

Report
on
improved agricultural implements
in
Himachal Pradesh

REPORT

IMPROVED AGRICULTURE

IN

HIMACHAL PRADESH



**AGRICULTURE TEAM
COMMITTEE ON PLAN PROJECTS
PLANNING COMMISSION
NEW DELHI
April 1966**

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

A. P. Jain,
Leader
Agriculture Team.

D.O. No. COPP/Agr/F(2)/66
Committee on Plan Projects,
Planning Commission,
Jamnagar House,
New Delhi.

Dated the 29th April, 1966.

My dear Nanda,

I have great pleasure in forwarding herewith the Report of the Agriculture Team on Improved Agricultural Implements in Himachal Pradesh. The Report is the result of the extensive field studies conducted by the Team.

The Report deals with the specific problems relating to research, manufacture, popularisation and distribution of Improved Agricultural Implements. The findings of the Team reveal that the programme of improved agricultural implements is still in its infancy and much remains to be done to bring it on a sound footing. The absence of a well-organised manufacturing programme, continued dependence on the neighbouring States for all types of implements, inadequate research facilities and shortage of trained personnel for carrying out the programme of popularisation and distribution of improved implements are the main factors responsible for the slow progress of agricultural implements in the State. In fact, these aspects, by and large, have been neglected by the Government.

The Team has recommended the strengthening of the Research, Testing and Training Centre, Mandi to accelerate the research work on testing, designing and modification of implements and hand tools, especially suited to the hilly terrain; setting up of an agricultural engineering section in the Department of Agriculture for demonstration and popularisation of improved agricultural implements; manufacture of important agricultural implements, hand tools and garden tools at the Government owned Nahan Foundry; and restarting the training of village artisans at the Gramsevak Training Centre, Mashobra. The Team has also suggested encouragement to private fabricators and rural common facility workshops to take up the production of improved implements, strengthening of the credit facilities available for the purchase of implements, increased participation of village institutions in the programme, provision of adequate service facilities, and intensification of the publicity and propaganda including large-scale demonstrations on cultivators' fields.

The State Government is in general agreement with the recommendations of the Team.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

A. P. JAIN

Shri G. L. Nanda,
Union Home Minister and Chairman,
Committee on Plan Projects,
New Delhi.

PREFACE

This Report is the fifth in the series issued by the Agriculture Team, appointed by the Committee on Plan Projects, Planning Commission for the study of Improved Agricultural Implements, in accordance with the terms of reference circulated to the State Governments *vide* Committee on Plan Projects' letter No. COPP/7/10/62, dated the 12th February, 1963. The Team comprised Shri A. P. Jain, Governor of Kerala (Leader), Dr. Arjan Singh, Shri B. M. Lakshmipathy and Dr. G. V. Chalam (Members).

2. The Team paid visits to the Himachal Agricultural College, Solan; Gramsevak Training Centre, Mashobra; Research, Testing and Training Centre, Mandi; Indo-German Agricultural Implements Workshop, Mandi; Government Foundry, Nahan; and Cluster Centres of the State Department of Industries. The Team also visited a few C.D. Blocks, Government Seed Farms and Co-operative Societies and held discussions with the various Government officers, progressive cultivators, extension workers and representatives of the Co-operative Societies and Village Panchayats to ascertain the actual position and the magnitude of the problem.

3. The Team observed that the existing programme of improved agricultural implements in Himachal Pradesh is still in the initial stages of development. The research work on the testing, designing and modification of implements and hand tools, especially suited to the hilly terrain, has not been taken up vigorously. There are no private fabricators of implements and the Government owned Foundry at Nahan is engaged mainly in the production of sugarcane crushers and Defence equipment. The main source of supply of implements is the adjoining State of Punjab. The training of village artisans at the Workshop Wing, Mashobra is almost at a standstill for want of necessary teaching staff. The Himachal Agricultural College lacks in basic facilities of workshop and equipment for teaching.

4. The Team has suggested the establishment of an Agricultural Engineering Section in the Department of Agriculture for demonstration and popularisation of improved agricultural implements in the Territory. In the field of research, strengthening of the existing facilities at the Research, Testing and Training Centre, Mandi, exhaustive field trials of the imported

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implements and equipment under the Indo-German Agricultural Project, and intensive design and development work of hand tools have been suggested. It has also been suggested that the Nahan Foundry may be utilized for the manufacture of important agricultural implements, hand and garden tools and their components on a mass scale. The private manufacturers may also be encouraged to take up this work, preferably on co-operative basis, by giving them such facilities as loans, location sites, raw materials, etc. The Team has also suggested the simplification of the lengthy and cumbersome procedure involved in the procurement and distribution of controlled items of iron and steel for agricultural purposes. Strengthening of the credit facilities available for the purchase of implements and hand tools; increased participation of the village institutions in the programme; provision of adequate service facilities; and intensification of the publicity and propaganda are some of the other recommendations made by the Team.

5. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Himachal Government for the facilities extended to the Team. We are particularly grateful to Dr. L. S. Negi, Director of Agriculture; Shri Prem Sagar, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Extension); Dr. B. S. Jogi, Project Officer; and Shri D. N. Zutshi, Research Engineer for their co-operation and assistance to the Team in carrying out this study.

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