

Report on Improved Agricultural Implements in India



AGRICULTURE TEAM
Committee on Plan Project
Planning Commission New Delhi
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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

D.O. No. COPP/Agri/F(2)/66 Agriculture Team, Committee on Plan Projects, Planning Commission, Block No. 12, Jamnagar House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-11.

A. P. JAIN, Leader.

Dated the 29th June, 1966.

My dear Nanda Ji,

I have great pleasure in forwarding herewith the All-India Report of the Agriculture Team on Improved Agricultural Implements. This is the last report of the Team based on the studies conducted by the Team in the States of Punjab, Madras, Mysore, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Uttar Pradesh.

2. The report for each of the above mentioned States, except for U.P., has already been forwarded to you. The report of U.P. could not be drafted because of the limited time at the disposal of the Team. This report deals with the various important problems relating to different schemes of Improved Agricultural Implements in vogue and which are, more or less, common throughout the country. Apart from pointing out the problems facing the proper implementation of the various schemes, the Team has suggested measures to overcome the same. The Team feels that it is high time the Government should thoroughly examine the problems of farm mechanisation in the country and form a firm policy in this respect.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(A. P. JAIN)

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

P R E F A C E

The Committee on Plan Projects was set up by the National Development Council in September 1956 with a view to securing economy and efficiency in the implementation of projects included in the Plans. In pursuance of these objectives, the Committee on Plan Projects set-up the Agriculture Team *vide* its Memorandum No. COPP/(7)/3/62, dated the 7th September, 1962. The Team comprised :

Shri A. P. Jain

Leader.

Dr. Arjan Singh

Shri B. M. Lakshmiopathy

Dr. G. V. Chalam.

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Members.

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2. The Team undertook the study of improved agricultural implements and machinery in India. In order to collect the basic material and assess the magnitude of the problem, the Team, as a first step, prepared a set of questionnaires and circulated it amongst the various categories of officials and non-officials, such as State Directors of Agriculture, Directors of Industries, Registrars of Co-operative Societies, District Agricultural Officers, Agricultural Engineers, private fabricators, tractor owners etc., to elicit opinion on various aspects of the problem. This was followed by an on-the-spot detailed study of schemes on research, manufacture, popularisation and distribution of improved agricultural implements in the States of Punjab, Madras, Mysore, Maharashtra, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Uttar Pradesh. The studies included visits to Agricultural Schools, Research-Testing-cum-Training Centres, Extension Training Centres and Workshop Wings, State Agricultural Engineering Sections, Package Programme Workshops, Government Seed Farms, private farms, manufacturers (private or cooperative) throughout the country and discussions with the representatives of the cultivators, Village Panchayats, Cooperative Societies, local voluntary organisations, State Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture, Directors of Agriculture and Industry, Registrars of Cooperative Societies, Agricultural Engineers, Block Development Officers, Agricultural Extension Officers etc.

3. On the basis of the field studies, the Team prepared separate Reports for the States of Punjab, Madras, Mysore, Maha-

rashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Bihar. An All-India Report on Tractors and Power Tillers was also prepared. These Reports were finalised after receiving comments from the Planning Commission, Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation, the Ministry of Industries and Commerce and the State Governments. The State Governments and the Ministries concerned are in general agreement with most of the recommendations of the Team.

4. The All-India Report on Improved Agricultural Implements deals with the major problems, which are, more or less, common throughout the country. It has been observed that the existing organisation and arrangements for research, testing, training, manufacture, distribution and extension in agricultural implements are far from satisfactory. They have to be reoriented and re-organised, keeping in view the urgency of the problem and requirements of the country. The Team also feels that the policy of distribution of improved agricultural implements on subsidy basis also needs a review. Out of the total out-lay of 80 crores in the Fourth Five Year Plan, nearly 35 per cent is proposed to be utilised as subsidy. It is high time to curb the tendency of launching subsidy-oriented programmes, which must, gradually, give place to a realistic approach.

5. In the country, the wages of farm labour are showing an upward trend and usually, there is acute shortage of workers in the peak periods of demand. The farmers are evincing considerable interest in the use of electricity for pumping water and tractors for performing various operations. Keeping in view the farming trends in the country, it is high time that the Government should frame a firm policy in regard to mechanisation of agriculture.

6. We take this opportunity to record our gratitude to the Central Ministries and State Governments for the valuable information supplied and cooperation accorded by them. The Team also places on record its grateful thanks to Dr. Arjan Singh, who gave undivided attention to the work of the Team, and but for whom, the completion of studies may not have been possible.

CONTENTS

CHAPTERS	PAGE NO.
1. Physical and Agro-economic Features	1
2. Research	15
3. Manufacture and Marketing	44
4. Education, Training and Extension	55
5. Financial Aspect in the Fourth Plan	73
Summary of Recommendations	81
Terms of Reference	90
 ANNEXURES	 93