

A NOTE ON DATA RELATING TO PRODUCTION AND MARKETING IN RURAL CREDIT FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS OF THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

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IN the second, third and fourth Rural Credit Follow-up Surveys conducted by the Reserve Bank of India for the years 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1959-60 information about the gross produce, disposal on farm at (or immediately after) harvest, sale of crops and fodder, cash earnings from different sources was collected from the selected cultivators in the General Demand Schedule.¹ At the time of field work information was gathered in the relevant blocks of the Demand schedule according to various crops. Information on items such as area under crops, net produce, disposals at harvest, time of harvest, gross produce, etc., was covered; similarly cropwise information about the marketing of crops regarding agency, place of sale and month of sale was gathered. In the General Review Reports details about timing and quantum of crops marketed are not discussed. It was hoped that such information would be presented in the district monographs and related statistical volumes.

Detailed perusal of the district monographs, statistical volumes and General Review Reports revealed that such data as could be useful for an examination of marketing of foodcrops and cash crops, according to size groups of holdings and place and agency of sale have not been published. Similarly the publications are lacking in the data on produce of different crops, area under these, etc. Consequently, the published data are not very useful for any meaningful comments on the marketing situation in the surveyed districts. Nevertheless an attempt is made in the following to put the available limited data together and to present some features of the marketing pattern. The marketing of crops is determined by the size of holdings, the level of gross produce etc. and hence the note deals with these first and then it considers the contribution of cultivators in different size-groups to total marketed quantity in the relevant districts. In the first part of the note there is a discussion of change in the situation as between the All-India Rural Credit Survey and the subsequent Follow-up Surveys; the second part examines the dis-

¹ In the first Follow-up for 1956-57, data on gross produce, net produce etc., were not gathered and hence 11 districts covered in that are not considered in this note.