

Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

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Survey of Farm Business
in Wai Taluka.

by

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PREFACE

This publication embodies the results of a project on which the Institute has been at work for many years past. It is also, we hope, the first of a series dealing in detail with the different aspects of the agricultural economy of the particular tract.

In the conduct of the survey, whose report is presented herewith, we received two types of help. The first was financial help. This was received from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. In so far as one of the chief claims made for the survey method, whose application to India is demonstrated in this publication, is its cheapness it would not be out of place here to give some information regarding expenditure incurred in connection with the survey. The original budgeted cost of the project (excluding cost of publication) was estimated at Rs. 14,400; and it was thought that the entire work in connection with the survey would be completed within two years. The original estimate was exceeded and the actual cost finally came up to Rs. 17,000 approximately. The time taken also, for a variety of reasons, exceeded the original estimate by about 6 months. The total number of farm schedules filled in was about 1100. The cost per schedule thus worked out at a little over Rs. 15, which may be considered cheap. It should be remembered that this was an experimental and a pioneering project. The cost and especially the time required at this stage would be necessarily greater than when investigation follows an established method. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research gave a grant of Rs. 7,200 (half of the original estimate) towards the cost of the survey. It would have been impossible for the Institute to undertake this work in the absence of this substantial help received from the Council and we are deeply grateful to the Council for the grant given by it.

The other type of help which we must gratefully acknowledge here was that received in obtaining the co-operation of the farmers of the tract in the work of the survey. Willing co-operation of the farmers was a necessary condition precedent to the conduct of the survey; without it all our efforts would have been fruitless. Initially we had to contend with both lack of confidence and apathy. Many farmers were, for example, afraid that the data were being collected by the Government through the Institute with the ultimate aim of enhancing the land revenue. Considerable propaganda had to be carried out during the initial months in order to remove

such misunderstandings and in order to create interest among farmers in our work. A leaflet signed by influential persons and prominent cultivators in the tract assuring the cultivators that our efforts at collecting information were in no way prejudicial to their interests was widely circulated in the tract. Meetings of farmers were also held in every one of the villages from which we selected the farmers and the objectives of the survey and its utility were explained at these meetings. This preliminary work took up a lot of time, but it was both essential and useful. A very large number of farmers and others throughout the tract rendered invaluable help to us in this work. The leaflet, mentioned above, was signed by 120 persons belonging to 24 different places. A large number of persons, apart from the signatories, were also helpful to us in creating confidence and interest in our work among the body of farmers. It is not possible to mention the names of the many individuals who helped us in this manner and we record at this place our gratefulness to all of them.

Poona,
7-6-1940.

D. R. GADGIL
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