertaken by multipurpose societies and a number of rural primaries. It was, therefore, decided that such societies should either be converted into multipurpose societies or amalgamated with existing multipurpose societies operating in the area and that better farming societies in future should be organized only where the cultivators wanted to make joint efforts mainly for single purpose such as tractor ploughin, lift irrigation, etc.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Departments mentioned above, the Bombay Government sanctioned a

scheme in May 1949, which envisaged the organization of at least 120 Co-operative Farming Societies within a period of five years beginning with 1949-50. In 1951-52, again an additional scheme was sanctioned for organizing 50 Co-operative Farming Societies in the Sholapur district, sponsored by Captain Mohite, the then Collector of Sholapur district. The societies proposed to be organized under both these schemes were of three types viz. Joint Farming, Tenant Farming and Collective Farming. Government also announced liberal financial and other forms of assistance to which the Farming Societies would be eligible. As a result of these efforts the number of Farming Societies which was 33 in 1948-49, i.e., before the implementation of the scheme, rose to 224 by the close of 1951-52 in the then Bombay State. Sixty-one societies were registered in this period of three years in the Maharashtra division of the State (excluding Berar and Vidarbha).

Though the quantitative expansion of the Farming Societies was highly satisfactory, it was noticed that all the societies were not working on sound lines. Government, therefore, issued orders in August 1952, emphasizing the need for consolidation of the existing societies rather than further expansion. The tempo of fresh registrations was, thereafter, reduced. Fifteen societies had to be weeded out as they could not function properly. The policy of consolidation was strictly followed thereafter and only such societies as did not want much of financial assistance from the State were registered. The scheme was, however, continued during the First and the Second Five Year Plan periods.

The number of societies registered every year since the year 1940 in the Maharashtra division of the Bombay State and later in the Maharashtra State itself have been

given in Table 1.

**Table 1** : Number of societies registered in the different years since 1940 in Maharashtra

| Year    | Number of Societies | Year    | Number of Societies |
|---------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|
| 1939-40 | 1                   | 1950-51 | 20                  |
| 1940-41 | -                   | 1951-52 | 36                  |
| 1941-42 | -                   | 1952-53 | 15                  |
| 1942-43 | -                   | 1953-54 | 16                  |
| 1943-44 | 1                   | 1954-55 | 8                   |
| 1944-45 | -                   | 1955-56 | 10                  |
| 1945-46 | -                   | 1956-57 | 5                   |
| 1946-47 | 2                   | 1957-58 | 8                   |
| 1947-48 | 4                   | 1958-59 | 5                   |
| 1948-49 | 5                   | 1959-60 | 121                 |
| 1949-50 | 5                   | 1960-61 | 72                  |

It would be observed from the Table that the number of new registrations which varied from 1 to 5 in the period prior to the implementation of the scheme rose to 20 and 36 in the second and third years of the scheme. Thereafter it varied only between 5 and 15 till the year 1958-59. In 1959-60 and 1960-61, the new registrations went up considerably, mainly because of the acceptance of Co-operative Farming as a policy for Agrarian Organizational Pattern at the Congress Session at Nagpur in January, 1959.

In the meanwhile in pursuance of the Resolution passed by the National Development Council, the Government of India appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Nijalingappa, popularly known as the Working Group on Co-operative Farming to help the formulation of an action

programme on co-operative joint farming. The main recommendations contained in the Report of the Nijalingappa Committee were discussed at length in the conference of the State Ministers held at Shrinagar in June 1960.

Subsequently, they were discussed in the Planning Commission, Ministries of Finance and Food and Agriculture and the Reserve Bank of India and certain proposals were placed before the National Development Council which in the meeting held on 13th September 1960 generally approved of them.

In the light of the policy decisions subsequently communicated by the Government of India, the Government of Maharashtra passed a Resolution in May 1961, laying down certain policies for the State. The better and tenant farming societies were excluded from the category of Co-operative Farming Societies from the year 1961-62. The general principle that there should be no compulsion in the organization of Co-operative Farming Societies was stressed. The provision of compulsion over 33 per cent of the land owners, contained in the amendment to the Act of 1925 referred to earlier, was already dropped in the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 (Act No. 24 of 1961). Decisions were also taken in respect of fixing the proportion of absentee owners as members, size of co-operative farms, withdrawal of membership, return of land, share capital, consolidation of holdings, authorization to mortgage the land, supervision by Co-operative Supervising Unions, organization of federations and establishment of industries allied to agriculture for generating the additional-employment to members.

In pursuance of these policy decisions the Government further sanctioned the scheme for organization of Pilot Projects of Co-operative Farming in the Maharashtra

State during the Third Five Year Plan period vide their Resolution of October, 1961. It was proposed to organize 30 carefully planned pilot projects during the Third Five Year Plan at the rate of at least one project in each district except Bombay. The yearwise break up was to be as below:

| <u>1961-62</u> | <u>1962-63</u> | <u>1963-64</u> | <u>1964-65</u> | <u>1965-66</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 10             | 8              | 5              | 3              | 4              | 30           |

Because of the scheme of organizing the Pilot Projects as well as efforts outside the pilot areas, the number of new registrations in the first three years of the Scheme went up considerably as indicated below:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Number of new registrations</u> |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 1961-62     | 222                                |
| 1962-63     | 154                                |
| 1963-64     | 164                                |

The number of Pilot Projects and the pilot and non-pilot joint and collective farming societies in the different districts of the Maharashtra State have been given in Table 2. It would be observed from the Table that the total number of Co-operative Farming Societies in Maharashtra was 848 as at the end of the year 1963-64. Out of these 206 societies were the pilot societies and 642 societies were the non-pilot societies. Nearly 37 per cent of these were Joint Farming Societies and the remaining were Collective Farming Societies. Out of the Pilot Societies, however, as many as 67 per cent were the Joint Farming Societies.

All the twenty-three pilot projects could be started by the end of the third year as contemplated in the scheme. These 23 Pilot Projects were organized in 21 districts with two Pilot Projects in each of the Dhulia

Table 2. The number of pilot projects and the pilot and non-pilot joint and collective farming societies in the different districts of Maharashtra State at the end of the year 1963-64.

| Name of the district | Number of pilot project | Pilot Societies |            |       | Non-pilot Societies |            |       | Total Number of Societies |            |       |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------|---------------------|------------|-------|---------------------------|------------|-------|
|                      |                         | Joint           | Collective | Total | Joint               | Collective | Total | Joint                     | Collective | Total |
| 1. Ratnagiri         | -                       | -               | -          | -     | 3                   | 4          | 7     | 3                         | 4          | 7     |
| 2. Alibag            | -                       | -               | -          | -     | -                   | 5          | 5     | -                         | 5          | 5     |
| 3. Thana             | -                       | -               | -          | -     | 2                   | 12         | 14    | 2                         | 12         | 14    |
| 4. Nasik             | 1                       | 8               | 4          | 12    | 10                  | 22         | 32    | 18                        | 26         | 44    |
| 5. Dhulia            | 2                       | 20              | -          | 20    | 36                  | 31         | 67    | 56                        | 31         | 87    |
| 6. Jalgaon           | 2                       | 17              | 3          | 20    | 6                   | 20         | 26    | 23                        | 23         | 46    |
| 7. Ahmednagar        | 1                       | 10              | -          | 10    | 10                  | 33         | 43    | 20                        | 33         | 53    |
| 8. Poona             | 1                       | 6               | 5          | 11    | 8                   | 25         | 33    | 14                        | 30         | 44    |
| 9. Satara            | 1                       | 8               | -          | 8     | 11                  | 8          | 19    | 19                        | 8          | 27    |
| 10. Sangli           | 1                       | 8               | -          | 8     | 12                  | 10         | 22    | 20                        | 10         | 30    |
| 11. Kolhapur         | 1                       | 10              | 3          | 13    | 5                   | 14         | 19    | 15                        | 17         | 32    |
| 12. Sholapur         | 1                       | -               | 8          | 8     | 14                  | 33         | 47    | 14                        | 41         | 55    |
| 13. Aurangabad       | 1                       | 5               | -          | 5     | 3                   | 4          | 7     | 8                         | 4          | 12    |
| 14. Nanded           | 1                       | 11              | -          | 11    | 8                   | 6          | 14    | 19                        | 6          | 25    |
| 15. Bhir             | 1                       | 1               | 10         | 11    | 4                   | 13         | 17    | 5                         | 23         | 28    |
| 16. Osmanabad        | 1                       | 7               | -          | 7     | 13                  | 4          | 17    | 20                        | 4          | 24    |
| 17. Parbhani         | 1                       | 9               | 2          | 11    | 5                   | 3          | 8     | 14                        | 5          | 19    |
| 18. Nagpur           | 1                       | -               | -          | -     | 3                   | 4          | 7     | 3                         | 4          | 7     |
| 19. Chanda           | 1                       | 1               | 9          | 10    | 2                   | 22         | 24    | 3                         | 31         | 34    |
| 20. Wardha           | 1                       | 10              | -          | 10    | 6                   | 2          | 8     | 16                        | 2          | 18    |
| 21. Bhandara         | -                       | -               | -          | -     | -                   | 6          | 6     | -                         | 6          | 6     |
| 22. Yeotmal          | 1                       | -               | 9          | 9     | 6                   | 81         | 87    | 6                         | 90         | 96    |
| 23. Akola            | 1                       | 1               | 3          | 4     | 3                   | 27         | 30    | 4                         | 30         | 34    |
| 24. Buldhana         | 1                       | -               | 8          | 8     | 3                   | 66         | 69    | 3                         | 74         | 77    |
| 25. Amraoti          | 1                       | 6               | 4          | 10    | 5                   | 6          | 11    | 11                        | 10         | 21    |
| 26. Bombay           | -                       | -               | -          | -     | 1                   | 2          | 3     | 1                         | 2          | 3     |
| TOTAL                | 23                      | 138             | 68         | 206   | 179                 | 463<br>488 | 642   | 317                       | 531        | 848   |

and the Jalgaon districts. These projects covered almost all the districts except the paddy growing districts of Thana, Kolaba, Ratnagiri and Ehandara and the district of Bombay City.

Out of these districts, the Co-operative Department recommended four districts, viz., Dhulia, Kolhapur, Ahmednagar and Wardha for the survey since the work of organizing the pilot projects was well begun in these districts when the survey was to be undertaken. Out of these four districts, the Dhulia and the Wardha districts were selected for the present survey.

## II - CO-OPERATIVE FARMING MOVEMENT IN THE DHULIA DISTRICT

### The first attempt

The beginning of Co-operative Farming in the district dates back to the year 1947 when the first Co-operative Farming Society was registered three weeks before the Independence, in the village Navari about 12 miles to the east of Dhulia. The society was organized by the then Member of the Legislative Assembly who himself became one of the members. He was also a member of the Congress Party which after taking office in 1946 had passed orders declaring its decision to encourage co-operative farming experiments in the Province. Seven cultivators pooled their 80 acres of land to form this Co-operative Joint Farming Society.

Their enthusiasm, however, did not continue even for a year. Five of the members resigned after the first year withdrawing 34 acres of their land. Some of the labourers were then made members of the society and its existence was continued. At present there are 14 members in the society out of whom 11 are labourers and the remaining three cultivator-members belong to ~~the~~ family. Because of its own failure, the society could not serve the purpose of a

demonstration centre and hence could not succeed in promoting any other farming societies in the district. It proved to be the beginning as well as almost the end of the attempts to organize farming societies for over a decade as far as co-operative joint farming was concerned.

#### The Co-operative Farming Scheme of 1949

In May 1949, the Bombay Government sanctioned a scheme for organization of Co-operative Farming Societies as noted earlier. Though the scheme envisaged development of Co-operative Farming all over the Province, specific efforts were to be made in some of the selective areas favourable for the development. The then West Khandesh district which is now the Dhulia district, was one of the districts selected for such specific efforts. As a result of this scheme and the liberal policies of State assistance and granting of Government cultivable waste and forest lands for cultivation to the backward class people two co-operative collecting farming societies came up by the end of the year 1949. Five societies could be registered in 1950, three in 1951, and two in 1952. By the end of the year 1952, the number of collective farming societies went upto twelve.

As on the provincial level, it was also observed in the Dhulia district that many of these societies were not functioning on proper lines and according to their objectives. Fresh registrations were not, therefore, encouraged thereafter. One of the twelve societies, had, on the contrary, to be liquidated on this account in the subsequent years.

#### The Movement

Even in the Second Five Year Plan organization of Co-operative Farming Societies was to be a routine matter for the Co-operative Department, registering the societies



according to the 1949 scheme, wherever they came up. The target for the organization of Farming Societies in the Dhulia district was set at four societies for the period 1956-57 to 1960-61. Not even a single society could be registered till the end of the year 1959, even though Co-operative Farming was accepted as a policy for "Agrarian Organizational Pattern" at the 64th Session of the Indian National Congress at Nagpur in January 1959.

The district unit of the Praja Socialist Party decided upon launching a programme of joint co-operative farming in the Dhulia district. A number of young, enthusiastic leaders of the party unit held meetings in the villages and the benefits of co-operative farming were explained to the villagers. The party had a number of supporters in the area and one of the party members was even elected to the Legislative Assembly. The leaders of the movement decided to start from their own villages and they organized the societies in their own villages enlisting themselves as the promoter members. As a result of this campaign, four joint farming societies came up before the June of 1960. Three collective farming societies were also granted Government waste lands and were registered in the same year.

The leaders of the district unit of the Janasangh, having a different ideology launched another strong campaign against the co-operative farming movement. They also held meetings and emphasized such points as that by joining the co-operative farming societies the cultivators would lose their freedom and finally their lands as had happened in China. This did raise a point of suspicion in the minds of the farmers. A few big cultivators who were in favour of the movement but for whom co-operative farming was of not much benefit as their own holdings

were highly economic were, therefore, enlisted as dummy members in the first few societies and asked to pool a small part of their holdings on the mutual understanding that they should resign their membership only after a year to demonstrate to the people that they could withdraw their lands anytime they desired. This mutual arrangement not only helped to remove the suspicion in the minds of the ordinary farmers but also established that even the big cultivators sympathized the co-operative movement.

The District Central Bank, the District Co-operative Marketing Society and the Taluka Sale and Purchase Societies followed very sympathetic policies to support the movement even though the leaders of the movement belonged to the opposition party. The Bank advanced crop loans in amounts which were one and a half times the amounts it advanced for the different crops of the individual cultivators. The Marketing Society supplied farm requisites even in anticipation of the credit from the bank. This greatly helped in avoiding delays and the societies could perform all agricultural operations at proper times.

In the process of this organization, many difficulties came in. One was about deciding the values of the lands pooled, as would be agreeable to all. This was necessary to determine the amount of property income that the Society would pay to the owner of the land. So also when new Societies were to be organized or their functioning was to be started, some form of organization was necessary to approach the Department, the Bank or the Marketing Society etc. on behalf of these societies. The leaders, therefore, thought of creating a federation of the existing societies and trying to help the new societies through this federation. The federation was registered

in December 1960 and these young leaders entered the Federation to hold responsible positions with a view to solving any dissensions in the new coming societies, arbitrating in deciding the land values and approaching the Department or the Agencies on their behalf whenever necessary. In February 1961, the Federation organized a Conference of farming and lift irrigation societies on a large scale to help this movement and it was attended by eminent supporters of the co-operative movement as well as high Government officials.

#### The Growth of the Movement

The tempo of organization gained momentum and seven joint farming and one collective farming societies could be registered by the end of September 1961. On the 2nd of October 1961, the first Pilot Co-operative Farming Project was launched in the Dhulia taluka of the district. One old society registered in 1960 and five societies registered between 1-4-1961 and 1-10-1961 were included in the project. Between October and December of 1961, one joint farming and two collective farming societies came up in the other parts of the district. The total number of joint farming and collective farming societies by the end of 1961, stood at 14 and 17 respectively, with six joint farming societies in the pilot project.

By this time, the benefits of co-operative farming were demonstrated in the district to some extent. The people were convinced that they could leave the society at their will if it proved to be non-beneficial to them. Cultivators in a few more villages came forth to join the movement as well as the cultivators who had not joined the farming societies in their villages, expressed willingness to organize more societies in the same village. As a result, 30 joint farming and one collective farming

societies were registered in the year 1962.

Another pilot project was launched in the Sindkhede taluka of the district on 15th August 1962. One old society registered in 1961 and two societies registered between 1-4-1962 and 14-8-1962 were included in this project. Five more societies were registered in the pilot area by the end of 1962. The total number of societies in this project as at the end of the year 1962 was eight while the earlier project in Dhulia taluka had fulfilled its target of ten societies.

In the year 1963, 10 joint farming and 13 collective farming societies were registered upto the month of September and there were proposals for more collective farming societies. Two of the collective farming societies registered earlier, had, however, to be liquidated in this year. The tempo of organizing joint farming societies was somewhat reduced thereafter. As the number of joint farming societies had gone upto 54 and that of collective farming societies to 29, the leaders had given up any special efforts in the organization and felt that co-operation in this sphere would develop spontaneously if the existing societies made a continuous progress. The trends in the growth of these societies have been summarized in Table 3.

Table 3 : The number of societies in the Dhulia district in the different years

| Type of Societies  | Upto 1947 | 1947 to 1952 | 1952 to 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | Jan. to Sept. 1963 | Total (upto Sept. 1963) |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|------|------|------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Joint Farming      |           |              |              |      |      |      |                    |                         |
| Registered         | 1         | -            | -            | 5    | 8    | 30   | 10                 | 54                      |
| Liquidated         | -         | -            | -            | -    | -    | -    | -                  | -                       |
| Collective Farming |           |              |              |      |      |      |                    |                         |
| Registered         | -         | 12           | -            | 3    | 3    | 1    | 13                 | 32                      |
| Liquidated         | -         | -            | 1            | -    | -    | -    | 2                  | 3                       |
| Total              |           |              |              |      |      |      |                    |                         |
| Registered         | 1         | 12           | -            | 8    | 11   | 31   | 23                 | 86                      |
| Liquidated         | -         | -            | 1            | -    | -    | -    | 2                  | 3                       |

Regional Variations in the Growth

Though the number of co-operative farming societies in the district increased considerably their spread in the different talukas was not uniform. The number of co-operative farming societies in the different talukas of the district have been noted in Table 4.

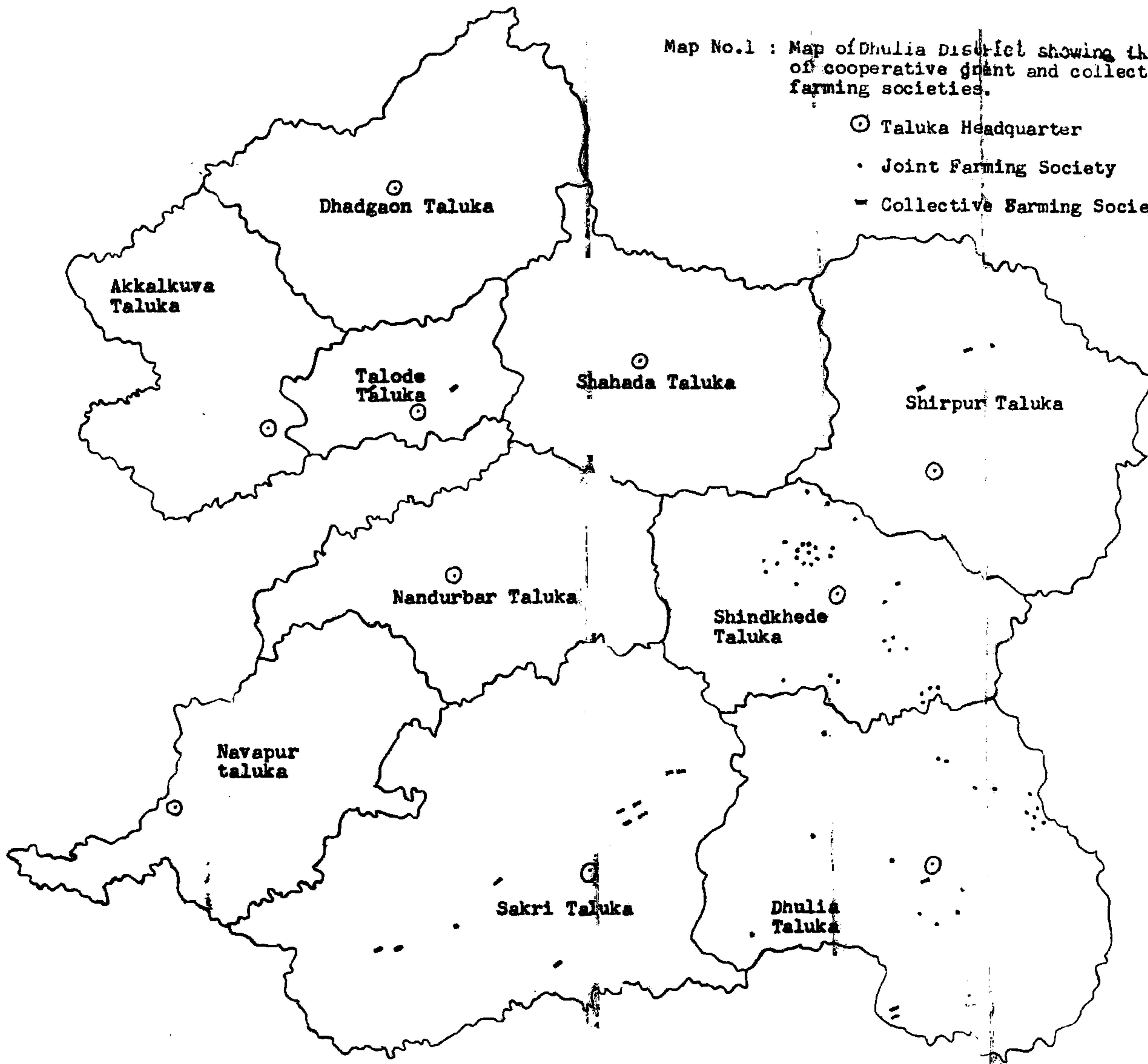
Table 4 : The number of co-operative farming societies in the different talukas of Dhulia District

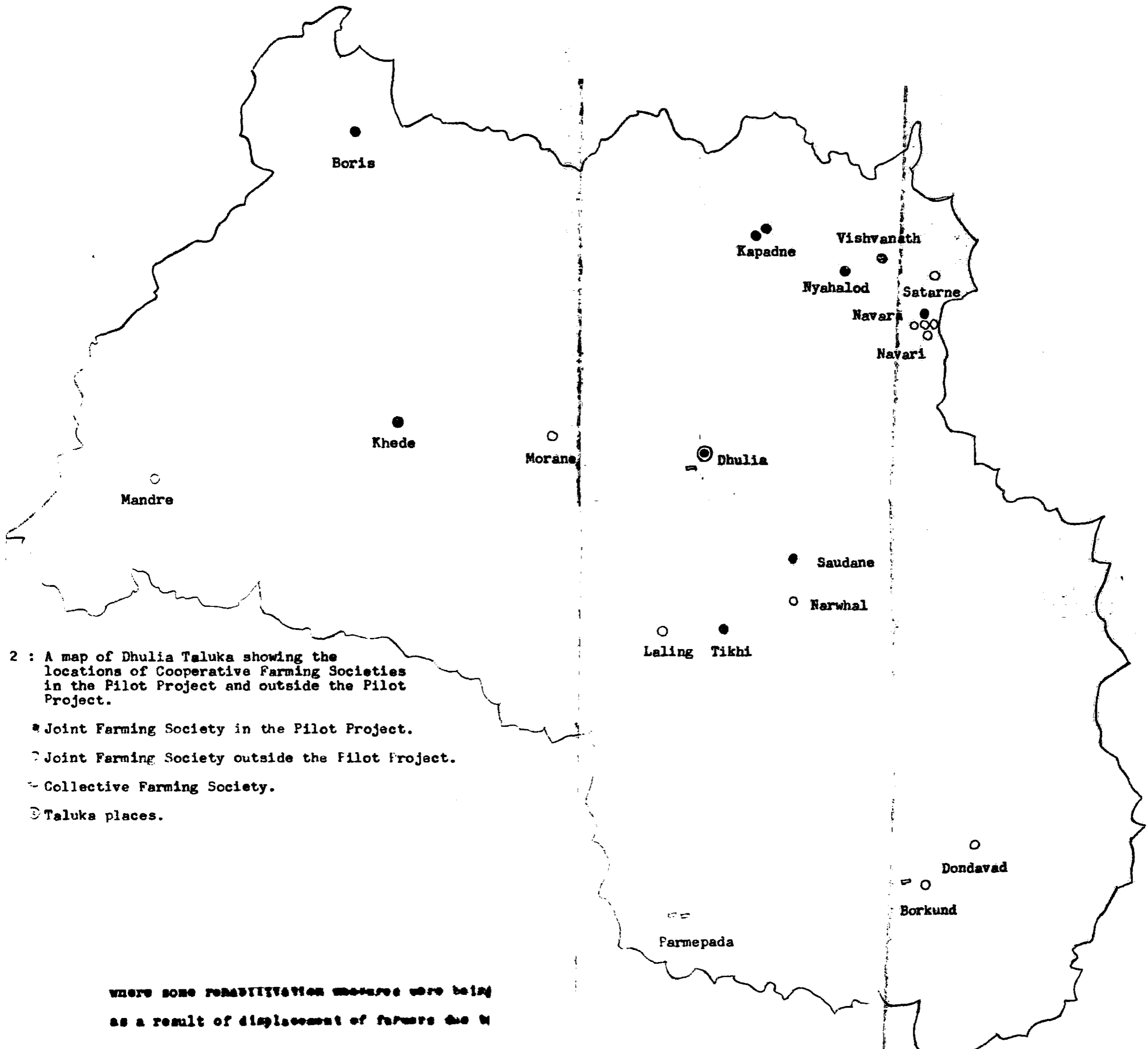
|              | Joint<br>Farming | Collective<br>Farming | Total Co-<br>operative<br>Farming<br>Societies |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Dhulia       | 20               | 4                     | 24   |
| Sindkhede    | 31               | -                     | 31   |
| Sakri        | 1                | 22                    | 23   |
| Shirpur      | 1                | 2                     | 3  |
| Shahada      | 1                | -                     | 1  |
| Akrani Mahal | -                | -                     | -  |
| Nandurbar    | -                | -                     | -  |
| Taloda       | -                | 1                     | 1  |
| Navapur      | -                | -                     | -  |
| Akkal Kuva   | -                | -                     | -  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>54</b>        | <b>29</b>             | <b>83</b>                                      |

It would be observed from the table that the joint farming societies were organized mainly in the Dhulia and the Sindkhede taluka where the Praja Socialist Party leaders organized their societies initially as well as where the pilot projects were launched later. Collective farming societies came up in large numbers in the Sakri taluka which was a hilly tract and abounded in cultivable waste lands. The initial collective farming societies were also organized in the Sakri taluka and there was good leadership to take up the work. There were a number of

Map No.1 : Map of Dhulia District showing the locations of cooperative grant and collective farming societies.

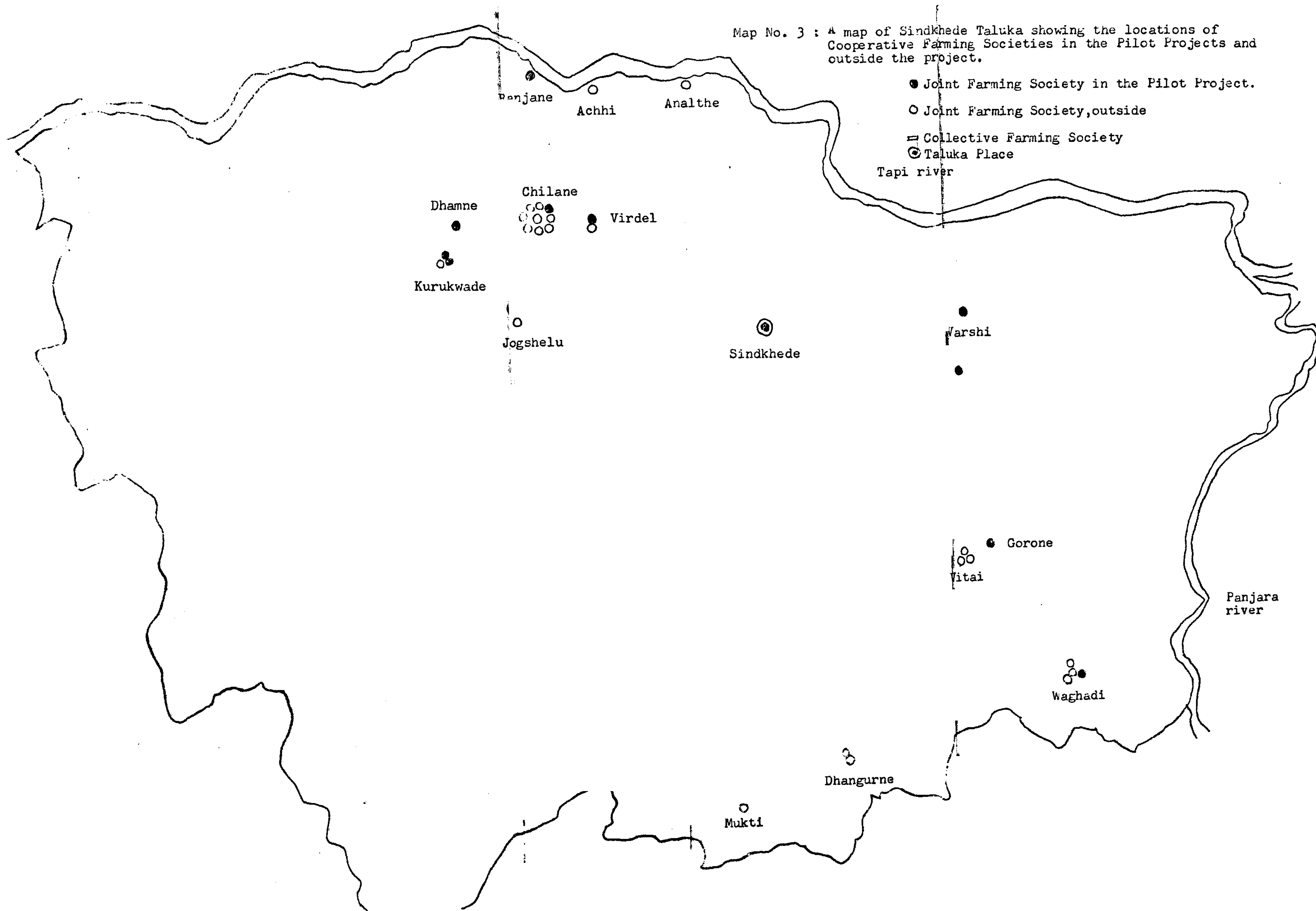
- Taluka Headquarter
- Joint Farming Society
- Collective Farming Society





WHERE SOME REHABILITATION MEASURES WERE BEING  
 AS A RESULT OF DISPLACEMENT OF FARMERS DUE TO

Map No. 3 : A map of Sindkhede Taluka showing the locations of Cooperative Farming Societies in the Pilot Projects and outside the project.



- Joint Farming Society in the Pilot Project.
- Joint Farming Society, outside
- ▣ Collective Farming Society
- ⊙ Taluka Place

Panjane Achhi Analthe

Dhamne Kurukwade  
Chilane Virdel

Jogshelu

Sindkhede

Warshi

Gorone  
Vitai

Waghadi

Dhangurne

Mukti

Panjara river

Tapi river



villages in this taluka wherein even more than one collective farming societies were organized. The idea of organizing joint or collective farming societies had just started taking roots in the other talukas.

### III - GROWTH OF CO-OPERATIVE FARMING SOCIETIES IN THE WARDHA DISTRICT

The organization of cooperative farming societies in the Wardha district on the contrary, started quite lately since the year 1958. The first society to be registered in this district was a collective farming society organized on the forest lands in the Arvi tehsil in 1958. Six joint farming societies, however, came up instantly in 1959 as a result of the resolution on cooperative farming at the 64th Session of the Indian National Congress held at Nagpur. They were organized by persons following the Gandhian ideology. All the leading persons who organized these societies had attended the speeches in the Congress Session and they were much impressed by them. Four of these societies organized in the Arvi tehsil and one each in the Wardha and the Hinganghat tehsils. The society in the Wardha tehsil, which was organized around the lands belonging to a temple could not, however, start its functioning. It was dissolved by the members themselves after one year. One of the societies in the Arvi tehsil also could not function as the lands pooled were rocky and inferior. It was also dissolved by the members after one year. One more collective farming society was organized on the forest lands in the Arvi tehsil in the year 1961.

It was decided by the Co-operative Department in the district to start the pilot project in the Wardha tahsil where some rehabilitation measures were being undertaken as a result of displacement of farmers due to the Bor River

Project. The people, however, could not respond to the project. Other areas had, therefore, to be tried for its organization.

Many of the farmers in the Ashti area of the Arvi tahsil were the followers of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj who was running an Ashram at Mojhari nearby. The Maharaj used to propagate the idea of co-operative farming and its benefits through the 'Bhajans' (singing of devotional songs) which were being held at some places in the area. Simultaneously, some of the leaders wanted to create a memorial for the Martyrs in the Ashti-Chimur case in the freedom movement, in which a few persons from the area had been executed. Being the followers of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj, they thought of creating the memorial in the form of organizing co-operative farming societies for the welfare of the small farmers. The leaders from five villages, approached the District Co-operative Department for the registration of societies. The Pilot Project, was, therefore, organized in the Arvi area. All the five leaders registered their societies in the year 1962. Out of these, four societies were inaugurated on a single day under the presidentship of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj. The first society was named as the 'Shahid' Co-operative Joint Farming Society in honour of the martyrs, whereas the names of the others began with the word 'Gurudev' in honour of the Maharaj. One old society registered in 1959 was included in the Pilot Project whereas four more societies were registered for the project in the year 1963.

There were 13 joint farming and two collective farming societies in the district at the end of the year 1963, with 10 joint farming societies in the Pilot Project.

Wardha river

Sahur

Manikwada

Dhadi

Abad Kinhi

Chincholi

Kinhala

Dalpatpur

Shirsoli

Khadki

Wagholi

Wardha  
River

Tekada

Karonja

Map No.4 : Map of a part of the Arvi Tahsil in the Wardha District showing the locations of the Cooperative Farming Societies in the Pilot Project and outside the Pilot Project.

- Joint Farming Society in the Pilot Project.
- Joint Farming Society outside the Pilot Project.
- ⊙ Taluka Place.
- Block Headquarters.



Arvi

#### IV - SELECTION OF THE SOCIETIES FOR THE SURVEY IN THE DHULIA DISTRICT

Out of the 54 joint farming societies and 29 collective farming societies in the Dhulia district only 35 joint farming and 17 collective farming societies had completed at least one agricultural year by the time of the survey. Out of these societies completing one agricultural year, 10 joint farming societies were in the two pilot projects whereas the others were non-pilot societies. None of the collective farming societies was organized through the Pilot Projects.

All the societies in the Pilot Projects, completing at least one agricultural year at the time of the investigation were included in the survey. A number of other societies outside the Pilot Projects were also selected as the number of farming societies in this district was fairly large as well as most of them had been organized simultaneously with the societies in the pilot projects. In some of the villages having more than one societies, only one of the society was a pilot society whereas the others which might be organized simultaneously or even a year later, were registered as the non-pilot societies. The pilot and the non-pilot societies did not differ from each other in any respect, since the assistance and the facilities obtained from the Department for both these types of societies were similar. The progress in the organization of farming societies being restricted mainly to the Dhulia, Sindkhede and the Sakri talukas of the district, it was decided to select the non-pilot societies from these three talukas only.

The selection of the non-pilot societies was purposive. Importance was attached to a special characteristic of a society such as a society consisting only of near relatives, a progressive old society, a society of small

farmers, a society possessing a tractor, etc. In the villages having more than one society, if one of the societies came to be selected for the reason of being a pilot society or having some special characteristic, it was thought to be necessary to include also the other societies in the village in the survey to enable comparison between the different societies at the village level and note the impact of one society on the other. All these considerations led to the selection of 26 societies out of the 35 joint farming societies completing at least one agricultural year, or out of the 54 joint farming societies registered in the district.

Six of these societies were studied by the case study method whereas a schedule was filled in for the remaining societies. The canvassing of a schedule was expected to enable collection of some basic information over a wider area to supplement the inferences from the case studies. The case study involved a detailed study, of the selected society, giving importance to how the society was organized, how it commenced its functioning, what were the difficulties involved, how it functioned in each year since its inception, what were the effects of the functioning in a year on the members, how the members reacted in the subsequent years etc.

While selecting the societies for the case studies, preference was given to the societies in the Pilot Projects. Eight societies in the Dhulia Pilot Project and two societies in the Sindkhede Pilot Project had completed at least one agricultural year at the time of the survey. Four of the societies from the Dhulia Pilot Project and one from the Sindkhede Pilot Project were selected for the case studies. In addition, one old non-pilot joint farming

society was also selected for the case study.

Schedules were canvassed for all the remaining pilot societies completing at least one agricultural year, and the non-pilot societies selected for some specific purpose. So also schedules were canvassed for the other societies in a village having a pilot society or the old non-pilot society having a special characteristic as mentioned earlier. Out of the 26 joint farming societies selected for the survey, six societies were thus studied by the case study method and the remaining 20 societies by filling in a schedule for each.

For a study of the collective farming societies, only five of the 17 societies were included in the survey as the Pilot Projects did not consist of any collective farming societies. The Ministry of Co-operation had suggested one collective farming society for the survey. It was studied by the case study method whereas schedules were canvassed for four of the Collective Farming Societies in its vicinity.

#### V - SELECTION OF THE SOCIETIES FOR THE SURVEY IN THE WARDHA DISTRICT

Out of the 13 joint farming societies in the Wardha district, eight societies had completed at least one agricultural year. Out of these eight societies, five societies including one old society, were in the Pilot Project. The remaining three were non-pilot societies. One of the non-pilot old societies and three of the four new societies from the Pilot Project were selected for the case studies. The old society included in the Pilot Project was, however, excluded because of the dissensions among the members, frequent changes in the membership, and a large number of cases of misappropriation of funds as

pointed out in the Special Audit. Only a schedule was, therefore, canvassed for this society.

The other seven societies in the Pilot Project were studied through canvassing a schedule. As there were only two collective farming societies one of which had even applied for liquidation, it was decided not to include any collective farming society in the survey in this district. For the survey in the Wardha district four societies were thus, studied by the case study method and seven societies through a schedule almost on the same lines as in the Dhulia district.

## Part II

### CO-OPERATIVE FARMING SOCIETIES IN THE DHULIA AND THE WARDHA DISTRICTS : A REVIEW

The data collected through a schedule canvassed for the societies selected for the general survey have been used in this part, to give a general view of co-operative farming in the Dhulia and the Wardha districts. The preliminary data for the societies selected for the case studies being also collected through the same schedule, such data have also been used here along with the data for the general survey, to give a wider picture of co-operative farming in these districts.

#### I A Review of the Co-operative Joint Farming Societies in the Dhulia district

Out of the twenty-six co-operative joint farming societies selected for the survey in the Dhulia district, one society was organized in the year 1947, three in the year 1960, seven in the year 1961 and the remaining fifteen in the year 1962. Except for the four societies organized prior to the year 1961, the other societies were organized either through the Pilot Projects or simultaneously along with the pilot societies. Ten of these twenty-six societies, including one society organized prior to the year 1961, were included in the Pilot Projects.

##### 1. Membership and its Characteristics

These twenty-six societies consisted of a total membership of 346 persons. The average membership per society worked out to 13.3 members. The membership in the individual societies, however, varied from 10 to 28. In six of the societies, the membership was restricted to 10 members only. In 16 societies it varied between 11 and 15, in three societies between 16 and 17 whereas in only one



society the membership was made of as many as 28 persons.

The membership was made of land holders as well as landless persons. Eighty-one per cent of the members had contributed land whereas the remaining were landless. In 12 of the 26 societies, all the members had contributed land. In six societies the percentage of land contributing members varied from 80 to 99 per cent whereas in five societies it was between 60 and 80 per cents. It is only in three societies that the percentages of land contributing members were as low as 39, 34 and 25 per cents only. In ten societies a few landless persons were enrolled to encourage them to do good work whereas in the remaining four societies, landless persons had to be enrolled to make up the minimum membership of ten persons required for the registration.

In seven of the societies, the members had not pooled their entire holdings. In three of these seven societies, more than 25 per cent of the members had not pooled their entire holdings whereas in the remaining four societies there were only one or two members not pooling their entire holdings. In one of these seven societies, the percentage of land retained for self cultivation to the land holding of the society was only 3 per cent. In one more society it was 7 per cent; in other two societies it was between 15 and 25 per cents whereas in the remaining three societies it varied between 80 and 125 per cents.

The total land pooled in these societies was 3005 acres and the land retained for self cultivation was 409 acres or 13 per cent of the land pooled in these societies. The area pooled by the members pooling their entire holdings was 2764 acres and that pooled by the members not pooling their entire holdings was 241 acres. Quite a larger proportion of the area pooled in these societies was thus,

contributed by those who had pooled their entire holdings.

In only six of the 26 societies, absentee cultivators had been enrolled as members. In five of these six societies, there were only one or two absentee cultivators. In the remaining one society, however, fifty per cent of the membership was made of absentee cultivators only.

The 346 members stayed in 273 households which indicated that there were on an average 1.28 members per household. In eight of the twenty-six societies, each member stayed in a separate household. In four societies, the proportion of households to the number of members varied between 90 and 99 per cents, in two societies between 80 and 89 per cents, in seven societies between 60 and 79 per cents whereas in five societies, it was even below 50 per cent.

In two societies, all the land contributing members stayed in a single household whereas in the remaining twenty-four societies, such members stayed in three or more than three households.

The land contributing members stayed in 219 of the 273 households whereas the landless members stayed in the remaining 54 households. Out of the 219 households of the land contributing members, 23 per cent households had contributed holdings of only 5 acres or below; thirty per cent had contributed holdings varying between 5.1 and 10.0 acres, and sixteen per cent varying between 10.1 and 15 acres. Sixty-nine per cent of the land contributing households, were thus, the households of small farmers pooling land below 15 acres. Fourteen per cent of the households had pooled holdings between 15.1 and 25 acres whereas the remaining 16 per cent had pooled holdings exceeding even 25 acres. The households in the latter two groups were, however, scattered in most of the societies except in the case of

three societies.

Eight of the twenty-six societies were organized by persons belonging to a single caste. Two of these societies were organized by the 'Phulmalis', one by the 'Gosavis' and one by the 'Navbuddhas' whereas the remaining four were organized by the 'Marathas'. The other 18 societies, however, consisted of members belonging to different castes.

## 2. Land, Other Assets and Development

In addition to the area pooled by members, three societies had purchased 88 acres of land whereas four societies had taken 67 acres of land on lease. The total land held by these societies thus, came to 3,160 acres or 121 acres per society on an average. The size of holding of the individual societies varied between 67 and 283 acres. In eight of the twenty-six societies, the size was below 100 acres; in 16 societies it was between 100 and 150 acres, whereas in the remaining two societies it exceeded even 200 acres.

Ninty-eight and a half per cent of the area held by these societies was under cultivation. The remaining area consisted mainly of the cultivable waste lands. The area cultivated per member worked out to 8.1 acres.

The area cultivated per member in the individual societies, however, varied from 3 acres to 25 acres. In only three societies the area cultivated per member was below 5 acres; in 17 societies it was between 5 and 10 acres, in four societies between 10 and 15 acres whereas only in two societies it exceeded 20 acres.

Twenty-three of these societies had evaluated their lands. The average value of land per acre in the individual societies varied from Rs. 361 to Rs. 1,788 per acre.

In only one society, however, the average value came to Rs. 361 per acre whereas in all others it exceeded even Rs. 500 per acre. In five of the remaining 22 societies, the average value per acre varied between Rs. 500 and Rs.800, in six societies between Rs. 800 and Rs.1,200, in eight societies between Rs.1,200 and Rs.1,500 whereas in the remaining three societies the average value of land per acre exceeded even Rs.1,500. A majority of the societies, thus, held lands which were quite superior.

The lands pooled by the members formed one to as many as twelve blocks. In twenty of the societies, however, the number of blocks was less than seven. In a majority of the societies, the land holdings were made of 3 to 8 blocks.

Only eight of the societies had undertaken measures for the development of their lands. The total investment made through these development measures amounted to Rs.9,596 or Rs.1,100 per society undertaking the land development measures.

Irrigation was developed on a fairly large scale in most of the societies. Seventeen per cent of the area cultivated by these societies was under irrigation. It is only in three societies that there was absence of facilities for irrigation. Out of the remaining 23 societies, in one society the proportion of net irrigated area to the net cultivated area was below 5 per cent; in six societies it varied between 5.1 and 10 per cents, in five societies between 10.1 and 20 per cents, in six societies between 20.1 and 30 per cent and in the remaining five societies it exceeded even 30 per cent.

Nine societies had dug up 12 new wells at a cost of Rs.15,638. So also ten societies had deepened 14 old wells at a cost of Rs.15,564. Two societies had ~~xxx~~ even

equipped their farms with pipe lines for carrying water from the low lying to the high lying areas. As many as 23 societies had purchased 49 oil engines and pumps at a cost of Rs. 1,50,336.

Twenty-one of the societies possessed 54 iron ploughs. Three societies possessed even tractors. Two of these three societies, however, owned one tractor jointly. The total value of implements and machinery possessed by the twenty-six societies came to Rs.2,78,054.

The societies owned 320 bullocks. The number of bullocks per society varied from 6 to 21. The area cultivated per pair bullocks came to 19.6 acres on an average. The area, however, varied from 12 to 26 acres in the different societies. In only one society it was as high as 35 acres. Five societies owned 75 cows. In three of the societies the cows were pooled by the members whereas in the remaining two, they were purchased by the societies. The value of livestock owned by all the societies came to Rs.7,000 in the different societies.

Twelve societies had incurred some expenditures on building construction. Two of these societies had constructed sheds for the high house-power engines, they had purchased. Six of the eleven societies had started the construction of godowns. Only two societies had, however, completed their godowns by the time of the survey. The remaining four societies had incurred small expenditures over the repairs to the existing buildings which were being used as store houses. The total amount spent by these societies on the construction and repairs to buildings came to Rs. 31,183.

### 3. Cropping Pattern and the use of Improved Methods

Jowar, Bajri, Cotton and Groundnut were the major

crops grown in the area. The crops grown by irrigation included Cambodia cotton, chilly, wheat, rice and other miscellaneous crops as onion and vegetables. Sugarcane was grown by only two societies having facilities for canal irrigation. In the year 1962-63, the societies had utilized 28 per cent of their area for groundnut, 18 per cent for Bajri, 17 per cent for unirrigated cotton, 9 per cent for Rabi jowar, 5 per cent for kharif jowar, 6 per cent for wheat, 5-1/2 per cent for Cambodia cotton (irrigated), 3 per cent for chilly and the remaining for miscellaneous irrigated crops as banana, onion, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables. The cash crops accounted for nearly 60 per cent of the area on these societies' farms. All the societies had used farmyard manure on a large scale. The cost over farmyard manure came to Rs.30 per acre on an average. In 15 societies the cost varied between Rs. 30 and Rs. 75 per acre. It is only in five societies that the cost per acre was below Rs. 10. In the remaining six societies it varied between Rs. 10 and Rs. 30.

Fertilizers were used by 17 societies. The cost over fertilizers, however, exceeded Rs. 5 per acre in the case of five societies only. In the remaining societies the cost was fairly small.

Twenty-one of the societies, had used pest control measures on a varying scale. The cost over them, however, varied from a fraction of a rupee to Rs. 12 per acre in the different societies.

The gross value of production in these societies varied from Rs. 100 to Rs. 335 per acre. These data were available only for 23 societies. In two of the societies the gross value of production per acre was above Rs.300; in four societies, it varied between Rs. 251 and Rs. 300,

in six societies between Rs. 201 and Rs. 250, in five societies between Rs. 151 and Rs. 200 whereas in the remaining six societies it was even below Rs. 150.

#### 4. Subsidiary Industries

Subsidiary industries were started by only a few societies. Five societies had taken to dairying by purchasing buffaloes. Two societies had purchased cows for animal breeding. Three societies were given sheep for breeding by the Animal Husbandry Department. Two societies had taken to poultry farming whereas two societies were running flour mills.

#### 5. Employment

Fifty-two per cent of the members worked on the farm whereas 12 per cent participated in the management of the societies without receiving any remuneration. The remaining 36 per cent members did not work at all.

The bye-laws for the co-operative joint farming societies envisaged that at least 75 per cent of the members should work on the farm. The proportion of working members, however, showed large variations in the individual societies. In only eleven of the societies, more than 75 per cent of the members worked on the farm. In five societies the proportion of working members varied between 50 and 75 per cents. In six societies the proportion varied between 25 and 50 per cents whereas in the remaining four societies it was even below 25 per cent. In two of the latter four societies not even a single member worked on the farm.

The working members earned 31 per cent of the wage payments made by these societies in the year 1962-63. In three of the societies the proportion of wages earned by the working members varied between 76 and 85 per cents, in

three more societies between 51 and 75 per cents, in ten societies between 26 and 50 per cents whereas in the remaining ten societies the proportion was below 25 per cent. In two of the latter ten societies, the members did not earn any wages at all.

All the societies had employed farm servants from among the members as well as non-members on an annual basis. The number of farm servants employed in a society varied from 3 to 13. The area cultivated per farm servant also varied from 10 to 21 acres. The farm servants earned 54 per cent of the total wage payment of these societies and the remaining was earned by the casual labour.

#### 6. Financial Assistance

All the societies had received financial assistance and loans from the Government according to the pattern for financing the Co-operative Joint Farming Societies. The pattern included a Government contribution of Rs.2,000 to the share capital, a medium term loan of Rs.4,000 for land development, a loan of Rs.5,000 consisting of a component of 25 per cent subsidy, for the construction of a cattle-shed-cum-godown and a managerial subsidy of Rs.1,200 for a period of the first three years. The societies organized prior to the organization of the Pilot Projects had, however, received Rs. 4,000 as the Government contribution to their share capital and an annual subsidy of Rs. 1,200 for the pay of the manager during the first three years, which meant a subsidy of Rs. 3,600 for the purpose.

The District Central Co-operative Bank had given crop loans as well as medium term loans to all the societies. In the year 1962-63 the Bank gave a crop loan of Rs. 4,68,861 and a medium term loan of Rs. 1,35,000 to these twenty-six societies which worked out to giving a



crop loan of Rs. 18,000 and a medium term loan of Rs.5,200 per society. The crop loan to a society, however, varied from Rs.8,000 to Rs.42,000 and the medium term loan from Rs.1,800 to Rs.12,000.

The Bank loans were repaid promptly except in the case of a few societies which could not repay the amounts fully during the course of a year. In the year 1962-63, only 12 per cent of the loans were overdue.

Twenty-two societies had given loans to their members for the repayment of their old debts or for the household purposes. In the year 1962-63, 33 per cent of the members had borrowed an amount of Rs.81,298 from their societies. The amount borrowed per lending society came to Rs.3,695 whereas the average amount borrowed per borrowing member came to Rs. 713.

7. Distribution of the Property Income and the Profits Earned

Only six of the societies had earned a profit of Rs. 21,000. The profit for the individual societies varied from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 4,000. The remaining twenty societies incurred losses to an extent of Rs. 62,000. The loss per society varied from Rs. 200 to Rs. 11,000. The loss incurred by 12 of these societies was, however, below Rs. 3,000.

Twenty-two of the societies had distributed a property income or the rent for the land pooled by the members. According to the tenancy legislation, this rent was fixed at 6 per cent of the value of land pooled by a member. Even the loss incurring societies had distributed property incomes. The rate of distribution of property income varied from 4 to 6 per cent in the different societies.

All the profit earning societies had declared a bonus

on the property income. The bonuses on property income varied from 2 to 6 per cent.

## II A Review of Co-operative Collective Farming Societies in the Dhulia District

Out of the five collective farming societies selected for the survey, one was registered in the year 1960 whereas the remaining four were registered in the period 1949-51.

Two of these societies were of the mixed type and were organized for persons belonging to the higher castes as well as the scheduled and backward castes in a ratio of 1 : 3 as required by their bye-laws. The remaining three societies were organized entirely for the scheduled caste members and each consisted of a separate caste as the Thelari, Vanjhari and the Bhil.

The number of members in these societies was 155. The societies were given 2,008 acres of land for collective cultivation. The lands were, however, being cultivated collectively in only three of these five societies. The societies organized by the members belonging to the Vanjhari and the Bhil castes had distributed the lands among the members for individual cultivation.

The societies had brought 77 per cent of the land under cultivation. The societies cultivating the land collectively, had sunk four wells and even purchased four oil engines for irrigation. The proportions of irrigated areas when compared to the size of their farms were, however, meagre.

The number of bullocks owned by the three societies practising collective cultivation was 84. The area cultivated per pair of bullocks worked out to 24 acres. Only one of these societies possessed two iron ploughs.

The other two societies ploughed their fields with the help of the local ploughs.

Jowar, Bajri, and Groundnut were the major crops grown by the societies. None of the societies had, however, cultivated its land by the adoption of improved methods. Neither the fertilizers nor the improved seeds were used on any of these farms.

Except in one society, all the members in the other societies, worked on their farms. The area cultivated per working member in these societies came to 10.5 acres on an average. The members earned 61 to 92 per cent of the wage payments made by these societies.

All the societies had received assistance on a varying scale from the Government. Only the society organized in the year 1960 had received the loan for godown and had even completed the construction. The societies organized in the earlier period were not fully financed and had received much smaller amounts when compared to the society organized in the year 1960.

The District Central Co-operative Bank had given crop loans only to those societies which cultivated their lands collectively. The society organized in the year 1960 was given a loan of Rs. 15,000 whereas the others were given Rs. 5,000 each. Medium term loans were given only to the society organized in the year 1960.

Only one of the societies viz. the one organized in the year 1960 had earned profits in the first two years and distributed bonuses at the rate of 40 and 25 per cents over the wages earned by the members. The other two societies cultivating the land collectively had earned profits occasionally. The societies practising individual cultivation has suffered marginal losses in some years and earned marginal profits in the others.

### III Review of Co-operative Joint Farming Societies in the Wardha District

Out of the eleven co-operative joint farming societies selected for the survey, two were organized in the year 1959, five in the year 1962, and the remaining four in the year 1963. Ten of these societies including one old society organized in 1959, were in the Pilot Project.

#### 1. Membership and its characteristics

These eleven societies consisted of a membership of 127 persons. The membership in the individual societies varied between 10 and 13 only. In one society there were only 10 members whereas in one other society there were 13 members. The remaining societies consisted of 11 or 12 members.

Not all these members either possessed the lands or had pooled their lands. Only in three societies more than 90 per cent of the members had pooled their land. In five societies the proportion of land pooling members to the total members varied between 80 and 90 per cents whereas in the remaining three societies it was nearly 75 per cent.

Only in one society all the members owned land. In two societies, a few of the land owning members had not contributed any land at all. One to three landless members were enrolled as members in nine of the eleven societies. In three of these societies, the landless members had to be enrolled to take up the membership of the societies to 10 or 11 persons whereas in the others they were enrolled according to the advice given by the Co-operative Department.

In eight of the societies 3 to 7 members had not pooled their entire holdings. The percent of land retained for self cultivation by such members to the land holding

of the society varied from 18 to even 163 per cent in these societies.

The total land pooled in these societies came to 968 acres and the total area retained for self cultivation by the members was 469 acres. This showed that 32 per cent of the area owned by the members was not pooled in the societies.

The area pooled by the members pooling their entire holdings was 507 acres and that pooled by the members not pooling their entire holdings was 461 acres. Only 53 per cent of the area held by these societies was, thus, pooled by those who had pooled their entire holdings.

In four of the eleven societies, none of the members was an absentee cultivator. One or two absentee cultivators or members staying in the roundabout villages were admitted in six societies whereas in one old society one-fourth of the members were absentee cultivators.

The 127 members stayed in 114 households which meant that there were 1.11 members per household. In six of the societies, each member belonged to a separate household. In two societies, the percent of the number of households to the number of members was above 90 per cent. In the remaining societies it was between 75 and 90 per cents.

Out of the 114 households, 82 per cent of the households were the land owning households and the remaining were the households of the landless members. Out of the land owning households, 38 per cent of the households consisted of farmers contributing below 5 acres and 32 per cent of those contributing between 5 and 10 acres. Nineteen per cent of the households had contributed land between 10 and 15 acres and only 11 percent of the households had contributed land above 15 acres. The societies

in the Wardha district, therefore, consisted essentially of the small farmers a majority of whom had contributed land below 10 acres.

In only two societies, the members belonged to a single caste. In the others, members from different castes had organized the societies. Nearly 60 per cent of the members, belonged to the cultivating 'Kunbi' caste. Casteism had, however, no importance in the organization of these societies.

## 2. Land, other assets and development

In addition to the area of 968 pooled in these societies, one new society had purchased 13 acres of land and the other new society had leased in 2 acres of land. The total land held by these societies, therefore, came to 983 acres.

Ninty per cent of the land held was under cultivation in the year 1962-63. Nearly 6 per cent of the area held consisted of cultivable waste lands whereas the remaining was uncultivable. The area cultivated per member came to 7.26 acres only.

Only seven of the societies had valued their lands for the distribution of property income or rent on the land. The average value of land per acre varied between Rs.318 and Rs. 700. In four of these seven societies, however, it was below Rs. 500 per acre.

The lands pooled by the members formed one to as many as nine blocks in a society. In nine societies, the number of blocks was, however, below 6.

Six of the seven societies registered prior to the year 1963 had spent an amount of Rs. 12,805 on the development of land resource. The two old societies had spent an amount of Rs. 7,400 whereas the expenditure in

the four new societies varied between Rs. 500 and Rs.1,500 per society. The land development measures included reclamation of the cultivable waste lands by deep ploughing, bunding and uprooting the perennial shrubs and weeds.

One of the new societies had started the sinking of a new well and two of the new societies had deepened their old wells.

Three of the societies had grown irrigated crops over 6 acres in the year 1962-63. Compared to the land held, the extent of irrigated area was almost negligible. Two of these societies had, however, purchased two oil engines at a cost of Rs. 5,400.

Eight of the societies possessed iron ploughs. The number of iron ploughs with these societies varied from 1 to 3. The total number of ploughs came to 13. Three of the societies registered lately could not possess such ploughs. There were no other improved implements with these societies. The value of the implements and the bullock-carts with different societies varied from Rs.300 to Rs. 900. The total value of implements and machinery owned by these eleven societies came to Rs. 10,892, nearly 50 per cent of which was the value of two engines owned by two societies.

The societies owned 88 bullocks. The number of bullocks per society varied from 6 to 10. The total value of these bullocks was Rs. 23,214. The area cultivated per pair of bullocks varied from 15 to 20 acres in a society, except in the case of two societies wherein the area was even above 25 acres. Cows and other animals were neither pooled into these societies nor purchased by them.

Only one of the new societies had started the construction of a godown and incurred a cost of Rs. 2,994 on the purchase of material for the construction.

### 3. Cropping Pattern and the use of improved methods

Jowar and cotton were the main crops grown in the area. Six of the seven societies registered prior to the year 1963 had devoted 51 per cent of their cultivated area to cotton and 37 per cent to jowar in the year 1962-63. One society could not start its functioning in the year of registration. Three of the societies had also cultivated groundnut which accounted for 7 per cent of the area under cultivation. Two of the societies had grown wheat and two other societies had grown chilly on a very small scale. Land was not used for more than one crop by any of these societies. The gross cropped and the net cultivated areas, therefore, remained the same. The area under the cash crops varied from 60 to 76 per cent in the different societies.

The cost over farmyard manure used by these societies came to Rs.9 per acre only. The cost, however, varied from Rs. 5 to Rs. 17 for the different societies. Fertilizers were used only by three of these six societies at a nominal cost of Rs. 2.5 per acre. Insecticides were also used by only three societies at a total cost of Rs.134 only. The gross value of crop production in the year 1962-63 varied between Rs. 59 and Rs. 118 per acre according to the quality of the land in these societies.

### 4. Subsidiary Industries

The societies had not made any progress in starting the subsidiary industries. One society was running a flour mill purchased from one of its members along with his oil engine. The same society was given 100 sheep free of cost by the Animal Husbandry Department for taking to sheep rearing. The other societies had not made any attempts in this respect.



## 5. Employment

Only 51 per cent of the 127 members worked on the land pooled into the societies. The percentage of working members to the total members varied from 15 to 80 per cent in the different societies. In five of the eleven societies more than two-third of the members worked on the farm. In four of the societies the proportion was nearer 50 per cent whereas in the two old societies it was below 30 per cent.

On the non-working members, 26 per cent were either absentee cultivators or staying in the adjoining villages and were not available for work. Thirty-four per cent of the members were employed in the village as salarieds or were engaged in labour outside the society's farms or in some petty trades. Nineteen per cent of the non-working members were engaged in the cultivation of land not pooled in the society. Ten per cent of the non-working members were unable to work because of old age. Another 8 per cent could not work because they were women and the remaining 3 per cent on account of miscellaneous reasons.

The working members earned 42.5 per cent of the wage payments made by the six societies in the year 1962-63. Their family members earned 9.1 per cent whereas the remaining 48.4 per cent of the wages were earned by the outside labour.

Eight of the eleven societies had employed farm servants either on the annual or the monthly basis. The number of farm servants varied from 3 to 6 for the different societies. The area cultivated per farm servant also varied from 12 to 35 acres.

The farm servants in six of the societies completing one agricultural year, earned 39 per cent of the wages. All the farm servants came from among the members.

## 6. Financial Assistance

All the societies had received financial assistance from the Government according to the pattern mentioned in the review of the societies in the Dhulia district. The District Central Co-operative Bank had, however, financed only six of the societies in amounts varying from Rs.1,200 to Rs.4,300. Only one of the two old societies was given a loan of Rs. 10,000 which it could not repay promptly. In the first year this society was given a loan of Rs.2500 which was increased to Rs. 10,000 subsequently as the society repaid the earlier loans promptly. The remaining five societies could not get any finance from the Bank. Again, the societies obtained only crop loans through the Bank. No medium term loans were given to these societies.

The Bank loans were also never repaid promptly. Generally, a society repaid the loan in the second year after borrowing. Only one of the societies, had repaid the loan promptly.

Almost every society except one of the two old societies and two of the very lately organized societies, had given loans to their members for paying their old debts or for the household purposes. Twenty-eight per cent of the members in these societies had borrowed an amount of Rs. 6,608 which indicated that the societies had given a loan of Rs. 188 per borrowing members.

## 7. Distribution of the Property Income and the Profits Earned

Only one of the old societies had made a profit of Rs. 1,833 in the year 1962-63. This society had earned a profit almost every year. All the other societies had suffered losses varying from Rs. 200 to Rs. 3,000. The other old society had suffered losses continuously.

Only the profit earning society had distributed a property income at the rate of 6 per cent every year. Others had given advances to the members against their future property income. Even the old society, had not distributed any bonus to the members.

Inspite of earning profits, the old society was a subject of criticism in the area as a special audit conducted for the society had indicated a number of cases of misappropriation and failures in maintaining the proper accounts. Nearly 14 members had joined and left this society during the last four years. Such changes were, however, reported to be due to the presence of factions in the village.

Part III  
CASE STUDIES

I Case Studies - District Dhulia

1. THE SAMATANAGAR COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

SAMATANAGAR  
(District - Dhulia)

Synopsis

- The Village
- Organization and Registration
- Initial Membership
- Characteristics of the Membership
- Functioning in the First-Year
- Changes in the Membership after the First-Year
- Characteristics of the Second-Year
- Re-changes in the Membership
- Third-Year of the Society
- Present Position and Attitudes of the Members
  
- Appendix I : Lands pooled and not-pooled by the members and their contributions in the form of Share Capital and other assets.
- Appendix II : Proportions under the different crops before and after the organization of the Society.
- Appendix III: Some aspects of Farm Business before and after the Organization of the Society.

## THE SAMATANAGAR COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY, LTD.

SAMATANAGAR \*

(District - Dhulia)

The Village

The village Samatanagar is situated nearly 15 miles from Dhulia near a main road. It has a population of little over a thousand. The extent of literacy is said to be quite high and a few of the farmers' sons are even graduates and double graduates and are employed elsewhere. The people are well acquainted with the cooperative efforts. Apart from the Gram Panchayat and the Farming Society, there are four cooperative organizations as the Multipurpose Society, Dairy Society, Cattle Breeders Society and Crop Protection Society in such a small village consisting of 211 families. At times the people do quarrel amongst themselves but in the aggregate village matters they stand together and support their leaders who work selflessly for them. If anything is not beneficial to any individuals, they refrain from the matter but do not try to oppose it. Community efforts like Shramadan have also not been uncommon. The approach road connecting the village to the main road serves itself as an illustration of this to any visitor to the village. There are many leading persons in the village as without such leadership it would not be possible to manage the above mentioned six different organizations. Among the leaders, the Chairman of the Farming Society is, however, a leader with districtwide recognition. He has devoted himself to a political party and has played active roles in the freedom, the Gramdan, the Satyagraha movements, etc., even outside the district.

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\* Fictitious names have been used for the Society, the village as well as the members.

### Organization and Registration

The Farming Society in this village came up as a result of the efforts of this leader who was one of the district leaders to launch the campaign. He held a meeting of the villagers, who were mostly supporters of his party and kept a plan of the movement before them. Some of the persons in the village were in favour of cooperative farming even before. All of them supported him in the organization of the society. Some of the big cultivators who could not become the members as, cooperative farming had no special advantages to them, expressed their active support for the Society. Initially, 12 members could be enlisted. Immediately after the registration, two more members could be enrolled. The total membership of the Society went to 14, in the first year itself.

### Initial Membership

The Chairman and his brother staying with him joined the Society with their entire holding of 34 acres, with the irrigation facilities for 4 acres. There was a big cultivator in the village owning a tractor and his family members together owned 400 acres of land. He had his own ideas of cooperative farming and wished that a farming society should consist of members of one or at the most two families and function on the lines of the successful joint families of the past. Later he himself had made an attempt to organize a society of his family members, some of whom were employed outside, but he could not succeed because of the changes in the Act prohibiting more than one member of a family coming together in the first ten members of a cooperative society. Though he supported the present society, he declined to contribute his land as his holding was big and economic and became the sympathiser member. He,

however, enrolled his nephew as a dummy member and contributed 7 acres in his name.

Another active worker and a distant cousin and the friend of the Chairman contributed his entire holding of 23 acres having facilities for irrigating 2 acres. His cousin Supadu was cultivating his own as well as his brother-in-law's holding as the brother-in-law was maintaining a cycle shop in a nearby town. Supadu contributed only 7 acres of his inferior land and reserved 12 acres of relatively better quality land for personal cultivation. He, however, allowed his brother-in-law to become a member and to contribute his entire holding of 4 acres.

Rajaram, the present Vice-Chairman was unable to cultivate 30 acres of his land having irrigation facilities for 4 acres with only a pair of bullocks and one farm servant. He became a member of the society and with him joined his mother and brother who stayed together and owned 14 acres of unirrigated land. These two households contributed their entire holdings.

Sheshnath, Ramnath and Jagannath were cousins and Sheshnath looked after the lands of the other two as they were employed nearby. Sheshnath and Ramnath became the members of the society and each contributed 6 acres of his inferior land. A part of the land contributed by Sheshnath was even full of shrubs and perennial weeds. All the remaining lands of these cousins were reserved for cultivation by Sheshnath as they were all superior and had facilities for irrigation. Jagannath even though was an absentee cultivator, did not join the society as Sheshnath was there to cultivate his superior lands.

Somaji, the brother of the sympathiser member was aged about 60 and had only one son who was too young to

look after the farm. When he found a number of persons joining the society, he also enrolled as a member after the registration and contributed his entire holding of 29 acres. One lecturer in a Polytechnic at Bombay when came to know about this society, contributed his holding of 9 acres in the village. But for this lecturer, all the others belonged to the Maratha caste which was the main land-owning caste in the village.

It being one of the pioneering attempts to organize Cooperative Farming Societies in the district, any farmer from the village who was interested in the experiment was permitted to join. The people, however, being not very confident of the success of the experiment, some thought of joining the society at a later stage. Only a few were prepared to undertake a risk.

#### Characteristics of the Membership

The 14 members belonged to 11 households. Only seven of the 11 households had contributed their entire holdings. Out of these, two were absentee cultivators and they owned small pieces of land. In case of the other five households there were different reasons for joining the society. The Chairman and his friend were the Chief organizers whereas Rajaram, his brother and Somaji were unable to cultivate their lands. Rajaram and his brother were indebted whereas Somaji being old, and his only son being an educated, there was no one in his family to look after his land. Rajaram's brother was also a drunkard and being a lazy person never attended to his farm. Rajaram had, therefore, to look after his brother's farm. The lands contributed by these five households alone accounted for 82 percent of the land pooled in the society. Out of the remaining four households, one was that of the sympathiser member whereas the three households had reserved their superior



and irrigated lands for self cultivation even though they owned small pieces of land. Only the Chairman, his friend and Rajaram had contributed 10 acres of irrigated land.

Only Rajaram and his brother were the members who were indebted. Others had either repayed their crop loans or the instalments of the long term loans which some of them had borrowed were being repayed properly. The Chairman, his friend and Somaji had employed farm servants for cultivating their lands whereas the others except the two absentee cultivators and the one employed nearby were employing casual labourers whenever needful. Only the absentee cultivators and the member employed nearby, had leased out their lands to their relatives in the village, prior to the organization of the society. None of the members were engaged as farm servants or were getting themselves employed as casual labourers on the other farms in the village. All the members except the absentee cultivators and the sympathiser member stayed more or less in a similar type of houses. The sympathiser member, however, stayed in a big and decent house.

#### The functioning in the first year

The society acquired 169 acres of land with 5 wells. This area worked out to 15 percent of the cultivated area in the village. The land was, however, divided into 9 blocks spread over the village but four of the blocks were quite big and together contained 70 percent of the area. This was, however, inevitable as the policy was to enroll members without attaching any importance to whether the lands were contiguous or inferior or superior. The number of blocks would have been even more but the consolidation measures undertaken by the State in the village, had reduced the number of fragments owned by individual cultivators to a considerable extent.

The Chairman and Somaji contributed their bullocks as they were superior to the bullocks owned by the other three households contributing their entire holdings. No contribution was possible from the absentee cultivators and the households contributing only parts of their holdings. The society, thus, acquired 8 bullocks and purchased another 8. Formerly these 8 bullocks were used for 67 acres of land whereas now 169 acres could be cultivated only through the addition of 8 more bullocks because of the consolidation. Implements were contributed by the Chairman, and his friend, Rajaram and his brother, and Somaji who had contributed their entire holdings as well as large pieces of land.

The society appointed a person from a distant village as the Manager. The Manager had completed his training in the Agricultural School as well as the training for the Secretariship of Cooperative Societies. He had served as a fieldman as well as a clerk in the Taluka Development Board for seven years. He was well educated, experienced and efficient and was, therefore, appointed on a salary of Rs. 100 per month.

Only 7 of the 14 members were available for work on the farm as two of the members were absentee cultivators, one was sympathizer, the other was a dummy, one was a woman, one was an old man and Sheshnath had to manage the holdings belonging to three persons. Ramnath being unemployed in the year, he was available for work whenever his help was not needed by Sheshnath on the lands reserved for self cultivation.

The Chairman, rarely, stayed in the village as he was engaged in a number of activities in the district as well as his wife was employed outside. Whenever he would be in the village he would visit the farm, enquire about the progress with all fervour and zeal and issue

instructions giving this farm the highest priority in his activities. He would even work on the farm as a casual labourer only when he could devote a full day.

His brother would be found to be busy almost throughout the day in employing labourers, assigning jobs to them, assigning jobs to the servants employed on annual basis which numbered 13 in the first year and attending to the engines and pumps and doing the minor repairs. He was paid Rs. 45 a month for this service. In spite of this valuable service he had become somewhat unpopular amongst the labourers because of his dictating and shouting habits. The Chairman's friend and Rajaram worked on the farm regularly and were paid at Re. 1 annas 4 per day. Ramnath and Supadu were being employed casually. Though Supadu was offering himself for employment very often, he was employed only when there was work of the supervisory type, as he had some defect in his leg. Rajaram's brother was a lazy person and a drunkard. Though he was being employed on the farm, there would always be quarrels between him and the Chairman's brother because of his laziness. He always expected that he had the privilege of working like an owner because he was after all a member. These working members earned only Rs. 982 in the first year which worked out to only 12 percent of the total wage payment.

The Managing Committee in the beginning was formed of seven members including the Chairman. The sympathizer's nephew who was a dummy member was elected as the Vice-Chairman. The other five members of the Committee were, the Chairman's brother, his friend, Rajaram, Supadu and Ramnath. The Vice-Chairman, however, attended only 13 of the 30 meetings in the year as he had been out of the village to get himself trained as a

tractor driver for his big family farm. Supadu attended only 20 meetings whereas the others attended mostly all. The resolutions of the Managing Committee pertained mainly to getting the loans from the different agencies, sanctioning loans to the members and such other matters of general importance which the Chairman thought. The Committee never passed any resolutions about the functioning of the farm which was decided mainly by the working members.

Loans were taken only by two members, Rajaram and his brother and each borrowed Rs. 500. His brother returned the amount whereas Rajaram could not do so even at the end of the year. Their mother also wanted a loan of Rs. 2,000. But this was not possible according to the bye-laws which permitted loans upto a maximum amount of Rs. 500. She, therefore, agreed to sell the plot to the Society and took an advance of Rs. 2000 against the sale which was to be executed later.

The society had collected Rs. 1220 as the share capital. A few months after the registration the Government contributed Rs. 4000 to the share capital. A land development subsidy of Rs. 1700 was also granted and it was utilized for levelling and bunding the fields and deepening and repairing the wells to increase the irrigation potential. The plots on which this expenditure was incurred were contributed by the Chairman, his brother, and his friend, and, Rajaram and his brother. Two acres of waste land contributed by Sheshnath was, however, ploughed and brought under cultivation. The managerial subsidy of Rs. 1200 for the year was also obtained and it was meant for the pay of the Manager. The District Central Bank sanctioned a medium term loan of Rs. 10,000. It was used for the purchase of 8 bullocks and 3 oil engines. The Chairman had already

contributed his own oil engine and pump. The society could, thus, commence farming with 4 oil engines and pumps in the first year.

The bank also sanctioned a crop loan of Rs.18,000 in the first year which worked out to financing the society at the rate of Rs. 106 per acre. This loan was quite adequate for the farm.

All improved practices as the use of improved seeds, use of manures and fertilizers were adopted on the farm. The Chairman, himself was a progressive cultivator. His methods could, therefore, be adopted on the entire farm. The cost over manures and fertilizers, however, came to Rs. 2271 or Rs. 14 per acre only as they were used in small quantities. Crop protection measures were intensively undertaken, using pesticides worth Rs. 1004 for the purpose. It is not possible to compare many of the aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the society as some of the members were absentee cultivators whereas some had contributed only parts of their holdings. Those who had contributed their entire holdings had, however, used manures and fertilizers at the rate of Rs. 16 per acre. The total wage payments of the society came to Rs. 8151 or Rs. 48 per acre.

Because of the flow of finance and purchasing the oil engines, the society could grow irrigated crops on 32 acres or nearly 19 percent of the area. Formerly the members used to irrigate only 10 acres depending upon the crop and the manure of rainfall. The crops grown were Jowar, Bajri, Cotton, Chilly, Rice, Wheat and Groundnut out of which Chilly, Rice, Wheat and partly Cotton were the irrigated crops. Combodia cotton was the main irrigated crop and it occupied 18 of the 32 acres under irrigation. The season was favourable. The gross value of the production was

Rs. 34901 or nearly Rs. 206 per acre. The gross value of production per acre was Rs. 171 only in the previous year in case of those members who had pooled their entire holdings. The society could make a profit of Rs. 6282 even after declaring a property income at the rate of 9 percent on the valuation of the members' lands. The bye-laws, however, did not permit declaring a property income at a rate higher than the rate of 6 percent. The auditor brought this to the notice of the society and asked the society to recover the excess of 3 percent from the members. The society, however, intended to distribute the additional 3 percent as bonus but there was some confusion in understanding the bye-laws. No other bonus was distributed through the profit as the members were pleased with the 9 percent property income as well as they agreed to reserve the amount of profit to compensate for any losses in the future.

#### Changes in Membership after the first year

The profit was declared at the end of June. In the meanwhile, the Chairman's friend had quarrelled with the sympathizer member on the ground that the latter unnecessarily interfered with the functioning of the society without contributing even an acre of land. He held that only those who had devoted their entire holdings or those who were the working members or members of the managing committee should interfere with the functioning of the society. He did not like the dominance of the sympathizer member and he, therefore, resigned his membership in April after the first year. The sympathizer's nephew who was enrolled as a dummy member also resigned in May as originally he was expected to do so after the first year. The quarrel also affected him and he took the decision earlier. He took away 4 acres of his land. The resignation of the Chairman's

friend was, however, a great loss to the society as the society lost a good working member as well as 23 acres of land.

Because of the high rate of property income and profits, three new members joined the society by the end of June. Out of them, Ravan was already employed as a farm servant in the society and had leased out 8 acres of his holding. He joined with an expectation of better returns from the society as well as he hoped that the land would be improved because of the land development measures and lavish use of manures. The other two persons Lotan and Budha joined because of the advice given by Supadu. Lotan was formerly cultivating his 6 acres of inferior land but had to sell his pair of bullocks to repair his house. He had leased out his land to his brother and was serving as a casual labourer in the previous year. He got employed in the society as a farm servant and contributed his 6 acres of land. Budha was also leasing out his 4 acres of land and serving as a casual labourer. He was, however, known to be a lazy worker and was, therefore, refused employment in the society as a farm servant but admitted as a member on the understanding that he would work well as a casual labourer on the society's farm. The membership of the society, thus, increased to 15 even though the two members left the society.

#### Characteristics of the Second Year

The society's farm was reduced only/ <sup>by</sup> 15 acres because of the change. The number of blocks, however, increased by three adding small pieces of land. In the functioning and decision making, there were no major changes except that an active working member had left and instead two employee-members and one lazy worker had joined. There was an increase in the number of

working members by two. The share of the wages earned by the working members in the total wage payment of the society rose from 12 to 23 percent because of the admission of two farm servants as members. The total number of farm servants remained the same i.e. 13 as in the previous year.

Both the members who left, were on the Managing Committee. Their seats were filled in by the old members, Somaji and Sheshnath. Ramnath was made the Vice-Chairman. Rajram could not repay his loan even in the second year upto May. Being a defaulter, he could not continue on the Managing Committee according to the bye-laws. He was, therefore, replaced by the farm servant Lotan who, however, never attended the subsequent meetings.

The Bank sanctioned a crop loan of Rs. 20,000 in the second year which worked out to financing at the rate of Rs. 129 per acre. The Government also sanctioned a Land Development Loan of Rs. 4,000. It was utilized for repairing the well and improving irrigation facilities in the plot contributed by the Chairman's brother and for sinking a new well, levelling the field, improving the soil tilth by adding sand etc. in the plot in the name of Rajaram's mother, which was to be purchased by the society. The Government also sanctioned the managerial subsidy of Rs. 400. The society borrowed Rs. 2000 from the Bank as a medium term loan for the purchase of 10 Khilar cows with a view to producing farm-breed bullocks for the farm as well as for the market. This decision was taken after another Cooperative Farming Society in the district had decided to purchase such cows.

Rajaram's brother again borrowed Rs. 500 from the society this year. Rajaram had already become a defaulter. The sale-deed for the sale of his mother's plot,



was pending execution for want of the Collector's permission as such permission was necessary for dividing the plot formed after the consolidation measures undertaken by the State.

The irrigated area in the year decreased only by 3 acres. There were no changes in the crop plans except that a part of the area under groundnut was replaced by cotton and a part of the area under jowar by bajri, whereas rice was not grown at all. The use of improved methods was intensified. The expenditure over manures and fertilizers went up from Rs. 2271 to Rs. 9084 which worked out to Rs. 60 per acre. The society purchased compost in bulk in an auction in a town. Fertilizers were also purchased on a large scale. Manures and fertilizers were, however, used only on the plots contributed by the Chairman and his brother, Rajaram and his brother and mother, Somaji and one of the absentee cultivators, as the soils in these plots were superior, there were facilities for irrigation, as well as they were expected to be the more stable members in the society. The cost over wages paid by the society increased from Rs. 48 to Rs. 53 per acre when compared for the two years. The season was, however, not very favourable. The value of gross production was Rs. 29285 or Rs. 190 per acre as against Rs. 206 in the previous year. There was only a net profit of Rs. 1089. A property income at the rate of 6 percent was declared but it was not possible to distribute the income for want of finance. No bonus, could also be declared in the second year.

#### Re-changes in the Membership

Budha was made to leave the society by the other members as he continued to use his tactics of doing little work. He would always pretend to be ill, work for a few hours and demand the wage for a full day.

He expected that he should be treated more honourably than the other casual workers as he was the member. For the sake of his own laziness, he was instigating the other workers to do little work. This would have also served as an incentive to the other members to refrain from their work. The Chairman's brother, therefore, asked him to resign and his resignation was accepted by the Managing Committee.

Somaji was not pleased with the present economic position of the society. He had contributed his bullocks and implements valued at Rs. 1500. This amount was, however, not yet returned by the society but deposited in his name. He became suspicious about the future of the society and demanded the amount on one pretext or the other. The other members of the society had also made such contributions. It was not possible for the society to return these deposits immediately to all. His demand was, therefore, refused whereupon he submitted his resignation to recover the amount. His family members were also not in favour of his continuing in the society. He was searching a bride for his only son but his wife always felt that her son would not get a girl from a high ranking family as the land was not in their possession but rented out in one form or the other.

Rajaram's brother also resigned this year because of the decrease in the rate of profit and the virtual sale of 5 acres of the land in the name of his mother. Being an idle worker and a drunkard, he used to work on the farm rarely. The income from his wages and the property income was not sufficient for the maintenance of his family. He, therefore, took to personal cultivation as in the past.

### The Third Year of the Society

Only 116 acres of land now remained with the society.

Rajaram again became a member of the Managing Committee after repayment of his loan. Lotan, the farm servant, vacated the seat for him. Ramnath accepted a job in the Milk Union. Rajaram, was, therefore, made the Vice-Chairman.

There was reduction in the number of working members by three as Budha and Rajaram's brother had left and Ramnath was employed outside. The proportion of wages earned by the members to the total wage payment of the society, however, increased to 28 percent as the former two members were not good workers as well as there was an increase in the wage payments to the two member farm servants. The wage rates for the farm servants in the village itself had increased by about 10 percent in the last two years.

The Bank sanctioned a crop loan of Rs. 17,000 or Rs. 146 per acre which was quite adequate. The Godown and Cattleshed loan of Rs. 3750 and a subsidy of Rs.1250, was sanctioned by the Government late in the year in June. A part of this was utilised for repairing the existing godown which was taken on rent from Rajaram on a monthly rent of Rs. 15.

The society decided to maintain a dairy unit and borrowed Rs. 3000 from the Milk Union to purchase buffaloes in January. This decision was taken with a view to start some subsidiary industries to stabilize its income in view of recurrent crop failures to which the area was subject. Again Rs. 050 were borrowed from the Milk Union for the same purpose. Nine buffaloes of the Jhafarabadi breed were purchased at a total cost of Rs. 6000 in the year. The dairy unit proved very profitable and made a profit of Rs. 3400 in a period of six months.

The irrigated area on the farm decreased only by two acres. Jowar was not grown in this year as well as area under bajri was considerably reduced and replaced by unirrigated cotton. A part of the area under irrigated cotton and wheat was replaced by chilly. The Chairman, however, repented for reduction in the area under jowar and bajri as there was shortage of fodder. But the decision to start the dairy unit was taken very late in the year and the crop plans were formulated much earlier.

The following figures give a comparative idea of the cropping pattern on the society's farm and in the village in the third year.

|              | Cropping pattern<br>of the society.            | Cropping pattern<br>in the village. |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
|              | (Figures as percents to total<br>cropped area) |                                     |
| Kharif Jowar | -  | 15                                  |
| Bajri        | 14   | 26                                  |
| Cotton       | 40   | 12                                  |
| Groundnut    | 35   | 36                                  |
| Chilly       | 9  | 5                                   |

The society had devoted a much larger proportion of the area to cotton and chilly, the two important cash crops, when compared to the village. Though no area was devoted to jowar, the proportion devoted to bajri was also much less. The proportions of areas devoted to groundnut were nearly the same in both cases. It is clear that the society was inclined to devote more area to the cash crops. In spite of the shortage of fodder, however, this inclination may not change much in the future as the Chairman wished to devote more area to the other fodder crops than to jowar or bajri as a food crop. Another change in the

cropping pattern of the society was that no mixed crops were grown on the society's farm whereas the villagers followed their traditional methods of mixing the main crops with different pulses, ambadi and sesamum.

The society adopted all improved practices as usual and spent Rs. 5122 or Rs. 45 per acre on manures and fertilizers. They were used on irrigated and superior soils as usual. Cost of insect and pest control measures came to nearly Rs. 1000. The cost over wages, however, increased from Rs. 53 per acre in the second year to Rs. 66 in the third because of the additional activities as maintaining the cows, buffaloes etc. The value of gross production came to Rs. 256 per acre as against Rs. 190 in the previous year. The society, however, incurred a loss of Rs. 3905. This loss was, due to investments in the dairy unit, rise in the costs over wages and also due to distributing the property income for the last year in spite of a small marginal profit.

#### Present Position and Attitudes of the Members

Lotan had joined the society with an expectation that the society would improve his land through land development measures and use of manures. He, however, found that such measures were being undertaken only on the lands contributed by the Chairman, his brother, Rajaram and one absentee cultivator and on the piece of land purchased by the society. His mother also was not satisfied with the amount of returns received for his land. He received a property income of Rs. 180 from the society at the rate of 6 percent. He expected that it would be possible for him to get larger amounts from his lessee. His lands were, however, inferior. When this issue was discussed with him in the presence of others, all agreed that it would not be possible for him to get anything more than Rs. 180 for such a small

piece of land consisting of inferior soils. He was however, not agreeable to the views of the others. He expected that he can get more at least when the season was highly favourable. His society had given him only Rs. 180 every year even though the season was favourable during the last year. He, therefore, resigned his membership at the end of the third year.

There remained only 11 members for the fourth year. The price of the plot belonging to Rajaram's mother, being not paid even in the third year, her membership was continued. In fact there remained only 10 members, out of whom two were emigrants, three had contributed only parts of their holdings and had no other interest in the society than getting a 6 percent property income for their inferior lands, one was a sympathizer, the other was a farm servant of the society and the Chairman, his brother and Rajaram were the only active members.

Supadu and Ravan were also not pleased with the functioning of the society. They held that they were not getting enough returns for their land. They could not get even the home-grown dals, beans and vegetables as they were getting formerly. So also the society had not manured their plots though heaps of manure were spread in the plots of the other members. The Chairman, however, expressed his opinion that initially all land development measures as sinking wells, levelling, use of manures etc. have to be undertaken only on those plots which would add to the production immediately and they have to be adopted on the other plots gradually as the financial condition of the society improves. If Supadu pooled his superior soils which he had reserved for individual cultivation, the Chairman was prepared to adopt such measures on that plot. These two members anyhow wished to continue in the society till the end

of the contract of five years to avoid the breach of contract on their part. The Chairman's brother though worked with all enthusiasm, also mentioned in a low tone that he was suffering heavy losses every year because of contributing his irrigated holding to the society. He, however, expressed faith in cooperation and its ultimate success and hoped that the conditions would improve gradually.

The Chairman and Rajaram were the only members who seemed to be satisfied. The society had enabled Rajaram to reduce the burden of his debt. Had he not become the member, his financial conditions would have compelled him to sell a part of his land and this would have greatly reduced his status in the village. Besides, in these days as lands are scarcely placed in the market, it would have been difficult for him to repurchase land if he was to sell a part for the time being.

The Chairman had shifted his household in the second year to a nearby town wherefrom he could manage his political activities conveniently. He, however, visited the village very often in a week and as before gave this farm the highest priority in his activities. He hoped that as the economic condition of the society improved, it would be possible to declare bonuses and this would attract more members. The crops were in an excellent condition in the fourth year. The crops on the inferior lands of the society compared well even with the crops on superior lands of some of the individual farmers. The dairy unit had also proved to be profitable. The society had lately purchased two more buffaloes of the Jhafarabad breed and nine buffaloes of the Delhi breed. The Chairman therefore, hoped that the society would earn a large profit in the fourth year not only enough to compensate for the loss in the earlier year but also to declare an attractive bonus.

In case of larger profits it would be, however, difficult to say whether the present members would agree to increase the membership of land holders as the profits from the dairy unit and the earlier land development measures would get distributed over the new members. The other land-holders might be even compelled to organize another society as had happened in the other villages in the district.

The conditions in the village Samatanagar, however, differed from the conditions in many other villages in Dhulia district. There were quite strong cooperative organizations in Samatanagar, which rendered assistance to the farmers in many respects. The Cooperative Multipurpose Society for example, gave adequate loans as well distributed fertilizers and insecticides at proper times. The Secretary of the society distributed these requisites even at times on personal credit if a farmer had exhausted his loan from the society and had no money. The Cooperative Dairy Society also encouraged the farmers to keep buffaloes, gave loans for the purpose and arranged for the marketing of milk. Many of the small farmers could easily take to dairying on this account. There were also the Cattle Breeder's Society and the Crop Protection Society which rendered help to the farmers. The other farmers therefore, could not feel the need for organising a joint cooperative farming society so acutely as was felt by the farmers in many other villages. It was said that the present cooperative farming society might not get any more members on this account unless it did some exceptional progress in attaining the welfare of the present members.

There were no proposals with the society for any new membership. The Chairman, however, wished to admit one of the landless farm servants, who was an honest worker, as a member in the society and if possible admit more landless members. He was, determined to continue the existence of the society which was after all, an issue of prestige in his political life.



APPENDIX I

Table showing the lands pooled and not pooled by the members and their contributions in the form of share capital and other assets

| Names of the members in the households | Land owned<br>A.G. | Land pooled        |                       |               | Land not pooled    |                       |               | Value of land pooled<br>Rs. | Contributions in the form of |                     | Remarks   |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---|
|  |                    | Irri-gated<br>A.G. | Un-irri-gated<br>A.G. | Total<br>A.G. | Irri-gated<br>A.G. | Un-irri-gated<br>A.G. | Total<br>A.G. |                             | Share capital<br>Rs.         | Other assets<br>Rs. |   |
| 1. Chairman and his brother            | 34-10              | 4- 5               | 30- 5                 | 34-10         | -                  | -                     | -             | 21,500                      | 300                          | 3,437               | -   |
| 2. Chairman's friend                   | 23- 7              | 4-00               | 19- 7                 | 23- 7         | -                  | -                     | -             | 12,000                      | 100                          | -                   | Left after the first year   |
| 3. Sympathizer and his nephew          | About 400 acres    | -                  | 5-24                  | 5-24          | About 400 acres    |                       |               | 4,400                       | 220                          | -                   | Nephew left after the first year.   |
| 4. Rajaram                             | 29-32              | 2- 0               | 27-32                 | 29-32         | -                  | -                     | -             | 18,000                      | 100                          | 71                  | -   |
| 5. Rajaram's brother and mother        | 13-28              | -                  | 13-28                 | 13-28         | -                  | -                     | -             | 11,000                      | 100                          | -                   | Brother left after the second year, mother sold the plot in the first year. |
| 6. Somaji                              | 29-22              | -                  | 29-22                 | 29-22         | -                  | -                     | -             | 16,500                      | 150                          | -                   | Left after the second year.   |
| 7. Supadu                              | 19- 3              | -                  | 7- 6                  | 7- 6          | 4- 0               | 7-37                  | 11-37         | 2,500                       | 50                           | -                   | -   |
| 8. Supadu's brother-in-law             | 4-16               | -                  | 4-16                  | 4-16          | -                  | -                     | -             | 2,250                       | 50                           | -                   | Absentee cultivator.  |
| 9. Sheshnath                           | 9-26               | -                  | 6-16                  | 6-16          | 3-10               | -                     | 3-10          | 2,250                       | 10                           | -                   | -   |
| 10. Ramnath                            | 14-10              | -                  | 6-16                  | 6-16          | 2- 0               | 5-34                  | 7-34          | 2,250                       | 20                           | -                   | Employed nearby.  |
| 11. An employee from Bombay            | 8-36               | -                  | 8-36                  | 8-36          | -                  | -                     | -             | 5,600                       | 150                          | -                   | Absentee cultivator.  |
| 12. Budha                              | 4-00               | -                  | 4-00                  | 4-00          | -                  | -                     | -             | 2,500                       | 20                           | -                   | Joined after the first year and left after the second year.                 |
| 13. Ravan                              | 3-37               | -                  | 3-37                  | 3-37          | -                  | -                     | -             | 2,000                       | 20                           | -                   | -   |
| 14. Lotan                              | 6- 6               | -                  | 6- 6                  | 6- 6          | -                  | -                     | -             | 3,000                       | 20                           | -                   | Joined after the first year and left after the third year.                  |

\* Contributions returned after their resignations.

A.G. = Acres and Gunthas.

APPENDIX II

Table showing the proportions under the different crops before and after the organization of the society

| Name of the crop         | Prior to the organization* | In the first year after the organization | In the second year after the organization | In the third year after the organization |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|--|
| <u>Irrigated Crops</u>   |                            |  |   |  |
| Combodia Cotton          | 1.6                        | 10.3                                     | 11.7                                      | 12.1                                     |
| Chilly                   | 3.7                        | 2.8                                      | 3.1                                       | 8.2                                      |
| Rice                     | -                          | 1.2                                      | -   | -  |
| Wheat                    | 2.9                        | 3.5                                      | 3.6                                       | 3.3                                      |
| <u>Unirrigated Crops</u> |                            |  |   |  |
| Groundnut                | 20.5                       | 41.2                                     | 32.6                                      | 34.4                                     |
| Cotton                   | 12.3                       | 10.6                                     | 20.1                                      | 28.0                                     |
| Jowar                    | 29.2                       | 6.0                                      | 3.3                                       | -  |
| Bajri                    | 29.8                       | 20.2                                     | 25.6                                      | 14.0                                     |
| Kulith                   | -                          | 4.2                                      | -   | -  |
| Total                    | 100.0                      | 100.0                                    | 100.0                                     | 100.0                                    |

\* Proportions only on 116 acres of land, pooled by four members staying in the village and pooling their entire holdings.

APPENDIX III

Table showing some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the society

| Item   | Prior to the organization | In the first year after the organization | In the second year after the organization | In the third year after the organization |
|--|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1. Number of members   | -                         | 14                                       | 15  | 12                                       |
| 2. Land pooled (acres)   | -                         | 169                                      | 154                                       | 116                                      |
| 3. Area irrigated (acres)  | 10                        | 32                                       | 29  | 27                                       |
| 4. Number of oil engines   | 1                         | 4  | 4   | 4  |
| 5. Total cost of manures and fertilizers used (Rs.)                                      | 1,887 *                   | 2,271                                    | 9,084                                     | 5,122                                    |
| 6. Cost of manures and fertilizers per acre (Rs.)  | 16                        | 14                                       | 60  | 45                                       |
| 7. Number of members working on the farm   | 8                         | 7  | 9   | 6  |
| 8. Number of farm servants employed  | 9                         | 13                                       | 13  | 9  |
| 9. Total wage payments (Rs.)   | 5,250 +                   | 8,151                                    | 8,150                                     | 7,705                                    |
| 10. Wage payments per acre (Rs.)   | 45 +                      | 48                                       | 53  | 66                                       |
| 11. Wages earned by the members (Rs.)  | -                         | 982                                      | 1,897                                     | 2,161                                    |
| 12. Wages earned by the non-members (Rs.)  | -                         | 7,169                                    | 6,253                                     | 5,544                                    |
| 13. Per cent of wages earned by the members (per cent)                                   | -                         | 12                                       | 23  | 28                                       |
| 14. Crop finance from the bank (Rs.)   | Not available             | 18,000                                   | 20,000                                    | 17,000                                   |
| 15. Crop finance per acre (Rs.)  | -                         | 106                                      | 129                                       | 146                                      |
| 16. Per cent of area under the unirrigated food crops to the unirrigated area (per cent) | 63 *                      | 39                                       | 36  | 18                                       |
| 17. Gross cropped area (acres)   | 122 *                     | 175                                      | 161                                       | 116                                      |
| 18. Per cent of gross cropped area to the net cultivated area (per cent)                 | 106 *                     | 104                                      | 104                                       | 100                                      |
| 19. Gross area under food crops (acres)  | 75 *                      | 62                                       | 52  | 20                                       |
| 20. Per cent of gross area under food crops to the gross cropped area (per cent)         | 61 *                      | 35                                       | 32  | 17                                       |
| 21. Gross area under the cash crops (acres)  | 47 *                      | 113                                      | 109                                       | 96                                       |
| 22. Per cent of gross area under cash crops to the gross cropped area (per cent)         | 39 *                      | 65                                       | 68  | 63                                       |
| 23. Gross value of crop production (Rs.)   | 20,983 *                  | 34,901                                   | 29,285                                    | 29,741                                   |
| 24. Gross value of crop production per acre (Rs.)  | 171 *                     | 206                                      | 190                                       | 256                                      |
| 25. Profit or Loss   | -                         | Profit<br>Rs. 6,282                      | Profit<br>Rs. 1,089                       | Loss<br>Rs. 6,202                        |

\* Figures only for 116 acres of land pooled by 4 members staying in the village and pooling their entire holdings.

+ Excluding wages for self employment.

## 2. THE VIJAYGOPAL COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

VIJAYGOPAL  
(District - Dhulia)

### Synopsis

- The Village
- Organization and registration
- Characteristics of membership
- Functioning in the first year
- Functioning in the second year
- Characteristics of the third year
- Present position and attitudes of the members
  
- Appendix I : The irrigated and unirrigated lands pooled by the members and their contributions in the form of Share Capital including bullocks and implements.
- Appendix II : The proportions of areas under different crops before and after the organization of the Society.
- Appendix III: Some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the Society.

THE VIJAYGOPAL COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

VIJAYGOPAL \*

(District - Dhulia)

The Village

Vijaygopal is a fairly small village about 15 miles from a town. It is about a mile away from a main road connecting two towns. There is, however, an approach road which passes through another village lying between Vijaygopal and the main road.

The village has a population of 602 persons. About two-third of the population is literate. There is a Gram-Panchayat, a Multipurpose Cooperative Society, a Primary School, a Khadi centre as well as there are two cooperative farming societies in such a small village consisting of about 130 families.

There is good leadership in the village and a number of persons take part in the organization of institutions for the village welfare. Shramdan had been a common activity in this village. The approach road of about half a mile, the school building, a drinking water well, the village gate and a 'Ram' temple were constructed mainly through Shramdan. Thirteen persons from the village had even offered Satyagrah and were imprisoned in the 1942 Freedom Movement, for varying periods. The Chairman of the Vijaygopal Cooperative Farming Society is the principal leader in this village. His leadership was praised even in some of the meetings held at the district level.

Organization and Registration

One of the teachers of the District School Board who belonged to this village played the main role in

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\* Fictitious names have been used for the society, the village as well as the members.

the organization of this society. Both the teacher and the leader were cousins. The teacher was well known for his art of teaching as well as social activities and was, therefore, always transferred to a village where a newly elected Chairman of the School Board stayed. He could study a cooperative collective farming society in one of such villages. The society had, however, not pooled the land but the lands were distributed among the members and cultivated individually. He wished to reorganize the society. He had already the experience of running cooperative institutions. He had run an unregistered cooperative consumers store successfully when he was in another village. The leaders from this village, however, did not permit him to look into the affairs of the society as he was after all a servant of the District School Board.

He read one article on cooperative farming in a quarterly, the 'Sahakari Jagat' contributed by one of the members of the field staff of the Dhulia Central Cooperative Bank in 1959. He appreciated the views expressed in the article and thought that he could also organize a cooperative farming society in his village where his brothers and cousins had been reduced to poverty stricken small farmers because of the excessive sub-division and fragmentation of the holdings. He, therefore, requested the Chairman of the District School Board to transfer him to his village to enable him to put his ideas into practice.

When he was transferred to his village, he read the article in the presence of the village leaders and the other farmers and explained to them the benefits from cooperative farming. He, however, held the view that the members from only a very limited number of families should organize themselves into a cooperative

farming society since attempts could be made to maintain cohesion among them at least because of their relationship. He went to the village Samatanagar and one more village along with the leader to see the societies organized in those villages. After their return, they decided to start a society in their village also with the help of their brothers, cousins and other relatives. The teachers eldest brother and one member of their friend's circle were the other two leading persons who shared the responsibility of convincing the people. They could enrol 15 members for the society at the time of registration. The society was, however, registered at an odd time of the agricultural year in the month of September.

#### Characteristics of Membership

The leader pooled 16 acres of his land having facilities for irrigating two acres. The leader's sister who was a widow, also joined with 5 acres of land having an irrigated component of one acre. The teacher owned 10 acres of land in the village with 3 acres under irrigation. He also pooled his holding into the society. Three of his brothers each staying separately in the village also joined the society. The eldest brother joined with his elder son and pooled 8 acres with a facility for irrigating one acre. The other two brothers pooled 10 and 8 acres respectively but there were no wells in their plots for growing the irrigated crops. There was another person in the village, who was a friend and a distant relative of the leader. He may be called as Dhudku's father. He had played a major role in the organization of the society. He joined the society with his wife and two sons who may be called as Dhudku's mother and Dhudku's brothers No. 1 and No. 4

respectively. They were staying together but the lands were in the names of these different persons. They pooled their 15 acres of land with irrigation facilities for 4 acres. Dhudku who was staying in a separate household pooled 8 acres with an irrigated holding of one acre. Each of Dhudku's remaining two brothers Nos. 2 and 3, staying separately, pooled 7 acres of land with irrigated components of 2 and 3 acres respectively. Another person namely Kalidas joined this group of two families and pooled 14 acres of unirrigated land.

These 15 members came from 11 households belonging to three families mainly. The largest holding contributed was that of the leader which was only 16 acres. Kalidas, Dhudku's father and the teacher had contributed between 10 and 15 acres whereas the contributions from the remaining households varied between 5 and 10 acres. The society was thus, essentially an organization of the small farmers.

The leader, the teacher and the teacher's eldest brother were the only well-to-do persons in the village. The leader owned a fertile holding with limited size of his family. The teacher and his elder brother were employed in the village itself. The teacher's brother was an employee of the Khadi Gramodyog Kendra in the village and drew a salary of Rs. 75 per month. The teacher was drawing a salary of Rs. 150 per month.

Only five of the households viz. those of the leader, the teacher, the teacher's eldest brother, Kalidas and Dhudku's father possessed a pair of bullocks. Others had leased out their lands on different terms.

Out of the 15 members two were women, the teacher and his elder brother were salaried and the son of the teacher's eldest brother was an educand in the agricultural high school. The teacher's younger brother,



Dhudku and Dhudku's brother No. 2 had leased out their lands and were serving as casual labourers. Dhudku's brother No. 3 was employed as a farm servant. It is only the six members viz. the leader, the teacher's eldest brother, Kalidas and three members from the household of Dhudku's father, who were working on their farms. The leader and the teacher had employed farm servants on their farms.

Out of the 11 households only three households viz. those of the teacher's elder brother, the leader's sister and Dhudku's brother No. 3 were debt-free. The leader was heavily indebted. He had borrowed Rs. 900 as the crop loan and Rs. 1750 from a relative. The teacher had borrowed Rs. 1600 from the Employees' Co-operative Bank for the construction of a new house at the time of his transfer to Vijaygopal. The teacher's eldest and the younger brothers and Dhudku's father had to repay their crop loans varying from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1000. So also the teacher's eldest brother and Kalidas had to repay taccavi loans amounting to Rs. 1000 in each case. Dhudku and his brother No. 2 had to repay loans amounting to Rs. 600 and Rs. 300 respectively to their relatives. These eight indebted households of small farmers had to repay a total amount of Rs. 9150 at the time of the organization of the society.

In spite of these differences in their characteristics, there was not much difference in their housing conditions as they inherited the houses from their forefathers. The teacher had, however, constructed a good house of the modern village style. All others except the leader's sister, stayed in their own houses having two to four rooms. The leader's sister was the only person in her family and she stayed in a single room provided by the leader.

### Functioning in the First Year

The society being registered at an odd time of the agricultural season, the kharif crops sown by the members were standing in the fields. It was not, therefore, possible to start functioning of the society immediately. The society decided to sow only the rabi crops on the irrigated land and recover those costs of production incurred over crops standing in the field even in the rabi season from the members and permit them to harvest those crops on their account.

Before the society could try to settle its functioning it received a great shock because of the death of one of the principal organizers. Dhudku's father died only after a month after the registration. It took some days for the society to restore its functioning after his death.

The leader became the Chairman of the society whereas the teacher's eldest brother was appointed as the Manager on a salary of Rs. 100 per month. He had some experience in the working of a cooperative as he was for some time the vice-chairman of the Multipurpose Cooperative Society in the village. The Managing Committee consisted of seven members including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Kalidas was made the Vice-Chairman. The other members of this committee were namely, the teacher, the teacher's elder brother, Dhudku, and Dhudku's brother Nos. 1 and 2. The Managing Committee met for 17 times during the six month period of the year.

The land pooled by the members came to 110 acres and it was spread in seven blocks. Ten bullocks were contributed by five households as only these five households possessed bullocks. Previously these bullocks were used for cultivating an area of 05 acres. Now they

were adequate for the entire farm. Implements were possessed by six households and they contributed all their implements. The total contribution in the form of cash, bullocks and implements to the share capital of the society came to Rs. 5760. The Government contributed a share capital of Rs. 4000 and sanctioned a managerial subsidy of Rs. 560.

The Bank gave a crop loan of Rs. 10,000 which worked out to financing the society at Rs. 91 per acre. This loan was, however, meant for growing the rabi crops as well as meeting the expenses over the preparatory tillage for the next year. The Bank also sanctioned a medium term loan of Rs. 10,000 for the purchase of three oil engines. Only one engine was purchased during this year for Rs. 2600. The balance of the loan remained unutilised.

Only 8 of the members were available for work on the farm as two of the members were women, two were salaried, one was the Manager, and one was an educand. There remained only 14 members in the society after the death of Dhudku's father. All these eight members including the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman were provided with work whenever work was available on the farm. It was not possible to provide full employment to the members as the society had sown crops only on 14 acres of the irrigated land. Thirteen acres were devoted to wheat and one acre to onion. The members themselves were occupied with their normal activities of working on their farm for the kharif crops they had grown or working as casual labourers outside when there was no work on the society's farm. The total wage payment of the society during this year was only Rs. 989 out of which nearly 80 percent was earned by the members.

With these restricted activities in the farm business, the gross value of the produce over these 14 acres came to Rs. 3657 or Rs. 261 per acre. The society incurred a marginal loss of Rs.572 during the year.

#### Functioning in the Second Year

The real farm business of the society started from the second year. After the death of Dhudku's father, Dhudku's role in the society became more prominent. He insisted upon becoming the Vice-Chairman of the society as out of three families to which these members belonged, the Chairman represented one family, the Vice-Chairman represented another having only a *fae* fractional membership of the society. He insisted that he should become the Vice-Chairman as a large number of members belonged to his family. Kalidas, therefore, resigned his Vice-Chairmanship to make a seat for Dhudku and he remained solely as a member of the Managing Committee. Except for this change of Vice-Chairmanship, there was no change in the Managing Committee. The Committee met for 38 times during the second year.

The society received yet another shock this year. The teacher's eldest brother who had also played a major role in organizing the society and who was subsequently appointed as a Manager of the society, died in the very beginning of the year. His elder son who was already a member, had completed his course at the Agricultural High School. He was, therefore, appointed as a Manager on the same salary in his father's place.

The membership got reduced to 13 because of the death. The society therefore, enrolled two more members. The younger son of the teacher's eldest brother was enrolled in the place of his father whereas Kalidas's younger brother was enrolled as an additional member in

place of Dhudku's father who died last year. This increase in membership, however, did not change the size of the farm, since there was no land in the names of these new members who stayed with their brothers.

Except the two salarimates, all the other members could get work in the society during this year. The two ladies did casual work even though the amounts earned by them were insignificant. One of the members was already the Manager. The remaining ten members were appointed as farm servants on the annual basis. They were paid salaries varying from Rs. 635 to Rs. 680 according to their ability to do the work. The Chairman received Rs. 680 but he was expected only to clean the cow byres, feed the bullocks, thresh the produce and do general supervision. Being a Chairman, he had often to look into the official matters, go to the towns for official work, attend the meetings, etc. The teacher's youngest cousin was to look after the oil engine as well as do the other farm work. The remaining 8 member farm servants were expected to put in only hard manual labour on the farm. Besides, the ten member farm servants, two more farm servants had to be employed from outside to cope up with the work. One of them was paid Rs. 645 while the other was paid Rs. 625. The rates for member as well as non-member farm servants compared well with the rates prevailing in the village. The casual labourers were also paid at the prevailing local rates. The total wages paid by the society amounted to Rs. 7001 or Rs. 09 per acre. ~~six~~ Sixty-nine percent of these wages were earned by the members.

The Government sanctioned the medium term loan of Rs. 4000. It was used for digging a new well and deepening two of the existing wells. The new well was

dug in the plot contributed by Dhudku, the Vice-Chairman. It, however, served the purpose of irrigating the plots contributed by four other members in addition. The wells contributed by Kalidas and the teacher's elder cousin were deepened. Two more oil engines were purchased through the balance of the medium term loan of Rs.10,000 taken from the Bank in the first year.

The Government also sanctioned the managerial subsidy of Rs. 1200 and the loan of Rs. 5000 for the construction of cattle shed and godown. The construction was, however, postponed for the time being. Instead, the cattlesheds belonging to the Chairman, and Dhudku's brother No. 1 were taken on a rent of Rs. 2 per shed per month for keeping the bullocks. Provision was made for storing the harvested produce and the other requisites in the store houses of different members at a nominal rent of 12 nP. per Khan (area of about 25 sq. feet) per month.

The Bank gave a crop loan of Rs. 15,500 which worked out to financing the society at Rs. 141 per acre. This loan was quite adequate to meet the costs of production and adopt methods of intensive cultivation.

The members being indebted, they needed loans from the society to repay their loans. Nine of the members were given loans varying from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500 for the purpose. The total amount borrowed by these members came to Rs. 3350. The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the teacher's elder cousin and Supadu's brothers Nos. 2 and 3 borrowed Rs.500. Others borrowed from Rs.100 to Rs.300.

Because of digging a new well, deepening two wells and purchasing the additional two engines, it was possible to increase the irrigated area from 13 acres in the first year to 21 acres in the second year. Besides growing wheat and onion as in the first year, crops like

Combodia cotton and chilly which required more intensive cultivation, were also grown on the irrigated holding. The unirrigated crops were jowar, bajri, cotton, groundnut and a type of rabi jowar which yielded mainly fodder.

Improved seeds were used in case of all the crops except bajri. Farm yard manure was used in large quantities over the farm. The cost over farm yard manure came to Rs. 5968 or Rs. 54 per acre. In the year prior to the organization, the members had used farm yard manure at the rate of Rs. 13 per acre only. Some of the members owned goats. It was decided by a resolution of the Managing Committee that the members should be paid Rs. 5 per goat and all the goatfold should be thrown in the manure pit of the society.

There was an interesting practice which was being developed by the teacher's elder brother who was a worker of the Khadi Gramodyog Kendra. He had requested the villagers to construct enclosures in the backyards of their houses which could be used as the latrines. He used to move from house to house and collect the night soil daily in the morning with the help of a small shovel, mix it with earth, put it in a tin and throw it in a pit in the Gaathan. He had trained a number of young persons in the roundabout villages in this method. He used to auction these pits and earn from Rs. 200 to Rs. 350 per year. The society purchased a part of this manure during the year and found it to be satisfactory.

Fertilizers were used only for Combodia cotton and chilly which occupied 8 acres. The total cost over fertilizers came to Rs. 1022 as against only Rs. 204 when the land was cultivated individually. The cost over insecticides was Rs. 378.

The gross value of the produce came to Rs.29098 or Rs. 264 per acre. In the year prior to the organization of the society, the members had harvested the produce worth Rs. 178 per acre only. Despite the high rate of production per acre, the costs over production especially over wages and farm yard manure were also high. The society suffered a marginal loss of Rs. 1990 after declaring a property income at 6 percent on the values of the lands contributed by the members. The total amount of the property income distributed among the members came to Rs. 5303.

#### Characteristics of the Third Year

There was no change either in the Managing Committee or in the pattern of employment. All the 12 members working on the farm during the last year, worked on the farm this year as well. The teacher's elder cousin who was the Manager during the last year, was appointed as an Agricultural Assistant, in the district. He, therefore, resigned his post of the Manager in the society. The Chairman's son-in-law who belonged to another village was, therefore, requested to come to this village and accept the job of the Manager. He, however, worked for a few months and left the service as he was selected for a diploma course outside. A person from another village was, therefore, appointed in his place by the end of the year.

The society received a managerial subsidy of Rs.1200 again this year. It being a non-pilot society, it could get a managerial subsidy of Rs. 1200 every year for the first three years. The Samatanagar society, however, could get only Rs. 1200 during a period of three years as it was transferred to the Pilot Project.

Besides the loan of Rs. 5000 for the construction of cattleshed-cum-godown from the Government, the society



obtained a loan of Rs. 5300 for the same purpose from the Bank. The construction of godown was completed during the year. The total cost came to Rs. 6500 only as against the loan of Rs. 10,300 obtained for the purpose from two sources. This balance of Rs. 3800 was used as a crop loan for the farm business. The Bank also sanctioned a medium term loan of Rs. 1500 for the purchase of bullocks. Three bullocks valued at Rs. 1021 were purchased through this amount to replace two of the bullocks which died during the earlier year. The total number of bullocks, however, increased from 10 to 11 because of these purchases.

The Vice-Chairman, his brother No. 2 and the teacher's elder cousin could not repay their loans taken from the society in the previous year. The other six members repaid the amounts in full. Three of them, however, again borrowed during the third year. In addition to these three and the three defaulter members, the teacher and his elder brother had to borrow Rs. 500 for each.

The Bank gave a crop loan of Rs. 15,000 which was nearly equal to the loan given in the previous year. The society used farm yard manure worth Rs. 3419 which worked out to spending Rs. 39 per acre over it. This rate of using farm yard manure was ~~lower~~ lower when compared to the rate of Rs. 54 per acre during the previous year. The Chairman, however, explained that they had to purchase a lesser quantity of manure because the crop loan proved to be inadequate this year. The cost over fertilizers remained nearly the same whereas there was a small increase in the costs over pest control measures. The total wage payment of the society came to Rs. 9058 or Rs. 88 per acre. It was 118 percent of the wage payment during the previous year. The members earned 64 percent of these wages as against 69 percent in the previous year.

The society deepened one more well as well as started the construction of another new well. It was decided by the society to employ the member as well as non-member farm servants in digging and repairing the wells and making ropes out of agave fibre whenever there was inadequate work for all, on the farm.

Because of the irrigation programme and a more rational planning in the use of water, it was possible to grow irrigated crops over 29 acres or 26 percent of the holding, as against 21 acres in the previous year. The irrigated crops grown during the year were the same as in the last year. The area under the more intensively cultivated irrigated crops as Cambodia cotton and chilly were increased from 4 and 4 to 10 and 7 acres respectively. The area under wheat was also increased from 9 to 11 acres whereas the area under onion was reduced from 3 to 1/2 acre only. The same crops as were grown in the previous year on the unirrigated holding, were also grown this year. There was, however, a reduction in the area under groundnut and an increase in the area under bajri because of the rotational system.

Fiftythree percent of the gross cropped area was devoted to the food crops and the remaining to the cash crops. There was no change in the proportion in this respect as compared to the last year. The members had, however, devoted only 47 percent of the area to food crops when the land was cultivated individually. The larger proportion under the food crops may be due to growing wheat on the irrigated areas in this society when compared to almost absence of wheat cultivation in many other societies.

The season was quite favourable in this year. The anna valuation of the crops in the village was 10 annas

as compared to only 7 annas in the last year. The value of gross produce came to Rs. 318 per acre which was 120 percent of the value in the previous year. The society achieved a rate of production per acre this year, which was almost the highest when compared to the rates in the other societies in the districts. In spite of larger expenditure over wages and declaring a property income at the rate of 6 percent, the society could earn a profit of Rs. 3072 though the increased production. After deducting the losses incurred during the two previous years, through this profit, Rs. 509 were available for distribution. The society, therefore, distributed a bonus of 3 percent on the property income earned by the members, a bonus of 1 percent on the wages earned by the non-member farm servants and a dividend of 1 percent on the share capital contributed by the members as well as the Government. Amounts were also added to the different funds as special reserve fund, mutual aid fund, share refund fund, etc. according to the bye-laws.

#### Present Position and Attitudes of the Members

In spite of the profit, all the members were not pleased with the society. Moreover, the decision to distribute a small amount of Rs. 500 among the members instead of carrying it over for future contingencies, according to the practice followed by some other societies, was meant to pacify the desire of the members to earn large incomes immediately through this organizational change. Dhudku, the Vice-Chairman was totally displeased with the society as he held that his income was reduced as well as he had to work more when compared to many other members. He had a grudge against the Chairman since the type of work and the Chairman did was of

a very light nature and suited to the dignity of the white collared persons. He also did not like the teacher's younger cousin being entrusted with the work of looking after the oil engines. Even though he was the Vice-Chairman, he had to depend upon the will of the teacher's younger cousin in irrigating the fields. He felt that these two members and some other members which he could not name, were not hard workers. Their presence tempted others to go to work quite late as well as do little work. This had almost changed the working hours of the society as in the third year, some members went to work even upto 10 a.m. as against their former routine of starting the work at 8 a.m. He wished that such members were disqualified to remain as farm servants and should, therefore, be employed on the casual basis. Six of the 15 members belonged to his family. He was saying that all these six members would leave the society by the end of the fourth year after the repayment of their loans. His brother No. 2 had virtually left the society in the fourth year and was employed outside in a Transport Company as a manual labourer. He was calling himself a mechanist and wished that he should look after the oil engines of the society. But as the teacher's younger cousin was entrusted with the work, he had no chance of handling the machines. He, therefore, searched for a service in a Transport Company hoping to become a driver sometime.

Kalidas and his younger brother were benefitted through the society as the two brothers earned nearly Rs. 1300 per month for their labour beside the property income. They could repay their old loan. Besides, Kalidas could purchase a bicycle for Rs. 125 in the third year.

All the members belonging to the third family viz. the family of the Chairman and the teacher, except the

teacher's younger cousin were pleased with the functioning of the society. The teacher's younger cousin felt that his income was much reduced because of the organization. He was after all a young person of 20 years educated upto the 6th standard and knowing how to operate the machines. Contrary to the views expressed by the Vice-Chairman, he felt that he was being treated and paid at the rate of an ordinary farm servant even though he was handling machines. He expected that he should search for a job outside like his brother who was serving as an agricultural assistant. He expected to earn at least Rs.100 a month outside over the job of looking after some machines.

The Chairman had to employ a farm servant for his farm previously. Being a leader, and a white collared person, it was not possible for him to devote time to manual labour on his farm. The organization of the society did help him in making him free from these worries of individual cultivation. His sister had rented out her land. The organization also created a better tenant for her holding. The teacher and his elder brother were salaried. The organization of society also helped them in making them free from the effects in individual cultivation. All these members, therefore, expressed their willingness to continue in the society and work for its prosperity. Even though the Vice-Chairman's group wanted to leave the society, we came to know very late in the year that they had postponed their decision. The reasons were, however, unknown.

The organization of this society had definitely made improvements on the farm leading to an increase in production as the figures for the gross value of the produce indicated. The number of bullocks with five

households owning 64 acres had proved to be adequate for the entire farm of 110 acres. A well dug in the land owned by <sup>one</sup> ~~six~~ member was adequate to irrigate part of the land owned by five members. The society's farm remained aloof from any thefts because there was a conscious developed among the persons indulging in thefts, that there were fifteen persons connected with the farm. Formerly, each cultivating member had to make separate arrangements for watching his crops. The watching provided by two or three farm servants proved now adequate for the entire farm. Previously, it was not possible for the members to plough their lands in the winter and expose the soil earlier as the bullocks were required for irrigation during the period. Because of the engines and pumps the society could start the practice of winter ploughing.

One important characteristic of the functioning of the society was that the organizers always made an attempt to create full employment on the farm though taking up programme of digging and repairing wells, preparing ropes from agave fibre and removing perennial weeds. This left little scope for underutilization of labour even though the labour was engaged on the annual basis. In spite of these achievements in the economies of scale, increase in the production and provision of full employment, the ambition to imitate the white collared persons in respect of their habits of work had created discontent among a group of members. The teacher was aware of this discontent and wanted to improve the situation through altering division of work and introduction of work norms but he had not arrived at any workable solution for the purpose.

Appendix I

Table showing the irrigated and unirrigated lands pooled by the members and their contributions in the form of share capital including bullocks and implements

| Names of the members in the household  | Land Pooled    |                   |               | Value of land pooled (Rs.) | Share capital in the form of cash, bullocks and implements (Rs.) |
|--|----------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--|
|  | Irrigated A.G. | Un-irrigated A.G. | Total A.G.    |                            |  |
| 1. Chairman  | 2- 7           | 14-10             | 16-17         | 13,810                     | 1,100  |
| 2. Chairman's sister   | 1- 0           | 4-21              | 5-21          | 5,200                      | 90   |
| 3. Teacher   | 3- 0           | 7-23              | 10-23         | 9,685                      | 870  |
| 4. Teacher's eldest brother* and his elder cousin (and later the younger cousin) | 1- 0           | 7- 5              | 8- 5          | 6,880                      | 720  |
| 5. Teacher's elder brother   | -              | 9-34              | 9-34          | 8,040                      | 440  |
| 6. Teacher's younger brother   | -              | 7-33              | 7-33          | 6,520                      | 130  |
| 7. Dhudku's father,* mother and brother Nos. 1 and 4                             | 4- 0           | 11-18             | 15-18         | 11,985                     | 1,230  |
| 8. Dhudku  | 1- 4           | 7- 9              | 8-13          | 6,540                      | 160  |
| 9. Dhudku's brother No. 2  | 2- 0           | 5-25              | 7-25          | 6,285                      | 170  |
| 10. Dhudku's brother No. 3   | 3- 0           | 3-36              | 6-36          | 6,070                      | 370  |
| 11. Kalidas (and later his brother)  | -              | 14- 7             | 14- 7         | 7,370                      | 480  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>17-11</b>   | <b>93-21</b>      | <b>110-32</b> | <b>88,385</b>              | <b>5,760</b>   |

\* Died after the registration of the society.

APPENDIX II

Table showing the proportions of area under different crops, before and after the organization of the society

| Name of the crop        | Prior to the organization of the society | In the second year after the organization | In the third year after the organization |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1. Cotton (Irrigated)   | -  | 3.48                                      | 8.59                                     |
| 2. Cotton (Unirrigated) | 11.43                                    | 10.23                                     | 8.92                                     |
| 3. Groundnut            | 36.37                                    | 32.25                                     | 23.16                                    |
| 4. Chilly               | 4.64                                     | 3.56                                      | 6.01                                     |
| 5. Onion                | -  | 2.26                                      | 0.43                                     |
| 6. Jowar                | 9.15                                     | 8.36                                      | 9.71                                     |
| 7. Wheat                | 8.61                                     | 7.74                                      | 10.05                                    |
| 8. Bajara               | 29.80                                    | 25.05                                     | 33.13                                    |
| 9. Rabbi Jowar          | -  | 7.07                                      | -  |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>100.00</b>                            | <b>100.00</b>                             | <b>100.00</b>                            |



APPENDIX III

Table showing some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the society<sup>+</sup>

| Item   | Prior to the organization | In the second year after the organization | In the third year after the organization |
|--|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1 Number of members  | -                         | 15  | 15                                       |
| 2 Land pooled (acres)  | -                         | 110                                       | 110                                      |
| 3 Area irrigated (acres)   | 17                        | 21  | 29                                       |
| 4 Number of oil engines  | -                         | 3   | 3  |
| 5 Total cost over farmyard manure (Rs.)  | 1,422                     | 5,968                                     | 4,319                                    |
| 6 Cost per acre over farmyard manure (Rs.)                                     | 13                        | 54  | 39                                       |
| 7 Total cost over fertilizers (Rs.)  | 204                       | 1,022                                     | 933                                      |
| 8 Cost per acre over fertilizers (Rs.)   | 1.9                       | 9   | 8  |
| 9 Total cost over insecticides (Rs.)   | 78                        | 378                                       | 570                                      |
| 10 Cost per acre over insecticides (Rs.)                                       | 0.7                       | 3.4                                       | 5.2                                      |
| 11 Number of members working on the farm                                       | 6                         | 12  | 12                                       |
| 12 Number of farm servants employed  | 2                         | 12  | 12                                       |
| 13 Total wage payment (Rs.)  | 2,312 *                   | 7,661                                     | 9,058                                    |
| 14 Wage payment per acre (Rs.)   | 21 *                      | 69  | 88                                       |
| 15 Wages earned by the members (Rs.)   | -                         | 5,335                                     | 5,755                                    |
| 16 Wages earned by the non-members (Rs.)                                       | -                         | 2,326                                     | 3,303                                    |
| 17 Percent of wages earned by the members (per cent)                           | -                         | 69  | 64                                       |
| 18 Crop finance from the Bank (Rs.)  | 3,400                     | 15,500                                    | 15,000                                   |
| 19 Crop finance per acre (Rs.)   | 31                        | 141                                       | 137                                      |
| 20 Gross cropped area (acres)  | 115                       | 131                                       | 121                                      |
| 21 Percent of gross cropped area to the net cultivated area (per cent)         | 105                       | 119                                       | 110                                      |
| 22 Gross area under food crops (acres)   | 54                        | 68  | 64                                       |
| 23 Percent of gross area under food crops to the gross cropped area (per cent) | 47                        | 52  | 53                                       |
| 24 Gross area under cash crops (acres)   | 61                        | 63  | 57                                       |
| 25 Percent of gross area under cash crops to the gross cropped area (per cent) | 53                        | 48  | 47                                       |
| 26 Gross value of crop production (Rs.)  | 19,557                    | 29,098                                    | 34,957                                   |
| 27 Gross value of crop production per acre (Rs.)                               | 178                       | 264                                       | 318                                      |
| 28 Profit or Loss  | -                         | Loss Rs.1,990                             | Profit Rs.3,072                          |

+ The society being registered after the completion of the Kharif season in the first year, the aspects for this year are not comparable. They are, therefore, not included in this table.

\* Excluding wages for self employment.

### 3. THE RAMPUR COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

RAMPUR

(District - Dhulia)

#### Synopsis

- The Village
- Promotion and registration
- Initial membership
- Characteristics of the membership
- Functioning in the first year
- Additions to the membership after the first year
- Characteristics of the Second year
- Further changes in the membership
- Present position and attitudes of the members
  
- Appendix I : Proportions of area under the different crops before and after the organization of the Society.
  
- Appendix II : Some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the Society.

## THE RAMPUR COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

RAMPUR \*

(District - Dhulia)

The Village

The village Rampur is situated about 20 miles away from Dhulia. There is a pucca road upto the village Bharatpur which is a fairly big village and a market centre for the area. Rampur is connected to the village Bharatpur by a cart tract.

The village is fairly small consisting of 60 families only. Even for the purposes of the Gram-panchayat and the Seva Sahakari Society, it is included in the Panchayat and the Society in one of the nearby villages. Apart from these two institutions and the Cooperative Farming Society, there are no other institutions in this village.

Though the village is dominated by a single community, there are two major factions in it. These factions had been engaged in severe litigations against one another in the past. The Cooperative Farming Society in the village belongs to one of these factions. Any visitor to the village can easily ascertain the gravity of the disputes on the way itself when he comes across persons carrying grains to the village Bharatpur for grinding over a distance of two miles even though the Cooperative Farming Society is running a flour mill in the village.

Promotion and Registration

The pleaser of one of these factions from the village Bharatpur advised the leader of this faction to

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\* Fictitious names have been used for the society, the villages as well as the members.

stop all litigations against one another, organize the cooperative farming society and remain aloof from the village politics. The pleader was a political worker. Shamrao Patil who was the leader of this faction agreed to the views of the pleader.

The pleader knew most of the families in the village personally. His brother who was a teacher at Bharatpur, was also in intimate contact with these families and advanced short term loans to them whenever there was a need. The pleader explained the benefits from cooperative farming to the members of this faction including the benefit that it would help them become debt-free as some of the families were highly indebted and had no capital to carry out farming properly. He also talked with the leaders of the other faction and both the factions agreed to withdraw the suits against one another. The people, however, agreed to organize the society only after the pleader, his brothers and other persons from Bharatpur agreed to organize a joint farming society in their village. The society was registered in 1961 along with the society at Bharatpur.

#### Initial Membership

Though the pleader did not own any land in the village, he became a member to guide the people. The leader of the faction, Shamrao Patil joined with his two brothers staying with him and they contributed 38 acres of land with irrigation facilities for 23 acres. A piece of 13-1/2 acres of land belonging to this family was transferred in the name of the pleader as a tenant. This was, as we were told, done solely to enable the pleader to become a land holder and consequently the Chairman of the society. "He was an influential person" explained Shamrao, "and without his guidance the society

would not have prospered as well there would have been difficulties in getting loans and assistance." "If a cultivator went to the Bank or a Government Office in a farmer's soiled clothes" he added further "even the clerk in the office would not attend to him but if he took the help of an influential person he would easily succeed in getting his work accomplished."

With Shamrao's family joined his distant cousin Govinda and he pooled 16 acres of his land having irrigation facilities for 4 acres. Shamrao's cousins Shivaram, Dayaram and Atmaram also joined the society. Shivram who was the eldest brother owned 5 acres of land whereas Dayaram and Atmaram owned 7 and 6 acres respectively. Atmaram was working as a farm servant at Bharatpur whereas Dayaram was working as a farm servant in a distant village. Their holdings were being cultivated by their eldest brother Shivaram.

Another group of three brothers who were also the distant cousins of the earlier members, enrolled as members in the society. The eldest brother Ramlal owned 7 acres of land and he cultivated it himself even though he had no bullocks. His younger brothers Kanhailal and Hiralal owned together only 4 acres of land. They had however, leased out this holding and were serving as casual labourers. All the three brothers stayed in separate households.

Ramlal's son Shantiram was working as a farm servant for sometime with Shamrao's family and later at Bharatpur. He also became a member along with his father even though he could not contribute any land in his name.

The society could, thus, enrol 12 members at the time of registration. Immediately after the registration, one of Shamrao's cousins Nimba who was working

as a farm servant at Bharatpur joined the society and pooled 7 acres of his holding as it was leased out privately to Shivaram who had already pooled his land in the society.

#### Characteristics of the Membership

These 13 members belonged to 10 households. All, however, belonged to the Maratha caste. Shamrao's household had contributed the largest proportion of land among these viz. 36 percent. Govinda and the pleader had each contributed nearly 15 percent of the land whereas the contribution of each of the remaining members did not exceed 7 acres or was below 7 percent.

Except for the pleader and Shamrao and his brothers all others were mostly illiterate. Only Hiralal and Nimba who were the youngest among the other members had attended school upto the second standard. Shamrao and his brothers were educated upto the seventh standard.

Shivaram and Dayaram were heavily indebted. They had borrowed from their relatives outside the village nearly Rs. 600 each at 25 percent rate of interest. It was not possible for them to repay these loans. Their brother Atmaram though he could not give a clear idea about his indebtedness, was said to have borrowed from Shamrao for the cultivation of sugarcane in his field when he himself was cultivating the land. It being a new crop to him, it did not pay him well and he became indebted. Moreover, he tried the crop as it was grown on a large scale at Bharatpur. He, however, did not take into account that it was grown at Bharatpur with the help of canal irrigation whereas he had to lift water by a mhot for the same purpose in his village.

Ramlal had also borrowed Rs. 900 from Shamrao for the marriage of his son Shantiram on the security of his house. Nimba was also said to have borrowed for

his marriage though we could not come to know about the amount and the source. Govinda had to repay only a sum of Rs. 200 to the Seva Sahakari Society, borrowed for the purpose of cultivation. Shamrao had also borrowed a taccavi loan of Rs. 2700 for the purchase of an oil engine. Only Hiralal and Kanhaialal were the debt-free members.

Shamrao and Govinda had been employing Saldars for cultivating their lands. Shivram and Ramlal were getting employed as casual labourers whenever there was no work on their own farms. Dayaram, Atmaram, Shantiram and Nimba were on the contrary getting employed as farm servants whereas Kanhaialal and Hiralal were offering themselves merely as casual labourers. All the latter 6 members were leasing out their lands.

Ramlal, Kanhaialal, Hiralal and Nimba had even to sell parts of their ancestral lands in the last decade to repay their loans.

In spite of the differences in the economic status, Shamrao, Govinda, Shivram, Dayaram and Ramlal stayed in the same house which they shared from the great grand grand father. Other members from the village stayed in different houses which were not as decent as the house where the above mentioned members stayed. The Chairman, however, stayed in a town.

#### Functioning in the First Year

The pleader became the Chairman of this society as well as the society at Bharatpur where he joined with his three brothers, two of whom were employed outside and contributed their ancestral land. Shamrao became the Manager of the society on a salary of Rs.100 per month.

The total holding pooled by the members came to 105 acres. The society purchased 11 acres of land for

Rs. 2400 as the land was offered for sale by a widow and it lay adjoining the society's farm. The total land held by the society thus came to 116 acres and it comprised 5 blocks.

Initially the office was located in the village, but because of nuisance from the members of the other faction, temporary sheds were erected on the land pooled by Shamrao, a furlong away from the village site and the office was shifted to one of these sheds. The Government gave an amount of Rs. 1250 for the construction of godown and cattleshed as a part of the loan and subsidy of Rs. 5,000 for the purpose. The members also made it a practice to be on the farm during the day time and sleep at night in these sheds to remain as aloof as possible from the members of the other faction. This locality was even named as Shahunagar by the members.

Bullocks and implements were contributed only by four members viz. Shamrao, Govinda, Shivram and Dayaram. Others had no bullocks and some of them had a few implements as harrows and hoes but they were old and broken. Their implements were, therefore, not accepted. The society, thus, acquired 12 bullocks which were adequate for the size of the farm as the rate worked out to 19 acres per pair. Formerly the same number of bullocks was used to cultivate an area of 86 acres only whereas the same number could now prove sufficient for 116 acres. The society also purchased two oil engines for Rs. 7200 through the medium term loan of Rs.12,000 given by the Bank.

One of Shamrao's brother was appointed to look after the oil engines on a salary of Rs. 700 per annum. Govinda, Shivram, Dayaram, Ramlal, Kanhailal and Hiralal were appointed as farm servants and each was



paid Rs. 500 as cash and Rs. 200 in the form of grains. No discrimination was made in the payments to these members though the cash payments to the farm servants in the village varied from Rs. 300 to Rs. 450. The society on the contrary fixed a higher wage rate for its member-farm servants. Govinda was formerly employing a farm servant and was not accustomed to the nature of the hard work which a farm servant had to put in. He was, therefore, entrusted with the light work of looking after the bullocks whereas others were to work as ordinary farm servants. The only members who could not be employed on the farm were Atmaram, Shantiram and Nimba, but they were already employed as farm servants at Bharatpur since the "Akshatritiya" (the day of appointing the farm servants). All these arrangements ensured a fixed annual income to all the member households.

The Managing Committee was made of seven members including the Chairman and the Manager. The other ~~five~~ five members included in the Managing Committee were the Manager's brother, Govinda, Shivram, Hiralal and Nimbha. Only 10 meetings could be held during the year as the Chairman stayed in a town. The day-to-day management was, however, looked after mainly by the Manager and his brother. All the sales and purchases for the society were also mainly looked after by these two brothers. No resolutions were passed about the land development measures and the cultivation practices which were said to be decided amicably as the group lived together.

Formerly all the members except Shamrao had to protect their crops against the thieves, but after the organization watching was not necessary on the society's farm as Shamrao possessed a gun. "Shamrao has created such a fright in the village" remarked his brother "that none dares even to touch the crops in his fields."

The farmers at Bharatpur on the contrary had to organize four crop protection units in their village lately to protect their crops.

The society received Rs. 4,000 as the land development loan from the Government. It was utilized for deepening two wells, one in the plot contributed by Shamrao's brother at a cost of Rs. 2,000 and the other in the plot contributed by Shivram at a cost of Rs.700.

Later in the year, the society purchased a flour mill and a chaff cutter for Rs. 750, for operating along with one of the engines installed on the well near the office. So also a tractor was purchased jointly with the society at Bharatpur. The total cost of the tractor came to Rs. 32,000 including the cost of implements and deadstock. The Bank had sanctioned a loan of Rs.22,000 to the society at Bharatpur for the purpose whereas the Rampur society had not applied for the loan. Out of Rs. 32,000 the Rampur society paid Rs. 8,000 and the balance was to be paid later. The tractor was, however, to be maintained and run by the Rampur society and it was to keep the accounts separately for the tractor. This arrangement was inevitable as the society at Bharatpur consisted mainly of absentee cultivators and it would not have been possible to look after the tractor with as much interest as would have been possible at Rampur.

The society at Bharatpur had by a resolution empowered the Chairman to appoint a driver for the tractor. Shamrao's younger brother who was a member of the Rampur society was deputed for training in tractor driving and was thereafter appointed as a tractor driver on a salary of Rs. 100 per month.

Because of repairs to the wells and purchase of two oil engines it was possible to irrigate 49-1/2 acres

on the farm. Formerly only Shamrao had a small oil engine and only 35 of the 116 acres were being irrigated. The increase in the area under irrigation was mainly due to the wells in the plot contributed by Shamrao's brother which formerly had an area of only 5 acres around it, but now it could command 15 acres because of pooling and deepening. 43 percent of the holding could, thus, be irrigated in the first year.

The crops grown by irrigation were banana, wheat, chilly and cotton. Out of 49-1/2 acres, 40 acres were under wheat which was grown as a double crop after bajri and groundnut. Only 9-1/2 acres were devoted to the more intensively irrigated crops as banana, chilly and Combodia-cotton. Sugarcane was not grown on the society's farm even though it was grown by Shamrao in the year prior to the organization of the society.

The unirrigated crops were jowar, bajri, cotton and groundnut. Fortyeight percent of the area under the unirrigated crops was devoted to the food crops.

The Bank granted a crop loan of Rs.15,000 which worked out to financing the society at the rate of Rs.120 per acre. The Government had given Rs. 2000 as the contribution to the share capital and a sum of Rs. 440 as the Managerial Subsidy.

Improved practices of cultivation were possible on the entire holding as Shamrao himself was<sup>a</sup> progressive cultivator. His name was also included in the list of progressive cultivators with the Agricultural Department. Farm yard manure as well as chemical fertilizers were used for all crops except Rabi jowar grown mainly for fodder. Use of farm yard manure was not possible on the lands contributed by Shivram, Dayaram and Nimba as the lands were inferior. The cost of farm yard manure

came to Rs. 4569 or nearly Rs. 40 per acre. In the year prior to the organization of the society the members had used farm yard manure worth Rs. 2130 only. The cost over fertilizers came to Rs. 3886 or nearly Rs.33 per acre. Prior to the organization only 4 members had used fertilizers worth Rs. 988 for sugarcane, bajri and wheat. Insecticides and fungicides worth Rs. 415 had to be used only for Combodia-cotton and groundnut because of prevalence of the diseases. Improved seeds were used in the case of all crops. Improved seeds of jowar, cotton and wheat were purchased from the Agricultural Department and the Sale and Purchase Society. The varieties of chilly and groundnut grown in the village were, however, continued.

Besides the six farm servants from among the members, two more farm servants had to be employed from outside to carry out the farming operations. Each was, however, paid Rs.450 cash and Rs. 200 in the form of grains, which wages were, however, lower when compared to the wages of the member farm servants. The area cultivated per farm servant came to 15 acres. The total wage payment was Rs. 6111 out of which 63 percent was for the labour put in by these farm servants. Figures are not available for the wages paid to the family members & in the member families working as casual labourers in the society, but we were told that they shared a much larger part of the wages paid for casual labour.

Advance payments were made against the wages as well as the property income to all the members except the Chairman. No loans were, however, granted.

By the end of the year, the society purchased 127 poultry birds from the Government Poultry Farm at Dhulia and started poultry farming. So also 15 cows and 1 bull of the Khilar breed were purchased from the Jat Farm

for Rs. 2185 upon the advice given by the Chairman's brother who was employed in the Animal Husbandry Department. The Department also gave 33 sheep to the society free of cost for taking to sheep-rearing as a subsidiary occupation and to increase the employment potential. The sheep belonged to the Bannur breed from Mysore, which is well known as a breed for the production of mutton. The nearby societies at Bharatpur and Laxmanpur were also given 33 sheep in each case but they handed over the sheep to the Rampur society for rearing. In addition to these 99 sheep, the society also purchased 50 sheep for Rs. 2,000 as an equal number of sheep had to be purchased by those who were given sheep under the scheme. The Department also appointed a Stock-man with his headquarters at Bharatpur, only to look after the sheep in these three societies. As all the sheep were kept at Rampur, he had, however, to visit only one village and there was practically little work for him.

The Agricultural season in the year was not very favourable. The gross value of the crops raised came, however, to Rs. 20,120 or Rs. 174 per acre because of the irrigation facilities. The cost of production came to Rs. 17,446 or Rs. 150 per acre. The society distributed Rs. 4519 as the property income to the members at the rate of 6 percent on the valuation of the lands pooled by them. After taking into account the revenue from the other sources as the flour-mill, interest from the bank, subsidies, etc. and the office and other overhead expenditures, the profit and loss account showed a profit of Rs. 1688. This profit was not distributed but was carried over to meet losses in the future if any. Shamrao had, however, to deposit Rs. 3600 in the society to meet the additional costs due to the purchases of land, cattle, sheep, etc.

Additions to the membership after the first year

At the end of the first year, three more persons joined the society. One of them was an Agricultural Officer. He was a distant relative of the Chairman, and belonged to a district in the Madhya Pradesh. He desired to purchase land in the village and pool it in the society.

The other person was Shamrao's brother-in-law and was employed as a teacher in the district. He owned land in a distant village but wanted to sell it and purchase land at Rampur.

The third person Ragha by name, was a fisherman and was staying at Bharatpur. Ragha owned 20 acres of land as well as had acquired 25 acres as a protected tenant. He had to surrender 5 acres of the acquired land back to the owner as he was unable to pay the instalments for the purchase of the land under the tenancy legislation. Ragha was an old person and had no children. His main occupation was to catch fish at times and grow water melons in the river bed in summer. He had no interest in the cultivation of land. He had kept fallow 20 acres of the land he had acquired as a protected tenant whereas had privately leased out 20 acres of the land he owned. His tenant was not willing to return the land to Ragha. He could, therefore, pool in the society only 20 acres of the land he had acquired as a protected tenant. He, however, entrusted the matter of acquiring the remaining land from his private tenant to the Chairman and the Manager of the Society.

He was enrolled as a member on the mutual understanding that he would not receive any property income but that it would be paid to the owner of his land by

the Manager directly, till all the instalments were paid up. He was, however, admitted as a farm servant in the society on the payment of Rs. 500 in cash and Rs. 200 in the form of grains annually, to earn his livelihood during this period. Ragha had never been a farm servant in his life.

#### Characteristics of the Second Year

Because of the new entrants, the membership of the society went up to sixteen but the land holding increased to 137 acres only. Ragha's land was situated in the village Bharatpur but it lay adjoining the plots belonging to the society. There was, therefore, no change in the number of blocks.

The Managing Committee in the second year was also made of seven members including the Chairman and the Manager but instead of Shivram and Hiralal, their brothers Atmaram and Ramlal respectively were taken on the Managing Committee. Nimba and the Manager's brother continued to be the members whereas Ragha was admitted in place of Govinda. The number of Managing Committee meetings held during the year were again only 13.

The number of farm servants had to be increased from 8 to 14. This was necessary because of the increased activities as rearing sheep and cows, taking to poultry farming and for cultivating the additional land pooled by Ragha. The number of farm servants employed in the previous year also proved to be short. The members could not work as hard as expected by Shamrao.

In addition to Ragha, two more members namely Nimba and Shantiram joined as farm servants on the same terms as others after leaving their services at Bharatpur. Atmaram remained to be the only member working as a farm servant outside. The Chairman had appointed him as a

farm servant in the Bharatpur society as it being a society of absentee cultivators there was need for a reliable farm servant. Three of the six additional farm servants in the year had to be employed from outside. Because of the increase in the number of farm servants, the area cultivated per farm servant (excluding the two farm servants employed for rearing cows and sheep) reduced from 15 acres in the first year to 12 acres in the second.

Ragha received greater prominence in the society. Though taken as a farm servant, he was entrusted with the light work of engaging casual labourers from Bharatpur and supervising their work. Casual labourers had to be called from Bharatpur as there was scarcity of casual labour in the village as well as the supply of casual labour to this society was also limited because of the factions. Admission of a member from the village Bharatpur, therefore, did help in minimizing the difficulties in engaging casual labourers. Govinda continued to look after the bullocks and cows whereas Kanhailal looked after the sheep.

The Bank sanctioned a medium term loan of Rs.5000 to pay the price of the cows purchased in the earlier year and also to purchase an additional oil engine and a pump. The only land improvements affected during the year were that the tractor was used for deep ploughing over 40 acres and that the society's farm could get the benefit of the bunding programme started in the area by the Soil Conservation Department. The society commenced the work of constructing the godown for storing the produce after the Government sanctioned a loan of Rs. 3750 as the part of the Godown and cattleshed loan-cum-subsidy of Rs. 5,000. A silo-pit was constructed through the subsidy of Rs. 400 given by the



Community Development Block. The actual cost of construction of the silo-pit, however, came to Rs. 1264 and the society had to invest the additional amount through its own funds.

The area under irrigation remained the same as in the previous year. The area under wheat was reduced from 40 to 20-1/2 acres whereas the areas under banana, chilly and Combodia-cotton were increased from 2, 2 and 5 acres to 4, 5 and 17 acres respectively. In addition 2 acres were utilized for growing Lucerne. It was possible to bring larger areas under the more intensively cultivated irrigated crops because of the additional oil engine as well as the experience with the wells deepened in the previous year had shown that the quantity of water available through them would be sufficient to irrigate these crops.

The unirrigated crops grown this year were the same as in the previous year. Only a part of the area under groundnut was replaced by cotton whereas a part under jowar was replaced by bajri. This maintained the proportion of area under the food crops in the unirrigated holding at nearly 50 percent as in the previous year.

All the improved practices followed during the last year were also followed this year. The average rate of application of farm yard manure increased from Rs. 40 to Rs. 49 per acre, whereas that of chemical fertilizers decreased from Rs. 33 to Rs. 26 per acre though the total cost over the fertilizers remained nearly the same in both years.

The Bank gave a crop loan of Rs. 23,000 which worked out to financing at the rate of Rs. 108 per acre as against Rs. 120 in the previous year. This was to meet the costs of growing intensively cultivated irrigated crops.

The total wage payment in the year amounted to Rs. 8850 which was 144 percent of the wage payment in the previous year. The increase was due to the larger number of farm servants, increased activities and intensive cultivation. The payments to the farm servants as well as those to the casual labourers increased in the same proportion. Attempts were made to provide employment to the family members in the member-families throughout the year by a rational distribution of farm work. The society, for example, harvested groundnut in the harvesting season but pods were removed only when the family members had no other work. This, no doubt, delayed marketing and involved a price risk but all the wage payments for the work were earned only by the member families.

In the meanwhile, the two bullocks contributed by Shivram died of poisoning. Through mistake, a tin containing Endrine, used for spraying cotton, was kept by the side of the fodder. The tin was leaking and part of the fodder got mixed with Endrine. When the fodder was fed to the bullocks, two of them died. The value of these bullocks, was, however, recovered from the two members responsible for the mistake. The society even passed a resolution on the occasion that any losses to the society on account of the negligence of the members or other working persons should be recovered from the persons responsible for the losses. Three months later, one of Shamrao's brothers who was not a member of the society, stole groundnut pods worth Rs. 30 from the godown. The theft was detected and Shamrao had to make good the loss.

Advance payments to the members against their labour and property income were continued as in the

previous year. Ragha was given a loan of Rs. 1200 to repay the arrears of his instalments for the acquired land. Shivram and Dayaram also wanted loan of Rs.600 in each case for the repayment of their old debts. They were, however, refused loan on ground that it was not required for a genuine purpose. Shamrao remarked "if the society made it a practice to give loans to pay the old amounts borrowed just for enjoyment in life, it would have a bad effect on the functioning of the society as all members would follow the practice." This led to a quarrel between the two members and the Manager and they decided to withdraw their membership.

The gross value of the crops produced in the year came to Rs. 29,196 or Rs. 213 per acre which was 123 percent of the gross value per acre in the previous year. The cost of production for the crops as well as the other activities taken up by the society came to Rs. 39,617 or Rs. 289 per acre which was nearly double the cost in the previous year. The increase in the cost was due to the larger expenditure over wages, seeds and fodder and also on certain small items. On the contrary, the income from the subsidiary activities taken up by the society was negligible. There was no income from maintaining the cows as the breed was not for the milk purpose. The cows also did not give any calves. So also the poultry birds died of disease and some were killed for the members and visitors to the society. As a result, only 6 of the 127 birds survived by the end of the year. Eggs worth ~~Rx~~ only Rs. 114 were sold during the year. The sheep multiplied from 150 to nearly 160 but there was also no income from this source as the breed was meant only for mutton and not even a single sheep was sold during

the year. Though the society had purchased the additional sheep at Rs. 40 per head, the price offered in the area did not exceed Rs. 30 per sheep. The society, therefore, postponed the marketing.

In spite of heavy expenditure, the society distributed a property income to the members at the rate of 6 percent on the valuation of their lands. The payments to the Bank on account of interest also increased from Rs.375 in the first year to Rs.1400 in the second year because of the larger amounts borrowed. This added to the net loss which came to Rs. 11910.

Because of the loss as well as additional expenditure over poultry deadstock, purchase of implements, construction of silo-pits and shed for harvessing the cows, etc., Shamrao had to deposit Rs. 11,000 in the society through his own funds. He could not, however, repay the taccavi loan borrowed before the organization of the society for the purchase of the oil engine for his farm. His land was, therefore, auctioned by the Government. As none from the village came forward to bid in the auction, the Government purchased it for a nominal bid of Rs. 1. The land is, however, in the possession of the society and is being cultivated by it.

#### Further changes in the membership

Shivram and Dayaram resigned their membership at the end of the year as they had decided earlier. Their brother, Atmaram, however, continued to be the member. On the contrary, he left his service as a farm servant in the Bharatpur society and joined as a farm servant in this society in place of his brothers.

The society succeeded in helping Raghao to acquire 20 acres of his land which he had leased out privately. He pooled all the 20 acres in the society.

Nimba also left the society a little later as he was beaten by Shamrao. His wife had committed some mistakes while working whereupon she was scolded by Shamrao. Nimba did not like the wife of a member being scolded by another member and he interfered the matter. This led to a quarrel and Shamrao being hot tempered, Nimba was beaten by him. Nimba never entered the premises of the society after this quarrel.

#### Present position and attitudes of the members

The society had taken to dairying very lately. Six buffaloes of the local breed were purchased initially and milk was supplied to the Milk Scheme at Dhulia. Sixteen buffaloes of the Surti breed were purchased thereafter to increase the supply of milk.

The silo pit could not be used for the preparation of silage as the society could not grow any fodder for the purpose. It has, however, proved to be useful storehouse for storing the lime required for the construction of the godown. The society may prepare silage in the next year for feeding the buffaloes.

There is no addition to the poultry section. There are nearly 200 sheep at present but there is no market for the sheep at the prices expected. There is also no income from the cows. The cows and the sheep have, however, added greatly to the production of farmyard manure, so essential for improving the quality of the land.

The Manager wishes to increase the irrigated area by sinking a new well in the plot contributed by the Chairman. He feels that the present size of the farm could be increased by even one and a half times, if new members are available. He, however, does not wish to enrol persons from this village as he is not agreeable even to the persons from his own faction.

Among the present members, Ragha seemed to be highly satisfied with the functioning of the society. The society helped him in acquiring the land from his tenant as well ensured him that the land he got as a protected tenant would not go back to the owner through failures in the payment of instalments. He could also get rid of the correspondence with the tenant, the owner and the Government as after joining the society it became the responsibility of the Chairman. Besides he could get employment at the wage rate of Rs. 700 per annum merely for the work of supervision, which he could not have got elsewhere because of old age.

Ramlal and his brothers Kanhailal and Hiralal are also pleased with the organization of the society. Both Ramlal and his son could get employment as farm servants whereas formerly one of them had to serve as a casual labourer and attend to their farm. Besides their wives also could get full employment on the farm. Kanhailal and Hiralal could get the same benefits as well as they had not to lease out their lands.

Govinda, however, was displeased with the society because of the dictating nature of Shamrao. He was a respectable farmer in the village whereas in the society he had to work as a farm servant. He had always to be after the cows whereas Shamrao and his brothers were not tied to such a job.

Atmaram was thinking of leaving the society. It was said that he was beaten lately by Shamrao's brother in a quarrel. He was thinking of leaving the society on the day of "Akshatritiya" when his contract with the society as a farm-servant would be over. Atmaram could not get any extra benefits from becoming the member as he was already working as a farm servant and he had his brother to look after his land. It was not

possible to know whether he was forced to continue in the society after his brothers had left, as he had to repay an amount borrowed from Shamrao. Atmaram was complaining that he was not paid his wages promptly whereas Shamrao was saying that as the funds with the society were limited he would be paid his wages fully whenever the funds were available.

The organization of the society has increased the prestige of the Manager and his brothers. The Manager had chances to attend the Shibir and Conferences as a representative of the Rampur society. Besides, because of the organization of this society he could come in intimate contact with the district leaders. Formerly his field of activities was restricted only to the village politics whereas now he has started taking part even in the politics at the district level.

His brother brought to our notice one change of social importance. According to him the social prestige of the members has increased considerably because of the visits of eminent personalities as Ministers and high officials to the society. "This has also resulted" he remarked "in getting matrimonial offers from well-to-do families for the sons of the members." Only Govinda's son and one of Shamrao's younger brothers were, however, of the marriageable age.

Appendix I

Table showing the proportions of area under different crops, before and after the organization of the society

| Name of the crop       | Prior to the organization of the society | In the first year after the organization | In the second year after the organization |
|------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 Cotton (Irrigated)   | -  | 3.89                                     | 10.48                                     |
| 2 Cotton (Unirrigated) | 6.95                                     | 1.68                                     | 2.78                                      |
| 3 Groundnut            | 17.80                                    | 27.96                                    | 34.18                                     |
| 4 Chilly               | 3.63                                     | 1.42                                     | 3.15                                      |
| 5 Onion                | 1.45                                     | -  | -   |
| 6 Sugarcane            | 3.81                                     | -  | -   |
| 7 Banana               | -  | 1.42                                     | 2.53                                      |
| 8 Jowar                | 22.54                                    | 4.92                                     | 14.27                                     |
| 9 Wheat                | 16.79                                    | 28.32                                    | 12.94                                     |
| 10 Bajara              | 23.85                                    | 24.07                                    | 16.31                                     |
| 11 Rabbi Jowar         | 1.45                                     | 4.25                                     | -   |
| 12 Gram                | 1.73                                     | -  | -   |
| 13 Others              | -  | 2.07                                     | 3.36                                      |
| Total                  | 100.00                                   | 100.00                                   | 100.00                                    |



Appendix II

Table showing some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the society

| I t e m  | Prior to the<br>organization<br>(1960-61) | In the first<br>year after<br>the organi-<br>zation<br>(1961-62) | In the second<br>year after<br>the organi-<br>zation<br>(1962-63) |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Number of members   | -   | 13   | 16  |
| 2. Land cultivated (acres)   | 105                                       | 116  | 137   |
| 3. Area irrigated (acres)  | 35  | 49-1/2   | 49-1/2  |
| 4. Number of oil engines   | 1   | 3  | 4   |
| 5. Total cost of farmyard and compost manure used (Rs.)                                  | 2,150                                     | 4,569  | 6,633   |
| 6. Cost of farmyard and copost manure per acre (Rs.)                                     | 20  | 40   | 49  |
| 7. Total cost of fertilizers used (Rs.)  | 988                                       | 3,886  | 3,588   |
| 8. Cost of fertilizers per acre (Rs.)  | 9   | 33   | 26  |
| 9. Number of members working on the farm   | 6   | 9  | 12  |
| 10. Number of farm servants employed   | 3*  | 8  | 14  |
| 11. Total wage payments (Rs.)  | 2,167 *                                   | 6,111  | 8,850   |
| 12. Wage payment per acre (Rs.)  | 21  | 53   | 65  |
| 13. Crop finance from the Bank (Rs.)   | N.A. **                                   | 15,000   | 23,000  |
| 14. Per cent of area under the unirrigated food crops to the unirrigated area (per cent) | 31  | 48   | 51  |
| 15. Gross cropped area   | 128                                       | 151  | 158   |
| 16. Per cent of gross cropped area to the net cultivated area (acres)                    | 122                                       | 130  | 115   |
| 17. Gross area under food crops (acres)  | 70  | 58   | 71  |
| 18. Per cent of gross area under food crops to the gross cropped area (per cent)         | 55  | 58   | 45  |
| 19. Gross area under cash crops (acres)  | 58  | 63   | 87  |
| 20. Per cent of gross area under cash crops to the gross cropped area (per cent)         | 45  | 42   | 55  |
| 21. Gross value of crop production (Rs.)   | 18,051                                    | 20,120   | 29,196  |
| 22. Gross value of crop production per acre (Rs.)  | 172                                       | 174  | 213   |
| 23. Total cost of production including cost of rearing cows, sheep, poultry, etc. (Rs.)  | 11,804 **                                 | 17,446   | 39,617  |
| 24. Cost of production per acre  | 112                                       | 150  | 289   |
| 25. Profit or Loss   | -   | Profit<br>Rs. 1,688  | Loss<br>Rs.11,910   |

\* Excluding wages for self employment

\*\* Not Available.

#### 4. THE BHARATPUR COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

BHARATPUR  
(District - Dhulia)

##### Synopsis

- The Village
- Organization and registration
- Characteristics of the initial membership
- Alterations in the membership
- Functioning in the first year
- Characteristics of the second year
- Attitudes of the members
  
- Appendix I : Areas pooled and not pooled by the members and their contributions in the form of Share Capital.
- Appendix II : The proportions of areas under the different crops before and after the organization of the Society.
- Appendix III: Some aspects of farm business in the first and the second year of the Society.

THE BHARATPUR COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

BHARATPUR \*

(District - Dhulia)

The Village

Bharatpur is a fairly big village near the village Rampur. It lies on a pucca road and is well connected to a town. It has a population of little over four thousand dwelling in 680 households.

The village is situated on the side of a river. Because of the anicut constructed on this river, the village gets the benefit of canal water. Quite a large proportion of the area in this village is irrigated.

Apart from the farming society, there are two more cooperative organizations in the village, as the cooperative multipurpose society and the cooperative Jaggery Making Society. A number of unregistered crop protection societies have also come up. The Cooperative Multipurpose Society is well developed and it caters to the needs of the members in respect of the supply of seeds, manures, fertilizers, implements and even grains besides the normal supply of credit. Like the village Rampur, this village is also ridden with factions.

Organization and Registration

The pleaser who organized the society at Rampur also organized this society simultaneously. Moreover, it was registered on the same day of registration of the Rampur Society. The pleader convinced some of

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\* Fictitious names have been used for the Society, the village as well as the members.

the farmers from this village about the benefits of cooperative farming and enrolled them as members. Most of them were, however, absentee cultivators or farmers leasing out their lands for cultivation. Initially, 12 persons from 8 households were enrolled as the promoter members for the registration.

#### Characteristics of the Initial Membership

The pleader joined the society with one of his brothers who was employed as an officer outside. The pleader was also staying in a town. They contributed 21 acres of their land having seasonal irrigation facilities for all the area. This area was jointly owned by four brothers including the pleader. One of the other two brothers was employed as an officer in the Maharashtra Government whereas the remaining brother was employed in the school in the village. Only two of the four brothers were, however, enrolled as members initially. These four brothers owned two pairs of bullocks and implements which were also pooled in the society.

The pleader's uncle who was quite old and having children of the school going age, also joined the society with his nephews. He pooled 31 acres of his land with a component of 19 acres having facilities for seasonal irrigation. He also pooled 3 of his bullocks and all the implements along with his land.

Ramdev was a pensioner and was cultivating 12 acres of land having facilities for seasonal irrigation over 5 acres. He was also cultivating 4 acres of land owned by his brother and was taking the income from this land as the interest over the amount of Rs. 4000 which his brother had borrowed from him. He was prepared to pool his entire holding but as the unirrigated lands were away from the irrigated lands

pooled by the other members, the society accepted only his irrigated holding. He could not, therefore, pool any of his bullocks or implements in the society.

There were two more persons in the village who were employed outside. One of them was a teacher and the other was in the service of a Gram Panchayat Secretary. Both were employed in distant villages. The teacher owned one acre of land having facilities for seasonal irrigation whereas the other owned 30 acres having similar facilities. They pooled their entire holdings in the society.

Besides these six members, other six members belonging to three cultivating households pooled parts of their holdings. Both the husband and the wife from two of these households and two brothers from the third household enlisted themselves as the promoter members.

The pleader could, thus, collect 12 members for the registration, four of whom including himself stayed outside the village. Anyhow 8 of these members were staying in the village and this number was, therefore, adequate from the point of registration of the society, since the provision in the bye-laws had limited the number of non-working members or absentee cultivators to only one-third of the membership. The society could, thus, get registered along with the other societies in the district.

#### Alterations in the Membership

It is only a week after the registration that the later six members declined to continue in the society. They could not agree to the valuations of their lands which were fixed after the registration. They gathered from what the pleader told them previously, that they would be getting a substantial

property income even at 6 percent. The valuations of land after the registration, however, dwindled all their hopes of a better income from the society. They, therefore, resigned their membership immediately.

The pleader succeeded in getting other six members in their place. He enrolled two of his remaining brothers, one of whom was serving in the school in the village and the other who was a big officer in a Government Department. Anyhow, these persons had a share in the land already pooled by the pleader.

There was one farmer in the village owning 9 acres of unirrigated land. He got the lands owned by his father-in-law after his death in a distant village. He had to lease out his land in this village as it was not possible for him to manage the lands in both villages. He, therefore, pooled his land in the society to guard his interest against the tenancy legislation.

There was again a priest in the village who for the last number of years was leasing out his land. The land was, however, in the names of the priest as well as his brother who was serving in a Government Department. Both these brothers became the members and pooled their 5 acres of land in the society having facilities for well irrigation. They also owned a piece of 15 gunthas of unirrigated land but it was not accepted by the pleader as the land was quite at a distance from the land pooled by the other members of the society.

There was again a big landlord in the village who owned 171 acres of land. He was one of the leading personalities from the area and was also elected to the Panchayat Samiti. His lands were subject to the legislation on land ceiling, as he owned a holding

much in excess of what was permitted by the Ceiling on Land Holdings Act. He pooled 21 acres of his land having facilities for perennial canal irrigation in the society and retained the remaining unirrigated, well-irrigated and a small fraction of seasonally irrigated land for self cultivation. The plot he pooled in the society was also adjoining the village and was subject to nuisance from the pigs as well as thefts. In pooling the land having facilities for perennial irrigation, he tried to guard the size of the holding which would remain with him even after his extra land was forfeited according to the Land Ceiling Legislation. As the legislation permitted retaining quite a large size of holding having unirrigated or well irrigated or even seasonally irrigated area, he decided to part only with his perennially irrigated area to retain with him as a large part of his holding as possible after the implementation of the Act.

These alterations in membership changed the entire composition of the society even though the number of members remained the same. Out of these 12 members, there were now seven members or more than half of the members, who did not stay in the village and it was therefore impractical to expect them to become the working members for the society. So also the pleader's younger brother though was staying in the village was employed in the school. The pleader's uncle was very old and had children only of the school going age and the remaining three members had pooled only parts of their holdings. In fact none of these members was likely to become available for work.

#### Functioning in the First Year

The total land holding of the society came to 125 acres with 98 acres having the facilities either

for perennial or seasonal canal irrigation and 6 acres under well irrigation. The total number of wells in the plots contributed was, however, 4 including one well in the well irrigated plot. Two of the remaining three wells were situated in plots having facilities for seasonal irrigation and they could be used whenever canal water was not available. The remaining well was in the plot having facilities for perennial irrigation and was, therefore, of no use for cultivation. The holding was distributed in only three blocks, as care was taken to admit lands which were contiguous.

The pleader became the Chairman of the society as he was a noted personality as well as the organizer of the society itself. He had also become the Chairman of the society at Rampur. The Managing Committee was made of 5 members. The other four members included the big landlord, the Chairman's uncle, the Chairman's resident brother and the Gram Panchayat Secretary. Only 13 meetings were held during the year as the Chairman was available only on certain occasions.

A Manager was appointed on a salary of Rs. 100 per month. The Chairman used to give detailed instructions to him whenever he visited the village. The farm was mainly looked after by the Chairman's resident brother and at times his uncle. The others had a little interest in the society.

Only seven of the bullocks were pooled by the two members viz. the Chairman and his uncle. The other members either had no bullocks or that they were required for the farms not accepted by the society or retained for self cultivation. Implements were also pooled by the Chairman, his uncle and the Gram Panchayat Secretary. Additional implements had to be purchased as the implements pooled were inadequate. The cost over these additional implements came to Rs. 130.



For reasons which were obvious as mentioned earlier, none of the members was available for work on the farm. Ramdev was appointed as a Supervisor for some time on a salary of Rs. 37-1/2 per month. He could, however, work only for a period of ten months. He left the job because of old age. He had also to manage the part of his holding which was not accepted by the society.

The farm had to be managed entirely through the appointment of farm servants. Only five farm servants were, however, appointed during the first year and casual labourers were employed in large numbers to carry out the processes in farming. The total wage payment of the society was Rs. 8778 or Rs. 70 per acre. Ramdev who was the only working member, earned only a fraction of this amount.

The total share capital contributed by the members in various forms came to Rs. 10650. Out of these, Rs. 1425 were contributed in the form of cash, Rs. 1050 in the form of bullocks, Rs. 850 in the form of implements, Rs. 114 in the form of farm yard manure, Rs. 2185 in the form of costs of preparatory tillage and Rs. 4000 in the form of standing crops viz. banana. The Chairman had made the largest contribution of share capital amounting to Rs. 6500. His uncle contributed Rs. 2125 whereas the contributions of the others were fairly small. The Chairman had contributed his standing crop.

The society could not get the Government contribution of share capital in the first year. The land development loan of Rs. 4000 was, however, obtained and it was used for the purchase of farm yard manure. The society also obtained a subsidy of Rs. 500 for the pay of the Manager and an amount of Rs. 1250 as a part of the loan and subsidy for the construction of

cattle shed-cum-godown. The construction of the godown was started in the first year itself. The Chairman contributed a plot adjoining his house for the construction, as the plot being centrally located, it was told, that it would enable proper supervision by the more interested members. For the time being, the bullocks were tied in the shed belonging to the Chairman whereas a part of his ancestral house was used for the office. Two store houses were taken on rent from the nonmembers at a rent of Rs. 33 per month.

A medium term loan of Rs. 27,000 was obtained from the Bank for the purchase of a tractor and oil engines. The tractor was purchased for Rs. 32,000 out of which Rs. 24,000 were paid by the Bharatpur Society and Rs. 8,000 by the Rampur Society. The tractor had, however, to be kept with the Rampur society as there was no one in the Bharatpur Society to manage the working of the tractor with interest and zeal. The society purchased three oil engines for Rs. 9600 and constructed a shed for one of the engines at a cost of Rs.2000. The shed ~~was constructed of stone~~ was built of stone as there were possibilities of theft in the area. The engine shed was constructed on the well contributed by the Gram Panchayat Secretary and one of the engines was fixed on this well. The other two engines were located on the wells in the plots contributed by the Chairman's uncle and the priest.

The Animal Husbandry Department gave 33 sheep free of cost to this society along with the Rampur and the Laxamanpur societies for taking to sheep rearing as a subsidiary occupation and to increase the employment potential. The sheep were, however, given in the names of the Chairman, his uncle and the resident

brother. As there were no working members in this society to look after the sheep with proper care, all the sheep were handed over to the Rampur Society for rearing on the account of the Bharatpur society.

The Bank gave a crop loan of Rs. 30,000 which worked out to a rate of Rs. 240 per acre. A part of this loan had to be used for the purchase of oil engines, construction of shed etc., as the amount of medium term loan was inadequate.

The Gram Panchayat Secretary had borrowed a crop loan of Rs. 1500 from the Bank. He was badly in need of money to repay his loan. The society, therefore, sanctioned him a loan of Rs. 1500 for the repayment of this old debt.

The society purchased farm yard manure worth Rs. 1547 only. Farm yard manure was used only for the irrigated crops as Combodia cotton and chilly. Fertilizers were, however, used for all the crops. The cost over fertilizers came to Rs. 4229 or Rs. 34 per acre. The cost over insecticides was quite small. When compared to the other societies, the Bharatpur society had spent quite a small amount over farm yard manure but quite a large amount over fertilizers. It was the practice in this village to use fertilizers even for the unirrigated crops in the large amounts.

Even though 104 acres were irrigable, the irrigated crops like Combodia cotton, chilly, banana, gram and wheat were grown only on 57 acres. The remaining area had to be devoted to Kharif crops as rice, cotton, groundnut, bajri, green gram, jowar and black gram. This was because of the area under seasonal irrigation as well as a restriction to devote 4 acres of area to the food crops for utilizing every one acre under

banana or sugarcane in the seasonally irrigated area. There was, however, no such restriction on the use of lands having a facility of perennial canal irrigation. The area under the perennial canal irrigation in the society was, however, limited to about 25 acres contributed by the Chairman's uncle and the big landlord. Sixtythree percent of the area was devoted to food crops and only 37 percent to the cash crops.

The gross value of production came to Rs. 29364 or Rs. 235 per acre. The season was not very favourable as the anna valuation of the crops in the village came to only 5 annas. It is because of the irrigated area that this rate of production was possible. The society, however, suffered a very heavy loss of Rs. 11,000 after distributing an advance of Rs. 5684 at the rate of 6 percent against the property income. Only the Chairman did not receive his advance. On the contrary he had to lend nearly a thousand rupees to the society by the end of the year.

#### Characteristics of the Second Year

The same methods of management continued even in the second year. The earlier Manager, however, resigned during the year. The Chairman, therefore, requested the Animal Husbandry Department to make available to the society the services of the priest's brother who was serving in the Department. The request was granted. The priest's brother took up the job on a salary of Rs.175 per month, at the rate of which he was drawing his salary from the Department.

There were no major changes in the employment pattern. The number of farm servants was increased from 5 to 6. The total wage payment of the society, however, remained at the same level viz. Rs. 70 per acre because

of lower expenditure over the casual labour. None of the members, was however, available for work on the farm as in the previous year.

The society obtained the remaining part of the loan of Rs. 3750 for the godown. The construction of the godown could not be, however, completed.

The society took a decision of taking to dairying. It obtained a medium term loan of Rs. 11,000 from the Bank and purchased 16 buffaloes of the Surti breed and one he-buffalo of the Delhi breed almost at the end of the second year.

The Bank gave a crop loan of Rs. 35,000 which worked out to financing the society at the rate of Rs.280 per acre. There were no difficulties in obtaining loans from the Bank as the Chairman himself was one of its directors. Moreover, larger crop finance was needed this year as the society had grown banana as well as sugarcane.

The Grampanchayat Secretary could repay only Rs.750 out of the loan of Rs. 1500 taken during the last year. The big landlord also needed a loan of Rs. 3000 for the marriage of his daughter. He was financed to his full requirements.

The cost over farm yard manure, however, got reduced further to Rs. 727. The cost over fertilizers was also reduced from Rs. 34 to Rs. 27 per acre. There was a small rise in the cost over pest control measures.

The area under irrigated crops such as Combodia cotton, banana, wheat etc. went up only from 57 to 60 acres. Three acres were devoted to Sugarcane this year. The area under intensively cultivated irrigated crops such as Combodia cotton and banana was increased from 10 and 9 acres to 18 and 14 acres respectively. Chilly was, however, not grown at all. Out of the kharif

crops, area under groundnut was nearly doubled. The area under food crops was considerably reduced from 63 to 41 percent.

The Chairman decided to take to horticultural development on his own account. He planted 145 mango grafts, 109 lemon plants, 23 chickoo plants and 7 other miscellaneous fruit trees on a plot of 7 acres which he had contributed. The society had applied for a loan of Rs. 15,000 under the Horticultural Development Scheme of the Agricultural Department. The application was being considered. He, however, started horticultural development before the loan could be granted only because the plants were available readily.

The gross value of the produce came to Rs. 35383 or Rs. 283 per acre in this year as compared to Rs. 235 in the previous year. The season was also favourable as the anna valuation of crops went up from 5 annas in the previous year to 8 annas in the current year. The society did incur a loss after distributing a property income at 6 percent but the loss was Rs. 4383 only when compared to the heavy loss in the last year.

#### Attitudes of the Members

The priest, his brother and Ramdev were the only members who were not pleased with the society and hoped to discontinue their membership after the term of contract of five years. The holdings pooled by all these three persons were accepted only in parts. The priest wanted to get employed as a Supervisor in the society after Ramdev had left the job but the Chairman could not agree to employ him as he had little experience of farming. His family was traditionally habituated to leasing out lands. Again he was not satisfied with the property income and mentioned that he was getting a fairly large amount of rent from his tenant when compared

to the rent he obtained from the farming society. His brother was also disgusted with the functioning of the society. He preferred his former job to the job of a Manager in the society. He had informed his Department that he was not prepared to serve in the society and so his term should not, be extended. In the meanwhile the Chairman had requested the Zilla Parishad Officials to transfer the Gram Panchayat Secretary to this village so that he would be available for looking into the matters of the society with some interest.

Ramdev was also not satisfied with the property income. After all he had to cultivate the land not accepted by the society as well as the land belonging to his brother. He had, therefore, decided to<sup>with-</sup>draw the land from the society and cultivate it along with the land he cultivated, after his term of contract was over. The Chairman's brother was also displeased because the organization of the society deprived him of managing the entire farm owned by the four brothers. He, however, never opposed the Chairman who was his elder brother and thought that he would always take decisions in the ultimate interest of the family.

None of the other members was satisfied with the income from the society. There was, however, no alternative in their cases as it was becoming difficult for them to retain their lands in the possession because of the tenancy legislation.

The Chairman was the only person who had a very appreciation for the society. He was of the opinion that the lands were being leased out in the villages in one farm or the other in spite of tenancy legislation. These lands were getting deteriorated because

of negligence on the part of both the owners as well as the tenants and the productive capacity of these lands was getting reduced day by day. Could these lands be not pooled together and managed by a cooperative farming society for increasing their productivity?"

He was aware of the discontent about the property income among the members. He, however, hoped that with the experience in the earlier years as well as by taking to subsidiary industries as dairying, it would be possible to increase the profits and then declare a bonus which will complete with the rent obtainable from the tenant cultivators.



Appendix I

Table showing the areas pooled and not pooled by the members and their contributions in the form of share capital

| Names of the members in a household                                     | Land owned    | Land Pooled         |                    |                  |              |                   | Land not pooled | Value of land pooled | Share capital |
|---|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
|   |               | Irriga-ble by canal | Irriga-ble by well | Total irriga-ble | Unirri-gated | Total land pooled |                 |                      |               |
|   | A.G.          | A.G.                | A.G.               | A.G.             | A.G.         | A.G.              | A.G.            | Rs.                  | Rs.           |
| 1 to 4. The Chairman his two absentee brothers and the resident brother | 21-14         | 21-14               | -                  | 21-14            | -            | 21-14             | -               | 41,875               | 6,500         |
| 5. The Chairman's uncle   | 31-10         | 19-17               | -                  | 19-17            | 11-33        | 31-10             | -               | 43,360               | 2,125         |
| 6. The big landlord   | 171-00        | 21-00               | -                  | 21-00            | -            | 21-00             | 150-00          | 41,900               | 100           |
| 7. The farmer from a distant village                                    | 8-39          | -                   | -                  | -                | 8-39         | 8-39              | -               | 4,725                | 175           |
| 8 and 9. The Priest and his brother                                     | 5-39          | -                   | 5-24               | 5-24             | -            | 5-24              | 0-15            | 6,050                | 150           |
| 10. Ramdev  | 12-22         | 5-22                | -                  | 5-22             | -            | 5-22              | 7-00            | 10,315               | 325           |
| 11. The teacher   | 1-16          | 1-16                | -                  | 1-16             | -            | 1-16              | -               | 2,200                | 50            |
| 12. The Gram Panchayat Secretary  | 29-29         | 29-29               | -                  | 29-29            | -            | 29-29             | -               | 45,675               | 625           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>282-09</b> | <b>98-18</b>        | <b>5-24</b>        | <b>104-02</b>    | <b>20-32</b> | <b>124-34</b>     | <b>157-15</b>   | <b>1,95,800</b>      | <b>10,050</b> |

Appendix II

Table showing the proportions of area under different crops before and after the organization of the society

| Crops                   | Prior to the organization of the society | In the first year after the organization | In the second year after the organization |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1. Cotton (Irrigated)   | 4.20                                     | 7.64                                     | 13.35                                     |
| 2. Cotton (Unirrigated) | 19.16                                    | 6.52                                     | 7.15                                      |
| 3. Groundnut            | 21.62                                    | 12.74                                    | 25.32                                     |
| 4. Chilly               | -  | 3.98                                     | -   |
| 5. Black gram           | -  | 2.55                                     | -   |
| 6. Sugarcane            | 3.77                                     | -  | 2.27                                      |
| 7. Banana               | 1.85                                     | 0.82                                     | 6.25                                      |
| 8. Green gram           | 0.12                                     | 5.64                                     | -   |
| 9. Jowar                | 10.26                                    | 6.90                                     | 3.98                                      |
| 10. Wheat               | 8.41                                     | 16.72                                    | 16.23                                     |
| 11. Rice                | -  | 3.01                                     | 13.22                                     |
| 12. Bajra               | 23.40                                    | 13.31                                    | 8.98                                      |
| 13. Rabi Jowar          | -  | 14.74                                    | -   |
| 14. Onion               | 0.33                                     | -  | -   |
| 15. Gram                | 1.01                                     | 3.01                                     | -   |
| 16. Green fodder        | -  | 12.42                                    | 2.21                                      |
| 17. Sesamum             | 4.16                                     | -  | 1.04                                      |
| 18. Pigeon Pea          | 0.03                                     | -  | -   |
| 19. Fruits              | 1.68                                     | -  | -   |
| Total                   | 100.00                                   | 100.00                                   | 100.00                                    |

Appendix III

Table showing some aspects of farm business in the first and the second year of the Society

| I t e m  | In the first<br>year after the<br>organization | In the second<br>year after the<br>organization |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Number of members   | 12   | 12  |
| 2. Land pooled (acres)   | 125  | 125   |
| 3. Area irrigated (acres)  | 104  | 104   |
| 4. Number of oil engines   | 3  | 3   |
| 5. Total cost over farmyard manures (Rs.)                                    | 1,547  | 727   |
| 6. Cost per acre over farmyard manure (Rs.)                                  | 12   | 6   |
| 7. Total cost over fertilizers (Rs.)   | 4,259  | 3,389   |
| 8. Cost per acre over fertilizers (Rs.)                                      | 34   | 27  |
| 9. Total cost over insecticides (Rs.)  | 345  | 476   |
| 10. Cost per acre over insecticides (Rs.)                                    | 3  | 4   |
| 11. Number of members working on the farm                                    | 1  | -   |
| 12. Number of farm servants employed   | 5  | 6   |
| 13. Total wage payment (Rs.)   | 8,778  | 8,737   |
| 14. Wage payment per acre (Rs.)  | 70   | 70  |
| 15. Wages earned by the members (Rs.)  | 382  | -   |
| 16. Crop finance from the bank (Rs.)   | 30,000   | 35,000  |
| 17. Crop finance per acre (Rs.)  | 240  | 280   |
| 18. Gross cropped area (acres)   | 149  | 142   |
| 19. Per cent of gross cropped area to the net cultivated area (per cent)     | 119  | 114   |
| 20. Gross area under food crops (acres)                                      | 93   | 58  |
| 21. Per cent of gross area under food crops to gross cropped area (per cent) | 63   | 41  |
| 22. Gross area under cash crops (acres)                                      | 56   | 84  |
| 23. Per cent of gross area under cash crops to gross cropped area (per cent) | 37   | 59  |
| 24. Gross value of crop production (Rs.)                                     | 29,364   | 35,384  |
| 25. Gross value of crop production per acre (Rs.)                            | 235  | 283   |
| 26. Profit or Loss   | Profit<br>Rs. 11,002                           | Loss<br>Rs. 4,383                               |

## 5. THE RANWADI COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

RANWADI

(District - Dhulia)

Synopsis

- The Village
- Organization and Registration
- Characteristics of membership
- Functioning in the first year
- Changes in the membership
- Characteristics of the second year
- Present position and attitudes of the members
  
- Appendix I : Land pooled by the members and their contributions in the form of Share Capital.
- Appendix II : The proportions of areas under the different crops before and after the organization of the society.
- Appendix III: Some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the society.

## THE RANWADI COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LIMITED,

RANWADI \*

(District - Dhulia)

The Village

Ranwadi is a fairly small village situated in the hilly and pasture areas. It is hardly eight miles away from a town. Yet it is disconnected from the other areas on account of the absence of any road. One has to pass along a cart tract which runs for eight miles over the barren rocks as well as across the streams.

The village has a population of 850 persons dwelling in 225 households. There is a primary school as well as a Multipurpose Cooperative Society. A Cattle Breeders' Society has also been organized lately. Formerly there was a Gram-panchayat for a group of villages, but now a separate Gram-panchayat is being organized only for the village Ranwadi.

The village has remained almost backward because of no road connection with the market places. Majority of the people also belong to the scheduled castes. The women do not generally work on the farm. The soils are poor and undulating.

Organization and Registration

It is in this backward village that a pleader decided to organize a cooperative farming society as such societies were being organized in the district. The pleader formerly owned 40 acres of land in this village, but he had donated the whole land to the Bhoodan Movement. The land was distributed among the

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\* Fictitious names have been used for the society, the village as well as the members.

schedule caste families. He wished to organize a society for these families. The families, however, did not want to take the risk of pooling their lands into a society as the distribution of land to the individuals had satisfied their hunger for land. The pleader, therefore, thought of organizing the society around some of his clients in the village as he was in intimate contact with them. He, therefore, explained his ideas to his clients. One of the families consisting of four brothers who were staying in separate households, agreed to abide by his counsel. But they declined to admit the other families in the village into the society on the grounds that the members may not agree with each other in the future. The pleader was also, convinced with their arguments and agreed to organize a society consisting of these four brothers only. The society was registered with 11 members including the pleader. The other 10 members included the four brothers and two sons of each of the three elder brothers. The youngest brother had a son aged only 5 years.

#### Characteristics of membership

Ramnath, Kashinath, Vishvanath and Nagnath were the four brothers who were staying in a joint family nearly 20 years ago. After the separation, their holding was distributed and they started individual cultivation. In addition to the owned land, Kashinath had taken on lease large pieces of land belonging to a rich person staying in Bombay. After the Tenancy Act, he was declared as a protected tenant. He, however, owned large pieces of land and it was not, therefore, possible for him to acquire all the land over which he was declared as the protected tenant. He, therefore, distributed parts of his owned holding in the names of

his sons to keep with him as small a part of land as possible. The litigations went on for a few years and his household could establish claim over nearly 48 acres of land. He could purchase these lands at a very low price. Parts of these lands were, however, not in his possession as he had sub-rented the plots to other cultivators in the village. The other three brothers cultivated mainly their owned holdings.

Ramnath, the eldest brother owned 24 acres of land. He pooled his entire holding in the society. Two of his sons also joined the society as they jointly owned the land. Kashinath, the second brother, pooled his 91 acres of land, 48 acres out of which he had acquired because of the Tenancy Act as explained above. Two of his sons also joined the society as a part of this land was in their names. The third brother, namely Vishvanath, owned 64 acres. He pooled 59 acres in the society and the remaining 5 acres were transferred in the name of the pleader as his tenant. This enabled the pleader to become a land holding member of the society. This transaction was, however, not entered into the Village Records as the pleader never wished to claim the land. Two of the sons of this brother also became the members as part of the land was in their names in the Village Records. The youngest brother Nagnath, owned a holding of 63 acres, most of which was badly managed. He had neither bullocks nor implements. He also pooled his entire holding in the society.

Out of these four brothers, Kashinath's household owned the largest holding of 91 acres because of the lands he could purchase at a very low price as a protected tenant. The eldest brother Ramnath owned a very small holding whereas the youngest brother Nagnath,

being always sick and having no sons to look after the holding, could not derive the benefit from his 63 acre holding. The other brother, Vishvanath, however, managed his 64-acre holding properly and occupied an economic position, almost next to Kashinath, in these families.

#### Functioning in the First Year

The total land pooled in the names of these five households came to 242 acres. Twenty-two acres of the land was barren and rocky and was, therefore, uncultivable. There were three wells in the plots contributed by Kashinath and one in the plot contributed by Vishvanath. They were, however, not used for irrigation for want of adequate water. Only Kashinath possessed a mhot which he used rarely for growing vegetables around the well for home consumption.

Ramnath, Kashinath and Vishwanath owned 4, 10 and 5 bullocks respectively. They were pooled in the society. Farming was started with these 19 bullocks only. The area cultivated per pair of bullocks came to 23 acres which was fairly large when compared to the other societies. The youngest brother had no bullocks. Formerly, he used to get his land ploughed with the help of the bullocks owned by his brother. The earlier three brothers also possessed 11 cows and 5 buffaloes. The cows were not pooled as the society agreed to supply the fodder for them. But the society could not decide upon taking to dairying. The buffaloes were, therefore, sold out. Implements were also possessed by these three brothers. They were also pooled in the society. They had already spread the home produced farm yard manure into their fields prior to the organization of the society. It was given free to the society and was not accounted for in the records.



The pleader was made the Chairman as they needed his help for the proper functioning of the society. The chairman had no economic interest in the society. Even though a part of the land was transferred in his name in the books of the society, it was not entered into the village records. He had no legal claims over the land. Moreover, the value of the land transferred in his name as a tenant was Rs.1500 only, which meant that he was entitled to receive a property income of Rs. 90 only if the rate was to be 6 per cent. Formerly his clients used to give him gifts in the form of their newly harvested farm produce such as dals and beans and vegetables and milk which valued to at least half this amount.

The Managing Committee comprised of five members including the Chairman. The other four members included the three elder brothers and the eldest son of the eldest brother. The youngest brother had no interest in farming as well as he was incapable of any management. One of Kashinath's son was a matriculate. He was the only well educated person in these families. He was appointed as a manager on the salary of Rs. 100 per month.

Practically all the members except the Chairman and one of the sons of the eldest brother, who was an educand, were available for work. The three elder brothers, however, being aged above 50 years were entrusted with supervisory work only. The remaining four sons excluding the manager and the youngest brother were available for actual work on the farm. The four sons were appointed as farm servants on a monthly basis whereas the youngest brother worked in the society as a casual labourer. The wage rates for the member farm servants were, however, fixed at the prevailing wage rates in the village. Three of these sons were paid at Rs. 40 per month and the remaining one was paid at Rs.25

per month only as he was weak and young. These members were employed for 8 to 10 months in the year as there was no work on the farm for the whole of the year. As the number of these member farm servants was inadequate, six farm servants were employed from outside. Formerly the number of such farm servants was eight, when the lands were cultivated individually. These farm servants were paid an annual salary varying from Rs.450 to Rs.550. The member farm servants did hard work along with the other farm servants. Though they were educated from the 4th to the 6th standard and considered themselves as the white collared persons because of their contact with the town, they were prepared to do hard work on the farm as it was their own farm.

The society being wholly an organization of brothers and nephews, the work started with great enthusiasm. The members commenced the work of repairing two wells and digging a new well even before the actual registration of the society in anticipation of the loans. The work could even be completed almost before the registration was over. The new well was dug in the plot contributed by the Manager at a cost of Rs. 1,350. The deepening of the wells was undertaken in the plots contributed by the eldest brother and one of Kashinath's sons. The cost over repairing these wells came to Rs. 488 and Rs. 200 respectively.

The other co-operative farming societies as well as other co-operative organizations came forward to help this society. The sale and purchase society at Dhulia supplied one oil engine on credit in anticipation of bank loan. So also the Samatanagar Co-operative Joint Farming Society supplied fertilizers worth Rs. 1,500 from their stock on the understanding that the same quantity would be returned when the Bank sanctioned the crop loan. So also one of the

societies from Chilane supplied fodder worth Rs. 270 on credit. All these societies, however, belonged to one political party and their leaders were intimate friends.

The Government sanctioned Rs.2,000 as the contribution to the share capital, Rs. 500 as the managerial subsidy and Rs. 4,000 as the land development loan. Part of the land development loan was already utilized in digging and repairing the wells whereas the part was retained for future use. The Bank also gave a medium term loan of Rs.3,000 to pay the bill for the engine already purchased from the Sale and Purchase Society. The Bank again gave a loan of Rs. 3,000 after the monsoon for the purchase of an additional engine. The society could, thus, use two oil engines to irrigate its crops in the rabi season. By the end of the year, the loan for the godown-cum-cattle shed was also sanctioned but it was not possible to start the construction for want of cement.

The Bank gave a crop loan of Rs. 15,850 which worked out to a loan of Rs. 72 per acre. This loan was, however, inadequate since the society wanted to bring large areas under irrigation. The Bank seemed to have taken into account the quality of the soils in financing the society.

Four of the members viz. the three brothers, Kashinath, Vishvanath and Nagnath and Kashinath's son had to repay their crop loans and other debts amounting to Rs. 6,000. They were, therefore, given advances against their property income to repay these loans.

The society could irrigate 18 acres of the farm in place of total absence of irrigation, when the holdings were cultivated individually. Twelve acres of this area was devoted to Combodia cotton and six acres to wheat. Combodia cotton was introduced into the round about area for the first time by this society. The unirrigated holding was

used for Jowar, Bajri, Cotton and Groundnut.

The farmyard manure was already spread in the plots by the members. The society used fertilizers worth Rs.2336. Fertilizers were used for all the crops including the un-irrigated food crops. This practice was also adopted for the first time in the area. Though the chairman himself was not a farmer, he tried to follow what the Chairman of the Samatanagar Society had already experienced. Insecticides were used only for Combodia cotton. The cost over them came to Rs. 83 only.

The season was very bad in the area. Almost all the crops excluding the irrigated crops, failed. The anna valuation of crops in the village itself came to annas 3 only. Because of the failure of monsoon in the kharif season, the society cultivated rabi jowar over 71 acres on the unirrigated holding. The rabi crop was even not successful. On account of the crop failure, the society obtained taccavi loans of Rs. 400 for fodder and Rs. 300 for seeds from the Mamlatdar. Many of the operations on the farm had to be cancelled on account of the crop failure. The total cost over wages, therefore, came to Rs. 6,331 or Rs. 29 per acre only. The members earned 17 per cent of this amount.

The gross value of the crops came to Rs. 12,882 or Rs. 59 per acre. It was evident that there would be a great loss to the society. The society, therefore, passed a resolution that property income should be given to the members at the rate of 4 per cent at least so that the members should not get dissatisfied with the society in the first year itself. Moreover, advances had been already given against the property income for the repayment of the old debts outstanding on the members. It would have been too difficult to recover these amounts from them.

After the distribution of the property income, the books of the society showed a loss of Rs. 10,991. The society could not repay the crop loan fully. It was possible to return only Rs. 4,000 out of the loan of Rs. 15,850.

As the Rampur and Bharatpur societies had applied for sheep free of cost for taking to sheep rearing, this society also applied for the same, to start a subsidiary industry. There were better grazing lands at Ranwadi than either at Bharatpur or Rampur. The society was, however, refused any help in this respect by the Animal Husbandry Department.

#### Changes in the Membership

The eldest brother Ramnath wanted a loan for the purchase of buffaloes. He was thinking of taking to dairying on the individual basis as there was a great demand for milk in the nearby town. As the other brothers were given loans in the form of advances against property income to repay their old debts, he wished that he should also get a loan though he had not to repay any old debts. The society had already given him Rs. 1,000 for the purchase of buffaloes but this amount was given very casually and in anticipation of return in a few days. He was demanding a larger amount. As the other members, could not agree to permit him to start the dairy industry on the individual basis, he forwarded his resignation. He felt it deeply that once the lands were pooled in the society, the member lost the freedom over his land. He could not even pledge the land temporarily with the other villagers and raise a credit for the felt needs as well as for the welfare of his family. He accused the chairman and the manager of having solely a commercial attitude in the affairs of

the society. He also thought that if he was not to start dairying on the individual basis and was to permit the society to dairying on the joint basis, the profits would be largely shared by his other brothers who had contributed larger holdings. As the bonus from the profits of the society would be distributed among the members on the value of lands pooled, he would definitely get a much lesser amount than what his brothers would get. After all dairying had nothing to do with the size of the farm. He, therefore, thought of resigning his membership and take to dairying after raising a loan on his own land resources. His two sons also left the society along with him.

There was another person in the village, Punjaram by name, who was already collecting milk from the village and selling it in the town. He wished to become a member of the society and work on the farm as a farm servant on the monthly basis in anticipation of some loan from the society. He also wished to purchase buffaloes on his own account. The society could not agree to admit him.

As three of the members had left the society, the membership was reduced to 8 only. One of Kashinath's sons, was, therefore, admitted as a member as one of the plots already pooled in the society, was in his name in the Village Records.

There was yet need for one more member to raise the membership to 10, the minimum number required by the Co-operative Act. One of the farm servants was, therefore, enrolled as a member to bridge this gap.

#### Characteristics of the Second Year

The eldest brother and his sons took away 24 acres of their land as well as bullocks. This reduced the size of the holding to 218 acres and the cultivated land to 196 acres. The number of bullocks was also reduced to 15. The

new members owned neither land nor bullocks. There could not be, therefore, any addition in these on their account.

In settling the accounts of the resigning members, there were many difficulties. A well situated in their plots was deepened as well as preparatory tillage for the second year had been already completed on their holding. Ramnath was also given Rs. 1,000 cash to meet his needs of purchasing buffaloes. He had, however, used his manure in the field last year. It was, therefore, assumed that as there was a crop failure, the manure was not used by the crops at all. The value of the manure used was taken as an asset in his case. Finally, the accounts were manipulated in such a way that no party would have to pay the other party any amount. This did help in maintaining cordial relations among the four brothers again.

This year the managing committee was formed of seven members. Besides the two brothers who were already on the Committee in the last year, one of Kashinath's sons and two of Vishvanath's sons were admitted into the Committee. The member farm servant was also given a place in the Committee merely to represent the labour-component of the membership.

As the Manager had to look after the farm, it was being difficult for him to maintain the accounts. A secretary was, therefore, employed on a salary of Rs. 80 per month to assist him in keeping the records. The secretary however, left his service only after 4 months. Another secretary was appointed on the same salary in his place.

There was no change in the number of working members. Because of the resignation of Ramnath's household, one of his sons working as a farm servant on the monthly basis was not available for work. But one of the farm servants was

enrolled as a member this year. This maintained the number of working members to five excluding the manager and the two brothers doing the supervisory work. The total wage payment of the society came to Rs. 8,487, or Rs. 43 per acre, it being a normal acre. The members earned 29 per cent of these wages as against only 17 per cent in the last year.

The manager was an active person. Being well educated he used to visit the different Government Departments, ask his difficulties and seek their advice. He could introduce many changes in the farming practices. Formerly Jowar and Bajri were being sown in rows at a distance of 8" to 9" only and cotton and groundnut at a distance of 14". These distances were widened to 12" and 18" respectively through modifications in the seed drills.

The society obtained a large number of subsidies through the Development Block. A subsidy of Rs. 180 was given to the society for poultry development. Another subsidy of Rs. 200 was obtained for the construction of a silo pit whereas a subsidy of Rs. 350 was obtained for purchasing a bull. The society also received the managerial subsidy of Rs. 400 for the pay of the manager as in the last year. The society was again given a loan of Rs. 600 by the Agricultural Department for taking to Horticultural Development. The society planted 85 mango grafts and 3 chickoo plants in the waste lands along the Nala, through this loan.

The society obtained a medium term loan of Rs. 3,000 for purchasing the buffaloes to take to dairying. Previously the society had asked the members to sell their buffaloes but now the society itself decided to purchase buffaloes. Formerly there were difficulties in carrying the milk to the town and distributing it but now a milk union was organized



which supplied milk to the Dhulia Milk Scheme. The society had, therefore, to change its decision and follow the Samatanagar, Rampur and Bharatpur Societies in this respect. The society purchased 14 buffaloes of varying breeds. In addition two horses were purchased for pulling a tonga to carry the milk to the nearest town collecting the milk. The total cost over buffaloes and horses came to Rs. 5,525 as against the loan of Rs. 3,000 given by the Bank.

The society had also to purchase two bullocks for Rs. 625 as the number of bullocks was considerably reduced in the second year. Three big carts and one small cart were also purchased for Rs. 1,650 as one of the carts pooled by Ramnath was taken away by him as well as the other carts were broken. Moreover, as the cart tract connecting Ranwadi to the town passed over barren rocks, it reduced the life of a cart considerably. Two bicycles had also to be purchased for Rs. 400 to enable frequent visits to the town for the transactions of the society in respect of dairying as well as the financial and official matters.

The society had also to spend large amounts over the items for which it had received subsidies from the Development Block. As against a subsidy of Rs. 180 for poultry development, the society had to spend Rs. 500 over the birds and Rs. 700 over the poultry houses and fencing. The society had to spend Rs. 1,485 over two bulls as against a subsidy of Rs. 350 only. So also the cost of the silo pit came to Rs. 1,600 when compared to the subsidy of Rs. 400 for the purpose. The society had to use the additional amount through its own funds and the crop loan. The society had also to purchase a winnowing fan and a spray pump for nearly Rs. 500.

The society commenced the work of digging another new

well near a perennial nala. The cost over digging came to Rs. 800 only but it was necessary to have a pipe line to carry the water from the well to the high lying areas. The Bank sanctioned a medium term loan of Rs. 2,200 for the purpose but the actual cost came to Rs. 2,800. Heavy expenditures through the society's owned funds and the crop loan characterized the second year of the society.

The Bank gave a crop loan of Rs. 20,000 which came to a loan of Rs. 102 per acre as against the loan of Rs. 72 per acre in the previous year. The loan, however, proved to be inadequate as Rs. 11,000 were adjusted against the dues in the earlier year as well as there was a heavy expenditure on many items.

Because of the purchase of an additional oil engine late in the last year, and the well organized irrigation programme, it was possible to grow irrigated crops over 29 acres or nearly 15 per cent of the holding in a period of two years. Out of the irrigated area, Combodia cotton was grown on 19 acres and each chilly and wheat were grown on 5 acres. Chilly was being cultivated for the first time in the area. The unirrigated holding was used for Jowar, Bajri, cotton and groundnut according to the normal practice. The area under food crops was, however, reduced from 54 per cent in the last year to only 35 per cent this year.

The society spent Rs. 3,626 over farmyard manure, but the manure was not used in the year. It was assumed that the manure applied to the soils in the previous year, remained unused by the crops because of crop failure. The manure was therefore, stored for using in the third year. Fertilizers were used only for one crop viz. chilly because the society gained a bad experience through the use of fertilizers for the unirrigated crops during the last year. The stringency of funds was another reason. The cost over

fertilizers came to Rs. 802 only. Only sterameal, a compound prepared by a private concern, was used with the hope that it would not affect the crop even if there was to be a crop failure. The cost over insecticides was also insignificant.

The season, however, proved to be quite good. The anna valuation of crops in the village came to as much as nine annas. The society could harvest a produce worth Rs.25,706 or Rs. 131 per acre. The production, however, seemed to be quite low. Taking into account the facilities for irrigation, the chairman expected that the production should have attained a higher level even though the soils were inferior. The members of the society expected that there would be a profit this year and so property income was distributed at the rate of 6 per cent in anticipation of the profit. The final accounting, however, showed a loss of Rs. 5,413. The chairman suspected that all the produce harvested must not have been accounted for as the society he organized was wholly a one family concern.

#### Present Position and Attitude of the Members

Practically every member was satisfied with the functioning of the society. All the adult working members from the three households were employed by the society. Besides the remuneration through the wages they had received, the property income which when compared to the quality of lands they owned, was quite high. They owned almost the marginal lands which produced well only when the rainfall was adequate. Such lands possessed a value in the market which was based more on the prestige the ownership of land involved than the productive capacity of these lands. Six per cent returns on the value of such lands was the main reason for satisfaction of all the three households.

Every household admitted that there was a considerable increase in their incomes when compared to the incomes in the years prior to the organization of the society. But this had resulted in accumulation of losses with the society to the tune of nearly 16,000 since its inception. If these losses were to be shared among the three households mainly concerned with the society, it would mean that every household had incurred a loss of nearly Rs.5,000 during the last two years.

The youngest brother, Magnath, was the greatest beneficiary since it was not possible for him to manage his farm as he was almost continuously ill. It was not possible for him ~~to~~ even to harvest moderate crops from his fields. He had to depend entirely upon his brothers and others to help him in farming.

The chairman was aware that the society he had organized consisted of only three land pooling households. The fourth household had already left whereas though some land was pooled in his name, he was as good as a sympathizer member. This had practically led to no economies of scale since the plots and the holdings contributed by each household were so large that they themselves were economic from the point of size. He was, however, expecting that some more members may join the society once the benefits from taking to irrigation over marginal lands were demonstrated. It would at least lead to organization of other societies in the area which may then achieve some economies of scale.

The village community gave a good response to the society. The relations between the members of the society and the other villagers remained cordial. The society taught them the cultivation of new crops such as Combodia cotton and chilly as well as the improved methods including the use of wide spacing. The society even supplied its

sprayer and other implements to the villagers on a nominal rent. The society also supplied bajri seeds grown on its farm to the villagers for sowing the seeds on their farms.

The villagers were traditional minded. There was no flour mill in the village. The people used their grinding wheels in many cases. The women labourers never approached the secretary or the manager of the society or any other male person for receiving their wages. Instead, the husband or the father-in-law of a woman would sign or give his thumb impression on the Society's Labour Register and receive the wages.

The progress made by the society in such a backward village in a period of two years was, however, commendable. Apart from the area of 29 acres brought under irrigation, the pipeline laid by the end of the second year increased the irrigation potential further by 15 acres. The society purchased another engine after the completion of the second year. The chairman was again thinking of digging another well near a perennial stream and in an area which was the drainage area of a big reservoir nearby. When this well would be completed it would irrigate additional 16 acres. This would make it possible to irrigate at least one third of the society's holding in place of the total absence of irrigation in the past. There was a possibility that all these demonstrations would be followed by the other cultivators in the village.

Further, the society wished to start a flour mill to make this facility available to the villagers. The society also wanted to purchase a tractor for the farm operations on its farm as well as the farms cultivated by the other villagers and for road haulage. It also envisaged the expansion of its dairy unit, if finance was available for

purchase of additional buffaloes.

The chairman was never disturbed by the presence of only three land pooling households in his society. These three households consisted of four married male adults aged between 25 and 35. It was likely that if they were to separate in the next few years in accordance with the trends in the families in the area in general, the society would then come to consist of at least 7 land contributing households. Further if the household of the eldest brother was to join the society again, it would come to consist of at least 10 households. It is only then, he thought, that the members as well as others, would realize the importance of the provisions for prevention of future losses in the economies of scale, implicit in this society at present.

APPENDIX I

Table showing the lands pooled by the members and their contributions in the form of share capital

| Name of the members in a household | Land owned<br>A.G. | Land pooled<br>A.G. | Value of the land pooled<br>Rs. | Share capital contributed<br>Rs. | Remarks   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Chairman<br>(the pleader)       | -                  | 4-32                | 1,500                           | 400                              |   |
| 2. Ramnath and his two sons        | 24- 0              | 24- 0               | 12,000                          | 1,775                            | All resigned after the first year   |
| 3. Kashinath and his three sons    | 91- 9              | 91- 9               | 43,500                          | 2,325                            | The youngest son joined after the first year                              |
| 4. Vishvanath and his two sons     | 64- 1              | 59- 9               | 28,500                          | 1,250                            | 4 acres and 32 gunthas of land owned, were given on lease to the chairman |
| 6. Nagnath                         | 63-12              | 63-12               | 16,000                          | 50                               |   |
| 7. Member farm servant             | -                  | -                   | -                               | 25                               | Joined after the first year   |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>242-22</b>      | <b>242-22</b>       | <b>1,01,500</b>                 | <b>5,825</b>                     |   |

APPENDIX II

Table showing the proportions of area under different crops, before and after the organization of the society

|   | Name of the crop     | Prior to the organization of the society | In the first year after the organization | In the second year after the organization |
|---|----------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 | Cotton (Irrigated)   | -  | 4.00                                     | 9.11                                      |
| 2 | Cotton (Unirrigated) | 30.91                                    | 26.75                                    | 27.71                                     |
| 3 | Groundnut            | 10.94                                    | 15.11                                    | 25.66                                     |
| 4 | Chilly               | -  | -  | 2.21                                      |
| 5 | Jowar                | 30.42                                    | 7.87                                     | 8.95                                      |
| 6 | Bajara               | 20.12                                    | 22.03                                    | 22.06                                     |
| 7 | Wheat                | -  | 1.89                                     | 2.42                                      |
| 8 | Rabbi Jowar          | -  | 22.35                                    | 1.88                                      |
| 9 | Mung                 | 7.61                                     | -  | -   |
|   | Total                | 100.00                                   | 100.00                                   | 100.00                                    |



APPENDIX III

Table showing some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the society

| Item   | Prior to the organization | In the first year after the organization | In the second year after the organization |
|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Number of members   | -                         | 11                                       | 10  |
| 2. Land pooled (acres)   | -                         | 242                                      | 218                                       |
| 3. Waste lands   | -                         | 22                                       | 22  |
| 4. Land Total cultivable land pooled   | -                         | 220                                      | 196                                       |
| 5. Area irrigated  | N11                       | 18                                       | 29  |
| 6. Number of oil engines   | N11                       | 2  | 2   |
| 7. Total cost over farmyard manures (Rs.)                                    | 1,700                     | Free                                     | 3,626 *                                   |
| 8. Cost per acre over farmyard manures (Rs.)                                 | 7                         | -  | 18  |
| 9. Total cost over fertilizers (Rs.)   | -                         | 2,336                                    | 802                                       |
| 10. Cost over fertilizers per acre (Rs.)                                     | -                         | 11                                       | 4   |
| 11. Total cost over insecticides (Rs.)                                       | -                         | 83                                       | 155                                       |
| 12. Number of members working on the farm                                    | -                         | 5  | 5   |
| 13. Number of farm servants employed   | 8                         | 6  | 9   |
| 14. Total wage payment (Rs.)   | 6,620 **                  | 6,331                                    | 8,487                                     |
| 15. Wage payment per acre (Rs.)  | 30                        | 29                                       | 43  |
| 16. Wages earned by the members (Rs.)  | -                         | 1,098                                    | 2,505                                     |
| 17. Per cent of wages earned by the members (per cent)                       | -                         | 17                                       | 29  |
| 18. Crop finance from the Bank (Rs.)   | 6,000                     | 15,850                                   | 20,000                                    |
| 19. Crop finance per acre (Rs.)  | 27                        | 72                                       | 102                                       |
| 20. Gross cropped area (acres)   | 210                       | 317                                      | 212                                       |
| 21. Per cent of gross cropped area to the net cultivated area (per cent)     | 95                        | 144                                      | 108                                       |
| 22. Gross area under food crops (acres)                                      | 122                       | 172                                      | 75  |
| 23. Per cent of gross area under food crops to gross cropped area (per cent) | 58                        | 54                                       | 35  |
| 24. Gross area under cash crops (acres)                                      | 88                        | 145                                      | 137                                       |
| 25. Per cent of gross area under cash crops to gross cropped area (per cent) | 42                        | 46                                       | 65  |
| 26. Gross value of crop production (Rs.)                                     | 17,943                    | 12,882                                   | 25,706                                    |
| 27. Gross value of crop production per acre (Rs.)                            | 82                        | 59                                       | 131                                       |
| 28. Profit or Loss   | -                         | Loss Rs.10,991                           | Loss Rs. 5,413                            |

6. THE EKUMBHE CO-OPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.  
EKUMBHE

(District - Dhulia)

Synopsis

- The Village
- Organization, characteristics of membership and registration
- Functioning in the first year
- Attitudes of the members
  
- Appendix I : Irrigated and unirrigated lands pooled by the members and their contributions in the form of Share Capital
  
- Appendix II : The plan of division of work among the members and their family members
  
- Appendix III : Proportion of area under different crops before and after the organization of the society.
  
- Appendix IV : Some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the Society

THE EKUMBHE CO-OPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.  
EKUMBHE\*

The Village

Ekumbhe is situated about 12 miles to the north of a town which is a taluka place. It lies half a mile away from the main road which connects two towns. An approach road connecting the village to this main road was under construction at the time of the survey.

The village is fairly big with a population of above 2,000 persons. There is a Gram Panchayat, a Co-operative Multipurpose Society as well as a Crop Protection Society in the village. For educational facilities as the Balwadi and the primary school the village has contributed to the institutions in a neighbouring village which lies on the main road.

The village is dominated mainly by a political party. The people are well accustomed to community efforts as Shramadan. The Gram Panchayat is also progressive and apart from building roads and drains in the village has also constructed a water storage tank on a big well wherefrom the villagers get tap water.

Organization, characteristics of membership and Registration

One of the leaders in the village who was elected as a member to the Zilla Parishad organized this Society. Only seven households consisting of brothers and nephews were admitted to the Society. These seven households, however, comprised of only one joint family in the near past and stayed and cultivated their lands together.

Mathu, Kathu, Suka, Dhaka and Raha were the five

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\* Fictitious names have been used for the Society, the village as well as the members.

brothers staying together with their father who died in the year 1923. At the time of his death, the family owned 180 acres of land and was considered as one of the well-to-do families in the village. Money lending was also a subsidiary occupation of the family. Even after the death of their father they stayed together and cultivated the land jointly till the year 1939. During this period, they could purchase additional land and increase the size of their holding to 270 acres. This meant an addition of 90 acres to their holding in a period of nearly 15 years. In the meanwhile, the eldest brother Mathu died and the management of the farm fell upon the second brother namely Kathu. Mathu had three sons namely, Maruti, Muralidhar and Madhav. They did not like to continue with their uncles as they lost their dominance in the family because of the death of their father. They, therefore, got separated from their uncles and took away 70 acres of the land. They, however, decided to stay together. The holding of 270 acres, thus was divided into two holdings of 70 acres and 200 acres each. The separation had, however, a favourable effect on the efficiency of farming as the three young sons with whom now rested the management of 70 acres of their farm started working with great enthusiasm and sense of competition. They purchased 20 acres of land during the period of the next ten years as well as built four new houses in the village. They also purchased a 10 H.P. oil engine for irrigation and maintained a flour mill on the same.

The remaining four brothers could not also stay together for a longer time. They also divided the land amongst themselves after a period of two years and established their own households. By this time, the sons and daughters of these brothers had attained a marriageable age.

Kathu, Suka and Dhaka had to sell parts of their holdings after separation on account of these marriages whereas their nephews had no such problem. These three brothers sold about 25 acres of land to meet with the expenses over ten marriages in these three households. Kathu and Suka also purchased 5 H.P. oil engines through these sales. Ragha, the youngest of the four brothers, had to celebrate only one marriage during the period and being a miser as we were told, could on the contrary save money and purchase 5 acres of land from Kathu and 3-3/4 acres from Dhaka. "Being the youngest brother in the family," it was emphasized, "he had not to meet the expenses over guests and other traditional obligations which were generally met with by the elder brothers." Out of the four brothers it was only Ragha whose household could prosper whereas the households of the other three brothers began to decline.

The three nephews stayed together till 1958. They got separated in that year as their wives could not agree to stay together. In a joint family usually the eldest brother looked after the management of the farm and the household, whereas the younger brothers had to succumb to his dictates. Their wives always aggravated this problem. This at times led to severe quarrels. The younger brothers, therefore, decided to stay in separate households, divide the holding and take to individual cultivation.

After the separation, the irrigated holding was also divided. There was no need for a 10 H.P. engine because of this division. It was, therefore, disposed off and these three brothers took to irrigation by mhots. Consequently, the flour mill near the well had also to be disposed off simultaneously with the oil engine. In a period of 19 years the joint family thus got divided into seven nuclear families. The original large holding of 270

acres also got divided into seven holdings of medium size.

One of the nephews who was the village leader, thought of organizing these farms into one unit to achieve the economics of scale which were lost during the process of the separations. He aspired to take to mechanized lift irrigation again and if possible have a joint flour mill as in the past. He deeply felt the losses suffered due to the separation. Again his youngest uncle Raha was illiterate and had always to take the help of others in the management of his farm business. It was also difficult for one of his uncles Sukha and one of his brothers Maruti to manage their farms as they were the only male adults in their households. Maruti's son had accepted a job in Goa. Dhaka had become heavily indebted because of the marriages and wanted to sell one of his plots. There were potentialities for developments on the farm but inadequacy of capital was the main problem with all. In view of all these difficulties, the leader thought of organizing a co-operative farming society only for his brothers and uncles as a number of them had come up in the area by that time. "If only the farms were to be pooled into a single management unit," he thought, "their wives would have also no objection to the pooling as it would not in any way affect the existence of separate households which they had aspired for and had already achieved."

He, therefore, explained his ideas to his brothers and uncles and registered their society in 1962. Eleven male adults from these seven households were enrolled as members. All the lands were in the name of the heads of these seven households. So only seven members were enrolled as the land contributing members and the others as the landless members. The land and share capital contributed

by the different households are given in Appendix I. The contributions of individual households varied from 30 to 60 acres according to the land owned but there was not much difference in the status of these households. The contributions in the form of share capital also varied according to the number of bullocks and implements contributed. Larger contributions were obviously made by those who owned larger holdings. It being merely a society of brothers and nephews organized with a genuine desire to pool the land on the lines in the past, all the land, bullocks, implements and whatever other requisites needed were pooled together. The land contributed came to 283 acres.

#### Functioning in the First Year

The members being agreeable to each other all problems could be approached and solved amicably. Bajirao, the young educated son of the eldest brother was made the Chairman and the leader organizing the society became the manager. The Managing Committee consisted of six members including the Chairman and the Manager. The other four members came from four of the other five families. Only the family of the youngest brother Ragha was not represented on the Managing Committee as both Ragha and his son were illiterate.

Formerly the members possessed 30 bullocks. All these bullocks were not needed after pooling the land. Only 23 of these bullocks were retained for the society whereas 7 bullocks were disposed off by the members themselves after the organization of the society. So also two of the members possessed 4 horses and 2 tongas. After the organization only a pair of horses and one tonga were retained and the remaining horses and the tonga were sold out. All the implements were, however, pooled except for

two seed drills. The number of implements pooled was no doubt large but there was no market for the used and partly worn out implements. Out of the eight iron mhots only one was retained with the society whereas five were retained with the members and the remaining two mhots being saleable, were disposed off.

A plan for division of work was carefully worked out to provide employment to all the adult male members in these seven households. This employment, however, greatly differed from the fixed wage employment provided to the members in the other societies. In the other societies the members were employed as annual farm servants without much discrimination in their wages. In this society only specific jobs were assigned to the specific members according to their ability and were paid accordingly on a monthly basis. As these families belonged to the well-to-do class, the members were habituated only to the processes of the managerial and supervisory type or processes involving works such as driving a cart, running an engine etc. suited to the dignity of the white collared persons. Only such works were assigned to the members whereas farm servants were employed for the hard work on the farm. Three of the young persons from these households even did hard work along with the farm servants as their habits of work permitted. The detailed division of work among the members is, however, interesting. The plan for the division is given in Appendix II. The eldest brother Kathu was assigned the work of overall supervision and co-ordination to honour his elderliness. The other three brothers Suka, Dhaka and Ragha and the eldest nephew Maruti, were also assigned lighter works involving work for a few hours or work which required less movements and were paid Rs.15



to Rs. 30 per month only. Other younger persons were entrusted with jobs requiring hard work of the nature of getting the work done continuously from the labourers, working with them at times, running the oil engines, repairs to implements, or jobs requiring educational background for maintaining the accounts. For these jobs they were paid from Rs. 45 to Rs. 65 per month. The division of work also took into account great many details as awakening the farm servants in the early morn, carrying food to the members working on the farm, looking after the lighting etc. The store-keeper who would remain in the village throughout the day was expected to help all the households if there was an urgent need as calling a doctor or making some purchases from the nearby towns urgently. This division of work also implied to some extent, entrusting such works to those persons who were formerly habituated to do the same work. Ragha had contributed his tonga and the horses. He was, therefore, entrusted with the work of looking after the horses and driving the tonga. Supervision in the orchard was entrusted to the members who had contributed the orchard. So also as far as possible preference was given in running an oil engine to that person who had contributed the oil engine. Except for such few cases, however, every person was allotted broader fields of work which were connected not to his contributions to the society but to the whole farm in general.

The total monthly wage bill on account of these wages would have come to Rs. 665. These persons, however, did not work throughout the year at these wages. So also when a person was ill or unable to attend to his duties for a long period he refused to accept the wages. In the first year of the society, these working persons earned

Rs.5,477 or Rs. 456 per month on an average as against the monthly wage bill of Rs. 665 mentioned above.

The manual work on the farm had to be done mainly through employing the farm servants which numbered 15 in the first year. Formerly these households had also engaged 15 farm servants. The area cultivated per farm servant came to 19 acres which was quite large when compared to many other societies. Casual labourers had to be employed from time to time according to the demand. The total wage payment was Rs. 18,419 or Rs. 65 per acre, out of which 30 per cent was earned by the members and their family members. The women from these households, however, never took part in farming.

The Managing Committee met officially for 25 times during the year. There was no need for any special meetings since the members usually met daily at night in the society's office which was located in one of the houses of a member. The society had purchased a radio for recreation which was kept in the office. All members usually assembled in the office for listening to the radio as well as taking decisions on the duties to be performed on the next day. The Managing Committee in fact existed only virtually since most of the decisions were taken by all the members jointly.

It was not possible for the society to start the construction of a godown and cattle shed immediately in the first year even though the loan for the same was sanctioned by the Department. The society rented 10 houses from the members for keeping the cattle, implements, farm requisites and the harvested produce. Two of these houses were used for keeping bullocks and implements, one only for the bullocks, one for the unpooled cattle belonging to the members, one for fodder, one for carts and four

houses for storing the farm requisites and the produce. Since the houses built by the members were small and suited to their personal requirements, bullocks had to be distributed in three cattle sheds, implements in two cattle sheds whereas the produce and other materials in four stores. The annual rent for these buildings came to Rs. 680. Once the godown was constructed, it was expected, these houses would be rented out to the farm servants. The loan of Rs. 5,000 sanctioned for the purpose was too inadequate according to the members as they needed a large godown and cattle shed because of the large size of their holding.

Two of the members, Dhaku and Madhav, had to repay their loans taken prior to the organization of the society. They, therefore, borrowed Rs. 3,000 and Rs.310 respectively from the society to repay these loans. Dhaku could repay his loan by the end of the year whereas Madhav could not repay even after the first year.

The society collected a share capital of Rs.620 in cash besides Rs. 5,880 in the form of bullocks and horses and Rs. 3,510 in the form of implements. The cows were retained with the individuals on the understanding that they would supply the manure free of cost to the society and the society would supply the fodder for these cows. The Government sanctioned Rs. 2,000 as the contribution to the share capital and Rs. 4,000 as the land development loan. The land development loan was used for deepening a well in the plot contributed by Ragha, the youngest brother, and laying out pipe lines in the field, contributed by Kathu, the eldest brother. The expenditure on deepening the well, however, proved futile as the well remained dry even after deepening. The pipe line, however, proved to be useful as it was possible to

carry water from the low lying well to a high lying plot and bring 2 additional acres under irrigation. The society obtained a managerial subsidy of Rs. 500 for the pay of the Manager.

The Bank gave a medium term loan of Rs. 8,000 for the purchase of three oil engines and pumps. Two oil engines were already contributed by the members Kathu and Suka. The purchase of 3 oil engines and the eight wells in the plots contributed by the members, enabled to irrigate 61 acres as against only 50 in the previous year.

The Bank also gave a crop loan of Rs. 42,500 which worked out to financing the society at the rate of Rs.150 per acre. In the previous year the crop loan borrowed by these members had amounted to Rs. 12,920 only or Rs.46 per acre. This loan proved quite adequate for the farm.

In the use of improved methods, the members attached more importance to the use of farmyard manure in large quantities than to the use of fertilizers. The total cost over farmyard manure worked out to Rs. 15,661 or Rs. 55 per acre as against Rs. 19 per acre when the plots were cultivated individually. The farmyard manure was purchased in large quantities through the forests in the adjoining talukas. The cost over fertilizers came to Rs. 382 only which was nearly equal to the cost over the same in the previous year. The use of insecticides was somewhat intensified and the cost over this item went up from Rs. 129 to Rs. 553.

The society devoted the irrigated part of the holding to Combodia cotton, Chilly, Wheat and Onion. Fertilizers were used only for parts under these crops and the quantities applied were even small. Since the society had used farmyard manure in large quantities, it was pointed out

that there was no need for the use of fertilizers to any sizeable scale. Combodia cotton was introduced for the first time in the village by the society and as many as 13 acres were devoted to that crop. Chilly and wheat were grown on 19 acres in each case whereas three acres were devoted to Onions and vegetables. The 'Mosambi' orchard had already occupied 7 acres and there were 600 trees in this orchard. Some of the old and unhealthy plants were uprooted and replaced by 200 young plants.

The unirrigated area was devoted to cotton, groundnut, bajri and jowar. Improved seeds were used for cotton, groundnut and wheat, whereas for the other crops the home grown seeds were utilized. A part of the area under unirrigated cotton was grown by the method of dibbling the seeds instead of drilling. This practice was also introduced in the village for the first time by the society.

The gross cropped area increased from 104 per cent to 112 per cent in the first year when compared to the area prior to the organization. Fifty per cent of the area was, however, devoted to the food crops prior to the organization, which was reduced to 43 per cent in the first year because of growing cash crops on the irrigated holding.

The gross value of production came to Rs.62,886 or Rs. 257 per acre as against only Rs. 169 per acre when the lands were cultivated individually. The anna valuation of crops in the village in both years was, however, 8 annas. In spite of the rise in production the society suffered a loss of Rs. 5,603 because of larger expenditure over wages, farmyard manure and distributing a property income at the rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent which itself amounted to Rs.16,166 or Rs.2,303 per household on an average.

### Attitudes of the Members

The members felt that the loss was due to lack of experience on their part in handling the expenditures in a co-operative farming society. They hoped to improve the position in the subsequent years through guiding the expenditure properly. In spite of the loss, they had received the property income as well as wages for their supervision and management and the rent for their houses. Besides the society had paid their 'baluta' payments to the artisans and servicemen and they could get free services.

The division of work made by the society had enabled the members to put in work according to their ability. Kathu had gone old and his son Bajirao had to look after the entire farm. So was the case with Maruti whose eldest son had accepted a job in Goa. It was practically difficult for them to manage their irrigated holdings. Their farms were always raided by thieves as it was not possible for them to provide proper watching. It was difficult for Raha to manage the farm because of illiteracy. Being a simple-ton he was being cheated by many persons in case of financial matters. It was not possible for him to take ~~the~~ to irrigated farming as the others on this account.

All the members were equally benefited from the lavish use of farmyard manure. Previously none of the members had a capacity to make any investments on the farm, on the individual basis. At the time of their Grandfather, their farm business was prosperous and they could invest in purchasing additional land. They deeply felt for being unable to contribute to the growth of their farm at the same rate as in the past.

Prior to the organization of the society, it was very

difficult for a member to use his cart for going to the town or to the market because of the limited number of bullocks. Now a pair of bullocks could be easily spared through the 23 bullocks. So also persons from even two or more households could use a cart for a similar destination since the bullocks and the carts belonged to all.

It was also previously difficult for these members to assemble casual labourers for the individual farms since each person required a few labourers and could employ them for a short time. Because of the very large size of the holding, it had become now possible for them to dominate the casual labour market in the village and attract casual labourers without much efforts. The pooling of land had checked the long distant movements of labourers from one farm to the other and this had added to the saving over the labour costs as well as to the comfort in their supervision and management.

Previously almost every member had a plot in every farm and this greatly added to the difficulties in management. Every member was highly pleased with the organization of the society since their worries and efforts in the management of their farms were considerably reduced.

It became possible for the three nephews to take to mechanized irrigation as was their practice before the separation of their household. So also because of the pipe lines, it became possible to carry the water from the wells owned by some members to the previously un-irrigated plots owned by the others. It being the first year of the society, it was not possible for them to extend irrigation over a wider area. So also they could not start the flour mill again because of financial as well as other practical difficulties. In the course of

time, however, they expect to gain experience, earn large profits for their society to increase its funds and as far as possible refrain from borrowing from the outside as was the practice at the time of their grandfathers.



APPENDIX I

Table showing the irrigated and unirrigated lands pooled by the members and contributions in the form of share capital

| Names of the members in the households | Land pooled       |                      |               | Value of land pooled<br>Rs. | Share capital in the form of cash, implements, bullocks, houses, engines, etc. Rs. |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--|
|  | Irrigated<br>A.G. | Un-irrigated<br>A.G. | Total<br>A.G. |                             |  |
| 1. Kathu and his son                   | 19-17             | 35- 5                | 54-22         | 90,660                      | 2,900  |
| 2. Suka and his son                    | 9-00              | 34-29                | 43-29         | 66,435                      | 1,240  |
| 3. Dhaka and his son                   | 7-20              | 25-27                | 33- 7         | 46,555                      | 920  |
| 4. Ragha and his son                   | -                 | 60-14                | 60-14         | 69,440                      | 2,230  |
| 5. Maruti                              | 4-33              | 26- 9                | 31- 2         | 44,535                      | 900  |
| 6. Muralidhar                          | 3-37              | 25- 8                | 29- 5         | 42,275                      | 780  |
| 7. Madhav                              | 5-19              | 26- 9                | 31-28         | 46,500                      | 1,040  |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>50- 6</b>      | <b>233-21</b>        | <b>283-27</b> | <b>4,06,400</b>             | <b>10,010</b>  |

APPENDIX II

Table showing the plan of division of work among the members  
and their family members

| House-<br>hold<br>S.No. | Name of<br>the person | Whether a<br>member or<br>a non-<br>member | Age<br>(Years) | Type of work  | Monthly<br>wage<br>(Rs.) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1                       | a) Kathu              | Member                                     | 65             | General supervision over the work of all the other members and co-ordination  | 40                       |
|                         | b) Bajirao            | Member                                     | 30             | Engaging the casual labourers, managing the fruit orchard and supervising casual labourers  | 55                       |
|                         |                       |  |                | Total   | <u>95</u>                |
| 2                       | a) Suka               | Member                                     | 60             | Supervision on the irrigated farms  | 20                       |
|                         | b) Rajaram            | Non-member                                 | 30             | Work on the farm along with the farm servants   | 45                       |
|                         | c) Gulabrao           | Member                                     | 28             | Supervising oil engines, general mechanics and maintaining parts of the accounts  | 55                       |
|                         | d) Ramesh             | Non-member                                 | 22             | Running two oil engines   | <u>45</u>                |
|                         |                       |  | Total          | <u>165</u>  |                          |
| 3                       | a) Dhaka              | Member                                     | 54             | Awakening the farm servants in the early morn, carrying the food to the members supervising or working on the farm, looking after the horses and feeding them, looking after the lanterns used for lighting in the office and for going to the farms at night for watching etc. | 30                       |
|                         | b) Dharma             | Member                                     | 24             | Work on the farm along with the farm servants and carrying the produce to the market  | 45                       |
|                         |                       |  | Total          | <u>75</u>   |                          |
| 4                       | a) Ragha              | Member                                     | 50             | Driving the carts and tonga at times  | 15                       |
|                         | b) Nimba              | Member                                     | 25             | Working on the farm along the farm servants   | <u>45</u>                |
|                         |                       |  | Total          | <u>60</u>   |                          |
| 5                       | a) Maruti             | Member                                     | 55             | Watching the irrigated farm and the threshing yard  | 15                       |
|                         | b) Girdhar            | Non-member                                 | 26             | Running one oil engine  | <u>45</u>                |
|                         |                       |  | Total          | <u>60</u>   |                          |
| 6                       | a) Muralidhar         | Member                                     | 45             | Management and keeping accounts   | 65                       |
|                         | b) Yadav              | Non-member                                 | 25             | Running one oil engine  | 45                       |
|                         | c) Shaligram          | Non-member                                 | 23             | Store-keeper and helping the members of all the households during the day time if there was a need  | 45                       |
|                         |                       |  | Total          | <u>155</u>  |                          |
| 7                       | Madhav                | Member                                     | 40             | Assigning work to the farm servants and supervising   | 55                       |
|                         |                       |  | Total          | <u>55</u>   |                          |

APPENDIX III

Table showing the proportion of area under different crops, before and after the organization of the society

| Name of the crop       | Prior to the organization of the society | In the first year after the organization |
|------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Cotton (Irrigated)   | -  | 4.22                                     |
| 2 Cotton (Unirrigated) | 13.31                                    | 9.72                                     |
| 3 Groundnut            | 28.05                                    | 34.05                                    |
| 4 Chilly               | 5.05                                     | 6.07                                     |
| 5 Onion                | 0.34                                     | -  |
| 6 Fruits               | 2.41                                     | 2.12                                     |
| 7 Jowar                | 4.49                                     | 3.10                                     |
| 8 Wheat                | 3.96                                     | 5.98                                     |
| 9 Gram                 | 0.81                                     | 0.94                                     |
| 10 Bajara              | 21.20                                    | 18.20                                    |
| 11 Rabbi Jowar         | 19.15                                    | 11.82                                    |
| 12 Vegetables          | 0.34                                     | 1.03                                     |
| 13 Pulses              | 0.89                                     | 2.75                                     |
| Total                  | 100.00                                   | 100.00                                   |

APPENDIX IV

Table showing some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the society

| Item  | Prior to the organization | In the first year after the organization |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| 1 Number of members   | -                         | 11                                       |
| 2 Land pooled (acres)   | -                         | 283                                      |
| 3 Area irrigated (acres)  | 50                        | 62                                       |
| 4 Number of oil engines   | 2                         | 5  |
| 5 Total cost over farmyard manures (Rs.)  | 5,570                     | 15,661                                   |
| 6 Cost of manures per acre (Rs.)  | 19                        | 55                                       |
| 7 Total cost over fertilizers (Rs.)   | 395                       | 382                                      |
| 8 Cost of fertilizers per acre (Rs.)  | 1.4                       | 1.3                                      |
| 9 Total cost over insecticides (Rs.)  | 129                       | 553                                      |
| 10 Cost over insecticides per acre (Rs.)  | 0.4                       | 1.9                                      |
| 11 Number of members working on the farm  | 11                        | 11                                       |
| 12 Number of farm servants employed   | 15                        | 13                                       |
| 13 Total wage payment (Rs.)   | 14,800 *                  | 18,419                                   |
| 14 Wage payments per acre (Rs.)   | 52                        | 65                                       |
| 15 WAGES earned by the members (Rs.)  | -                         | 5,477                                    |
| 16 Per cent of wages earned by the members (per cent)                           | -                         | 30                                       |
| 17 Crop finance from the Bank (Rs.)   | 12,920                    | 42,500                                   |
| 18 Crop finance per acre (Rs.)  | 46                        | 150                                      |
| 19 Gross cropped area (acres)   | 293                       | 317                                      |
| 20 Per cent of gross cropped area to the net cultivated area (per cent)         | 104                       | 112                                      |
| 21 Gross area under food crops (acres)  | 148                       | 136                                      |
| 22 Per cent of gross area under food crops to the gross cropped area (per cent) | 50                        | 43                                       |
| 23 Gross area under cash crops  | 145                       | 181                                      |
| 24 Per cent of gross area under cash crops to the gross cropped area (per cent) | 50                        | 57                                       |
| 25 Gross value of crop production (Rs.)   | 47,918                    | 62,886                                   |
| 26 Gross value of crop production per acre (Rs.)                                | 169                       | 257                                      |
| 27 Profit or Loss (Rs.)   | -                         | Loss Rs. 5,603                           |

\* Excluding wages for self employment.

7. THE DONGARDARA COOPERATIVE COLLECTIVE FARMING  
SOCIETY LTD.

DONGARDARA \*  
( District - Dhulia )

Synopsis

- The Village
- Promotion and registration
- Characteristics of membership
- Functioning in the first year
- Characteristics of the second year
- Changes in the membership
- Characteristics of the third year
- Present position and attitude of the members
- Appendix I : The proportions of area under the different crops grown by the Society.
- Appendix II : The distribution of profits earned by the society during the first two years.
- Appendix III : Some aspects of farm business in the three years completed by the Society.

\* Fictitious names have been used for the Society and the Village.

THE DONGARDARA COOPERATIVE COLLECTIVE FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

DONGARDARA

The Village

Dongardara is a fairly big village, having a population of 2145 persons. It is located in a hilly area and is surrounded by small hillocks.

The soils for a larger part of the area are inferior. Medium type of soil is found only in the valleys formed by these hillocks. The area of the village is also fairly large and exceeds over 15,000 acres. One third of the area is under cultivation and the remaining two third consists of grazing grounds for a major part. There are 52 wells in the village out of which 45 are used for irrigation. Only seasonal crops are grown on the irrigated lands because of scarcity of water after December. The practices of cultivation followed in the area are almost traditional and there is opposition from the people for making any innovations in farming.

There is a middle school, Gram-panchayat and a Multi-purpose Cooperative Society in the village. There are four collective farming societies organized on the lands round about the village. An attempt was made to increase the extent of literacy in the village by making provision for adult education. It was claimed that all the persons in the village had become literate. The village was, therefore, honoured for this achievement through the Development Block by a special function viz. the "Gram-gaurav". A majority of the members in the society for which this case study was made, were, however, found to be even unable to put their signatures.

Promotion and Registration

The efforts to organize the present collective farming society had started quite long back before the year

1950. Parts of the land held by the society at present were given to individual small farmers and landless persons for cultivation in the year 1951. Those who could not get land through this distribution, thought of organizing a society and claiming the land. According to the Cooperative Farming Scheme of 1949, the Government had also adopted a policy to give preference to the cooperative farming societies over the individual landless persons in the distribution of cultivable waste lands. One of the local leaders from the area came forward to help these people. He could get sanctioned a plot of 300 acres, given to the individuals previously, for cultivation by the society. The persons who were given the land had tilled and levelled parts of their holdings and brought them under cultivation. The decision of the Government made their efforts put in, in bringing the land under cultivation null and void. An enmity, had already developed between the two groups of persons and each group was supported by a different political party. The group of the individuals to whom the land was sanctioned previously, instigated the sheep breeders in a nearby village to graze their sheep on the land and claim the land for grazing. This led to a quarrel between the organizers of the society and the sheep breeders. The sheep breeders bet some of the persons prepared to organize the society and the whole matter went into the court. The litigation continued for over two years. The sheep breeders were punished for their offence.

The Mamlatdar of the Taluka and the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies in the district visited the village in 1957 and selected 20 persons from both the political groups.

It was decided to organize the society as a mixed

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type of society as persons who were given the lands previously belonged to the higher caste whereas the other persons claiming the land through the organization of the society belonged to the scheduled and the backward castes. Persons from both these communities had therefore, to be selected with a ratio of one fourth higher caste persons to three fourth scheduled and backward caste persons as required for the organization of a mixed type of collective farming society.

By this time, the two political groups in the village had also united and there was, therefore, no rivalry in the groups on account of political reasons. It took, yet, three years after this selection of members to acquire the land of 300 acres through the Government and register the society. The registration was, however, speeded up when the enthusiastic Deputy Registrar took charge of the Department in the district. He visited the village many a times personally and arranged for the final registration of the society with 20 members, in the year 1960. Even today one would find his photograph being printed on the annual reports published by the society to honour the efforts put in by him in the registration as well as the smooth functioning of the society on sound lines.

#### Characteristics of Membership

Five of the twenty members were selected from the higher caste as the persons from the higher caste were given the lands for individual cultivation in the year 1951. Four of the higher caste persons, however, belonged to the 'Mali' caste as it was the predominant caste engaged in cultivation in the village. One member belonged to the Maratha caste. The other 15 members were selected from the scheduled and the backward castes. Ten of these members belonged to the 'Bhil' caste, four to the Mahar caste and one to the Chambhar caste. Two



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of the persons belonging to the 'Bhil' caste and one to the 'Mahar' caste did not want to join the society as they had other sources of livelihood. The leaders, however, made up their minds to accept the membership of the society as 'dummy' members, just for the sake of registration as it was necessary to collect 3/4th scheduled or backward caste members so necessary for the registration of a mixed type of cooperative collective farming society.

Two of the members from the 'Mali' caste owned lands previously but they were lost through heavy indebtedness. One member from the 'Mali' caste was engaged as a farm servant and the holding his family owned was in the name of his brother. The other 'Mali' member was also engaged as a farm servant. The member from the Maratha caste had lost his land because of heavy indebtedness and was serving as a casual labourer in the village.

All the four members of the Mahar caste owned the lands but they were in the names of their brothers. The 'Chambhar' member was landless but was engaged in his traditional occupation of making shoes. Eight of the 'Bhil' members were engaged as farm servants whereas the remaining two members were earning their livelihood through wood cutting and casual labour.

#### Functioning in the first year

Three of the members who were enrolled as 'dummy' members never turned up for any work or for any meeting of the society after the registration. "One of these three members had to be virtually lifted up to take him to the place of registration before the Deputy Registrar "explained one of the members" as his presence was badly needed at the time of registration". The society had, therefore, to start its functioning with

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only 17 members with the ratio of 5 members of the higher caste to 12 members of the other castes.

The Managing Committee was made of 7 members and it included members from different castes. The leaders from each caste, however, played the predominant role in the management of the society. The Managing Committee met for as many as 45 times during the first year. This was possible because of an efficient Manager provided by the Sale and Purchase Union to this society. The Manager was a matriculate, had taken a diploma in cooperation and completed a training course for secretariship. He had also the experience of working for three years in the Supervising Union. He had, however, to be employed on a high salary of Rs.180 per month as he was drawing the same salary in the Union.

The members constructed small huts on the farm and lived in these huts. This was necessary as the farm was about 3 miles from the village and it was difficult to go to work daily on the farm by staying at a long distance. This was also meant to form a habit of working daily on the society's farm, among the members.

The share capital contributed by the members came to Rs.320. The value of a share was Rs.10. Some of the 'Mali' members and the 'Chambhar' members had purchased more than one share each. The Government contributed a share capital of Rs.4000 and gave a loan of Rs.8000 for land development which implied a subsidy of Rs.1600. Rs.1200 were given as a subsidy for the pay of the Manager. The Bank also gave a crop loan of Rs.5000 and a medium term loan of Rs.3000 for the construction of a temporary godown and cattle shed. The total loan and assistance the society received in its first year came to Rs.21200.

The society could bring 167 acres of the 300 acres of holding under cultivation. Part of this land was,

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however, already reclaimed by the individual landless persons who were given the land previously. Compared to the cultivated area, the total finance received by the society worked out to Rs.127 per acre.

The society purchased 23 bullocks at a cost of Rs.6440 during the year. Four of these bullocks were, however, purchased late in the year. The farming in the first year had to be mainly undertaken with the help of 19 bullocks. The area cultivated per pair of bullocks worked out to 17 acres. The number of bullocks was adequate. The implements were purchased at a cost of Rs.3689.

All the 17 members worked on the farm. They were appointed as daily workers on a fixed salary of Rs.1.50 per day. They were, however, expected to work even when there was little work on the farm and were also permitted to give other labourers in exchange if it was not possible for them to attend to the work personally. The exchange generally took place with the family members of these members. This mode of employment implied the employment of members almost as annual farm servants on a salary of Rs.540 per year. The total wage payment of the society in the first year was Rs.8927 or Rs.53 per acre including the cost of Rs.4745 for the development measures in reclaiming the lands. The members earned 80 percent of these wages.

The society devoted the holding to the cultivation of jowar, bajri, groundnut, sesamum, horsegram and rabi jowar. The superior soils in the valley portion of the holding were devoted to the cultivation of rabi jowar whereas horse gram was sown on the ridge area.

Only the traditional methods of cultivation were followed. It was not possible to manure the soils for want of manure. The gross value of production came to Rs.16630 or Rs.99 per acre.

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The society earned a profit of Rs.5656. Fifty-three percent of this profit was distributed among the members as bonus on their wages whereas the remaining part was contributed to the various funds according to the provisions in the bye-laws. The members earned a bonus of 40 percent over the wages they earned during the year.

#### Characteristics of the Second year

There was a nominal change in the Managing Committee. The leader of the Bhil caste became the Chairman of the society instead of the leader of the Mali caste.

The leaders of the society decided to supply the members their requirements of grains, grocery and cloth through the society itself instead of the wage payments in cash. This was necessary as all the members stayed on the farm which was quite away from the village. The members also agreed to receiving the payments as far as possible in kind as it saved their efforts in going to the village for such purchases.

The members also organized a Cooperative Housing Society to enable them to build decent houses on/farm itself.

The society obtained a loan of Rs.5000 for the construction of the godown and a managerial subsidy of Rs.1200 from the Government. The Bank also gave a crop loan of Rs.13,000 and a medium term loan of Rs.1800 for the purchase of the bullocks. A temporary cattleshed was already constructed through the medium term loan given for the purpose by the Bank during the last year. The society purchased 7 bullocks through this loan. The cost over these bullocks came to Rs.1931.

All the members worked on the farm as in the previous year. The total wage payment of the society came to Rs.10965. The members earned 73 percent of

9 this wage payment as against 80 per cent in the previous year. A large part of the non-member labour was, however, provided by the family members in the member families as the households stayed on the farm. It was estimated that only 10 per cent of the wages were earned by the outside labour which was mainly employed for the contractual works at the time of harvesting.

The programme of reclamation of land was speeded up by the end of the first year. It was possible to bring 240 acres of the land under cultivation as against only 167 during the last year. It was possible to use farm yard manure produced on the farm during the last year, which was valued at Rs.825. There was no change either in the cropping pattern or the methods of cultivation.

The gross value of crop production came to Rs.18164 or Rs.76 per acre during the second year as against the production of Rs.99 per acre during the previous year. The season was not so favourable as in the previous year as well as the additional land brought under the plough was very inferior.

The society could, yet, earn a profit of Rs.3671. The profit was again distributed on the same pattern as in the previous year. The members, however, received only 25 per cent bonus over their wages as against the bonus of 40 per cent during the first year.

#### Changes in the Membership

The leader of the Bhil caste who was the Chairman, had misappropriated some funds as was noticed by the other members. He had sold a part of the Green Gram produced by the society to a villager but the amount was not entered in the accounts of the society. The other members, therefore, approached the Deputy Registrar and demanded the expulsion of such a dishonest member.

He was made to resign for this behaviour but his son was enrolled as a member in his place.

A group of members belonging to the Mali caste had some grievances against the member belonging to the Chambhar caste. He was also made to resign after a severe quarrel. Being the only member from the Chambhar caste, he took the decision of leaving the society as he had no support from the other members.

#### Characteristics of the third year

The number of members in the third year got reduced to 16 with a ratio of 5 higher caste to 11 lower caste members, because of these changes.

The Government gave again a subsidy of Rs.1200 for the pay of the Manager. The Bank also gave a medium term loan of Rs.3900 for the construction of the seed store. The amount of loan given for the construction of the godown was inadequate to build a large godown for the farm. The society, therefore, decided to construct another building for storing the produce.

The Bank gave a crop loan of Rs.15,000 during the year. The Bank had raised its loans every year from Rs.5000 to the above amount because of the profits earned by the society as well as prompt repayment of the earlier loans.

The wage payments of the society came to Rs.10682 during the year. The members earned nearly the same proportion as in the previous year.

The society started the work of constructing a well to introduce irrigation on the farm and to employ the members in the work of construction. This work was, however, started in anticipation of a loan from the Bank for the purpose which was not yet sanctioned.

The society also constructed one 'bandhara' across the stream for the storage of water for the

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household purposes. It spent an amount of Rs.700 for the purpose through its own funds. The construction of this 'bandhara' made it possible for the members to get water for the household purposes quite near to their dwellings as formerly they had to bring water for the purpose from a longer distance.

The society could bring only 10 additional acres under the plough during this year as the quality of the remaining land was very inferior. The same crops as grown in the previous years were grown during the year. The only change was that it was not possible to sow Rabi jowar in the season because of the failure of the rains. There was no change in the methods of cultivation. The season was also not favourable for all the crops. The production of groundnut was affected considerably on this account. The gross value of crop production came to Rs.17968 or Rs.72 per acre. The society suffered a loss of Rs.1600. The members could not, therefore, get any bonus as in the previous years.

#### Present Position and Attitudes of the Members

The society was given a medium term loan of Rs.3300 for the completion of the well as well as for purchasing an oil engine and a pump. The society had decided to grow chilly during the year by irrigation at least over two acres of the farm. The society had completed the construction of the godown as well as the construction of the seed store. There was no necessity for any more buildings on the farm. There was no progress in the construction of houses for the members as the Cooperative Housing Society which they had organized had yet to prepare the plans and submit the estimates to the Department.

The members were pleased with the society because of the permanent employment it had provided.

It was, however, difficult for the family members in the member families to get employment outside the society's farm because of the distance which separated the village from their colony.

The members were largely benefitted through the arrangements made by the society to supply them their daily needs as grains and grocery against their wage payments. This had made it possible for the members to get better quality commodities at a cheaper rate when compared to the rates in the village. It had also led to the saving of time on their part and made it possible for them to devote greater time for the work on the society's farm.

The employment of all the members even when there was little work on the farm, had, however, led considerably to disguised unemployment on the farm. As some of the members themselves brought to our notice, the disguised unemployment was one of the factors which had made the members feel more comfortable in the society than on the private farms. When employed on a private farm a farm servant had to work very hard. The owner of the farm always tried to create work for a farm servant even when there was little work on the farm. After the organization of the society, however, there was a change in the nature of employment. All the farm servants had now to decide their own work and work collectively on the farm.



APPENDIX I

Table showing the proportions of area under the different crops grown by the society.

|   | Name of<br>the crop | In the<br>first<br>year after<br>the orga-<br>nization. | In the<br>second<br>year after<br>the organ-<br>ization. | In the third<br>year after<br>the organiza-<br>tion. |
|---|---------------------|---|--|--|
| 1 | Groundnut           | 20.94   | 20.83  | 20.00  |
| 2 | Bajara              | 32.31   | 37.50  | 48.00  |
| 3 | Jowar               | 24.61   | 20.83  | 18.00  |
| 4 | Green gram          | -   | -  | 2.00   |
| 5 | Sesamum             | 2.84  | 4.17   | 2.00   |
| 6 | Horsegram           | 10.77   | 6.25   | 10.00  |
| 7 | Rabi Jowar          | 8.53  | 10.42  | -  |
|   | Total:              | 100.00  | 100.00   | 100.00   |

APPENDIX II

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Table showing the distribution of profits earned by the society during the first two years.

| I t e m                                   | 1960-61<br>Rs. | 1961-62<br>Rs. | Total<br>Rs. |
|---|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 Reserve Fund                            | 565.69         | 367.18         | 932.87       |
| 2 Share Dividend                          | 259.20         | 259.20         | 518.40       |
| 3 Education Fund                          | 84.85          | 55.08          | 139.93       |
| 4 Land Improvement Fund                   | 565.68         | 367.18         | 932.86       |
| 5 Mutual Aid Fund                         | 565.68         | 183.59         | 749.27       |
| 6 Share Refund Fund                       | 565.68         | 367.18         | 932.86       |
| 7 Bonus on the wages<br>earned by members | 2984.00        | 1995.75        | 4979.75      |
| 8 Balance from the<br>profit              | 66.00          | 76.59          | 142.59       |
| Total                                     | 5656.78        | 3671.75        | 9328.53      |

APPENDIX III

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Table showing some aspects of Farm Business  
in the three years completed by the society

| I t e m   | First<br>year      | Second<br>year     | Third<br>year    |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Number of members   | 20                 | 17                 | 16               |
| 2 Area cultivated (acres)   | 167                | 240                | 250              |
| 3 Percent of area brought<br>under cultivation (percent)            | 56                 | 80                 | 83               |
| 4 Number of working members   | 17                 | 17                 | 16               |
| 5 Cost over manures (Rs.)   | -                  | 825                | 825              |
| 6 Total wage payment (Rs.)  | 8927               | 10965              | 10682            |
| 7 Wage payment per acre (Rs.)                                       | 53                 | 45                 | 43               |
| 8 Wages earned by the<br>members (Rs.)                              | 7180               | 7983               | 7698             |
| 9 Percent of wages earned<br>by the members (percent)               | 80                 | 73                 | 72               |
| 10 Wages earned by<br>contractual labour (Rs.)                      | *                  | 1051               | 1248             |
| 11 Percent of area under food<br>crops (percent)                    | 79                 | 79                 | 80               |
| 12 Percent of area under cash<br>crops (percent)                    | 21                 | 21                 | 20               |
| 13 Gross value of crop<br>production (Rs.)                          | 16630              | 18161              | 17968            |
| 14 Gross value of production<br>per acre (Rs.)                      | 99                 | 76                 | 72               |
| 15 Profit or loss   | Profit<br>Rs. 5656 | Profit<br>Rs. 3671 | Loss<br>Rs. 1600 |
| 16 Bonus distributed as<br>percent of the wages<br>earned (percent) | 40                 | 25                 | -                |

\* Not available.

## II Case Studies - District Wardha

### 1. THE GURUDEV GANGAKHED COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

GANGAKHED

(District - Wardha)

#### Synopsis

- The Village
- Promotion and Registration
- A Split in the group
- Characteristics of the Residual Membership
- Functionin in the First Year
- Some Characteristics of the Second Year
- Attitudes of the Members
- Appendix I : Some Characteristics of the Membership.
- Appendix II : Some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the Society.
- Appendix III : Proportion of area under the different crops before and after the organization of the Society.

## THE GURUDEV GANGAKHED COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY, LTD.

\*  
GANGAKHED

( District : Wardha )

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The Village

Gangakhed is a fairly small village situated near the Wardha river. It has a population of only 390 persons dwelling in about 70 households. Nearly 40 of these households do not own any land. Fifty percent of the landless households, however, belong to the fishing community and are engaged in fishing in the river and labour on the farm.

The area of the village is also fairly small consisting of 430 acres only. Sixty-five percent of this area is under cultivation and is cultivated by the 30 land owning families. Twentythree of these families belong to the class of small farmers owning less than 10 acres of land in each case. There are no facilities for irrigation even though the village has a vicinity of a river. Only one of the farmers was growing crops by well irrigation through the use of an oil engine which was maintained mainly for running a flour mill.

The village had been active in social upliftment and economic activities since the past. The villagers took active part in the Freedom movement and wiped out untouchability from the village since the Independence. Many of the villagers were followers of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj who was running an Ashram nearby. Apart from the Gram Panchayat and the Seva Sahakari Society, there was also a Grain Bank in the village. Most of the villagers in the area being small, the jurisdiction of the Gram Panchayat, however, included three more neighbouring villages whereas that of the Seva Sahakari

\* Fictitious names have been used for the Society, the Village as well as the Members.

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Society included one more village. The Grain Bank was well functioning and catered to the needs of the members whenever they were in need of food grains.

The villagers had repaired the village roads and constructed trench latrines through Shramadan. A Cooperative Grain Shop was also being run by them till the year 1962. These conditions in the village, however, changed later because of the rise of two major factions.

#### Promotion and Registration

The people in the area wanted to create a memorial for the martyrs in the Ashti-Chimur case in which some of the persons from the area were executed and prisoned. As they were the followers of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj who used to propogate the idea of cooperative farming through the 'Bhajans' ( singing of devotional songs ), they thought of creating the memorial in the form of organizing Cooperative Farming Societies which would alone add to the welfare of the small farmers. The two leading personalities from the village, Ramrao and Dhanaji decided to create a memorial in their village also in the form of a Cooperative Farming Society along with such societies in the neighbouring four villages.

There was unity in the village and these leaders were respected. They could convince the villagers about the benefits from cooperative farming. Sant Tukadoji Maharaj who was highly respected and worshipped in the village, also had been stressing the benefits through his 'Bhajans'. Most of the small farmers therefore, decided to unite and pool their lands in the society. The leaders could succeed in enrolling 18 of the 23 small farmers as the members for the society. These 18 members owned 97 acres or nearly 35 per cent

of the cultivated land in the village.

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One of the organizers namely, Ramrao, was himself a big farmer and owned land in the village Gangakhed as well as in a neighbouring village. He pooled his land in the neighbouring village in the society in that village but was not prepared to pool his entire holding in the village Gangakhed in this society. He wanted to retain some land for personal cultivation. The other members were on the contrary prepared to pool their entire holdings. They could not, therefore, appreciate his idea of retaining some land for personal cultivation. As this might have affected the preparedness of the other members to pool their entire holdings, it was decided that Ramrao should not become the member of the society but should simply guide the society in its functioning.

The society was inaugurated under the Presidentship of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj in one of the neighbouring villages along with other three societies.

#### A split in the group

All the members were the followers of the political ideology of the Congress Party. During the General Elections to the Parliament and the Legislative Assembly, there develop two groups in the party at the taluka level on the issue of selection of a candidate for the Legislative Assembly from the area. The dissident group supported its own candidate who contested the seat and got elected as an Independent Candidate. This split in the taluka group also led to formation of two groups in this village. Eight of the members were the supporters of one group whereas the remaining members supported the other group. It was evident by this time that the two groups would not be agreeable to each other even in the matters

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related to the society. Eight of the members from one of the groups, whose leader had not become the member of the society, therefore, resigned their membership. Nine members belonging to the group of Dhanaji who had then become the Chairman of the society, decided to continue in the society under the his leadership.

#### Characteristics of the Residual Membership

All the members contributed their entire holdings. Dhanaji pooled nine acres of his holding having one well and irrigation facilities for three acres. He also deposited his oil engine and the flour mill in the society. He was the only member having some facilities for irrigation. The acres of his land were, however, uncultivable. Sakha pooled 14 acres of his land and he was the only member to pool a large size of the holding. Gulabrao, an old person aged above 70, joined the society with his son and they together pooled 7 acres of land. One widow also joined with her a son and contributed 2-1/2 acres of her holding which she had obtained as a Bhoodan. Three of the remaining four members, namely Vithoba, Sheshrao and Vikram contributed 7, 5 and 3 acres of land respectively. One landless person who was employed as a farm servant on the Chairman's farm for operating the oil engine and the flour mill, was also enrolled as a member to look after the same engine after the organization of the society. This made up the minimum number of members required for a cooperative society and there was, therefore, no need to dissolve the society even though the members from the other faction had declined to continue in the society after the election.

These 10 members belonged to 8 households. All the land owning members came from the class of the poor



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small farmers except the Chairman and Sakha, as the former possessed irrigated lands whereas the latter owned 14 acres. Sakha, Vithoba and Vikram belonged to the fishing community whereas the remaining members belonged to the Kunbi or the cultivating caste.

All the members except the Chairman and Sakha had to seek employment on the other farms in the village to supplement the incomes from their farms. The landless member, the son of the widow as well as the son of the old person Gulabrao had to get employed as farm servants whereas the others had to get employed as casual labourers. The Chairman had employed a farm servant whereas both the Chairman and Sakha had to employ casual labourers from time to time for their farms. Only these two members owned a pair of bullocks whereas the other five landowning households had either to hire the bullocks for cultivation or at times to lease out their holdings to their relatives in the village.

Five of the households had to repay the loans taken prior to the organization of the society. The Chairman had to repay loans amounting to Rs.4100 which included taccavi loans of Rs.1000 and Rs.2500 borrowed for sinking the well and purchasing an oil engine respectively in the period 1955-1957. As the taccavi loans proved inadequate he had to borrow Rs.600 from one of the farmers in the village. Vithoba had to pay a crop loan of Rs.250 which was overdue and a loan for tractor ploughing amounting to Rs.200. Vikram and Gulabrao had also to pay crop loans of Rs.150 and Rs.250 which were overdue by the time. Only Sheshrao had to pay a crop loan of Rs.200 which was not overdue. The remaining members were debt-free. Vithoba had to sell even one acre of his land about 4 years ago, to

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repay the loan borrowed for purchasing a pair of bullocks.

The Chairman stayed in a big ancestral house consisting of six rooms. Sakha stayed in a house having one room and a Varandha. Vikram and the landless member being immigrants in this village, stayed in the houses of their relatives.

#### Functioning in the First Year

The holding pooled by these members came to 50 acres only though at the time of organization it was nearly double its present size. This holding was composed of five blocks, one of which was fairly big and contained 2/3rd of the land.

The share capital contributed by the members came to Rs.300. The society received Rs.2000 as the Government contribution to the share capital, Rs.4000 as the loan for land development and Rs.5000 as the loan and subsidy for the construction of the godown. There was no need for the loan for godown immediately and the amount was, therefore, not drawn from the account for the time being. These finances enabled the society to start its functioning.

Bullocks and implements were available only from the Chairman and Sakha as the other members possessed neither bullocks nor implements. The Chairman contributed only one of his bullocks as the other died before contribution. Bhika had two bullocks but they were sold to the society in the name of his son for Rs.675. The society purchased two more bullocks for Rs.725 and continued farming with the help of 5 bullocks. An iron plough was also purchased for Rs.80 from the market as none of the members possessed an iron plough. Sakha offered his bullockshed and the store house free of rent for keeping the bullocks and implements whereas

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one of the rooms in the Chairman's house was offered as a room for the office.

The landless member was appointed as a farm servant mainly to look after the oil engine and the flour mill as he was habituated to the work. Sakha, the son of the widow and Gulabrao's son were the other three members who were appointed as farm servants, on the society's farm. Though only Sakha among these four members, had no previous experience of working as hard as a farm servant, his appointment was expected to solve all the problems in supervision. Sakha and Gulabrao's son were appointed to serve on the monthly basis whereas the other two were to serve on the annual basis. Gulabrao himself was unable to put in any labour because of old age. The remaining five members including the Chairman and the widow worked as casual labourers on the farm whenever there was employment. The four member farm servants earned about 55 per cent of the total wage payment of the society whereas the casual working members earned about 25 per cent. The family members of all these members earned about 12 per cent and only 8 per cent of the wages were earned by the non-members. These proportions are, however, worked out from the figures supplied by the Manager. The expenses in the final accounts of the society, being classified only according to the different farm operations, it was not possible to get very accurate figures for the wage payment and for the expenses over various forms of labour.

It was necessary to have a few farm servants for the farm as without them it would not have been possible to perform the various duties in a day at the proper times. A farm servant, for example, was required for doing the jobs which a cultivator himself did as

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cleaning the bullock shed early in the morning, plastering the ground, feeding and washing the bullocks at the proper times, watching the farm and even doing overtime work if there was scarcity of casual labour. The casual labourer on the contrary, worked only between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and was available, moreover, for scheduled works requiring almost no change in the work in a day as harrowing, inter-culturing, weeding, harvesting etc.

Non-member labour had to be employed only when there was a peak demand for labour as at the time of weeding and harvesting. Otherwise the labour available from among the members and their families, was utilised for the farm operations. It was not possible to employ all the casual working members throughout the year as the size of the holding was quite inadequate to employ all. The members had to remain unemployed for some part of the year. There were also difficulties in getting employment outside, as the demand for labour outside synchronized with the demand for labour on the society's farm. Only Sheshrao and Vithoba's son could get employment outside casually through their intimate contacts with some of the farmers. Vikram was, however, provided employment in the society almost throughout the year though he was not a farm servant.

The casual working members were paid wages at the rates prevailing in the village from time to time. There was no discrimination in the wage payments to the members and non-members. The farm servants were paid at the rate of Rs.540 per year out of which Rs.300 were paid in cash and the remaining in kind in the form of Jowar. The cash payments to the farm servants in the village varied between Rs.250 and Rs.300 according to the ability of the worker. The society, however, fixed

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the maximum wage rate for its farm servants as they were expected to work sincerely considering the society's farm as their own farm. The farm servants employed on the monthly basis were paid at 1/12th of this rate but they being employed throughout the year, it worked out to employing them virtually as the farm servants on the annual basis.

Sakha's son who was educated upto the 5th standard <sup>as</sup> was appointed/the Manager on a salary of Rs.50 per month. He had, however, only the experience of maintaining accounts in a grocer's shop in a nearby town where he was formerly employed. The Management Committee was made of five members including the Chairman. The other four members were Sakha, the son of the widow, Gulabrao's son and Sheshrao. Three of these members were farm servants whereas the fourth one was getting employed throughout the year. All the members being thus directly associated with the farm operations, it was possible to take decisions about the operations without attaching any importance to holding formal meetings and passing the resolutions. Officially, the Management Committee, met 17 times during the year. Though the landless member was not included in the Committee, he played important roles in the purchases and sales of the society along with the Chairman and the Manager.

The Bank sanctioned a crop loan of Rs.2100 which worked out to financing the society at a rate of Rs.42 per acre. Four of the members had, however, to repay their previous crop loans to the Bank. The Bank, therefore, deducted an amount equal to the amount due to these members and gave the remaining balance of Rs.900 to the society. The indebtedness of the members could not enable the society to get the full

benefit of the Bank loan. The society could not meet the current expenses of running the farm through the share capital and the Bank loan. It had, therefore, to use a part of the land development loan for the purpose. Sakha had also to deposit Rs.1000 in the society to meet the costs.

A part of the land development loan was already used for purchasing the bullocks. Actual land improvements were possible only in the plots contributed by Vithoba and Gulabrao wherein the bunds were repaired and the shrubs and perennial weeds were removed. The cost of these land improvements came to Rs.948.

The crop loans<sup>s</sup> deducted by the Bank on account of the loans outstanding on the four members were treated as loans advanced to those members by the society. In addition a loan of Rs.532 was given to the Chairman to repay his debt to one of the farmers in the village. The Chairman was, however, not paid the amount of Rs.4000 for the engine and the flour mill which he had deposited in the society.

The society grew chilly, brinjals and wheat on an area of 3 acres on the irrigated plot. The unirrigated holding was mainly devoted to jowar and cotton which occupied 20 and 75 per cents of the total holding respectively. Less than an acre was devoted to Groundnut and Rice. In the previous year, jowar and cotton were grown in nearly the same proportion when the land was cultivated individually. Only four of the households had, however, grown both jowar and cotton whereas the remaining three had sown cotton only.

The Chairman himself was a cultivator with progressive ideas. He had been using fertilizers for his crops, though on a small scale, since the last ten years. Moreover, he was the only farmer in the village

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to use the fertilizers. He continued his practices even after the organization of the society. Improved seeds of cotton, jowar and groundnut were obtained through the Agricultural Department and the Sale and Purchase Union. The Jowar seed obtained from one of the Seed Farms, however, could not germinate and the seed had, therefore, to be procured from the village for resowing. Out of 36 acres under cotton, 6 acres were utilised for growing cotton by dibbling the seeds instead of drilling them. Fertilizers worth Rs.273 were used for this area of 6 acres as well as the area of 1-1/2 acres under chilly. Formerly the Chairman who was the only member to use the fertilizers, had used fertilizers worth Rs.36 only for cotton grown by dibbling over 1-1/2 acres and for half an acre of chilly. Farm yard manure worth Rs.401 was purchased from the members and all the manure was used only for these 7-1/2 acres under chilly and dibbled cotton. In the previous year only four of the households had used manure for cotton worth Rs.335. Two of these households had even purchased manure from outside. One land owning member had, on the contrary, sold all his home produced manure to a farmer t in the village as he was poor and in need of money.

Both chilly as well as the dibbled cotton were sprayed twice with insecticides worth Rs.73. Chilly was grown by transplanting the plants at a special distance of 4' x 4'. The crop after its full growth, attained a height of nearly 4' and became a show piece in the area. It was praised by the President of the Zilla Parishad and Sant Tukadoji Maharaj who visited the farm. Jowar and Cotton in the remaining area were, however, grown without manuring and by the traditional methods.

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The total cost of production of the society came to Rs.6262 or Rs.129 per acre and the gross value of crops to Rs.6772 or Rs.135 per acre, leaving a profit of Rs.310 from the production. After taking into account the income from the flour mill and other revenues and the expenses over office maintenance, salary of the Manager, interest paid etc., the Profit and Loss Account showed a loss of Rs.1287. It was not possible to declare any property income or return for the land. The society, therefore, decided to make advances against the property income, if any of the members were badly in need of it.

#### Some Characteristics of the Second Year

The society had not completed its second year when the investigations were made. The accounts were also not finalized. Some changes in its functioning could, however, be noted through the discussions and the functioning for a part of the year.

Gulabrao who was aged above 70, died in the beginning of the year. His son left the job of a farm servant in the society and accepted a similar job outside as he was offered employment on the annual basis as against on the monthly basis in the society. He was on the Managing Committee and he was, therefore, replaced by the landless member. The Chairman encouraged the members to seek employment outside if such an employment was available so that more employment could be provided to the remaining members and their family members on the society's farm. Gulabrao's son, however, did not withdraw his land from the society but continued as a member. Sakha also did not accept the job of a farm servant this year but preferred to work as a casual labourer as it was a hard job for him. Vikram who worked as a casual labourer in the last year was



employed on the monthly basis in his place.

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As the land holding of the society was inadequate to provide full employment to the members, the Chairman thought of obtaining additional land for cultivation. The society applied to the Forest Department for a piece of land which was about four miles away from the village and thought of settling two or three members on the land. The society, however, received a reply that the piece of land was not transferable from the Forest to the Revenue Department and hence its application could not be considered. The society, therefore, purchased a plot of 13 acres in the village for Rs.1622. The plot was, however, lying uncultivated for a number of years but the society hoped to bring it under the plough and improve it. The society had no finance for the purchase. It, therefore, postponed to repay the Bank loan and invested the amounts in the purchase of land. The returns from the plot after the first harvest were, satisfactory and the society could repay the Bank loan immediately.

Because of purchasing the plot, the size of the farm increased to 63 acres. The society, however, reduced the area under the irrigated crops for inadequacy of fund. Irrigated crops were grown only on 1.25 acres. The society reduced the area under chilly only to  $\frac{3}{4}$ th of an acre. Jowar and Cotton were, however, grown on the unirrigated holding in the same proportion as in the previous year. Cotton was grown by the method of dibbling only on half an acre.

The society used manure worth Rs.800 in the second year. Besides using manure produced on the society's farm, it bartered manure from four of the members who had maintained some cows for the home production of milk against the surplus fodder. In addition, goats were

penned on an area of 8 acres to get the manure and the owners of these goats were paid Rs.250. This expenditure was, however, incurred before the decision to purchase the land. Fertilizers and insecticides could be used only for 1/3 rd of the area under chilly because of the stringency of finance. Because of the acute scarcity before the harvest, the society borrowed Rs.1200 from a newly registered Cooperative Joint Farming Society in the neighbouring village which had not utilised all the Government assistance and loans it had received.

The society was given 109 sheep of the Bannur breed free of cost by the Animal Husbandry Department to take to sheep rearing. The society was expected to purchase an equal number of sheep through its own funds under the scheme. As there was already a scarcity of finance with the Society, it could not purchase any sheep. It had, however, applied for a loan from the Bank for purchasing the sheep. The breed was meant only for the production of mutton. Though sheep mutton was not preferred in the area, the Society expected a good market for the sheep in a Military Camp in the district.

The members could not repay the amounts borrowed earlier as there was no return for their lands. Advances had to be given on the contrary against the property income as well as labour for the maintenance cost of the members. Gulabrao's son was given a fresh loan of Rs.100 when his father died. So also again a loan of Rs.50 was given to him when his wife was taken seriously ill. So also the Society had to give an advance of Rs.75 to Vikram for medical expenditure and maintenance when he fell ill. Prior to that he was given a loan of Rs.130 for building a house for himself in the village.

Attitudes of the members

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The Chairman expected that there would be a profit in the second year because of the additional land purchased by the society and it would be possible to distribute a property income. This would enable the members to repay their loans and advances. The Bank loan being repayed immediately after the first few pickings of cotton, it would be possible to borrow again from the Bank. There would be, therefore, no stringency of funds if the Bank sanctioned adequate crop loan. The borrowing capacity of the Society had also increased to some extent because of the purchase of the land.

All the members were satisfied with the organization and functioning of the society though they could get any return for the land. This was for the reason that they could get an assured employment on the society's farm. Formerly there were difficulties in getting employment outside as the cultivated area in the village was small whereas the number of landless families was large. Besides five of the households could not even till the lands properly as they possessed neither bullocks nor any implements. They could not even plough their lands regularly. After the organization of the society it was possible to plough all the area during the last two years.

The members were highly satisfied with the timely loans and advances which the Society sanctioned to the members to overcome their difficulties. They were also satisfied with the arrangement made by the Society for giving fodder for their milch animals in exchange for the manure produced. The society wanted to continue the practice with all the members if all were to maintain cows for the home production of milk.

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The members being agreeable to each other they could solve their own difficulties. This did create a sense of responsibility among the members for their society. Two more small farmers from the village expressed their desire to pool their lands in the Society in the third year. Though the division of the village into two ~~diff~~ factions existed even by this time, the degree of rivalry between the two factions was considerably reduced. In view of these trends, the Chairman expected that the other members who left the Society after the registration, may join it again in the near future if the Society could succeed in improving the economic position of its members through earning profits in the subsequent years.

There was scope for deepening the existing well as well as for digging three new wells in one of the blocks which contained a major part of the holding. The Chairman hoped that if the irrigated area on the farm was to increase, it would not only be possible to provide more employment to the members and their family members but also to distribute a substantial return for their land as well as labour. The stringency of finance, according to him, was the main handicap in the achievement of these goals.

APPENDIX I

Table showing some characteristics of the membership.

| Names of the members in the households. | Land pooled (in acres) |             |              | Total | Value of the land pooled. | Share capital contributed. | Loans outstanding at the time of organization. | No. of bullocks pooled or sold. | No. of cows owned. | Caste of the members | Remarks.  |
|---|------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---|
|   | Irrigated              | Unirrigated | Uncultivated |       |                           |                            |  |                                 |                    |                      |   |
| Dhanaji<br>(The Chairman)               | 3.0                    | 4.11        | 2.12         | 9.23  | 11580                     | 50                         | 4100   | 1                               | 2                  | Kunbi                | Also pooled his oil engine and flour mill and implements. |
| Sakha                                   | -                      | 14.82       | -            | 14.82 | 10079                     | 50                         | -  | 2                               | 12                 | Bhoi                 | Also pooled his implements.                               |
| The widow and her son                   | -                      | 2.50        | -            | 2.50  | 1875                      | 50                         | -  | -                               | 1                  | Kunbi                |   |
| Gulabrao and his son                    | -                      | 7.00        | -            | 7.00  | 5625                      | 50                         | 250  | -                               | -                  | Kunbi                |   |
| Vithoba                                 | -                      | 7.60        | -            | 7.60  | 4650                      | 25                         | 400  | -                               | 1                  | Bhoi                 |   |
| Shamrao                                 | -                      | 5.60        | -            | 5.60  | 4350                      | 25                         | 200  | -                               | -                  | Kunbi                |   |
| Vikram                                  | -                      | 3.41        | -            | 3.41  | 2631                      | 25                         | 150  | -                               | -                  | Bhoi                 |   |
| The landless member                     | -                      | -           | -            | -     | -                         | 25                         | -  | -                               | -                  | Kunbi                |   |

APPENDIX II

Table showing some aspects of farm business before  
and after the organization of the  
society.

| I t e m  | Prior to<br>the orga-<br>nization. | In the<br>first<br>year<br>after the<br>organiza-<br>tion. | In the second<br>year after<br>the<br>organization. |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Number of members   | --                                 | 10   | 10  |
| 2. Land cultivated (acres)   | 50                                 | 50   | 63  |
| 3. Area irrigated  | 3.00                               | 3.00   | 1.25  |
| 4. Number of oil engines   | 1                                  | 1  | 1   |
| 5. Cost of manures used (Rs.)  | 355                                | 401  | 800   |
| 6. Cost of fertilizers used (Rs.)  | 36                                 | 273  | *   |
| 7. Number of members working<br>on the farm  | 9                                  | 9  | 8   |
| 8. Number of farm servants<br>employed   | 1                                  | 4  | 4   |
| 9. Percent of wages earned<br>by the members and their<br>family members (percent) | -                                  | 92   | *   |
| 10. Crop finance from the<br>Bank (Rs.)  | 1000                               | 2100   | --  |
| 11. Percent of area under<br>Jowar (percent)                                       | 20                                 | 20   | 23  |
| 12. Percent of area under<br>Cotton (percent)                                      | 74                                 | 75   | 70  |
| 13. Gross value of crop<br>production (Rs.)  | 7111                               | 6772   | *   |
| 14. Gross value of production<br>per acre (Rs.)                                    | 142                                | 135  | *   |
| 15. Profit or loss   | -                                  | Loss<br>Rs. 1287   | *   |

\* Not available as the year  
was not complete.

APPENDIX III

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Table showing the proportions of area under different crops, before and after the organization of the society

| Name of the crop       | Prior to the organization of the society | In the first year after the organization. |
|------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Cotton(unirrigated) | 76.89                                    | 72.10                                     |
| 2. Jowar               | 19.93                                    | 20.06                                     |
| 3. Wheat               | -  | 3.92                                      |
| 4. Chilly              | 1.27                                     | 2.94                                      |
| 5. Vegetables          | 1.91                                     | 0.98                                      |
| Total :                | 100.00                                   | 100.00                                    |

## 2. THE MAHARAJ-PETH COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

### MAHARAJPETH

(District - Wardha)

#### Synopsis

- The Village
- Organization and registration
- Characteristics of the membership
- Functioning in the first year
- Some aspects of the second year
- Attitudes of the members
- Appendix I : Lands pooled and retained for self cultivation by the members and the Share Capital and other assets contributed by them.
- Appendix II : The proportions of area under the different crops before and after the organization of the Society.
- Appendix III : Some aspects of farm business in the first year after the organization of the society.



THE MAHARAJPETH CO-OPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.  
 MAHARAJPETH\* (DISTRICT : WARDHA )

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The Village

Maharajpeth is a small village having a population of about 700 persons staying in nearly 160 households. It is about 5 miles away from a road which connects a town to the tahsil headquarter. There is, however, no approach road for this village. There is only a cart tract which passes in many places through the black soils.

About 37 per cent of the households are landless. A majority of the farmers belong to the category of small farmers. A little less than 50 per cent of the area of the village is cultivated. Half of the uncultivated area is under village pastures. Though there are 27 wells in the village, only two of them are used for irrigation. The irrigated area is only three acres. A majority of the wells are unused because of the hard ~~wat~~ rock and want of finance with the farmers for deepening. Leasing of land which is a common practice in the village is also responsible for any improvements on the land or in the facilities for irrigation.

The village is politically and socially very active. Six of the persons from the village were imprisoned during the struggle for Independence, for getting involved into the famous Ashti-Chimoor case. The village had been very active since long. The villagers constructed a road connecting their village to another village which was on their way to the Taluka place. One Hanuman temple was also built through Shramadan and collecting contributions in the form of money. One pasture land was reclaimed by cutting the shrubs grown in the pasture, for the benefit

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\* Fictitious names have been used for the village, the society as well as the members.

of the villagers. Most of the villagers worked for three days in the pasture.

There is a school, a Gram Panchayat and a Co-operative Seva Sahakari Society in the village. The village was specially permitted to organize a Gram Panchayat even though the village population in the year 1948 was only 600. Besides these, there was a Youth Club and also a Bhajan Mandal which was rewarded with prizes in the Block competitions. The village being located centrally as well as the round about villages being very small, it served almost as a mandi to the villagers from the round about area even though there was no weekly market.

#### Organization and registration

The people from the village wanted to create a memorial for the martyrs in the Ashti-Chimur case from this village. As they were the followers of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj, they thought of creating the memorial in the form of organizing a co-operative farming society for the benefit of the small farmers. Two of the leading personalities took up the lead in the organization of the society. The society was registered with 15 members. Many of the members, however, belonged to the two families to which the leaders belonged, but a number of members from other families were also admitted to the society.

#### Characteristics of the membership

One of the leaders, Suryabhan by name, joined the society and contributed his entire holding of 10 acres. His two brothers also joined with him though they stayed in separate households. His brother No.1 pooled his entire holding of 5 acres. He was serving in the Ashram and had leased out his land for want of resources. His brother No.2 owned 4 acres in the village as well as 10

acres in a nearby district. He had leased out his Holding in the village and was serving as a casual labourer. He pooled his entire holding located in the village into the society.

The other leader Digambar owned 8 acres in the village, Maharajpeth and 4 acres in a distant village. He was employed as an accountant in a cloth shop and had leased out his land. He pooled his holding of 4 acres in the village into the society. Two of his brothers also joined the society because of him. His brother No.1 pooled 4 acres of land which he was leasing out. His brother No.2 also became a member because he had a right in this 4 acre piece of land. He was, however, serving as a casual labourer. One of Digambar's distant cousin Vinayak was leasing out 4 acres of his holding and was getting engaged in some petty trading. He also pooled his holding into the society and became a member. Vinayak's brother was also leasing out 3 acres of his land and was serving as a casual labourer. He also pooled his land into the society and became a member. Another distant relative of Digambar, namely Radhabai, owned 94 acres of land in different villages. She pooled 44 acres of the land from this village into the Maharajpeth society and 16 acres into a society in the adjoining village. Her brother-in-law owned 23 acres in different villages. He pooled 9 acres of the land he owned in the village into this society and 10 acres into a society in a neighbouring village. He was, however, cultivating the land personally whereas Radhabai had kept her lands fallow.

Another person namely Motiram though he was not a relative of these earlier members, pooled his holding of 10 acres. He had to cultivate his holding with the help of one bullock only. Another person, Janrao by name,

who was working as a peon in the village Grampanchayat, joined the society and pooled his 4 acre holding which he was previously leasing out. Two more persons, Bhagwan and Vithoba, owned small pieces of land in the village. They were leasing out their holdings and were serving as casual labourers. Vithoba was even suffering from Tuberculosis. Both of them desired to pool their lands into the society but as their holdings were isolated from the major part of the area pooled by the other members, their lands were not accepted. They were, however, enrolled as members with a view to accept their lands in future if the other persons owning land in their surrounding, were to become the members of the society. One labourer in the village, namely Haribhau, who was in intimate contact with the other members, was enrolled as a member to provide him employment in the society.

These 15 members stayed in different households. Except for one of the leaders, viz. Suryabhan, and his brothers, the others belonged to the Maratha Kunbi caste. Suryabhan was a shepherd by caste. It is important to note that 9 of these 15 members had leased out their lands.

The total area all the members owned was 210 acres. They could, however, pool only 107 acres into the society as the holdings were scattered in different villages which were out of the jurisdiction of this society. None of these members was, however, an absentee cultivator though some of the members owning lands in the other district visited those villages and stayed there for shorter periods.

For a large part, the soils in the holdings pooled into the society were inferior as the small farmers could own only the holdings with inferior soils in most cases. The plot contributed by Radhabai was even lying fallow

for a number of years.

Functioning in the first year

One of the leaders Suryabhan became the Chairman of the society. The other leader Digambar became the manager on a monthly salary of Rs.65 per month as he had the experience of working as an accountant in a shop. The Managing Committee was made of 5 members including the Chairman. The other members of the Committee included one of the Chairman's and the Manager's brothers, Radhabai's brother-in-law and Vinayak. This selection of the other members served the purpose of representing the different prominent families in the society.

Bullocks were available only from Suryabhan, Motiram and Radhabai's brother-in-law as only these three households possessed bullocks. Suryabhan sold his pair of bullocks to the society whereas Motiram could sell only one bullock which he possessed. Radhabai's brother-in-law possessed two bullocks but only one of them was accepted as the other was old. The society purchased 6 bullocks from outside. The cost over these 10 bullocks came to Rs.1510. As in the case of the Gangakhed Society, in this society also the bullocks were sold to the society and not pooled, as only a few families possessed bullocks. This added to the equality of contributions by members as the Chairman held. Implements were also purchased from the members. The cost over the implements came to Rs.400. Three iron ploughs were purchased for Rs.220 from outside.

The lands of two of the 15 members being not accepted, there was no need to provide them employment. One of the members was a peon in the Grampanchayat. There was no need for employment for Radhabai's brother-in-law as he owned lands in the adjoining village. One of the Chairman's brother also did not need any employment

as he was often going to the village in the other district where he owned land. One of the members was a manager. Attempts were made to provide employment to all the remaining 9 members including the Chairman and the woman member. One of the Chairman's brothers and one of the Manager's brothers were appointed as farm servants on the annual basis and were paid Rs.450 per year whereas Vinayak's brother was appointed as a farm servant on the monthly basis. Others were provided with casual employment and they earned from Rs.50 to Rs.200 in the year according to the number of days for which they worked. These members also worked outside the society's farm as casual labourers whenever work was available. The total wage payment of the society in the year came to Rs.4354 or Rs.45 per acre. These working members and their family members earned 60 per cent of these wages.

In the meanwhile Motiram who was old, died. His son who was employed as a teacher was enrolled as a member in his place. This changed the composition of the society and for the first time one absentee cultivator became the member. There was one absentee cultivator in the village whose holding was close to the society's holding. He was prepared to join the society but he was, however, refused membership on the ground that he was an absentee cultivator and was not available even for supervision and management in the society. In case of Motiram's son, there was no alternative and he had to be made a member because of the death of his father.

The share capital contributed by the members came to Rs.500. The society received all the assistance from the Government according to the pattern. The society, however, could not start the work of construction of the godown in the first year. A part

of the land Development loan of Rs.4000, was spent on reclamation of the fallow land by deep ploughing and removal of perennial weeds and shrubs. The cost over these measures came to Rs.2500. The society also made repairs to one old well and started the construction of a new well late in the year.

Four of the members had to repay their crop loans borrowed previously from the Bank. The society, however, decided not to give any loans to the members as this was bound to upset the expenditures on the farm. Besides, there was no urgent need for the members to repay their crop loans to the Bank. Only two of the members namely Radhabai and Vinayak's brother were given petty loans of Rs.25 and Rs.20 respectively on account of their illness.

The Bank gave a crop loan of Rs.1200 to the society which amounted to financing the society at a rate of Rs.13 per acre only. The need for expenses over land development and the low rate of finance from the Bank were the reasons for using the finance with the society very cautiously.

The society devoted the holding to the cultivation of Jowar, Cotton and Groundnut in the kharif season and Wheat in the Rabi season. Only 5 acres were devoted to wheat. Sannhemp was grown for the green manure on three acres.

Farm yard manure was purchased from the members as well as other villagers. The cost over farm yard manure came to Rs.806 or Rs.8 per acre only. Some of the members used to pen goats in their fields prior to the organization of the society. The society could not, however, follow this practice in the first year. The society used fertilizers on a very small scale for cotton and jowar on an experimental basis. An area

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of one acre was cultivated by the method of dibbling the seeds instead of drilling. The use of this method of cultivation as well as the use of fertilizers was tried for the first time in the village. Cotton had to be sprayed with endrine. The cost over fertilizers and insecticides came to nearly Rs.200.

The gross value of crop production came to Rs.6359 or Rs.59 per acre only. The soils being inferior, it was not possible to get good yields. It is not possible to compare any of the data for the first year with the data. For the year prior to the organization of the society as a larger part of the land was cultivated by the members as well as it was not possible to separate the data for the parts pooled in the society in case of many of the members who had pooled only parts of their holdings.

The society suffered a loss of Rs.3314 in the year. It was not possible to distribute any property income among the members because of the loss. The society, however, decided to give an advance to the members against their property income at the rate of 5 per cent.

#### Some aspects of the second year

The year was not complete at the time of our investigations. It was, however, possible to get an idea about some of the aspects of the functioning in the second year only through the discussions with the members.

The society purchased one oil engine for using over the new well which was sunk in the last year. Chilly was grown over this well. So also a mhot was purchased for operating on the old well which was deepened.



0 There was a change in the Chairman and the Managing Committee to give representation to the members from the different families. Radhabai's brother-in-law was made the Chairman. Vinayak, one of the Suryabhan's brothers and one of the Manager's brothers continued on the Committee whereas Radhabai herself was taken as a member on the Committee. The elections to the Committee were nominal. As a majority of the members worked on the farm, it was possible to take joint decisions.

The society increased the area under cotton grown by the method of dibbling from 1 acre to 4 acres. The area under green manuring was also increased from 3 acres to 4½ acres. Besides Sannhemp, Blackgram was also tried as a green manuring crop in this year. The use of fertilizers was also extended. Fertilizers were used for cotton and chilly whereas the use of fertilizers for Jowar was discontinued as there was no response to its use in the last year. The cultivation of groundnut was discontinued as the crop had failed in last year.

The Bank loan of Rs.1200 was promptly repaid during last year. The Bank could, therefore, sanction a crop loan of Rs.3000 for the second year. The rate of financing the society went up from Rs.13 to Rs.30 because of the prompt repayment.

#### Attitudes of the members

Almost all the members were satisfied with the society as the society could provide employment to the members willing to work on the farm. Besides they could get property income of 5 per cent on the value of their lands which were mostly inferior. A majority of the members could get a lease for their inferior lands as well as a source of employment though the

extent of employment was inadequate. The woman member was also satisfied as her fallow land was brought under cultivation.

The members were very amicable to each other. Marriages were celebrated in the households of two of the members. All the members took active part in the celebration of these marriages. The members also helped each other in case of difficulties as illness. The society gave the bullockcarts free of cost if any member had to visit a distant village or if he was to bring or send his guests. The members could not get such a comfort prior to the organization of the society as only two of the members owned carts. So also prior to the organization of their society, the members had to depend upon the whims of their employers in getting their wages. After the organization of the society, they could get their wages promptly.

The society had a programme to increase the area under irrigation over these inferior soils. There were possibilities for digging two new wells and deepening one more old well. As the substratum consisted of hard rock in the area, the well sinking programmes required heavy expenditure. Such programmes were possible if the society was to get finance for the purpose.

Prior to the organization the other factions in the village were expecting that the society would disintegrate after a year. They also came to the conclusion that the society had introduced group life among the members. None of the members, therefore, wanted to leave the society.

APPENDIX I

Table showing the lands pooled and retained for self-cultivation by the members and the share capital and other assets contributed by them.

| Names of the members<br>in x household | Land<br>owned<br>(acres) | Land<br>pooled<br>(acres) | Land which<br>could not<br>be pooled<br>(acres) | Value of<br>land<br>pooled<br>(Rs.) | Share<br>Capital<br>contri-<br>buted<br>(Rs.) | Bullocks pooled |             |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------|
|  |                          |                           |   |                                     |   | Number          | Value<br>RS |
| 1. Suryabhan                           | 10-19                    | 10-19                     | -   | 5147                                | 50  | 3               | 630         |
| 2. Suryabhan's brother No.1            | 5-28                     | 5-28                      | -   | 3192                                | 25  | -               | -           |
| 3. Suryabhan's brother No.2            | 14-47                    | 4-47                      | 10-00   | 2287                                | 50  | -               | -           |
| 4. Digambar                            | 12-20                    | 8-20                      | 4-00  | 5202                                | 50  | -               | -           |
| 5. Digambar's brother No.1             | 4-38                     | 4-38                      | -   | 2690                                | 25  | -               | -           |
| 6. Digambar's brother No.2             | 16-00                    | -                         | 16-00   | -                                   | 25  | -               | -           |
| 7. Vinayak                             | 4-18                     | 4-18                      | -   | 2615                                | 25  | -               | -           |
| 8. Vinayak's brother                   | 3-00                     | 3-00                      | -   | 2000                                | 25  | -               | -           |
| 9. Radhabai                            | 94-34                    | 44-34                     | 50-00*  | 13475                               | 50  | -               | -           |
| 10. Radhabai's brother-in-law          | 23-43                    | 9-20                      | 14-23+  | 6403                                | 25  | 1               | 150         |
| 11. Motiram                            | 9-90                     | 9-90                      | -   | 5075                                | 50  | 1               | 75          |
| 12. Janrao                             | 4-00                     | 4-00                      | -   | 1000                                | 25  | -               | -           |
| 13. Haribhau                           | -                        | -                         | -   | -                                   | 25  | -               | -           |
| 14. Bhagwan                            | 4-49                     | -                         | 4-49  | -                                   | 25  | -               | -           |
| 15. Vithoba                            | 4-88                     | -                         | 4-88  | -                                   | 25  | -               | -           |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>210-74</b>            | <b>107-14</b>             | <b>103-60</b>                                   | <b>49086</b>                        | <b>500</b>                                    | <b>5</b>        | <b>855</b>  |

\* A part of 16 acres of this land was pooled in the farming society in a neighbouring village.

+ A part of 10 acres of this land was pooled in the farming society in a neighbouring village different from the one in the case of Radhabai.

APPENDIX II

Table showing the proportions of area under different crops, before and after the organization of the society.

| Name of the crop        | Prior to the organization of the society.* | In the first year after the organization. |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Cotton (Unirrigated) | 66.91                                      | 43.53                                     |
| 2. Jowar                | 10.29                                      | 30.37                                     |
| 3. Groundnut            | -  | 15.19                                     |
| 4. Wheat                | 22.80                                      | 5.34                                      |
| 5. Others               | -  | 5.57                                      |
| Total :                 | 100.00                                     | 100.00                                    |

\* The data relate to an area of 38 acres only, pooled by 7 of the 11 land-pooling members as one of the remaining members had become an absentee cultivator and three of the members had gone out of the village temporarily to look after the lands they owned in the distant villages.

APPENDIX III

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Table showing some aspects of farm business in the first year after the organization of the society.\*

| I t e m  | In the first year after<br>the organization |
|--|---|
| 1. Number of members   | 15  |
| 2. Land pooled (acres)   | 107   |
| 3. Area cultivated (acres)   | 95  |
| 4. Area irrigated (acres)  | Nil   |
| 5. Total cost of farm yard manure used (Rs.)                                 | 806   |
| 6. Cost of farm yard manure per acre (Rs.)                                   | 8   |
| 7. Cost over fertilizers (Rs.)   | About 100                                   |
| 8. Cost over insecticides (Rs.)  | 86  |
| 9. Number of members working on the farm                                     | 9   |
| 10. Number of farm servants  | 3   |
| 11. Number of members farm servants  | 3   |
| 12. Total wage payment (Rs.)   | 4354  |
| 13. Wage payment per acre (Rs.)  | 45  |
| 14. Percent of wages earned by the members and their family members(percent) | 60.2  |
| 15. Crop finance from the Bank (Rs.)   | 1200  |
| 16. Crop finance per acre (Rs)   | 13  |
| 17. Gross cropped area (acres)   | 99  |
| 18. Percent of gross cropped area to the net cultivated area (percent)       | 104   |
| 19. Area under food crops (acres)  | 35  |
| 20. Area under cash crops (acres)  | 64  |
| 21. Percent of area under food crops to the gross cropped area (percent)     | 36  |
| 22. Percent of area under cash crop to the gross cropped area (percent)      | 64  |
| 23. Gross value of crop production (Rs.)                                     | 6359  |
| 24. Gross value of crop production per acre (Rs.)                            | 59  |
| 25. Profit or Loss (Rs.)   | Loss Rs. 3314                               |

\* The data are not available for the year prior to the organization of the society as many of the members had leased out their lands and many others had pooled only parts of their holdings.

### 3. THE RATNAPUR COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

RATNAPUR

(District - Dhulia)

#### Synopsis

- The Village
- Organization and registration
- Characteristics of membership
- The functioning in the first year
- Changes in the membership after the first year.
- Characteristics of the second year
- Re-changes in the membership
- Characteristics of the third and the fourth years.
- Attitudes of the members
- Appendix I : The areas pooled and retained for self cultivation by the members and their contributions in the form of Share Capital and other assets.
- Appendix II : The proportions of area under different crops before and after the organization of the society.
- Appendix III : Some aspects of farm business after the organization of the Society.

THE RATNAPUR COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.RATNAPUR \*

(District - Wardha)

The village

Ratnapur is a medium sized village about 5 miles from a motorable road which connects the village to the tahsil place. It has a population of little less than one and a half thousand, dwelling in about 350 households. There is no approach road for the village. A cart tract passing over the ups and downs connects the village to the motorable road.

The area is surrounded by hills. The soils are, however, superior at places and the area is famous for the Nagpur quality of oranges.

There are a number of factions in the village. Some of the factions are active in doing social work. A bridge over a stream and three drinking water wells were built through Shramadan. There is a group Gram-panchayat, and a Seva Sahakari Society for a group of villages surrounding the village Ratnapur. The school imparts education upto the 7th standard. Some of the groups in the village have organized a Village library, 'Bhajan Mandal', a Dramatic Club, Womens' clubs etc.

Organization and Registration

Panjabrao Patil was the leader of one of such factions in the village. He was a follower of the Gandhian ideology. He was a powerful person in the area and was also quite rich. He owned a flour mill and a big orange orchard which once produced oranges worth Rs.15,000 a year. He was also getting involved in litigations and never cared to spend large amounts

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\* Fictitious names have been used for the village, the society as well as the members.

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over the same. He had threatened even the Tahsildar of murdering him and had to spend Rs.3000 in the litigations in this case.

He was much impressed by the Resolution on Agrarian Reforms passed in the Congress Session held in 1959 at Nagpur, which he had personally attended. He proudly told us that he spent Rs.2700 in a day at Nagpur on the occasion. Because of the resolution, he took it to mind to organise a cooperative farming society in his village. Two of the leaders in the surrounding villages had also started organizing the farming societies in their villages. He could collect 12 members from the village for his society at the time of registration. These 12 members stayed in 11 households.

#### Characteristics of membership

Punjabrao owned a holding of 93 acres having irrigation facilities for 10 acres. He joined the society with his son who was staying with him and pooled only a part of 79 acres of his holding, having the inferior soils. He retained the piece of irrigated land containing an orange orchard and another piece of 10 acres having superior soils, for self cultivation. His nephew also followed him and pooled a part of 35 acres of inferior land out of his holding of 47 acres. There was a washerman in the village whose sons were running a laundry at Nagpur. He had leased out a piece of 9 acres of land belonging to him. He also joined the society and pooled his entire holding.

There was a person, Marotrao by name who owned 12 acres of land. He was educated upto the 7th standard and was in search of employment. He had previously served as a Gram Panchayat Secretary for two years



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and till late was serving as an Accountant in a shop. He pooled his entire holding and became a member of the society. One of his relatives was also educated and was selected as Patwari. He pooled 7 acres of land into the society. One of their relatives Vikram by name also joined the society but declined to pool his land as it was superior and productive. At the same time it was away from the other lands pooled in the society. There were again two small farmers in the Villate Dattu and Shamrao by names, who had to lease out their lands or keep them fallow for want of resources. Dattu owned only one acre of land which was, however, quite superior and valued at Rs.650. Shamrao had obtained 8 acres of land asá Bhdodan and the value of the entire piece was only Rs.600. Both these persons pooled their entire holdings. In addition to these nine members, Punjabrao also enrolled two of his farm servants and the Grampanchayat peon as the labour-members of the society.

The area pooled by these members came to 153 acres even though the total area owned by them was 196 acres. The holding consisted of three blocks. So also it contained mainly the inferior soils though a few of the members had pooled medium or superior lands just to find out a lessee for their holdings. Except for Punjabrao, his nephew and Marotrao, all others were leasing out their lands for want of bullocks and implements. The members belonged to two castes mainly, Punjabrao, his son and nephew belonged to the Bhoir caste whereas Marotrao, Vikram, the Patwari and the Grampanchayat peon belonged to the Kunbi caste. The labour members belonged to the Kunbi and Gowari castes.

The functioning in the first year

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Punjabrao became the Chairman. Marotrao was appointed as the Manager. Moreover, Marotrao who was in search of employment, was assured by Punjabrao of employment in the society as a Secretary on a salary of Rs.90 per month. He was paid a higher salary because of the experience, he had in keeping the accounts as Punjabrao explained the reason. The Managing Committee was made of five members including the Chairman. The other members included in the Managing Committee were the Chairman's cousin, the Manager's relatives, Vikram and Dattu and the labourer-member Bapurao. No records were maintained for the meetings held. It was not, therefore, possible to know whether any meetings were held at all. The Chairman managed the whole affair. The Manager was practically an employee of the society as he badly needed 'white collared' employment.

Bullocks could be sold to the society by three members as others had no bullocks. Punjabrao sold 8 of his 12 bullocks. His nephew sold 3 of the 4 bullocks he owned. One bullock was kept for working on the land retained for self cultivation. He intended to work with this bullock by taking on exchange one of the bullocks sold to the society. The Manager also sold the two bullocks he owned. The total cost of these 13 bullocks came to Rs.4036. Implements were not pooled by any members. They were got prepared by the members by supplying the wood required free of cost.

In the first year, all members excluding the Manager, the Chairman and his son the Patwari and the Grampanchayat peon worked on the farm. Dattu and Shamrao were appointed as farm servants on a salary

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of Rs.350 and Rs.425 respectively per year. Others worked on the casual basis in the society. The Chairman, his son and the Manager supervised. Besides the two members' farm servants, four farm servants had to be employed from outside. The total wage payment of the society came to Rs.6820 or Rs.44 per acre. The members and their family members earned Rs.2517 or 37 per cent of these wages.

The members had collected a share capital of Rs.1400. The Chairman, his nephew and the Manager had contributed Rs.800, Rs.250 and Rs.125 respectively to the share capital whereas each of the other members had purchased only one share of Rs.25. The society could not obtain loans and other assistance from the Government or the Bank. The members had to manage the farm through the share capital and their own deposits in the society. The Chairman deposited Rs.2200 whereas his cousin and the Manager deposited Rs.700 and Rs.300 respectively. Besides, the Chairman used Rs.1500 through his own purse for urgent current needs.

Out of 153 acres of land, 30 acres consisted of waste and fallow land. It was not possible to undertake any land development measures on this land as there was no assistance from the Government for the purpose. The society grew jowar and cotton on the holding. Wheat and gram were grown on 4 acres on the areas near a stream. There was one well in the plot contributed by the Chairman's nephew. But it could not be used as it needed deepening.

The society followed the traditional methods only. Farm yard manure was purchased from the members at a cost of Rs.537. Fertilizers were not used. Improved seeds were used only for cotton. Data are not available to compare the various aspects of the farm business of

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the society with similar aspects of the farm business, of the members prior to the organization, as most of the members were leasing out their lands as well as the others had pooled only parts of their holdings.

The gross value of production in the first year came to Rs.3440 or Rs.23 per acre only because of the crop failure. The jowar crop failed totally. The society, therefore, suffered a heavy loss of Rs.5375. It was not possible to distribute any property income among the members.

#### Changes in the membership after the first year

Vikram had not pooled his holding but was available at least for work on the farm. He, however, discontinued work on the farm after a few months. His membership was said to have been questioned by an officer of the Cooperative Department. His lands were <sup>situated</sup> ~~situated~~ in a neighbouring village where a cooperative farming society was organized. His lands, therefore, fell in the jurisdiction of that society. He was, therefore, asked to pool his lands into the society in the neighbouring village. He could not agree to this advice and pool the land in the other society, which he had not even pooled in this society, though he had agreed to pool. He, therefore, stopped working in the society.

The two labour members also left the society after the first year. Bapurao got remarried. He could get the land belongin to his father-in-law in this village, which he started cultivating. The other labourer member Dhondi started taking petty contracts. Both of them stopped working on the society's farm. None of these members, however, gave written resignations. Their membership was being continued even after the fourth year of the society.

Characteristics of the second year

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The same management continued in the second year. Vikram and Bapurao remained to be the members of the Managing Committee only on the paper.

Though the Chairman's nephew worked on the farm in the first year and earned Rs.12, he stopped working on the farm thereafter as his enthusiasm in the organization of the society was weakened by this time. Because of the leaving of the three members and the attitude of the Chairman's nephew, there remained only three members to work on the farm viz. the two member farm servants and the washerman. The total number of farm servants remained to be the same as in the previous year. The total wage payment of the society in the second year came to Rs.5416 or Rs.36 per acre. The members earned only 16 per cent of this wage distribution.

The society could obtain the assistance from the Government as well as the loan from the Bank in the second year. The Government contributed Rs.4000 to the share capital, gave a land development loan of Rs.2000 and a managerial subsidy of Rs.1080. The Bank gave a crop loan of Rs.2400. It was, therefore, possible to return the amounts deposited by the members during the last year. No fresh deposits were also needed.

The society reclaimed 4 acres of waste land and deepened the old well through the land development loan. Only half an acre could be irrigated through the water in this well. The plot was used for growing chilly. Jowar and cotton were grown on the other parts of the holding as in the previous year. Cultivation of wheat was discontinued after the bad experience with the crop in the first year. Rice was tried in the second year but the seeds obtained from the seed farm did not germinate. The crop of chilly also proved to be a

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failure. The society, therefore, decided not to try the other crops on the holding any more. Improved seeds of jowar and cotton were obtained and they proved to be successful. The traditional methods were followed in the second year as in the previous year.

The gross value of production in this year came to Rs.11770 or Rs.77 per acre as the season was favourable. In spite of this rate of production, the society suffered a loss of Rs.3488 which was mainly because of the loss in the earlier year. It was, therefore, not possible to distribute any property income even in the second year.

#### Rechanges in the membership

The washerman migrated to Nagpur to join his sons and help them in running their laundry. He, however, retained his land with the society.

The society realized that the land pooled by Shamrao, which he had obtained as a Bhoodan was so inferior that it was uneconomic to have such a land in the society. He was, therefore, asked to take away his land from the society. He took away his land as well as stopped working with the society as a farm servant.

The other member farm servant Dattu, also wanted to leave the society. He pooled his one acre piece of superior land into the land owned by his brother as his brother's plot contained a well. He planted oranges in the plot and at the same time started a tea shop in the village. He, however, continued his membership with the society and worked on the farm whenever he was free.

All these three members continued on the register of the society despite these changes.

#### Characteristics of the third and the fourth years

The same Management Committee continued in both years in spite of the changes in the membership of the society. There remained only one working member in the

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WORKING force of the society. Dattu had to give his employment as a farm servant and work as a casual labourer because of his orchard and the tea-shop. As Shamrao had also left, the society had to employ all farm servants from the outside. Their number was, however, maintained at 6 in both years.

The holding with the society was reduced to 144 acres because of the changes in the membership in the second year. The wage payments in the third and the fourth years amounted to Rs.5299 and Rs.4735 or Rs.37 and Rs.33 per acres respectively. The working member earned only a negligible percent of these wages.

The Bank loan could not be repaid during the second year because of the loss. The Bank could not, therefore, finance the society in the third year. The Government gave a managerial subsidy of Rs.810. No other assistance was available. The society had not, however, to borrow any deposits from the members. They had, to spend only small amounts when needed and recover those amounts after the sale of the produce.

The Bank gave a loan of Rs.4300 in the fourth year after its earlier loan was repaid. The Government also gave a managerial subsidy of Rs.1200 in the fourth year and sanctioned a loan of Rs.5000 for the godown and a loan of Rs.4000 again for the land development.

The society followed almost the same cultivation practices as in the previous years. Jowar and cotton were the only two crops which were grown because of the bad experience with the other crops. The home grown seeds of the improved varieties from the last year's stock were used for sowing. Superphosphate was purchased at a cost of Rs.550 and tried on an experimental basis for 16 acres under cotton in the third year. The

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crop responded well to this fertilizer. It was, however, not possible to use the fertilizer in the fourth year, again as the Bank loan was sanctioned late in August. In the third year, it was possible to use the fertilizer as the Bank loan was not repaid but retained by the society. Endrine was used for spraying cotton in the fourth year.

The gross values of production in the third and the fourth years came to Rs.6821 and Rs.5701 or Rs. 47 and Rs.39 per acre respectively. The society suffered losses of Rs.4347 and Rs.4154 in these respective years after taking into account the accumulated losses from the earlier years. It was not possible to distribute any property income. An advance of Rs.1761 was, however, given to the needy members against their property income.

#### Attitudes of the members.

The Chairman held that the very heavy loss in the first year due to crop failure was responsible for the continuous losses to the society. Otherwise, it would have been possible for the society to earn at least marginal profits every year.

The construction of the godown was not started as yet. The Chairman tied the bullocks of the society along with his bullocks as well as stored the produce grown on the society's farm along with his produce.

The people of the other factions in village say that the Chairman mixes the cotton produced on the society's farm in the cotton produced on his farm. So also he removes a part of the jowar from the produce of the society. Even the fodder grown on the society's farm is fed to the bullocks maintained by the Chairman and his nephew for their private farms. So also the Society's bullocks are used many a times on their own farms. The Chairman, his nephew and the Manager



try to cheat the other members by showing purposively a loss.

In fact, they are the only three members in the society who have some interest in it. The holdings pooled by Vikram, Shamrao and Dattu are already withdrawn. Only the Patwari and the Washerman who are not staying in the village are the other members who have pooled their lands.

Out of the twelve members, five members have left the society practically though their membership is still continued in the society's member register. The sixth land owning member has become as good as a labour member. It is only the Chairman, his son and nephew, the Manager and the two absentee cultivators who are the only persons who remain to be the real members of this society.

The Chairman was, however, very enthusiastic about his society. According to him there were great potentialities for the development of the society if finance was available in large amounts. It was possible to irrigate an area of 20 acres from the water in three biseasonal streams flowing across the society's fields, if the society was to possess two oil engines. So also there was scope for digging four new wells on the society's holding and convert an area of 30 acres of land into an orange orchard on the lines of the orchard he already owned. The loss in the first year and the stringency of finance, thereafter, were the principal reasons for the stagnation in the society, according to him.

## Appendix I

Table showing the areas pooled and retained for self cultivation by the members and their contributions in the form of share capital and other aspects

| Names of the members in a household | Area owned         |                      | Area pooled        |                      | Area retained      |                      | Value of land pooled (Rs) | Share capital contributed (Rs) | Bullocks sold to the Society |             | Remarks   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|---|
|                                     | irri-gated (acres) | Unirri-gated (acres) | Irri-gated (acres) | Unirri-gated (acres) | Irri-gated (acres) | Unirri-gated (acres) |                           |                                | No.                          | Value (Rs)  |   |
| 1. Punjabrao Patil and his son      | 10.50              | 83.12                | -                  | 79.12                | 10.50              | 4.00                 | 21550                     | 825                            | 8                            | 2750        |   |
| 2. Punjabrao's nephew               | -                  | 47.38                | -                  | 35.68                | -                  | 11.70                | 14500                     | 250                            | 3                            | 900         |   |
| 3. The washerman                    | -                  | 9.69                 | -                  | 9.69                 | -                  | -                    | 2000                      | 25                             | -                            | -           | Migrated out of the village in the second year                                      |
| 4. Marotrao                         | -                  | 12.07                | -                  | 12.07                | -                  | -                    | 5200                      | 125                            | 2                            | 386         | Manager   |
| 5. Vikram                           | -                  | 18.00                | -                  | -                    | -                  | 18.00                | -                         | 25                             | -                            | -           | Did not pool his land at all and also stopped working in the first year.            |
| 6. Dattu                            | -                  | 1.00                 | -                  | 1.00                 | -                  | -                    | 650                       | 25                             | -                            | -           | Withdrew land after the second year but worked on the farm in the subsequent years. |
| 7. Shamrao                          | -                  | 8.00                 | -                  | 8.00                 | -                  | -                    | 600                       | 25                             | -                            | -           | Withdrew land after the second year   |
| 8. Daulat, the peon                 | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                    | -                         | 25                             | -                            | -           |   |
| 9. The Patwari                      | -                  | 7.50                 | -                  | 7.50                 | -                  | -                    | 2600                      | 25                             | -                            | -           |   |
| 10. Dhondi                          | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                    | -                         | 25                             | -                            | -           | Stopped working on the farm after the first year                                    |
| 11. Bapurao                         | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                    | -                         | 25                             | -                            | -           | Stopped working on the farm after the first year                                    |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>10.50</b>       | <b>186.76</b>        | <b>-</b>           | <b>153.06</b>        | <b>10.50</b>       | <b>33.70</b>         | <b>47100</b>              | <b>1400</b>                    | <b>13</b>                    | <b>4036</b> |   |

APPENDIX II

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Table showing the proportions of area under different crops, before and after the organization of the society.

| Name of the crop        | Prior to the organization of the society | In the first year after the organization | In the second year after the organization | In the third year after the organization | In the fourth year after the organization |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Cotton (unirrigated) | 57.69                                    | 52.84                                    | 43.90                                     | 50.00                                    | 45.42                                     |
| 2. Jowar                | 41.30                                    | 43.90                                    | 52.84                                     | 50.00                                    | 54.58                                     |
| 3. Chilly               | -  | -  | 0.41                                      | -  | -   |
| 4. Wheat                | 0.73                                     | 1.62                                     | -   | -  | -   |
| 5. Rice                 | 0.28                                     | -  | 0.41                                      | -  | -   |
| 6. Gram                 | -  | 1.62                                     | 2.44                                      | -  | -   |
| Total                   | 100.00                                   | 100.00                                   | 100.00                                    | 100.00                                   | 100.00                                    |

APPENDIX III

Some aspects of the farm business after the organization  
of the Society. \*

| I t e m |   |     |     | In the<br>first year<br>after the<br>organiza-<br>tion. | In the<br>second year<br>after the<br>organisa-<br>tion. | In the<br>third year<br>after the<br>organiza-<br>tion. | In the fourth<br>year after<br>the<br>organization. |
|---------|---|-----|-----|---|--|---|---|
| 1.      | Number of members   | ... | ... | 12  | 12   | 12  | 12  |
| 2.      | Area pooled (acres)   | ... | ... | 153   | 153  | 144   | 144   |
| 3.      | Area cultivated (acres)   | ... | ... | 123   | 127  | 116   | 132   |
| 4.      | Area irrigated (acres)  | ... | ... | -   | 0.50   | -   | -   |
| 5.      | Cost over farm yard manures (Rs.)   | ... | ... | 537   | +  | +   | +   |
| 6.      | Cost over fertilizers   | ... | ... | -   | -  | 550   | -   |
| 7.      | Number of members working on the farm...                                    | ... | ... | 7   | 3  | 1   | 1   |
| 8.      | Number of farm servants   | ... | ... | 6   | 6  | 6   | 6   |
| 9.      | Number of member farm servants  | ... | ... | 2   | 2  | -   | -   |
| 10.     | Total wage payment (Rs.)  | ... | ... | 6,820   | 5,416  | 5,299   | 4,735   |
| 11.     | Wage payment per acre (Rs.)   | ... | ... | 44  | 36   | 37  | 33  |
| 12.     | Payment of wages earned by the members (per unit)                           |     |     | 37  | 16   | 0.24  | 0.27  |
| 13.     | Gross cropped area (acres)  | ... | ... | 123   | 127  | 116   | 132   |
| 14.     | Percent of gross cropped area to the net cultivated area (per cent)         | ... | ... | 100   | 100  | 100   | 100   |
| 15.     | Percent of gross area under food crops to the gross cropped area (per cent) | ... | ... | 47  | 56   | 50  | 55  |
| 16.     | Percent of gross area under cash crops to the gross cropped area (per cent) | ... | ... | 53  | 44   | 50  | 45  |
| 17.     | Gross value of crop production (Rs.)  | ... | ... | 3,440   | 11,770   | 6,821   | 5,701   |
| 18.     | Gross value of crop production per acre (Rs.)                               |     |     | 23  | 77   | 47  | 39  |
| 19.     | Profit or loss  | ... | ... | Loss<br>Rs. 5,375                                       | Loss<br>Rs. 3,488  | Loss<br>Rs. 4,347                                       | Loss<br>Rs. 4,154                                   |

+ Farm yard manure produced on the farm only was used in these years (value not available)

\* Data are not available to compare the various aspects of the farm business of the society with similar aspects of the farm business of the members prior to the organization as most of the members were leasing out their lands as well as the others had pooled only parts of their holdings.

4. THE LAHANEAGAON COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

LAHANEAGAON  
(District - Wardha)

Synopsis

- The Village
- Organization and registration
- Characteristics of the membership
- Changes in the membership after the registration
- Functioning in the first year
- Some aspects of the second year
- Attitudes of the members
- Appendix I : Land owned and pooled by the members and their contributions in the form of Share Capital, bullocks and implements.
- Appendix II : The proportions of area under the different crops before and after the organization of the Society
- Appendix III : Some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the Society.

THE LAHANEGAON COOPERATIVE JOINT FARMING SOCIETY LTD.

LAHANEGAON\*

( District - Wardha )

The Village

Lahanegaon is a very small village near the Wardha river. It has a population of only 240 persons staying in about 50 households. It is about 7 miles away from a motorable road which leads to the Tahsil place. A cart tract connects this village to the motorable road.

The village formerly belonged to a Malguzar. The land in the village is concentrated in the hands of mainly two families. Though the proportion of landless persons is only 30 percent, most of the farmers except the persons belonging to the two families, fall into the category of small farmers. Both these families are, however, at present staying outside the village.

The village has practically no leader. For the purposes of a Grampanchayat and Seva Sahakari Society, the village is included in a group of adjoining villages. No developments could take place in this village for want of leadership.

There are two factions in the village led by the two families though they stay outside the village. The family of the ex-Malguzar belongs to the Jansangh whereas the other family belongs to the dissident group from the Congress Party. There was never an agreement between these two groups.

About 80 percent of the area of the village is cultivated. Being near the Wardha river, the soils are also superior. There are four wells in the village but none of these wells is used for irrigation.

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\* Fictitious names have been used for the village, the society as well as the members.

### Organization and Registration

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It is the son-in-law from the non-Malguzar family who organized this society. He was formerly staying in one of the villages in the Amaraoti district. Though his father-in-law owned lands in this village, he was also staying in a village in the same district. To evade the effects of the tenancy ~~legis~~ legislation, his father-in-law transferred a part of the holding in his daughter's name and requested her family to settle in this village.

The leader was also a follower of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj. As the other followers of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj started organizing the societies in the surrounding villages, he also tried to follow them. He collected other six households belonging to his faction in the village as well as other four households of big farmers who were staying in the nearby villages. The society was registered with 14 members coming from these eleven households.

### Characteristics of the membership

The organizer joined the society with his three young sons and pooled 45 acres of the land they owned. Though his father-in-law was staying in a distant village, he also became a member and pooled 9 acres of the land he had retained in his name. Ramrao who was a big cultivator from the village Gangakhed and who had played a prominent role in the organization of the Gangakhed society but who could not pool his land later, became a member of this society and contributed 14 acres of his land which was located in the village Lahanegaon. Another big farmer from a neighbouring village also pooled 8 acres of his land which was situated in this village. A small farmer, Pandit by name, pooled his 9 acres of land into the society. Pandit was a harijan by caste and though he owned a pair of bullocks he had no other resources for cultivation. He was compelled to lease out his land at times on this account.

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Two other small farmers Krishna and Narayan by names, pooled the two acres pieces of land they owned. They belonged practically to the class of agricultural labourers and had to lease out their lands previously for want of bullocks and implements. Both were serving as farm servants in the village.

Two more small farmers also joined the society but they had not pooled their holdings into the society. Two of the farm servants in the village who were generally employed by the organizer, were also enrolled as members with a view to appoint them as farm servants on the society's farm.

These 14 members thus, belonged to 11 households. Except the harijan member all others belonged to the Maratha kunbi caste. Two of the land owning members had not contributed the land at the time of registration whereas two of the members were landless. Three of the members were absentee cultivators. It is only the organizer who had contributed land to the extent of 50 percent of the society's holding whereas three other farmers from the village had contributed only small pieces. All these three small farmers had to lease out their holdings and they practically belonged to the class of agricultural labourers. It was not known whether the three absentee cultivators were also leasing out their lands. Only one of them stayed in a neighbouring village. The organizer's father-in-law stayed in a distant village whereas Ramrao was staying for a larger part of the year in the Ashram.

Changes in the membership after the registration

The society had to face a strong opposition from the other faction since its organization. The former Malguzar who belonged to the Janasangh was already against the organization of this society. He had distributed a copy of the booklet in Marathi entitled "Vairyachi Ratra"



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which meant literally the night of the enemy, among members. It is on this account that the two small farmers had not pooled their lands though they had become the members of the society after paying the nominal fee of Rs.25 for the share capital. After the registration, this book was widely circulated in the village and read publicly many times. The two small farmers, therefore, declined to continue in the society and resigned their membership. Pandit also declined to contribute his entire holding and took away 4 acres of the superior land for self cultivation. He, however, continued his membership and retained 2 acres of his inferior land in the society. The book was said to contain a heavy criticism on cooperative farming. We could not, however, get a copy of the book to read, as the book was withdrawn from circulation thereafter. There remained only 12 members after this change, including the two labourer members.

#### Functioning in the first year

The total holding of the society came to 82 acres without any facilities for irrigation. It consisted of five blocks. There were two wells in the plot contributed by the organizer but they were not suitable for irrigation.

Bullocks were contributed by the organizer, his father-in-law and the small farmer, Pandit. Each contributed a pair of bullocks. The organizer and his father-in-law jointly cultivated their holding of 55 acres with the help of 4 bullocks only. This number of bullocks contributed by the three households was, therefore, inadequate for the entire farm. Besides, the absentee cultivators had also pooled small parts of land but were unable to contribute any bullocks. The bullocks

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contributed by Pandit were returned to him after he withdrew 7 acres of the land. The society, therefore, purchased 4 ~~acres~~ more bullocks and started farming with 8 bullocks. Implements were contributed only by the organizer and they were adequate for the entire farm.

The organizer was made the chairman of the society, The Managing Committee was made of five members including the chairman. The other members of the committee included the organizee's father-in-law, Ramrao, Pandit and Krishna. The eldest son of the organizer was appointed as a manager on a salary of Rs.65 per month. The farm was managed practically by the chairman and his son, as Ramrao and the organizee's father-in-law stayed outside and the other two members of the managing committee were quite inferior in status when compared to the chairman.

The organizer himself was old and was not, therefore, available for work on the farm. He could supervise and guide the working only. The three absentee cultivators were also not available for the purpose. Pandit was available occasionally as he had retained a part of his holding for self cultivation. The remaining six members excluding the Manager but including two of the organizee's sons were appointed as farm servants on the monthly basis. They were practically employed throughout the year. Each of the two labour members earned Rs. 440 during the year whereas each of the two of the organizee's sons and the two small farmers earned Rs. 500. The organizer's household earned Rs. 1780 because of these appointments. The total wage payment of the society came to Rs.4213 or Rs. 51 per acre. The members and their family members earned 77 percent of these wages.

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Though the organizer's sons were appointed as farm servants on the farm, they did the work of supervision mainly and assisted the farm servants in the hard work. They were, however, habituated to do the hard work on the farm as the organizer's family was not so rich when compared to the size of its holding. Only a pair of bullocks with which the organizer managed his big holding was also an evidence of the limit of his resources.

The society obtained all the assistance according to the pattern for pilot societies in the first year itself. Out of the land development loan of Rs.4000, only 200 were ~~used~~ spent on bunding. The subsidy of Rs.500 for the pay of the manager was used up and the share capital of Rs.2000 was used as the working capital for the farm. The amount of Rs.5000 for the godown was not withdrawn from the Bank. The District Central Cooperative Bank gave a crop loan of Rs.3190. The loan was, however, not repaid during the year. It was used for starting the construction of a new well in the plot contributed by the organizer, by the end of the year.

Though the members were not indebted, they needed small amounts of loan. The organizer borrowed Rs. 600. His father-in-law also borrowed Rs.70 as he was short of finance for cultivating the lands in his village. The two other absentee cultivators also borrowed Rs.300 and Rs.125 for the same purpose even though they were big farmers. One of the small farmers, borrowed Rs.100 for his household expenditure.

It was not possible to grow any irrigated crops as there were no facilities for irrigation. The society devoted the holding to cotton, jowar and groundnut. Half an acre was devoted to unirrigated chilly. The society purchased farm yard manure worth Rs.600 from the members

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and other villages. Fertilizers as ammonium sulphate, superphosphate and nitrophosph worth Rs.178 were used over small areas of cotton and groundnut for experimentation. Cotton and chilly were sprayed with endrine. Improved seeds were used only in the case of cotton. Prior to the organization of the society, neither the fertilizers nor the insecticides were being used by the members.

The season was good. The gross value of crop production, however, came to Rs.8218 or Rs.100 per acre only. In the year, prior to the organization of the society, the gross value of crops grown on 59 acres pooled by 10 of the members, excluding the two absentee cultivators, was Rs.121 per acre. The society, suffered a loss of Rs.3102. Property income could not be therefore, distributed.

#### Some aspects of the second year

The society had not completed its second year at the time of the investigations. Some changes in its functioning could, however, be noted through the discussions on the functioning for a part of the year.

The society completed the construction of the well in the organizer's plot. An area of 2 acres could be brought under irrigation, through the use of a mhot. The area was, however, used for planting oranges. Chilly was also planted in between the rows of oranges as a catch crop.

One more absentee cultivator pooled 2 acres of his land in the village in the beginning of the year.

The same Management Committee continued in the year. The pattern of employment also continued as in the previous year, except for a small change. One of the small farmers namely Krishna left the job after a few months as he could get better employment as a labourer in a

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neighbouring village where a cooperative housing society had started the construction of a number of houses.

The society sold the pair of bullocks contributed by the organizer as it was inferior for work and purchased a better pair.

The society could not repay the crop loan in the last year and so it was not possible to get a fresh loan this year. The society, however, tried to meet its financial needs through the Government finances.

The society could not get any good results through the use of fertilizers in the first year. So the use of fertilizers was restricted to almost a negligible scale in the second year. Only the farm yard manure produced on the society's farm was used for the crops. In addition goats were penned on a small area to get the manure. The same crops as grown in the previous year were cultivated this year.

The construction of godown was not started as yet. The bullocks were being tied in the byre of the organizer and the produce was stored in his house as he owned quite a big house in the village.

The values of the lands were not decided either in the first or the second year as there was no occasion to distribute the property income.

#### Attitudes of the members

As any property income could not be distributed because of the loss, the absentee cultivators could not get any returns from the society. We could not, however, meet them. It was said that they were displeased because of no returns but they knew that none of the societies in the area had distributed a property income. It was, however, not possible for them to form any opinion about the society just after experimenting with it only for one year.

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Pandit had joined the society with a view to get employment casually as well as get loans when needed. His objectives in joining the society were achieved only through pooling 2 acres of inferior land. He was told that it was possible to get a well sunk in a plot when a person joined a society. If this was possible in his plot and if the society was to make a profit, he was willing to pool even the unpoosed superior land into the society.

Both Krishna and Narayan, the other small farmers were pleased with the society because of the full employment they could get. Krishna had, however, temporarily started working outside as he could get the employment on better wages. After the construction work of the housing society was over, he was prepared to work in the society again. The labour members were also satisfied because of their employment as farm servants.

The chairman was though displeased because of the loss, his household had earned good returns because of the employment of his three sons. Besides, he had very limited resources to cultivate his lands personally. He was, however, expectin a profit in the next season.

APPENDIX I

Table showing the land owned and pooled by the members and their contributions in the form of share capital, bullocks and implements.

|   | Names of the members<br>in the household. | Area<br>owned<br>(Acres) | Area<br>pooled<br>(Acres) | Value of<br>land<br>pooled<br>(Rs.) | Share<br>capital<br>contri-<br>buted.<br>(Rs.) | Bullocks pooled |            | Value of<br>implements<br>pooled<br>(Rs.) |
|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|------------|---|
|   |   |                          |                           |                                     |  | Number          | Value(Rs.) |   |
| 1 | The organizer and his three sons          | 45.79                    | 45.79                     | Not<br>settled<br>as yet            | 200  | 2               | 225        | 392                                       |
| 2 | The organizee's father-in-law             | 9.42                     | 9.42                      |                                     | 25   | 2               | 600        | -   |
| 3 | Ramrao                                    | About 60                 | 14.73                     | 50                                  | -  | -               | -          |   |
| 4 | A farmer from the neighbouring<br>village | About 75                 | 8.45                      | 25                                  | -  | -               | -          |   |
| 5 | Pandit                                    | 8.92                     | 1.92                      | 50                                  | 2  | 250             | -          |   |
| 6 | Krishna                                   | 2.25                     | 2.25                      | 25                                  | -  | -               | -          |   |
| 7 | Narayan                                   | 2.00                     | 2.00                      | 25                                  | -  | -               | -          |   |
| 8 | Madhav                                    | -                        | -                         | 25                                  | -  | -               | -          |   |
| 9 | Bakaram                                   | -                        | -                         | 25                                  | -  | -               | -          |   |
|   | Total                                     | 203.38                   | 82.56                     |                                     | 450  | 6               | 1075       | 392                                       |

APPENDIX II

Table showing the proportions of area under different crops, before and after the organization of the society.

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|   | Name of the crop     | Prior to the organization of the Society.* | In the first year after the organization |
|---|----------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Cotton (Unirrigated) | 74.66                                      | 52.56                                    |
| 2 | Jowar                | 25.34                                      | 29.46                                    |
| 3 | Groundnut            | -  | 13.29                                    |
| 4 | Chilly               | -  | 0.78                                     |
| 5 | Others               | -  | 3.91                                     |
|   | Total                | 100.00                                     | 100.00                                   |

\* The data relate to only 59 acres of the area contributed by the members excluding two of the absentee cultivator members.



APPENDIX III

Table showing some aspects of farm business before and after the organization of the society.

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| I t e m   | Prior to<br>the orga-<br>nization<br>* | In the first<br>year after<br>the organiza-<br>tion. |
|---|--|--|
| 1 Number of members   | -                                      | 12   |
| 2 Land pooled (acres)   | -                                      | 82   |
| 3 Land cultivated (acres)   | 59 *                                   | 78   |
| 4 Cost of farm yard manure used (Rs.)   | 346                                    | 600  |
| 5 Cost of farm yard manure per acre (Rs.)                                       | 6                                      | 8  |
| 6 Cost of fertilizers used (Rs.)  | -                                      | 178  |
| 7 Cost over insecticides (Rs.)  | -                                      | 45   |
| 8 Number of members working on the farm   | 3                                      | 8  |
| 9 Number of farm servants employed  | 3                                      | 6  |
| 10 Number of members farm servants  | -                                      | 6  |
| 11 Total wage payment (Rs.)   | 1975 +                                 | 4213   |
| 12 Wage payment per acre (Rs.)  | 34                                     | 51   |
| 13 Percent of wages earned by the members<br>and their family members (percent) | -                                      | 77   |
| 14 Crop finance from the Bank (Rs.)   | -                                      | 3190   |
| 15 Crop finance per acre (Rs.)  | -                                      | 41   |
| 16 Gross cropped area (acres)   | 59                                     | 78   |
| 17 Percent of gross cropped area to the<br>net cultivated area (percent)        | 100                                    | 100  |
| 18 Area under food crops  | 16                                     | 23   |
| 19 Area under cash crops  | 43                                     | 55   |
| 20 Percent of area under the food crops to<br>the gross cropped area (percent)  | 27                                     | 30   |
| 21 Percent of area under the cash crops to<br>the gross cropped area (percent)  | 73                                     | 70   |
| 22 Gross value of crop production (Rs.)   | 7148                                   | 8218   |
| 23 Gross value of crop production per acre<br>(Rs.)                             | 121                                    | 100  |
| 24 Profit or loss   | -                                      | Loss Rs.3102   |

\* The data relate to only 59 acres pooled by 10 members, excluding two of the absentee cultivators.

+ Excluding wages for self employment.

## PART IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS1. Leadership Pattern

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It is the Praja Socialist Party leaders who started the organization of Cooperative Farming Societies in the Dhulia district in a systematic way. Though there was one old joint farming society organized at the time of the Independence, neither the composition of membership in it nor its achievements induced the growth of cooperative farming. The organization of cooperative farming societies in ones own villages, pooling ones own land and other resources, the inclusion of 'dummy' members to counteract the propaganda made by the Jansangh, the organization of a Shibir and a Federation, eliciting the full cooperation from the District Central Bank and other organizations, were the very systematic steps which gave the experimentation with the concept of cooperative farming the shape of a well organized project in the Dhulia district.

Though the Praja Socialist Party leaders organized the first four societies, the other political parties also entered the field in the next season. Out of the four societies organized in the second year, only one was organized by a Praja Socialist Party leader and the remaining three were organized by the Congress workers. All these eight societies were organized by persons who were the district or taluka level workers. The village level leaders came into the picture when the Pilot Projects were started. The targets to organize a certain number of societies given to the officials and the objective of the district leaders to multiply the number of cooperative farming societies on the lines of their societies, synchronized together. A number of non-pilot societies came up along with the pilot societies. Out of the 29

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societies organized in the third year 8 were organized by the Praja Socialist Party, 7 by the Congress, 2 by the Republican Party, 2 by the supporters of the Sarvodaya ideology, 2 by persons belonging to different political parties and 6 by such persons who had no affiliation to any party at all. The same trend followed in the subsequent years.

All these developments were, however, being considerably helped by an enthusiastic official, the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies in the district, who himself was interested in these experiments. The leaders mainly prepared the background for the organization of a cooperative farming society in a village. Once the people gave their consent, the Deputy Registrar advised them in the matters of organization, went personally to the village to register the society and paid frequent visits to a society even after its registration if there were any dissensions among the members or if the society came across any difficulties in the change-over from individual to joint cultivation. These latter steps were, however, possible only when he was informed of the situation developed in a village after the organization of a society. There was, therefore, a limit to his giving advice to a society once the society was registered. It is this association of the Government official and the leaders of the different political bodies that led to the successful organization of a number of societies in the Dhulia district.

Apart from the leadership of the officials and the political parties, the other cooperative agencies also played a cooperative and a vital role in the organization of cooperative farming societies. Without the full support of the District Central Cooperative Bank, the District Marketing Society and the Taluka

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Sale and Purchase Societies, it would not have been possible for the earlier farming societies to function properly and in turn pave the way for the organization of additional societies. This cooperation in the different organizations was again possible because of the district leadership. It is the district leaders who were also the persons elected on these bodies. Though these agencies were not directly connected with the organization of the societies, their leadership did indirectly influence the organization of the subsequent societies as the later societies came up mainly due to the success achieved by the earlier societies.

The registration of the collective farming societies, however, went on according to the 1949 Scheme. There was no well organized leadership behind the organization of these societies. The local leaders generally helped the landless people in getting the Government Waste lands wherever such lands were available. The efforts of these local leaders were restricted only to the surrounding villages where they stayed. Once the landless persons secured lands and formed a society, they usually ignored the leadership of the person helping them to organize the society. The organizers also could not become the members of these societies as they generally belonged to the category of the land owners. This made them lose all the control over the societies and leave the working of the society to the will of the members. The members generally preferred individual cultivation to collective cultivation because of the freedom in the nature of work and cultivation practices.

In the Wardha district, the initial joint farming societies were organized to experiment with cooperative farming which was accepted as the national policy in the Nagpur Session of the Congress Party held in 1959.

17 They were organized by local leaders with some selfish motive in the formation of these organizations. All these experiments proved to be a failure even though three of these societies existed nominally even at the time of the survey.

It is important to note that it was not possible for the officials to organize the Pilot Project for over a year for want of any response from the people. The earlier efforts to organize the Project in the Selu Development Block where some rehabilitation work was to go on, proved futile for want of response from the people. The lead taken by the Ashram in the organization of societies enabled the officials to start the Project in the Karanja Development Block of the Arvi Tahsil. Once five societies were registered through the followers of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj, the officials could succeed the organizing the remaining four societies in the area.

It is only the local leaders who were the dissidents from the Congress Party, took part in the organization of these societies. As in the Dhulia district, the local leaders organizing the societies in the Wardha district also became the members and pooled their lands. There was, however, no district leadership behind the organization of the societies as was the principal feature of the organization of farming societies in the Dhulia district. Consequently, the other central cooperative organizations as the District Central Cooperative Bank and the Sale and Purchase Society also did not try to take a lead in helping these societies.

The following conclusions emerge from the study of the organization of the societies in both the districts.

1. In both districts the political groups and social organizations played a leading role in the organization of societies. No development in this respect was possible solely on account of the official personnel.

2. In the Dhulia district, there was a central leadership which made it possible to elicit the cooperation from the other cooperative bodies. The Praja Socialist Party leaders also followed very systematic steps. The organization of a Federation helped in the further growth of societies. The absence of a Central and district leadership and consequently the lack of proper response from other cooperative bodies led to quite a slow rate of growth in the number of societies in the Wardha district.

3. It is the cooperation of the different political groups and the cooperative organizations which enabled the officials in the Dhulia district to start the work with right earnest and in great enthusiasm. The absence of these made the officials in the Wardha district somewhat less enthusiastic about the Pilot Project itself.

4. The quality of the official in the Dhulia district was greatly responsible for maintaining the enthusiasm among the organizers.

2. Motives behind the leadership and the nature of membership

Even though the leaders themselves became the members, there were certain motives behind their membership and the organization of the societies. Especially the case studies give the idea ~~me~~ about these motivations. In the Bharatpur Society the organizer and his brothers were absentee cultivators. The leader tried to organize and continue the society even though there was no cooperation from the genuine farmers in the village. He also organized the Rampur Society to get the society associated with the functioning of his society which lacked in any enthusiastic workers. He tried to pull out the leader of the Rampur society from the village strifes and induce in him an aspiration of becoming a leader in a wider circle which automatically would establish his superiority in the village politics. He collected for the purpose some of the persons from his group who owned large sums to him. The organizer of the Samatanagar Society was also unable to devote attention to his farm personally

as well as was politically highly ambitious. He had however, a genuine desire to organize a successful cooperative joint farming society but could not succeed in collecting other genuine persons for the society even at the cost of his own resources. Though one of the organizers of the Vijaygopal Society was an absentee cultivator, the others were genuinely interested in experimenting with cooperative farming. They collected only the other agreeable small farmers from a few families. The organizer of the Ekumbhe society wanted to bring the ancestral lands under a single management and, therefore, restricted the membership to only the households owning the ancestral land. It is only the organizer of the Ranwadi Society who had no personal interest in the society other than doing social work. He had, however, to organize a society where and under whatever circumstances it was possible for him to organize. He, therefore, agreed to organize a society which consisted only of four land contributing households belonging to a single family.

The members who joined these societies had also similar interests. In the Rampur Society, the members were indebted to the local leader himself and it was difficult for them to repay their loans. In as many as six other societies, the lands owned by the members were mortgaged privately. The society had, therefore, to give them loans to clear up their mortgaged deeds. In many of the other societies also, upto 50 per cent of the members had to be given loans to clear up their debts.

In the Rampur and the Vijaygopal Societies, the small farmers used to lease out their lands privately and get employed as farm servants or casual labourers. Being small and poverty stricken farmers, it was not

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possible for them to maintain the other resources required for farming and they had, therefore, no alternative other than leasing out their lands. The organization of societies attracted such lessors of land as it enabled them to get a lessee as well as a source of employment for them. These members generally tried to continue in the society except where they came into conflict with the organizers themselves as in the case of the Rampur and Samatanagar Societies.

Wherever the societies were organized, the absentee cultivators took the opportunity of pooling their lands in these societies to protect the land against tenancy legislation. Such cases were, however, quite few except in the case of the Bharatpur Society which practically consisted of absentee cultivators and lessors of land. It is only in this society that a member had joined it to pool his canal irrigated area into the society which was in excess of the limit fixed by the Ceiling on Land Holding Act. Generally the very big farmers in Dhulia district had refrained from the cooperative farming movement. So also only two of the societies were organized in villages having facilities for canal irrigation. There were, therefore, no opportunities for persons owning lands in excess of the limits of the ceiling on Land Holding Act to join the societies as the limits laid down by the Act limited the holdings to as many as 18 acres under perennial canal irrigation or 27 acres under bi-seasonal canal irrigation or 48 acres under seasonal canal irrigation or 78 to 84 acres under dry cultivation according to the soil type. Again all horticultural lands and lands irrigated by wells were to be treated as the dry lands.

Generally, the members had pooled their entire



holdings. Only in three of the 26 societies more than 25 per cent of the members had pooled parts of their holdings. In four other societies there were only one or two members in each society who had retained small parts of the holding for self cultivation. In all these seven societies such members were accepted to take up the initial membership to the minimum requirement.

In twelve of the 26 societies, only the land contributing members were enrolled as the members. In ten societies a few landless persons were admitted to encourage them to do good work. In the remaining four societies, however, landless persons had to be enrolled only to collect the minimum number of members required for the registration. As there was no restriction on the number of landless members in a society, the oldest society was being run by one land contributing family staying in two households, by enrolling their farm servants as members. When this society was organized all the members had contributed their lands. But in the course of time the other members resigned and there remained only two households who tried to continue the society with the help of landless persons. In the other society, the villagers were not prepared to become the members in the society organized by a district leader who was heavily indebted. He, therefore, collected a few of the small farmers and made up the minimum requirement of membership by enrolling his farm servants. The remaining two societies consisted of single households only. As there was a shortage of adults in those households, a few labourers were enrolled as members to take up the number of members to 10. These labour members never showed any interest in the societies except working

in them as annual farm servants. Lack of any restriction on the proportion of landless persons in the membership of the societies, had even created a wrong objective before the organizers of the other societies. The Chairman of the Samatanagar Society desired to continue his society inspite of the resignation of some of the land contributing members mainly by enrolling landless persons. It was said that this absence of restriction on the proportion of landless members might even tempt the organizers of the other societies to drive out the other land contributing members after the development of agriculture on their own farms, and other subsidiary industries as dairying, and reap the profits in the form of large bonuses over property income.

Even though many members joined the societies with different motives, there were also members who sincerely wanted to experiment with cooperative farming and try to derive the benefits which the leaders emphasized in the beginning. In many societies a few of the members always belonged to this category. In the societies organized around a single or a few families, there was a genuine desire to experiment with cooperative farming.

In the Wardha district also the leaders had organized the societies with different motives. In the old society, it is only the inferior parts of the holdings which were pooled in the society. In all the three new societies organized through the Pilot Project, the leaders were genuinely interested in trying out cooperative farming according to the advice given by Sant Tukadoji Maharaj whom they worshipped.

In the societies in the Wardha district, many members were compelled to pool only parts of their holdings as the holdings lay scattered in more than one

village. Though in the old society and some of the new societies organized by the officials only inferior parts of the holdings were pooled, in the other societies all the land owned in a village was pooled into the society irrespective of its quality. Some persons had even to accept the membership in two societies if there was a society in the adjoining village.

A number of members in the Wardha district, however, had to lease out their lands prior to the organization of the societies because of the small size of holdings and inadequacy of resources. Absentee cultivators were not enrolled in the Wardha societies to any sizable scale except in case of one old society. Inclusion of a few landless members, inspite of the small size of the holdings was, however, a feature of most of the societies in the Wardha district. In each of the nine out of 11 societies, 1 to 3 landless persons were enrolled as members. In only three of these, the landless members had to be enrolled to satisfy the minimum requirement of membership whereas in the others they were enrolled according to the advice given by the Cooperative Department.

The conclusions which emerge from the study of the motives and the nature of membership in the two districts can be stated as below.

1. Though the leaders who organized the societies had different motives, some of the leaders in both districts had a very genuine desire to try out the experiment of cooperative farming and demonstrate to the other villages, the benefits from it.

2. The other members also joined the societies with different motives. Some of the members were absentee cultivators, some were heavily indebted, for some members it was difficult to devote time to farming whereas some were compelled to lease out their lands for want of other resources. There were yet a few societies in which the members had no other interest than pooling the lands on the lines of their old joint families, to achieve the economies of scale and develop a sense of

cooperation among relatives. Such societies, however, existed only in the Dhulia district. In both districts, there were always a few members in many societies who were interested in trying out cooperative farming.

3. A few of the societies enrolled landless persons as members to raise the membership to the minimum requirement. The old society used the tool of lack of any restriction on the number of landless members to continue its existence with two land contributing households. This tool also provided the other organizers to drive out the land pooling members and restrict the organization of the society to their own holdings with a view to earn larger profits.

4. The labour members had, however, no interest in the societies except getting employment as farm servants. Enrolment of a labourer as a member practically led to no change in his attitude towards the society. This was evident from the frequent changes of labour members in the oldest society and also from the presence of non-working labour members in the other societies.

5. In the Wardha district, many members had to pool only part of their holdings as their holdings lay scattered in different villages. In the Dhulia district, the organizers themselves had taken care not to enable the members pooling only a part of their holdings excepting the case of a few societies where they had to be enrolled to make up the minimum requirement of membership for a cooperative society.

### 3. Types of societies

The different interests of the leaders as well as the members gave rise to different types of societies in these two districts. In some of the types the membership was restricted only to one or few families whereas in the others it was open.

In the first type as an extreme case, only one family staying in a single household had organized the society. This led to pooling of neither the land nor the other resources as the resources already existed in a single unit. There were two such societies in the Dhulia district. They were, however, outside the Pilot Projects. It was possible to register such societies according to the old Bombay State Cooperative Societies Act of 1925 as the Act permitted the registration of societies on the basis of individual membership irrespective of the number of families to which the first ten members belonged. The Maharashtra Cooperative

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Societies Act 1960 (No.24 of 1961) which came into force from 26th January, 1962, however, prohibited the registration of such societies as the Act made it possible to register only those societies in which the first ten members belonged to different families. A family was defined to consist even of relatives at the extreme such as grand-father, grand-son, half brother, half sister, etc. (Chapter II, Section 6(1) of the Act.).

In the second type of societies though the members belonged to the one family, they stayed in different households. In the Ekumbhe society for example, they stayed in 7 households whereas in the Ranwadi society they stayed in 4 households with a possibility of getting the households separated even in 7 households in the near future. Both these societies were in the Pilot Projects. There was one more society of this type in the Dhulia district, for which only a schedule was canvassed. It consisted of only 3 households. The membership in these societies was not open. There was, however, genuine pooling of resources and a good sense of mutual understanding among the members. The Maharashtra Cooperative Societies Act prohibited the registration even of such types of societies as the definition of the family included a long list of relatives as wife, husband, father, mother, grand-father, grand-mother, step-father, son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, grand-son, grand-daughter, brother, sister, half-brothers, half-sister and wife of brother and half brother (Chapter II, Section 6(1), See explanation).

As the members in such societies belonged to one family, there were little differences in their size of holdings as well as their economic status and the habits of work. The lands which they acquired through the subdivision and fragmentation of holdings also lay close together. There was a homogeneity of membership in these societies.

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In the third type the members belonged to a limited number of families such as only two or three families but they stayed in a number of different households. These families were also related to each other though the relations held were of a distant nature. The Vijaygopaḥ society is an example of this type. There were two other societies of this type for which only the schedules were canvassed. None of these societies was in the Pilot Projects. There was good mutual understanding in these societies. There was, however, groupism and the leaders of the families headed the groups in the societies. The holding was also scattered in 7 blocks. There can be two sub-types in this type according to the variations in the size of holdings pooled, economic status, habits of work, etc. All the three societies in Dhulia district, however, consisted of small farmers with little variation in the size of holdings and consequently in the economic status, habits of work, etc. There were no societies depicting a variation among the households in this respect as the families which came together in these societies had more or less the same characteristics.

In the fourth type of societies, the members belonged to different families and had different interests in joining the societies. A majority of the societies in the Dhulia district and all the societies in the Wardha district belonged to this type. Two sub-types were again noticeable in this type according to the size of holdings pooled, economic status, habits of work, etc.

In the first sub-type, there were little differences in the size of holdings even though the members belonged to different families. The Gangakhed and Maharajpeth societies in the Wardha district are examples of this type. There were four other societies of this type in the Wardha district for which the schedules were canvassed. All

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these societies consisted of small farmers. In the Dhulia district, there was not even a single society of this sub-type in the societies selected for the case studies. The schedules, however, indicated the presence of one such society.

In the second sub-type in this type, there were wide differences in the size of holdings pooled by the members, their economic status and habits of work. Though all the members in the earlier types had pooled their lands in these societies. The lands held by these societies generally lay in a number of blocks as in the case of the third type. A majority of the societies viz. 17 societies in the Dhulia district and 5 of the 11 societies in the Wardha district belonged to this type.

The types of societies as the survey indicated may be summarized as below :

|  | No. of<br>societies |
|--|---------------------|
| I Societies consisting of members belonging to one family and staying in one household                                 |                     |
| Dhulia district  | 2                   |
| Wardha district  | -                   |
| II Societies consisting of members belonging to one family but staying in different households                         |                     |
| Dhulia district  | 3                   |
| Wardha district  | -                   |
| III Societies consisting of members belonging to two or three families but staying in different households             |                     |
| Dhulia district  | 3                   |
| Wardha district  | -                   |
| IV Societies consisting of members belonging to a number of families and staying in different households.              |                     |
| (a) With little differences in the size of holdings pooled by the members, their economic status, habits of work, etc. |                     |
| Dhulia district  | 1                   |
| Wardha district  | 6                   |

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(b) With wide differences in the size of holdings pooled, their economic status, habits of work, etc.

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Dhulia district | 17    |
| Wardha district | 5     |
|                 | ----- |
| Total           | 37    |
|                 | ----- |

The other major conclusions which emerge from the discussion on the types of societies may be as below:

1. The modifications in the Maharashtra Cooperative Societies Act 1960 (Act 24 of 1961) over the Bombay State Cooperative Societies Act of 1925, had rightly made it possible to discourage the registration of cooperative farming societies consisting of only one family staying in one household and consequently involving no pooling.

2. These provisions in the Act, however, also came in the way of organizing genuine cooperative farming societies consisting of one or a few families staying in a number of different households. There were possibilities of a number of such societies coming up in the Dhulia district but the organizers had to give up the idea because of this provision introduced in the new Act. One does not know whether the reduction in the tempo of organization of cooperative joint farming societies in Dhulia district after the year 1962 was due to this enactment.

3. In deciding the structure for the organization of cooperative joint farming societies, it becomes necessary to take into account the previous separations of the households and not their relations. The new enactment did not contain any provision for the registration of cooperative farming societies according to the concept of a household, a farm or a management unit. The old Act, on the contrary, had taken an extreme position in permitting individual membership for the first 10 members irrespective of a household or a family.

It would be interesting to note wherever possible in this concluding part, how these different types of societies worked in whatever small period of one or two years they had completed till the time of investigations.

#### 4. Economies of scale

When the private farms are pooled together to form a large cooperative farm, it must result in achieving some economies due to the large scale of the operations. Such economies were quite distinct in most of the societies.



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There was a saving in the number of bullocks practically on every farm. In the Samatanagar society for example, the 8 bullocks pooled into the society were formerly used to cultivate 67 acres of land. After the addition of 8 more bullocks they were quite adequate for an area of 169 acres. In the Vijaygopal society the bullocks pooled into the society cultivated an area of 65 acres only. After the pooling, they were adequate for the farm of 110 acres. In the Ekumbhe society consisting of different households from a single family, the members owned 30 bullocks prior to the organization of the society. After the organization, they sold out 7 of the bullocks and it was possible to employ the methods of intensive cultivation even with only 3/4th the number of bullocks owned previously. It is only the Ranwadi society in which only four households had pooled the land that the number of bullocks had to be maintained even after the change in scale. Similar was the nature of observations from the Wardha district.

There was also a reduction in the number of implements required for the farm after pooling the lands. Neither the societies nor the members attached more importance to the traditional implements as the old implements had a little value in the village market. Many of the members, therefore, pooled the traditional implements free of cost. The societies, had however, to spend on the improved implements as with the change in the scale, there was also a change in the methods of farming as deep tillage, mechanized irrigation and use of labour and time saving devices as a winnowing fan. Because of pooling the lands it was possible to considerably reduce the number of such improved devices when compared to the operated areas. Only two iron ploughs could plough the holding pooled by a number

of farmers whereas an oil engine could be used alternatively on more than one well.

Except in the case of the societies organized around single families, the holdings of the societies generally consisted of 3 to 8 blocks. The number of blocks had, however, little importance when compared to the size of a block and the distances between different blocks. Where all the blocks were fairly big and located nearby and only in one part of the village, it was possible for the labour to move quickly from one block to the other without loss of time. On the contrary, even where the society's holding consisted of a few blocks located at a wider distance in different corners of a village, it was difficult to achieve any labour economy in this respect.

Many of the societies had made a special effort in the selection of the members to reduce the number of blocks to the minimum as well as reduce the distance between blocks. This, however, had resulted in partial pooling of land in many cases and loss of working members to the society. In the Bharatpur society for example, all the lands belonging to two of the members were not accepted as they were at a distance from the major part of the land pooled in the society. It was not possible for these members to devote their time on the society's farm as they had to manage their own holdings. The holding of one of the societies in the Dhulia district consisted of a single block. But a majority of the members had to pool only a part of their holdings to constitute the society's holding into a single block. It was not possible to know whether there were any other reasons for this partial pooling of lands as only a schedule was canvassed for this society. In the Wardha district also some of the members had to pool only parts of their holdings on this account. In these cases, the

31 Plots were, however, fairly small and isolated from the major parts of the society's farm.

The boundaries of the individual farms were retained in both the Dhulia and the Wardha districts. All the agricultural operations were performed separately for the individual fields as it was not possible to lift up the implements across the bunds. Where there were no bunds between the plots of different members, it was possible to perform the operations in continuity. There were, however, very little savings in the costs over labour on this account, which the organizers themselves estimated as 1 to 2 per cent.

The measures for consolidation of plots had been already undertaken through the Scheme for Consolidation of Holdings in some of the villages in the Dhulia district. In the societies organized in such villages it was possible to get the lands pooled by many members into single fragments. The fragments were, however, consolidated with a view to make a bigger fragment of the size of nearly 15 acres or so and not to consolidate the entire holding owned by a person. Again, the Consolidation Officers had to take into account the individual owner of a plot and not his household or the management unit. In case of holdings, divided into the names of a number of persons in a household attempts were made to consolidate the fragments owned by the individual members and not the household. The irrigated and unirrigated plots had, again to be consolidated separately. The officers had, however, no objection if the members themselves suggested some agreeable solutions. This, no doubt, reduced the number of fragments owned by an individual. It was possible on account of these partial consolidation measures to reduce the number of blocks in some societies. In the village

2 Samatanagar, yet, the society's holding consisted of 12 blocks in the second year inspite of consolidation. The number of blocks ultimately depended upon the location of the plots of the cultivators willing to join a society. It was not possible to undertake such measures again and again in a village for the sake of a farming society.

Consolidation measures were to be undertaken in some of the villages where cooperative farming societies had been organized. There were, however, no instructions to the Consolidation Officers to consolidate the lands pooled in a society into suitable blocks. The instructions took into account the consolidation of lands owned only by the individuals as shown in the Village Records. As the lands pooled in a society were owned by the individual members, the Consolidation Officers had no alternative but to proceed their work according to the fragments owned by an individual. They were, however, prepared to proceed according to the desires of the members of a society, as their whole scheme depended upon the cooperation of the people. They had, however, not yet come across a problem of this type in any village.

It was possible to achieve the economies of scale in respect of irrigation especially through the new wells dug by some of the societies. As the old wells were sunk at places suitable for irrigation of only the owners' plots, it was not generally possible to irrigate the lands pooled by the other members through these wells. In the Ekumbhe Society, however, it was possible to use an old well for irrigating the plots pooled by three brothers as the well was being used for the purpose before the separation of their household. The new wells were being, however, located to irrigate as large an area as possible irrespective of the plots which it would irrigate. In the Vijaygopal society where the small farmers had pooled their lands, it

33 was possible to irrigate plots pooled by five members by sinking a new well in one of these plots. In the Ranwadi society, on the contrary, the holdings contributed by the members being quite large, each of the new wells could be used for irrigating a single holding only. Similar was the case in the Samatanagar society where a new well was sunk in a fairly large plot purchased by the society.

No economies of scale in respect of irrigation could be achieved in the Wardha district, as the societies had not taken up any irrigation programmes.

The conclusions which emerge in respect of the economies of scale achieved by the different societies may be stated as below.

1. There was a saving in the number of bullocks practically in every society except in those in which only a few households had contributed the land.

2. There was also a saving in the number of implements but not much importance was attached to the traditional implements as the old implements had a little value in the village market. Possession of only a few improved devices and oil engines was quite adequate for their operation over larger areas after the pooling of land resources.

3. More importance was generally given by the societies to the size of the blocks and the distances between the blocks than merely the number of blocks.

4. It was not possible for all the members to pool their entire holdings in those societies in which attempts were made to restrict the number of blocks.

5. It was possible to reduce the number of blocks in a society in a village in which consolidation measures had been already undertaken. The number of blocks, however, ultimately depended upon the location of the plots of the cultivators willing to join a society.

6. The measures of consolidation proceeded according to the individual owners of plots as indicated in the Village Records. The society did not own the plots it cultivated. The Consolidation Officers had no alternative but to proceed according to the instructions which did not specify the mode of consolidation for a society.

##### 5. Agricultural Production

Also all the joint farming societies in the Dhulia

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district had made the attempts to increase agricultural production through increasing the irrigation, use of improved and intensive methods of cultivation and the land development measures.

Nine of the 26 societies had dug up 12 new wells and increased their irrigated areas. So also 10 of the societies had deepened 14 old wells. Two of the societies had even equipped their farms with pipe lines to carry water from low lying areas to the high lying areas. As many as 23 societies had purchased 49 oil engines to irrigate their farms. There was an increase in the irrigated areas on most of the farms. The Ranwadi society brought under irrigation 30 acres of land in place of the total absence of irrigation prior to its organization. Only in case of six societies it was not possible to increase the irrigated area, as the societies were located in areas where there was scarcity of water as well as the water was brackish and not suitable for irrigation.

Improved methods of cultivation were practically adopted by all the societies though on a varying scale. Farm yard manure was generally used lavishly. In 15 of the societies, the cost over farm yard manures per acre varied between Rs.30 and Rs.75. In only 5 societies the cost was below Rs.10 per acre. The organization of societies and the flow of finance had made it possible to purchase the farm yard manure and compost in bulk from the towns or import these from the forest areas. Improved seeds were also used by all the societies in case of many crops. Some of the improved varieties of food crops did not, however, give good results on certain farms and their use was, therefore, discontinued. Fertilizers were used by 17 of the 26 societies. They were generally used for

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the irrigated crops except in the case of four societies which used them even for the unirrigated crops. In only 10 of the societies, however, the per acre cost over fertilizers exceeded Rs.5. In others the cost was negligible. Twentyone of the societies had used insecticides.

It was observed through the case studies that improved methods were largely used by those societies which were organized around progressive cultivators. In the other societies, the societies lay more stress on the use of farm yard manure than on the use of fertilizers. The use of improved seeds for crops like cotton and groundnut was, however, common in all the societies. Dhulia district being subject to crop failures very often, the general opinion of the organizers was that the societies using certain inputs as fertilizers for example, on a large scale were subject to heavy losses whenever there was a crop failure than the societies taking to a very moderate use of the inputs. The Samatanagar and the Ranwadi societies had to suffer heavy losses in the year 1961-62 on this account.

There was an increase in the gross cropped areas on most of the farms because of extension of irrigation as the case studies indicated. There was also a tendency to devote a larger proportion of the area to the cash crops than to the food crops in almost all the societies for which case studies were made. Only in one society, the area under food crops had increased because of devoting large areas to wheat on the irrigated holding. Some of the societies introduced new practices for the first time on their farms and consequently for the first time in the area. The Ranwadi society for example, introduced crops like Cambodia cotton and chilly for the first time in the hilly area in which it was located. Cambodia cotton was also introduced for the first time in the village Ekumbhe by the society organized in that village.

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The Samatanagar society taught many of the villagers the use of fertilizers even for the unirrigated crops.

Only nine of the societies had made special efforts for the development of land which included repairs to the existing bunds, removing perennial weeds and deep ploughing with a tractor. The Samatanagar society tried to develop one of the plots, the society had purchased, by putting even river silt on the plot as the soils were inferior. As the programme of bunding was already completed through the state in most of the villages, the societies had not to incur any expenditure on bunding.

All the case studies indicated an increase in the total output from the farm after the organization of the societies. In some cases the increase was tremendous as in the case of the Vijaygopal society, for example. It is, however, not possible to conclude on the extent of increase in production as the district was subject to wide fluctuations in the seasonal conditions.

The societies in the Wardha district on the contrary, depicted a different picture in this respect. Only one of the societies out of the 6 societies which had completed at least one agricultural year had made an attempt to sink a new well but the work was incomplete. None of the societies had made any attempt to repair the old wells. Moreover, irrigated crops were grown on a small scale only by two of the societies on the old wells contributed by the members. The society sinking the new wells had planted oranges around the well. Only two of the societies possessed oil engines.

Farm yard manure was used by all the societies but the cost varied between Rs.5 and Rs.17 per acre only. Fertilizers were used by only three of the societies at a cost of only Rs.2.5 per acre. Very nominal expenditure



was incurred by three of the societies on the use of insecticides. These measures were being, however, undertaken on an experimental basis mostly for the first time in those villages.

Expenditure was incurred by 9 of the 11 societies on some land development measures. The land development measures included repairs to the bunds, tractor ploughing and removal of the perennial weeds.

In the Wardha district more emphasis was laid on the land development measures than in Dhulia district. In Dhulia district the societies spent the land development loan mainly on increasing the irrigation resources as the programme of bunding had been already undertaken in the district through the State. In the Wardha district the programme of bunding had not yet reached the area. It was, therefore, felt necessary to incur expenditure over repairing the bunds which were neglected by the small farmers for over        years. So also there was a tractor station in the Wardha district. The societies could take the help of the tractor for deep ploughing and reclamation of their lands. There were no facilities for tractor ploughing in the Dhulia district.

The old societies in the Wardha district generally adopted the traditional methods of cultivation. The new societies were, however, very enthusiastic about the agricultural development and hoped to take up irrigation programmes on a large scale provided finance was available for the purpose.

Thus, it may be summarized that -

1. Almost all the joint farming societies in the Dhulia district had made a progress in agricultural development.
2. More emphasis was laid by the societies on the development of irrigation resources and the use of farm yard manure. It was possible to purchase farm yard manure in bulk because of the organization.

3. Improved methods were largely adopted by those societies which were organized around a progressive cultivator.
  4. Those societies which followed very intensive methods were, however, subject to heavy losses in the years of crop failures.
  5. There was a general tendency to devote larger areas to the cash crops than to the food crops after the organization. This was evident in case of a majority of the societies.
  6. The societies in the Wardha district could not make any progress in agricultural development. The new societies were, however, enthusiastic in this respect but there was inadequacy of finance.
  7. A large number of societies in the Wardha district had undertaken land development measures when compared to the number of societies spending on land development in the Dhulia district. This was because such measures had been already taken by the state in Dhulia district. So also there was greater demand for tractor ploughing in the Wardha district than in the Dhulia district where there was no tractor station.
6. Subsidiary Industries

Though the societies had made some achievements in developing agriculture in Dhulia district, the development of subsidiary industries was undertaken only by a few societies. Dairying was one of such activities. Only five of the societies in the Dhulia taluka had purchased buffaloes and were supplying milk to the Dhulia Milk Scheme. The other societies in the Dhulia taluka were also prepared to undertake dairying but there were difficulties in the marketing of milk. The milk van of the Milk Union plyed only on certain roads which excluded these areas. The societies in the Sindkhede taluka were also prepared to supply the milk if the Milk Union made the necessary arrangements for the collection of milk. The organizers of the Milk Union were thinking of providing these facilities to the societies provided the other cultivators from their surrounding areas also guaranteed to supply milk.

Besides this dairy industry, two societies had started flour mills, two societies had taken to poultry

~~the societies~~

keeping, three societies were given sheep free of cost by the Animal Husbandry Department to take to sheep rearing, and two more societies had purchased Khilar cows to take to animal breeding. Out of these industries, only the flour mills were successful. The poultry birds purchased by two of the societies died and the whole enterprise ran into a heavy loss. No attempts were made thereafter, to replenish the stock. The sheep given to all the three societies were kept at one society. There was a slow rate of growth in these sheep as well as they could not fetch a good price in the market even though they belonged to the Bannur breed, famous for the quality of the mutton it yielded. The sheep rearing industry was, however, under experimentation and it was not possible to know the results in a short period. The subsidiary occupation of breeding Khilar cows also proved unprofitable as the cows multiplied extremely slowly. At the same time the societies had to rear them almost by stall feeding at heavy losses for absence of any pastures in the area. Both the societies were, therefore, thinking of reselling the cows back to the Animal Husbandry Department through which they were purchased.

In the Wardha district, only one of the societies had started a flour mill and the same society was given sheep free of cost by the Animal Husbandry Department for taking to sheep rearing. No other society had even any plans to start the subsidiary industries inspite of small size of their holdings.

Except the flour mills, the provision for other subsidiary industries needed to be thought over in the context of area and district planning. It is important to note in this context that the Ranwadi Society had to ask its members to dispose off the few buffaloes they

owned prior to the organization of the society but had to purchase the buffaloes after a year again on the account of the society because of the organization of a Milk scheme at Dhulia. The same may be true of poultry keeping and sheep rearing which may have to be planned on a large scale for an area and then the cooperative farming societies may have to be given their due place in this planning.

The major conclusions that can be drawn from these experimentations with the subsidiary industries can be stated as below :

- (1) There has to be coordination in the different departments and the subsidiary industries have to be thought over in the context of area planning and not in isolation, even though they have a special importance in providing urgent employment to the 'white collared' members of these societies.
- (2) When the Departments have to conduct any experiments or piloting as in the case of sheep rearing, cow breeding, or poultry keeping, the cooperative farming societies have to be heavily subsidized for the experiments, as the losses in such experiments may likely lead to far reaching effects on the business of these initial societies, and consequently on the organization of ~~these~~ other societies.

#### 7. Labour employment and wages

In both districts, the members tried to get employment in the societies as farm servants on a fixed salary on the annual basis like the salarimates. In the Dhulia district, they were appointed on the annual basis whereas in the Wardha district the appointments were on the monthly basis. In the Wardha district, their employment was, however, continued throughout the year which practically meant that they were appointed as the Annual farm servants. Almost every member available for work in a society desired to be appointed as a farm servant, without any

discrimination in the wage rates of different members whatever be the nature of their work. The societies had to employ a minimum number of farm servants according to the size of the holding. The general practice was to employ the farm servants at the rate of one farm servant for a cultivated area of 15 to 23 acres according to the proportion of the irrigated area. In societies in which there were no absentee cultivators or in which the members had pooled their entire holdings, quite a large number of members were available for the work on the farm. Such societies had, therefore, to make provision for the employment of the members on a large scale on the annual basis. Not all the members, were, however, habituated to the type of work a farm servant was expected to do. Some of the members were themselves employing farm servants prior to the organization of the societies and were habituated only to the supervisory work. It was, therefore, not possible for such members to put in those quantum of work put in by the other farm servants employed on similar wage rates. This upset the labour economies in many societies which otherwise would have been possible to achieve through its organization into a large scale enterprise.

The member farm servants usually preferred to do light type of work such as supervising over the casual labourers or irrigating the fields. The 'white collared' persons among the members preferred to look after the animals, do the marketing work, look after dairying or work with the machinery such as oil engines. This always led to quarrels in the distribution of work and consequently to the displeasure of a group of member farm servants who had the experience of hard work on the farm. As all the societies had not taken to dairying and as mechanization was restricted only to the use of oil engines, it was

difficult to employ the educated and trained members over these jobs. In many societies, such persons had to be assigned work along with the other farm servants at the cost of discomfort among some of the hard working members.

In the societies organized by members of a single family, however, there was always homogeneity in respect of the habits of work and it was, therefore, possible to distribute the work with a sense of equality and according to the ability of the members, as in the case of the Ekumbhe society. In this society as well as the Ranwadi society, it was observed that though all the members belonged to the category of the 'white collared' persons, they did hard work on the farm as they considered the whole farm as their own farm, it being their old family farm. In the other societies, in which a number of families had come together, the white collared persons usually preferred to work on the farms which they had contributed or on the other items mentioned above. In the societies organized only by the small farmers, all members were prepared to do hard work on any farm as they were already habituated to do.

The number of members available for work on a farm largely depended upon the composition of membership in the society as well as on the age composition of the members. The absentee cultivators and the members pooling only parts of their holdings were generally not available for work. The aged members also worked rarely on the farms on the casual basis. The well-to-do class of farmers in the heterogeneous societies, generally did the work of management only on the honorary basis. They tried to get one or two of their family members employed as farm servants on the society's farm for doing the more honourable jobs. The presence of such categories of

members in a society considerably reduced the supply of labour from among the members. Out of the 26 joint farming societies in the Dhulia district, it is only in 11 societies that more than 75 per cent of the members worked on the farm. Most of the members in the societies organized around a single family or organized around small farmers worked on the farm. In the other societies the proportion of working members to total members varied around 50 per cent with only a few exceptions.

In the Wardha district, the size of the farms was small. It was not, therefore, possible to employ all members inspite of their desire to work on the farm. The organizers themselves freely encouraged the members to seek jobs outside if possible. Yet in 5 of the 11 societies more than two-third of the members were employed on the farm. These societies were, however, organized through the Ashram. In the other societies the proportion of working members was very low mainly because of partial pooling of land and presence of a few absentee cultivators.

Even though the bye-laws of the cooperative farming societies envisaged that at least 75 per cent of the members should work on a society's farm, there was no precise definition for a working member. Those who did the work of mere management, were also taken into account as the working members. The Chairman of one of the societies worked only for a day in a year and earned Rs.2. He could also become a working member. An absentee cultivator can also be a working member according to this criterion if he was to work for a day on the society's farm whenever he was to visit his native place. Such a concept of a working member did not give the correct idea whether a society was being run according to the objectives in

the bye-laws. Moreover, the organizers themselves took the concept very lightly and no attempts were, therefore, possible to improve the working of the societies inspite of the supervision of the Department.

There was a demand from some of the members for the employment of their children over some casual and specific jobs on a society's farm. It was pointed out in this respect that when the farms were cultivated individually it was possible to get the help of their children and simultaneously give them the necessary training in doing the farm work. After the organization of the society, however, there remained no scope for the training of their children.

The wage rates in all the societies in both districts were the same as the wage rates in their respective willages. It is only in one society viz. the Rampur society out of the six societies in the Dhulia district for which case studies were made, that the wage rates for the member farm servants were a little higher than the local rates. The rates for casual labourers in all the societies varied with the fluctuations in the local rates for casual labour.

There was a small rise in the wage rates in four of the societies in the Dhulia district during the last two years as the case studies indicated. In the Vijaygojal society, the wage rates for the member and non-member farm servants increased by 8 per cent. In the Samatanagar, Ranwadi and the Bharatpur societies, the wage rates for farm servants went up by 5 to 7 per cents. In the Rampur society, the wage rates remained constant. There seemed to have been no appreciable increase in the wage rates for casual labour which varied according to the nature of the demand in the different seasons. The percentage of a small increase, if any, is, however, not known.



Except in the Bharatpur Society, there was an increase in the employment in all the societies in the Dhulia district for which case studies were conducted. It was, however, not possible to determine the extent of difference in the employment before the organization of a society and in its first year after the organization because of leasing out of lands and the difficulties involved in evaluating self employment on the private farms. The development measures undertaken by the societies in their first years themselves led to a significant rise in the employment. In the Ranwadi Society for example, sinking of a new well and deepening of two old wells to irrigate an area of 18 acres in place of the total absence of irrigation prior to the organization and the utilization of this area for the intensively cultivated Cambodia cotton were indicative of quite a sizable change in the employment. Similar measures were manifest in all the societies except in the Bharatpur Society of the absentee cultivators where such developmental measures were not needed because of the presence of a large scale canal and well irrigation on its farm even prior to its organization. Land development measures were, however, undertaken by only two of the societies viz. the Samatanagar and the Ranwadi societies.

The large differences in the wage payments of the societies in the first year and the subsequent years in spite of only a small rise in the wage rates, give a more detailed idea about the increased employment and the increasing trend itself, in a society completing three years. In the Samatanagar Society for example, the wage payments per acre were Rs.48, Rs.53 and Rs.66 during the first, second and the third year respectively. In the Ranwadi and the Rampur societies, the wage payments per acre increased from Rs.29 and Rs.53 to Rs.43 and Rs.65 res-

pectively. In the Vijaygopal Society of small farmers, the wages increased from Rs.69 to Rs.88 per acre. It is only in the Bharatpur society that the wage payment remained stagnant at Rs.70 per acre. The total increase in the wage payments of these societies in their second year was 22.3 per cent of the wage payments in their first year.

In the Wardha district, three of the societies had completed only one year. It was not, therefore, possible to know about the extent of increase in employment on their farms. All these three societies had, however, incurred expenditures on land development and one of them had even sunk a well. The costs over these development measures accounted for 19 to 25 per cent of their wage payments. In the case of the old society there was a gradual reduction in the wage payment from Rs. 44 per acre to Rs.33 per acre during the course of the last four years. The society had spent an amount of Rs. 4394 on land development, most of which was spent in the second and the fourth years. This expenditure accounted for 19 per cent of its wage distribution during the four years.

In the Dhulia district, it is somewhat difficult to get an idea of the employment generated through the developmental aspects and through the adoption of intensive cultivation because of a number of developmental aspects which a society undertook simultaneously. It is again, not possible to classify the material components and labour components of the developmental measures from the figures given in the audited reports. Again, the managers in these societies as well as the auditors faced difficulties in imputing the value of labour put in by farm servants over the developmental measures as the annually paid farm servants worked on the farm as well as took part in the developmental activities. Certain indications can, however, be obtained even through these

figures for the societies for which the case studies were made.

In the Rampur society for example, the land development and the deepening of a well accounted for 18 and 7 per cents of the wage distribution respectively in the first year. The remaining part of the wage payment viz. Rs. 4583 was mainly due to cultivation. In the second year, there was no expenditure on the above aspects. Two additional farm servants had to be appointed for looking after the sheep and the cows purchased for breeding. Ten per cent of the wage distribution in the second year was accounted for by these two developmental aspects. One more farm servant was appointed to look after the additional land of 20 acres pooled in the society by a new member. His wages accounted for another 5 per cent of the total wage payment. The remaining wage payment of Rs. 7522 or 85 per cent of the total wage payment in the year was due to the intensive cultivation of crops, poultry farming on a small scale and the construction of a silo pit. This wage payment was, however, 164 per cent of the wage payment over cultivation during the first year. The intensive cultivation of crops among the other things included increasing the areas under banana, chilly and Cambodia cotton from 2, 2 and 5 acres to 4, 5 and 17 acres respectively.

In the Vijaygopal society, the cost over sinking a new well and deepening two wells accounted for 22 per cent of its wage distribution for the first year. The remaining part of the wage payments viz. Rs. 6042 was due to the cultivation of the crops. In the second year, the well sinking programme accounted for only 4 per cent of the wage payments in the year. The remaining part of Rs. 8698 was due to intensive cultivation of crops and the construction of a godown. This wage payment was 144

per cent of the wage payment over cultivation in the first year. In the second year, the area under irrigation was increased by 8 acres as well as the areas under Cambodia cotton and chilly were increased from 4 and 4 acres to 10 and 7 acres respectively. The component of labour in the costs over the construction of the godown, which came to Rs.5754, being not known it is not possible to attribute the whole rise in the wage payment to the intensive cultivation of crops.

In the Ranwadi society the costs over sinking a new well and deepening two wells came to Rs.2545 and these accounted for 40 per cent of the wage payments in the year. The remaining part of the wage payment viz. Rs.3786 was due to the cultivation of crops. In the second year the costs over well sinking came to Rs.192 or only to 2 per cent of the wage distribution in the year. The remaining part of the wage payments viz. Rs. 8295 was due to the intensive cultivation of crops as well as starting a small poultry farm and constructing a silo pit. The intensive cultivation of crops included increasing the irrigated area by 11 acres and increasing the area under Cambodia cotton and chilly by 7 and 5 acres respectively. The wages over intensive cultivation and the other items were 219 per cent of the wages over the cultivation of crops in the previous year.

The complications in the splitting of wages over different aspects limits the scope of inferring precisely upon the employment generated through the aspects of development and cultivation of crops. The above cases, however, indicate that there was greater employment due to the developmental aspects in the first year than in the second year. These aspects accounted for 25 to 40 per cent of the wage payments in the first year. If we assume that the wages on account of the small sized poultry

farms and construction of a silo pit were fairly small, then it is possible to infer that the wage payments over cultivation in the second year were fairly large when compared to the wage payment in the earlier year and the increase in employment was largely due to the intensive cultivation of crops.

It is also evident from the above cases that the intensive cultivation in the second year which included mainly bringing additional areas under irrigation and growing such irrigated crops as Cambodia cotton, banana and chilly which required irrigation over a longer season as well as the use of manures, fertilizers, pest control measures, inputs of labour, etc. on a larger scale when compared to growing crops as wheat, jowar, groundnut, etc. by irrigation, was possible because of the developmental measures in the first year. The developmental measures in the first year, moreover, led to a permanent increase in the employment of labour on these farms. It is not possible to know how this cycle of developmental measures leading to increased production, permanent absorption of labour, etc. would operate further as these societies had completed only two years. It might lead to further development and again to more and more absorption of labour on these farms. It is also not possible to determine the ratios of this permanent absorption of labour to the capital or the labour inputs for the developmental measures for want of adequate data. Further studies for these societies might throw light on many problems of this type.

Taking to the intensive cultivation of crops further indicated that there was a real increase in the demand for labour. In the Rampur and the Ranwadi societies for example, the intensive cultivation of crops had to be attempted even through the employment of non-member

farm servants on a large scale. In each of these societies the number of non-member farm servants had to be increased by three to meet the extra demand over the intensive cultivation whereas the Vijaygopal society had to employ casual labour on a large scale in the year maintaining the number of farm servants at the previous level.

Whatever disguised unemployment that was on the farms of these societies, was mainly due to the negligence in the work put in by the member farm servants who were not habituated to the work of a farm servant as mentioned earlier and also due to lower demand for labour in certain seasons. The societies were, however, making an attempt to solve this problem through the introduction of irrigation, the selection of crops requiring intensive cultivation over a fairly long period in a year, and through the diversification of crop production as was evident in all the societies. Secondly, a few of the societies had attempted methods of very rational distribution of employment as were brought to our notice. The Rampur society for example, uprooted the groundnut plants in the harvesting season but postponed the plucking of the pods to a season when there was less work on the farm. This, no doubt, involved a price risk for the produce but it could add to saving in the expenditure on the farm as the society could avoid the employment of outside costly labour in the peak season. The Vijaygopal society commenced the work of digging new wells or making ropes from agave fibre whenever there was inadequate work on the farm. As these two examples indicate, the earlier society reduced disguised unemployment by postponing the farm work in a peak season to a slack season whereas the other society tried to search for additional work when there was less work for the annually

employed farm servants. This had, however, resulted in a more large scale employment of the casual labourers in the latter society than in the former. In the second year of these societies, the wage payment for casual labour in the earlier society went up by 44 per cent whereas in the latter society there was a rise of 62 per cent over the same. The other societies generally tried to meet their demands in the peak season by employing casual labour.

The increase in the wage payments from the first to the second year were generally shared in large proportions by the members within certain limitations and depending upon the changes in the number of working members. In the Rampur society for example, the proportion of wages earned by the members increased from 38 per cent of the total wage payments in the first year to 49 per cent of the total wage payments in the second year, because of the increase in the number of working members. In the Vijaygopal society, however, the number of working members remained the same. The additional employment generated in the society, on the contrary reduced the share of the members in the wage payments from 69 per cent in the first year to 64 per cent in the second year. In the Manwadi society these shares increased from 17 to 29 per cent and in the Samatanagar society from 12 to 28 per cent because of increase in the number of working members and their employment as farm servants.

The increased absorption of members on the society's farms in the subsequent years again leads to another problem if there was a surplus labour. In the Rampur society, for example, three of the small farmer members were asked to continue with their employment as farm servants outside in the first year but they were absorbed on the farm in the subsequent years. Two farm servants

were, however, employed from outside on the society's farm in the first year, which showed that only one working member was in the surplus. Prior to the organization of the society only 6 of the members were working on the farm. The number increased to 12 in the second year of the society. In the Ranwadi and the Samatanagar societies, there was never a surplus in the working members. The increase in the number of working members in these societies was due to admission of additional members in the subsequent years. In the Vijaygopal society, however, all the members had to be provided employment on the farm inspite of small size of the farm. In the year prior to the organization of the society only 6 of the members were working on their farms but after the organization 12 members had to be provided employment.

If we try to determine, the land available per member willing to work on the farm at the time of the organization of these societies we find that in the Vijaygopal and the Rampur societies, the land available per such member was 9.1 acres and 9.6 acres respectively whereas in the Ranwadi and the Samatanagar societies it was 48.4 and 24.1 acres respectively. In the Bharatpur society, none of the members was available for work. In the Ekumbhe society consisting of one family as the Ranwadi society, quite a large number of members and their family members were available for work. The land available per member willing to work on the farm was, 25.7 acres. All the members, however, belonged to the 'white collared' class and most of them wanted to do the supervisory type of work even after getting employed as farm servants. The organizer tried to solve this problem through a very rational division of labour among these members according to their ability to do the work and at a wage rate according to the type of work. The



wage rates paid to these members were in many cases much lower than the wage rates for the hard working farm servants. Such members, however, did only the light type of work as supervision or watching or doing miscellaneous jobs as awakening the non-members farm servants in the early morn, assigning them work, carrying the food to the working members, looking after the bullocks and the horses, driving the carts and the tonga, store keeping, helping the member families in case of urgent needs when the members were engaged on the farm, looking after the lighting arrangements for the farm etc. They could willingly work at the lower rates of wages because the society consisted of only their family members and employment had been provided to more than one person from every household. Besides the size of the holdings pooled by these households being quite large, it was possible to get quite a sizeable property income for their livelihood. The division of labour among the 'white collaréd' members of these societies, most of whom were in favour of getting supervisory work, was anyhow, commendable.

In the Ratnapur society in the Wardha district which was an old society, only one member was available for work on the farm. The work had to be done mainly by employing non-member farm servants. In the Lahanegaon society, again though the total holding pooled in the society was fairly small, the land available per member willing to work on the farm was 13.6 acres because of theppoling of parts of the holdings owned by big farmers staying in the other villages. There was, however, a labour surplus in the Gangakhed and the Maharajpeth societies. In the Gangakhed society the land available per member willing to work on the farm was 5.1 acres only. In the Maharajpeth society it was 11.8 acres but the

soils were very inferior. It was, therefore, not possible for these two societies to provide full employment to all. Some of the members had even to be made to continue with their employment outside as farm servants or on their petty jobs in which they were engaged previously. Others had to be provided with casual employment on a small scale. Such members had to serve as casual labourers even on the other farms in the village.

The conclusions which can be drawn from the study of the employment in the societies may be stated as below :

- (1) The members tried to seek employment in the societies as farm servants on the annual basis in both districts.
- (2) The societies consisting mainly of members who had pooled their entire holdings, had to make provision for the employment of all the members prepared to work, as farm servants, without discrimination in their wage rates.
- (3) The 'white collared' members always preferred to do some specific jobs which led to the displeasure of other members who were habituated to do hard work in the field.
- (4) In the heterogeneous societies, the members had formed different habits of work and it was therefore, difficult to satisfy all without discrimination in their wage rates. In the societies organized by members belonging to a single family or in the societies organized only by the small farmers there was a rational division of work leading to the satisfaction of all the members.
- (5) Only a few members were available for work on the farm in case of the heterogeneous societies when compared to the homogeneous ones. The members who had pooled only parts of their holdings were generally not available for work. Their relationship with the societies almost tended to be of the type of relationship between a lease and lessor.
- (6) There was no precise definition for a working member. It was, therefore, difficult to judge whether a society functioned in conformity with the bye-laws. This created difficulties in supervision.
- (7) There was no provision for the employment of the members' children on the society's farm. The children's education in farming suffered on this account.
- (8) There were no variations in the wage rates on the society's farm and the wage rates in the villages, except in the case of one society.

- (9) The wage rates for the farm servants had gone up by 5 to 8 per cents during the last two years in the case of four of the six societies in the Dhulia district. There seemed to have been no appreciable increase in the wage rates for casual labour.
- (10) There was a sizable increase in the employment after the organization of the societies because of the developmental measures and the intensive cultivation of the crops in the Dhulia district. There seems to have been only a small increase in the employment in the Wardha societies and it was due to the land development measures only.
- (11) In the societies in the Dhulia district, greater employment was provided through the land and irrigation development measures in the first year than in the second year. In the second year the increase in employment was largely due to the methods of intensive cultivation.
- (12) The intensive cultivation in the second year was largely possible because of the development measures in the first year. The development measures contributed to a permanent increase in the employment on the farms. So also taking to intensive cultivation indicated that there was a real increase in the demand for labour.
- (13) There was disguised unemployment on certain farms because of the negligence in the work put in by the member farm servants who were not habituated to the work of a farm servant as well as due to lower demand for labour in certain seasons. One society tried to solve this problem by spreading the demand for labour in the peak season and the other by providing employment over additional development measures.
- (14) In many of the societies, the members had shared the increase in employment in larger proportions but this was mainly due to increase in the number of working members or due to a small rise in the wage rates of the member farm servants.
- (15) There was a surplus labour in some of the societies in the Dhulia district but it was ~~absorbed~~ absorbed later because of the intensive cultivation. In one society the surplus was absorbed through proper division of labour in the first year itself.
- (16) There was a labour surplus in two of the small farmers societies in the Wardha district. The members had, therefore, to seek additional sources of employment outside.

8. Financial Assistance and the Requirements

All the societies in the Dhulia and the Wardha districts had received the Government assistance and loans according to the pattern for assisting the co-operative farming societies. In the Dhulia district, however, this assistance proved to be quite adequate because of the additional finances in terms of large medium term and crop loans provided through the Bank. Apart from the medium term loan provided by the Department for Land Development, the Bank gave medium term loans for digging new wells, purchasing oil engines, tractors, bullocks, cows and buffaloes and construction of godowns. Because of the facility of such loans, the societies could solve all their problems and take up any programme as their resources and the local conditions enabled them to decide. In the year 1962-63, the Bank gave a medium term loan of Rs.1,35,000 and a crop loan of Rs.4,68,861 to the 26 co-operative farming societies which worked out to giving a medium term loan of Rs.5,200 and a crop loan of Rs.18,000 per society. The crop loan given to societies, however, varied from Rs.8,000 to Rs.42,000 per society according to the size of the holding, the irrigated crops grown on the holding, etc.

These medium term loans were payable in three years. The societies had, therefore, to repay even the loans given for oil engines and tractors in a period of three years. It was not possible for the societies to borrow long term loans through the Land Mortgage Bank on account of some legal difficulties involved on the part of the Bank in lending money to the co-operative farming societies. In spite of this, the assistance given by the District Central Co-operative Bank was considered to be adequate.

The recovery of the Bank loans was also quite satisfactory. In the year 1962-63 only 12 per cent of the loans

were over-due. This was because of the insistence of the Bank upon the Societies to sell their produce only through the Sale and Purchase Societies through which the Bank recovered its loans. In the year 1962-63 only five of the co-operative societies in the Sindkhede taluka did not sell through the co-operative societies. The organizers of these societies had intimate ties with some of the commission agents through whom they tried to market their produce. So also some of these organizers had grievances against the staff of the Sindkhede Sale and Purchase Society, which was also responsible for not selling the produce through it. Barring these few cases, the entire produce grown by the co-operative farming societies moved through the co-operative marketing societies through which the returns for the produce moved to the Bank.

The societies felt a scarcity of liquid money with them ~~with~~ when all the produce was sold through the co-operatives. It took a few months for the Bank to sanction a fresh crop loan again. During this interim period, the societies usually had a limited amount of cash with them or on the account in the Bank, as a part of their working capital remained in the form of unsold produce, fodder, tillage undertaken for the next season etc. This did induce some of the societies to sell a part of the produce to the private dealers. The Bank had, however, lately taken notice of this difficulty and was thinking of adopting certain measures to solve these difficulties.

As a large number of members had to pay their old debts as well as they required small amount for meeting their emergencies, they had to borrow from the societies. Moreover, after the pooling of land, the societies remained to be the only source for the members to borrow. When the lands were in their possession they could borrow from any

persons in the village on the security of their lands which had now to be pledged with the society because of pooling. The societies usually lent them amounts through the land development loans or the crop loans from the Bank. This did reduce the supply of finance available to the society and the expenditures on the farm suffered on this account. Moreover, this caused injustice to the non-borrowing members as their profits from the society suffered on account of the loans given to the borrowing members. Some of these members could not again ~~repay~~ repay their loans promptly. The repayment of crop loans and the amount of cash with the societies after marketing the produce also suffered on this account.

Many of the societies gave these loans to the members in the form of advances over the property income. The same were the results whether an amount was given to a member in the form of a loan or as an advance against the property income. The restriction on the amount of loan to be given to a member according to the byelaws was made almost null and void through giving a member both loan as well as advance against the property income simultaneously.

The proposals for the ~~registration~~ registration of the societies never took into account this aspect of the society. If the needs of the members in the form of loans were to be studied in the proposals themselves, it would have been possible for the leaders and the Department to give proper advice to the organizers in the selection of the members from the point of future development of the society. It was learnt that five of the societies in the village Chilane where nine societies were organized in a single village, had applied for liquidation because of such difficulties.

The leaders themselves felt it necessath that this

aspect of the organization of a society should be studied in the proposal itself and it is either the Bank or the Government which should keep a minimum amount of loan at the disposal of a society, through which only it should give loans to the members. They also agreed that giving advances over the property income did induce the societies to declare a property income even when there was a loss. The Ranwadi Society was a good example of this.

Almost similar conditions prevailed in the societies in the Wardha district in respect of borrowing by the members. The societies in the Wardha district, however, suffered heavily for want of finances as they had to depend mostly on the finance made available to them through the Co-operative Department. The Bank gave them only crop loans which were again inadequate for the change over them individual cultivation to joint cultivation. Moreover the small farmers had come together because they had no adequate resources to cultivate their own lands and the production on their lands was suffering on this account. The land development loans had to be used for the cultivation purposes in many cases for want of crop loans.

Not all the societies could get loans from the Bank. Only six of the eleven societies were financed in amounts varying from Rs.1,200 to Rs.4,300 per society. One old society was given Rs.10,000 which it could not, however, repay promptly. In the first year this society was given Rs.2,500 which was increased to Rs.10,000, subsequently as the society repaid the earlier loans promptly. Another old society was also given a loan of Rs.2,400 initially which was increased to Rs.4,300 subsequently after proper repayments. Though the Bank refused the loans or gave loans in very small amounts in the initial stages, it did increase the scale of finance in subsequent years only to those

societies which repaid the amounts promptly. There was, however, no federation of the societies or a central leadership in the Wardha district as in the Dhulia district, that would take up the responsibility of inducing the societies to repay the loans timely in case the Bank financed the societies in large amounts.

An example for the nature of organization of the whole movement in the Dhulia district would not be out of place here. In a general body meeting of the Federation of the societies and the Directors of the Bank, the problems of financing the societies were being discussed. The Chairman of the Federation made all the Chairmen of the defaulter societies to give explanations for their overdues as well as for not selling the produce through the co-operatives in case of some societies. These Chairmen had to reply in the presence of a large body of persons and they felt so ashamed to plead their cases that they thought it better to be more prompt in the subsequent years than to be in a witness box, in a meeting of persons collected from a large part of the district.

The conclusions which may be drawn from the study of the financial assistance and requirements may be stated as below.

1. The financial assistance given by the Department proved to be quite adequate in the Dhulia district because of the large amounts of medium term and crop loans given by the Bank.
2. It was not possible for the societies to obtain long term loans from the Land Mortgage Bank on account of some legal problems involved on the part of the Bank.
3. The recovery of the Bank loan was quite satisfactory because of linking the marketing and credit programmes.
4. The societies, however, experienced a scarcity of finance after the marketing of the produce because of linking. The Bank was thinking of taking steps to overcome this difficulty.



5. A large number of members had borrowed amounts from the societies to repay their old loans. Advances over property income were also given for the same purpose in some cases. The use of crop loans and other loans for such purposes caused injustice to the other members. The functioning of the societies also suffered on this account.
  6. The proposals for the organization of the societies did not take into account the needs of the members in respect of their requirements of loans.
  7. The leaders felt that an amount should be placed with a society either by the Bank or the Government and loans should be given strictly and only through this amount.
  8. The societies in the Wardha district suffered heavily for want of medium term and crop loans from the Bank. Medium term loans were not given by the Bank. The crop loans were also given in small amounts. The Bank, however, increased its scale of finance annually to those societies which repaid the earlier loans promptly.
  9. The absence of a federation and a central leadership were the main reasons for the absence of co-ordination in the Bank and the societies in the Wardha district.
9. Returns to members and distribution of profits.

The members received the returns in three forms, the property income, the wages and the bonus, if there was a profit to the society. The non-working members had to depend only upon the property income and the bonus whereas the working members could get the returns from all these sources.

Out of the 26 societies, 22 societies had distributed a property income at a rate varying from 2 to 6 per cent in the year 1962-63. In the remaining four societies the non-working members could not get any returns at all. The working members could get wages which varied from even a few rupees to Rs. 700 per member.

Only six of the societies earned profits which amounted to Rs.21,000. The profit for the individual societies varied from Rs.1,500 to Rs.4,000. All the

Societies earning profits were outside the Pilot Projects. The other societies incurred losses to an extent of Rs. 62,000. The loss per society varied from Rs.200 to Rs. 11,000. A majority of these 20 societies had, however, incurred a loss below Rs.2,000.

In the earlier year eight of the societies had earned a profit. Four of these societies earned profits in both the years. The total profits amounted to Rs.6,300 only. The two societies organized by single families staying in single households as well as one of the three societies organized by a single family staying in different households had shown profits continuously. All the three societies organized around two to three families earned quite large profits in one of the two years. All these three societies were organized by the small farmers. Another small farmers' society consisting of members from different families had, however, incurred losses because of the inferiority of the soils as well as distribution of a large part of the Government assistance to the members as loans. Most of the remaining heterogenous societies had incurred losses continuously. It was said in the district that in some societies the members distributed a part of the produce among themselves prior to weighing and the final accounting to show a loss purposely. The losses in many cases were only marginal.

The profit earning societies had declared a bonus on the property income. No bonuses were generally declared on the wages earned by the members. It is only the Vijaygopal Society which in an earlier year had given a bonus to the non-members farm servants on their wages at a nominal rate. The bonuses on property income varied from 2 to 6 per cent.

There was a general tendency among the organizers to distribute the bonus only on the property income, as in many

cases the organizers and the influential members did not work on the farm but were engaged in honorary supervision. Some members worked very casually but the wages they earned were fairly small. Their insistence upon distributing the bonus only over the property income could not enable the working members to derive any extra benefit from their services to the society as the working members.

The higher the value of the land pooled, the larger was the amount of bonus. This fact was, however, realized by a shrewd member in the Ranwadi society who even decided to leave the society on this account. He wished that if the members wanted to take to dairying, it should be started on the individual account. If dairying was to be started by the society, the huge profits from dairying would be earned largely by those who had pooled the land having a very high value. He was the only member to contribute land valued at Rs.12,000 whereas the lands contributed by others were valued even upto Rs.44,000. Dairying had, after all, no connection with the size of lands pooled by the members. He knew that the profits would be distributed mostly on the value of the land. And even if he worked on the society's farm, the others were also working members. He thought that he would unnecessarily lose his profits to the others if he was to agree to take to dairying on the joint basis. He, therefore, left the society and started his own dairy.

Out of the five societies in the Wardha district which had completed one agricultural year, only one of the old societies earned a profit of Rs.1,800. All others suffered losses varying from Rs.200 to Rs.3,000. Only the profit earning society had distributed a property income at the rate of 6 per cent whereas the other societies had given advances against the same. The non-working members in

these societies practically earned no returns from these societies.

A number of members who did not work on the farm but who merely managed the societies honorarily in both the districts, were, displeased because of the 6 per cent income on the valuation of their lands as well as the losses incurred by their societies, which could not enable them to get any bonus or the additional income over their property. At the time of the organization they were very enthusiastic about increase in their incomes. Such members were waiting for some time to observe if the rate of property income goes up through the modification in the byelaws or at least through a continuous bonus. Otherwise they were thinking of leaving the society and taking to individual cultivation again.

The returns to members in the form of property income over lands which were inferior were, however, satisfactory in many cases. The market values of inferior lands consisted of a component of prestige value which outweighed the other component of their productivity value. This was evident in the case of the Ranwadi Society in which the members were highly pleased with the amounts of 6 per cent property income which was quite satisfactory when compared to the previous returns from their land. The case of the member Lotan, a member of the Samatanagar Society, is also interesting in this context. He was receiving a property income of Rs.180 over 6 acres of his inferior land which was valued at Rs.3,000. He had left the Society lately. When the issue of probable returns from the land from his lessee was being discussed with him in the presence of other persons all others agreed that the returns would not exceed Rs.180 for that quality of the land. He was, however, of the opinion that the returns would definitely

exceed whenever the season was quite favourable. His society had given him only Rs.180 every year even though the season was highly favourable during the last year. It was not possible for the society to declare any bonus because of the higher costs of production inspite of high rate of production in that year. Lotan, was not prepared to sacrifice the returns which the nature determined, at the cost of organizational matters of the society. He, therefore, decided to leave the society with his short experience of only two years.

Apart from the monetary returns discussed above, the members also received some returns from the societies in the non-monetary form. The Samatanagar Society for example, paid the 'baluta' (Jajamani or Aya) payments to the village artisans and persons rendering services, for their members. So also all the societies organized around single families made such payments on the part of their members. This practice was, however, not noticed in the other societies.

It was also very common with the societies to distribute green chillies and vegetables free of cost among the members occasionally to enable them to get this 'home grown' produce as in the case of the private farms. The Samatanagar society had, discontinued the cultivation of mixed crops which could not enable the members to get the home grown beans and dals. There was a displeasure among some of the members on this account as they were traditionally habituated to the consumption of the home grown dals only. All the other societies had, however, grown mixed crops.

All the societies had provided the facility of using their carts to the members for going to the market places. In the Wardha district the facility was extended even to bringing the members' guests from their villages and sending them back. This had greatly added to the prestige of the

small farmers in their community as these small farmers could never own a cart.

The conclusions which arise from the discussion on the returns to the members and distribution of the profits can be summarized as below :

1. Only a few societies in both districts could earn the profit.
  2. Many of the societies in the Dhulia district distributed property incomes inspite of losses. In the Wardha district, however, only advances were given over property incomes because of the losses incurred by the societies.
  3. The present mode of distribution of profits which left the distribution entirely to the society, implied larger profits to those who pooled the higher value lands.
  4. The profits from (non-land) enterprises such as dairying, were even subject to this mode of distribution of profits according to the value of land.
  5. There was a general dissatisfaction about the 6 per cent rate of property income among the members especially among those who could not work on the farm.
  6. The returns to members in the form of property income over the inferior lands were satisfactory in many cases because of the market value of inferior lands. This degree of satisfaction was, however, determined by the nature of the season which largely determined the productivity of inferior lands. The returns from the society and the returns from nature could not tally because of organizational matters.
  7. Despite the restriction there was, however, a provision for bonus on the valuation of the lands in case of profits, which practically meant little restriction on the property income.
10. Inter-society relations and the impact of the societies on the villages

The inter-society relations largely depended upon the groups which organized the societies. The societies organized by a political group generally tried to help the other societies organized by the same party. The Samatanagar and one of the other societies, considerably helped the Ranwadi

society in supplying it fertilizers, fodder, etc. in anticipation of the Bank loan which was delayed because of the delay in registration. This was possible because all the three societies belonged to a single political group. There was, however, a unity among the leaders in many respects irrespective of party politics. The Chairman of the Samatanagar Society and the leader of the Rampur Society, for example, went together to Surat to purchase the buffaloes for both societies. The societies did try to help each other irrespective of the parties though there was naturally a greater affiliation between the societies organized by the same party.

There were also some cases of rivalries among the different societies organized in a single village. There was a rivalry between the two societies in a village because one was organized by the Congress Party and the other by the Communist Party. The inter-society relations largely depended upon the inter-leader relationships between the societies. There were greater rivalries between the societies in a single village than between the societies in different villages because of the sense of competition. For the purposes of the Federation and general welfare of the societies, however, all leaders always united and worked together.

There was an instance of marriage between the son of a member of one society and the daughter of a member from another society which was given great prominence in the Dhulia District. All the 76 societies were invited to attend this marriage. The representatives of all societies tried to attend the marriage and many representatives decided to extend such social ties between the different societies and try to work together for the prosperity of co-operative farming.

In the Wardha district, however, there were two distinct groups in the societies. One group was led by the followers of Sant Tukdoji Maharaj and the other group belonged to the ruling party and the independents. The old societies were organized by the followers of the Gandhian ideology who tried to refrain from all others. A larger number of societies were, however, organized by the followers of the Maharaj who wanted to organize a federation of the societies and wished that all the societies should have a union for their development. This group always used to hold meetings to discuss their problems and take decisions about organized efforts. The leaders of the societies from the other group never attended their meetings inspite of cordial invitations to them. It is only the societies from this group which tried to help each other in every respect. One of the societies even lent money to the other society through the Government finances it had obtained, as the other society was refused loan by the Bank. The societies in the other group, however, functioned independently of each other.

The organization of societies in the Dhulia district had created in general a favourable impact on the villagers. In some of the villages, the societies supplied on rent their improved implements, sprayers, and even engines to needy cultivators whenever they were not required for a society's own purpose. In some villages, the societies had introduced new practices of cultivation which the other farmers tried to adopt afterwards. There were, however, rival groups in some villages as the village Rampur where the other villagers always tried to introduce difficulties in the smooth functioning of the societies. In the village Rampur for example, the other villagers took their grains for grinding to a distant village even though the



society was running a flour mill in the village. They also tried to make it difficult for the society to get the casual labourers. Apart from such isolated instances, there was amicability between the societies and the other villagers in many respects.

The big cultivators in many villages were, however, not in favour of the farming societies. Firstly, some were against the concept of co-operative farming itself. Secondly, the co-operative farming societies which employed casual labourers on a large scale and offered them employment for a long period, came in their way of engaging the casual labourers. The casual labourers always preferred to work on the farms of the societies than on the farms of the big cultivators because of continuous employment as well as prompt and timely payment of wages.

The attitude of members in one society also influenced the attitude of members in the other societies. The first society started in the village Chilane greatly misused the Bank and other finances by purchasing buffaloes and starting a cloth shop. The loans were, never intended for these purposes. This led to the support of many of the other villagers for the organization of societies as they thought that they could also take to commerce through the organization of societies. Most of the other societies which came up in this village later had the objective of securing through any means the Bank and other loans for their own welfare. Six of the eight societies were, therefore, organized merely to give loans to the individual members to pay up their old debts and secure their lands which were privately pledged against these heavy loans. The same policies were followed by a society organized by the small farmers in an adjoining village. In the village Dangurne, the earlier society was organized by the members of one

family staying in one household. It was immediately followed by another society consisting of a single family staying in three households.

In the Wardha district, however, the conditions varied in all the four villages which we observed. In the village Ratnapur, where the old society was located, there were factions and the villagers were generally against the organizer of the society who had organized the society as well as was leading it with selfish motives. In the village Maharajpeth, there were again groups but there were no rivalries between the villagers and the society. Ganga-khed was a fairly small village. Though there was unity among the villagers and the society prior to its organization, two factions had developed after the general election. The tension between these two groups was, however, much reduced and the other group had given up following any antagonistic policies against the society. The village Lahanegaon was again a small village but there was opposition to the society from the former Malgujar of the village who belonged to the Jansangh. He always tried to introduce difficulties in the functioning of the society and even tried to instigate some members to resign their membership.

None of the societies in the Wardha district had made any improvements on the farm to impress the villagers in following their practices. So also they themselves lacked in many of the improved requisites in farming which they could not, therefore, provide to the other villagers as in the case of the Dhulia societies.

One can observe the following points from the above discussion on the inter-society relations and the impact of the societies on the villages.

1. The societies belonging to a single political group always tried to help each other more than the societies of the other group. In spite

of this, there was a general cordial attitude among all the societies in the Dhulia district.

2. There were cases of rivalries among the different societies organized in a single village. Their relationships, however, largely depended upon the inter-leader relationship.
3. In the Wardha district, the societies belonged to two distinct groups. The group led by the followers of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj was more co-operative to the farming societies within as well as outside the group than the other group.
4. The organization of societies in the Dhulia district had been helpful to the other villagers in respect of making the improved devices in agriculture available to them as well as in the dissemination of improved practices.
5. In spite of this, there were rival groups in some villages which tried to introduce difficulties in the functioning of the societies.
6. The big cultivators in many villages opposed the societies as the societies indirectly competed with them in the employment of casual labour.
7. The attitudes of members and the policies followed by them in one society influenced the attitudes of members of the other societies in the same village or the adjoining area to some extent.
8. In the Wardha district the relations between the society and the villagers were cordial in some villages whereas antagonistic in the others depending upon the attitudes of the groups in the villages.
9. The societies in the Wardha district could not help the villagers through the development of their agriculture as in the Dhulia district.

#### 11. Collective Farming Societies

Out of the five collective farming societies selected for the survey from among the 17 societies, lands were cultivated collectively only in three societies, whereas the lands were distributed for individual cultivation in the remaining two societies. The Audit Reports for a few more societies raised a suspicion about the cultivation of land collectively.

Two of these societies which cultivated the lands collectively were of the mixed type and consisted of members of

the scheduled and backward castes as well as others. According to the byelaws for such mixed societies it was necessary that the societies should consist of at least three-fourth scheduled and backward caste members. Even though the proportion laid down by the byelaws, was maintained, in these societies at the time of registration, the members of the higher castes tried to outnumber the members of the scheduled castes through unfair means. The Dongardara society, for example, which was recommended to us for the case study was registered with 20 members out of whom 15 belonged to the scheduled castes. Three of these members were, however, enrolled as dummy members who never wished to join the society. Consequently, they never worked on the society's farm. There were also changes in the membership thereafter. The ratio of scheduled and backward caste members to the members from the higher caste as at the time of investigations was 11 : 5. The other mixed type society was registered with 32 members. At the time of survey only 22 of the members were being provided work on the farm, 13 of whom belonged to the higher castes and only 9 to the scheduled castes.

The other three societies were organized only for the scheduled castes and each consisted of members of a separate caste as the Thelari, Vanjhari and Bhil. The members of the latter two castes had not taken to collective cultivation.

These five societies had brought under cultivation 77 per cent of the 2,000 acres of land given to them for cultivation. The Dongardara society had, however, grown crops on 83 per cent of the land.

Except for one of the mixed type of societies, all the members of the other societies worked on the farm. The wage rate in the Dongardara society was fixed at Rs.1.50 per day per member. The members were, however, employed throughout

the year even if there was no work. It, therefore, practically worked out to employing them as farm servants on a wage rate of Rs.540 per annum. They were also given the option of giving other labourers in exchange when they could not work on the farm. In the other society practicing collective cultivation, more or less the same method was followed but a member earned nearly Rs.330 per year. There were no records for wages earned by the individual members in the other societies.

All the three societies cultivating the lands collectively had sunk four wells and purchased four oil engines. The Dongardara society had sunk a well very lately. The other two societies had brought 40 acres under seasonal irrigation. All the societies, however, cultivated only the common unirrigated crops with the traditional methods as was the practice in the area. The scarcity of water and the inferiority of the soils limited the introduction of the improved methods. Use of fertilizers was not possible. Only the farmyard manure produced on the farm was used for the different plots in rotation. The Dongardara society had, however, decided to adopt improved methods on a limited scale on the irrigated land. Because of the inferiority of the soils, the rate of production was low on all the farms. In the Dongardara society for example, the gross value of crops per acre of cultivated land varied between Rs. 70 and Rs.80 only. In the other three societies for which records were available, the per acre production varied between Rs. 50 and Rs.55 only, irrespective of collective or individual cultivation.

All the societies had received the assistance from the Department according to the pattern except for the construction of godowns. The Bank, however, advanced loans only to those societies which had adopted collective cultivation.

It is only the Dongardara society which was financed by the Bank at the average rate of Rs.60 per acre whereas the other two societies received the crop loans at the rates of Rs. 12 and Rs. 15 per acre. It was again curious that these two societies hardly utilized half the loan sanctioned by the Bank in fear of becoming indebted. Medium term loans were also advanced from time to time to the Dongardara society only. The other societies did not like to borrow generally.

It is only the Dongardara society which earned large profits in two of the three years it had completed. These profits were distributed as bonus to the members on the quantum of work put in which, however, did not vary much from one member to the other. The other two societies in which land was cultivated collectively earned profits occasionally but they were not distributed. One of these societies which was organized by the Thelaris was quite progressive and was thinking of accumulating the profits for future investments. Records for the remaining two societies which had not adopted collective cultivation, showed marginal profits in some years and marginal losses in the others.

It is the manager and the leader of a collective farming society who largely influenced the functioning of a society. The Supervising Union for the Sakri Taluka had deputed a qualified manager to the Dongardara society who managed the society and trained the members in collective cultivation. The manager of another society cultivating the lands collectively came from among a member's family. This society had adopted collective cultivation very lately after observing the functioning of the Dongardara society. In the society organized by the Thelaris there was good leadership even though the manager stayed in the nearby town and visited the society for writing the accounts. The managers of the

other two societies stayed at the Taluka place and visited the societies rarely just for completing the records. They were also paid very low salaries.

The Dongardara society was promoted as well as guided by the then enthusiastic Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies who visited the society often. There was no guidance to the other societies. The leaders organizing the other societies could not become the members or the Chairman of those societies to guide the people as there was no provision for admission of sympathizer members according to the old Bombay State Co-operative Societies Act of 1925. The Maharashtra State Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 (Act 24 of 1961) has made the provision for the inclusion of sympathizer members. Any person can be enrolled as a sympathizer member who shall, however, not be entitled to any share in the profits or the assets of a society. (Chapter III, Section 24 (1 and 2) of the Act). If social workers get associated with such societies by becoming the sympathizer members and consequently the Chairmen or Vice-Chairmen of such societies, it may be possible to train and guide these illiterate people and add to their prosperity. The example provided by the Chairman of the Ranwadi Co-operative Joint Farming Society can be largely followed in this respect.

The conclusions which may be drawn from the study of these few societies may be stated as below.

1. Only three of the five societies cultivated the lands collectively. The Audit Reports for a few more societies had raised a suspicion about the collective cultivation of land.
2. In the mixed type of societies, the higher caste members tried to outnumber the scheduled caste members irrespective of the provisions in the byelaws.
3. Some 'dummy' members were being included in the initial membership to establish the proportion of the scheduled castes to the higher castes members as required by the byelaws, to enable the registration.
4. All the societies had made an attempt to bring under the plough quite a substantial part of the cultivable waste lands granted to them.

5. As in the joint farming societies, the members in the collective farming societies also showed a tendency to get employed as farm servants on the annual basis.
6. All the societies cultivating the lands collectively had sunk wells inspite of the difficult terrain and introduced irrigation on the farm. The scarcity of water, however, restricted the types of crops.
7. The rate of production was very low because of the inferiority of the soils. The area itself was backward and the traditional methods were employed generally.
8. The Bank financed only those societies which cultivated the lands collectively.
9. The societies were reluctant to borrow and two of the three societies could utilize only half the loan granted by the Bank.
10. Inspite of the inferiority of the soils, the societies had earned profits.
11. It is the manager and the leader of a society who largely influenced its functioning. The society which was provided with a trained Manager by the Supervising Union showed much progress.
12. The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act has made the provision for admission of sympathizer members. If social workers get associated with such societies by becoming the sympathizer members, it may be possible to train and guide these people on the lines of the Chairman of the Ranwadi Society.

## 12. The Role of the Co-operation and Other Departments

Previously all the societies were being registered by the Co-operation Department in the district, which was in the State Sector. After the organization of the Zilla Parishads in Maharashtra, the function of registration of Co-operative societies was transferred to the Zilla Parishads. Since then the Co-operation and Industries Officer of the Zilla Parishad has been registering these societies.

The proposals for the registration are examined from the point of the size of the land holding, agreements made by the members to pool the land, their willingness to work on the society's farm, and economic feasibility of the



scheme. The economic feasibility is, however, examined jointly by the Co-operation as well as the Agriculture Departments. The Agriculture Department takes into account their cropping scheme, topography, whether the lands could be productive, etc.

The willingness to work is examined mainly from the point of whether the member stays in the village and cultivates his land as indicated in the Village Records. There is no written agreement that he would work on the society's farm, though there is a written agreement for the pooling of his land resource.

The proposal also does not take into account his indebtedness and the amount of loans he would need from the society at least in the first year of the society. Even though his willingness to work is examined as stated above, his habits of work are not taken into account. Moreover, the present byelaws do not make it necessary to examine any of these issues. Both these issues seem to be of vital importance from the point of prosperity of a society as the discussions in the earlier pages indicated.

After the societies are registered, the basic information about the society is collected annually in a standard proforma which is mainly filled in by the Manager of the society. It is this information on which the later decisions in financing the society are taken into account. Though the proforma takes into account the number of working members, the concept adopted for a working member takes into account only those points as discussed in the section on employment and wages. The Department does send notices to those societies which do not conform to the provisions in the byelaws, with a view to curtail their financial assistance. Inspite

of this, we do find cases of financial assistance and continuity of registration even in case of those societies which do not conform to the byelaws.

The tactic used by the Chairman of the Bharatpur society in getting a society consisting mainly of absentee cultivators registered is interesting in this respect. He himself was an absentee cultivator. He collected along with him a few other absentee cultivators, a few cultivating families from the village and got only parts of their holdings pooled in the society just for registration. The composition of the society changed entirely only a week after registration as instead of the six cultivating members which again consisted of two couples and a pair of brothers, additional absentee cultivators became the permanent members of the society. Yet the society received all financial assistance!

Any society was, however, free to admit members according to the provisions in the Act (Chapter III, Section 22 (1) and 23 (1) of the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960), and the byelaw of the society. There was no necessity to confirm from the Department whether a member conformed to the objectives of the byelaws. The decision of the society was final till the Audit Reports brought any disconformity to the byelaws to the notice of the society and then to the notice of the Department. There was no procedure with the Department to check this in the middle. On the contrary if a member was to be refused admission he had the right to appeal to the Registrar under the Act (Chapter III, Section 23 (2) of the Act) and bring it to the notice of the Department.

The gravity of such a situation arising in a co-operative farming society as in the case of the Bharatpur society, seemed, however, almost negligible, as we could come

across only a single case of the type among the number of co-operative farming societies studied. But the Act which governed the co-operative societies in general, provided a loophole for getting such absentee cultivators societies indirectly registered, as the case of the Bharatpur society indicated. Once a society was registered and it started its functioning, it was again difficult to wind it up in view of the interests of different members though the provisions in the Act for winding it up were quite simple. (Chapter X, Section 102 (i) of the Act).

The uses of land development loan for purposes other than land development were not uncommon. Such cases of misuse and disconformities to the byelaws, moreover, suggested a case for stricter supervision and proper guidance from time to time to these societies. The inadequacy of the staff (as there was no special officer to look into the matters of the society or guide them even in the Dhulia district where the number of co-operative farming societies was large), and inexperienced staff at the lower level to advise the societies (as the Junior Extension Officers, Co-operation at the Block level who were specially appointed to look into the matters of the pilot societies) were the principal reasons for lack of supervision and guidance. The former Deputy Registrar in Dhulia took personal interest, tried to collect information for the societies on his personal account whenever possible and also to guide the societies in the light of the information he received. There was, however, no such Departmental routine as the behaviour of his followers indicated.

The Chairman of the Federation also could not supervise and guide the societies as he was busy with his political life. There was also no staff with the Federation for want of any financial assistance from the Government. The

membership fees collected by the Federation were inadequate for the purpose.

Apart from the Agriculture Department coming into the picture at the time of sanctioning the proposal, its association with the society continued mainly in approving its annual crop plans. The crop plans proposed by the societies were generally approved with minor alterations as the Chairmen and the members of the societies knew better about their farms than the staff of the Agricultural Department which rarely visited these societies. The Department had not made even a systematic study of their soils though there were procedures for getting the soils analysed, through the Development Blocks and the Department. In the Dhulia taluka a Special Junior Extension Officer, Agriculture, was appointed for guiding these societies in all agricultural matters. The Chairmen of the societies never asked him for his advice as he was not an expert. The village level workers also proved to be of the same calibre as this Agricultural Assistant promoted to the rank of Junior Extension Officer for the purpose.

The other Departments came into the picture only when a society was concerned with a scheme of their Department, as the Animal Husbandry Department in case of the Rampur, Bharatpur and the Ranwadi societies for example. This Department had stationed a stockman at Bharatpur to look after the sheep given to the Rampur, Bharatpur and the Laxamanpur societies. Otherwise, there was no occasion for any of the officers of the Department to visit these societies. The other Departments remained out of the picture. The Departments, however, gave whatever advice required to those who approached the Departments and even sent a junior officer on their staff to the villages if

needed. The societies which approached them could derive the benefit from these Departments. The Manager of the Ranwadi society, for example, being well educated and interested, often approached the Departments, discussed his problems and could introduce innovations on his farm.

The societies were audited promptly. There were, however, differences in the procedures of classification of items followed by the different auditors as was noticed in the case of a few societies. It was difficult to compare the audited accounts for the different years even in a single society on this account. Again, the classification of items differed in the Dhulia and the Wardha districts. The production accounts in the Dhulia district classified the various costs itemwise as costs on seeds, wages paid to the members, wages paid to the non-members, costs over manures, etc. In the Wardha district, on the contrary, they were classified according to the agricultural operations as costs over ploughing, sowing, harvesting, etc. Such variations in the procedures of audit not only in the different districts but even in a single district, left little scope for comparison and guidance to these societies.

Further, the system of records recommended to these societies did not enable any plotwise entries. This needed to be reexamined at least from the point of determining the gross incomes from the different crops and the different plots from the point of crop planning. If the gross incomes from the different plots and crops were to be brought to the notice of these societies, it would help them in preparing sound crop plans for their farms from the point of increasing their profits and at the same time minimising costs over certain items. The Chairman and the Manager of the Samatanagar Society, for example, were very enthusiastic

about crop planning but had no data to proceed with.

The schemes in the Third Five Year Plan being mainly drafted for the purpose of the welfare of the individual cultivators it was very difficult to make them applicable to the co-operative farming societies. The societies, for example, could not get the subsidies over the oil engines and the construction of new wells even though the individual cultivators were eligible for them. The societies also could not get iron sheets from the Development Blocks as the quotas were to be issued in the names of individuals according to the scheme. So also there was confusion and unnecessary delay in deciding whether the loan under the scheme for Horticultural Development could be given to the farming societies as the scheme envisaged financing individual farmers only. The Animal Husbandry Department, however, solved one of such problems in a very simple way. According to their scheme for sheep breeding, 10 ewes and 1 ram were to be given to individual cultivators free of cost for encouraging sheep breeding. It was not possible to give the sheep to the societies under this scheme. The Department, therefore, distributed the sheep among the individual members of the societies in both the Dhulia and the Wardha districts, on the mutual understanding that the sheep would be pooled in the societies. Even today, in the Annual Reports of the Animal Husbandry Departments in these districts, the strength of the original sheep, the lambs born etc. have to be shown in the names of individual members and not of the societies. The societies expect that this distinction between the co-operative farms and the private farms will be removed at least in the schemes in the Fourth Five Year Plan, which might envisage the expansion of co-operative farming societies on a larger scale.

It was already pointed out in the Section on Subsidiary Industries, that the Industries with which the co-operative farming societies could be associated needed thinking in the context of area and district planning. This applies also to the other developmental aspects of the societies. The irrigation schemes, for example, have to be thought out from the point of benefitting the farming societies as much as from the point of benefitting the individual farmers. This would, however, necessitate co-ordination among the different Departments and more especially between the other Departments and the Co-operation Department, in working out detailed plans for the areas comprising of co-operative farming societies.

The conclusions which may be drawn from the discussion on the role of the co-operation and other Departments may be stated as below.

1. Though the proposals for registration of farming societies took into account many important items, they did not take into account the indebtedness of the members and their working habits which were of vital importance in the development of a society. Moreover, these aspects being out of the provision of the byelaws, there was no need to consider them.
2. Financial assistance was given even to those societies which did not conform to the byelaws. This seemed to have happened because of inadequate supervision.
3. The freedom of a society to admit a member without the knowledge of the Co-operation Department, was made use of by a society to constitute of membership which was far away from any conformity to the byelaws.
4. There was no procedure with the Co-operation Department to check the conformity of a society to the byelaws till a society was audited.
5. It was generally difficult to wind up a society once it was registered because of the interests of the different members even though the procedure for the same in the Act was very simple.
6. There was little scope for the supervision and guidance by the Co-operation Department on account of inadequate staff, inexperienced personnel at the lower level and absence of procedures as would enable the required know-how about a society.

7. Though the former Deputy Registrar could achieve some success in supervision and guidance on his personal account, his procedures were not a routine matter for the Department.
8. The Federation could not supervise and guide the societies for want of any financial assistance from the Government.
9. The Agriculture Department helped the societies in the matter of crop planning. But their farms being not studied by the Department in details, it led to just approving almost the same crop plans as proposed by the societies.
10. The Special Assistant Extension Officer, Agriculture, provided by the Department for advice to the societies could not be helpful to them as he was not an expert. The Chairmen of many societies practically possessed better knowledge than him. Same was the case with the village level workers.
11. The other Departments helped the societies whenever the societies were connected with any of their schemes. Otherwise there was no occasion for the staff of these Departments to visit the societies.
12. The Departments, however, gave whatever advice required when the societies approached them.
13. The procedures of auditing differed not only in the different districts but even in a single district. This made it difficult to compare the items from the audited accounts for the different years even in a single society.
14. The present system of records maintained by the societies was inadequate from the point of getting an idea about the incomes from the different plots and the different crops in a society. It was, therefore, not suitable for crop planning.
15. The schemes in the Third Five Year Plan and the other Schemes with the Departments, being drafted for the purpose of the individual cultivators, it was difficult to make them applicable to the co-operative farms. The societies could not, therefore, get the benefit of many schemes. Only the Animal Husbandry Department tried to manipulate one of its schemes to make it applicable to the farming societies.
16. There was need for co-ordination among all the Departments and more especially between the other Departments and the Co-operation Department, in working out detailed plans involving all the developmental aspects of co-operative farming societies, for the areas comprising of such societies.



### 13. Scope for Development

The few observations made in the earlier pages indicate that reorganization may be necessary in case of many aspects of the co-operative farming societies. A few of the societies themselves may have to be reorganized thoroughly whereas reorganization may have to be restricted only to some of the aspects in other societies. There is also a scope for the organization of new societies in both districts because of the demonstrative effect of these earlier societies. This scope is, however, limited for the present in the Wardha district as the existing societies have not made any commendable progress in their development for want of finance and a leadership at the district level. The scope would be definitely widened if the newly organized small farmers societies make a good progress in the near future especially in developing their lands, increasing the facilities for irrigation, taking to dairying etc., to provide full and more remunerative employment to their members. The leadership of the Ashram and the guidance of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj may be taken as an additional factor which widens the scope in the area.

As revealed by the study in both districts, the components of membership consisting of the absentee cultivators and members pooling only a part of their holdings but retaining the other superior parts for self cultivation, in no way form a relationship with the society other than the relationship between a leasee and leasor. So also the inclusion of landless labourers in no way adds to the co-operative character of a society. It is only those who have pooled their entire holdings make up the real component of a co-operative farming society from the point of its co-operative character. The others contribute mainly to its characteristic of doing a business. The number of households

contributing their land determines the economies of scale that could be achieved. There could be, therefore, a certain minimum number of households governed by a homogenous group of persons, cultivating a certain minimum area which could constitute the nucleus of a society. The absentee cultivators, persons pooling parts of their holdings, landless persons, and persons with a sympathy for such organizations may take a place around this nucleus in the context of whatever interests they may possess and whatever benefits the society may have to derive from them, without influencing the co-operative character of a society. The homogeneity as the study indicated was quite explicit when the members of a single family or at the most two or three families came together or when only the persons belonging to the same economic stratum and having similar habits of work pooled their entire holdings.

Whatever may be the extent of scope for the organization of new societies in these two districts or even in the Maharashtra State, the new registrations may have to be oriented towards the registration of only the highly homogenous societies consisting of very sound nuclei formed in view of the concepts of a household, a farm or a management unit.