

TRACTOR-OPERATING COSTS AND PERFORMANCES ON THREE FARMS IN KOPARGAON TALUKA*

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THE present article is based on the data relating to the operating costs and performances of nine tractors on three farms in Kopargaon Taluka in Bombay State. The purpose of this analysis is not to draw conclusions about the relative operating costs of tractors of different makes and types, but to set down facts obtained from the records of farm-operations and machinery-accounts on the three farms for the year under review. It is hoped that the facts presented here will give an idea of tractor costs, and provide a range of variation in which they move.

During the course of survey work in Kopargaon Taluka, in 1959, for collecting information about agricultural machines, inquiries were made whether the respondents had kept any records of machinery-costs and whether they were willing to show them. There were three among the tractor-owners who had maintained detailed records of working of tractors and costs incurred on them and they were also willing to keep all the records at our disposal. Therefore, what follows here is a detailed analysis of the data of tractor-costs and performances on these three farms.

Table 1 gives total area under cultivation and number of tractors on each farm.

Table 1 : TOTAL AREA, AREA UNDER CULTIVATION AND NUMBER OF TRACTORS

<i>Farm</i>	<i>Total area (Acres)</i>	<i>Cultivated area (Acres)</i>	<i>No. of tractors</i>
A	1,412.85	1,250.80	3
B	1,418.92	1,216.00	5
C	457.75	381.20	1

The accounts presented here were kept by these farms for their own individual use and therefore can be taken as reliable. Method of keeping accounts on these farms was as follows: Tractor-drivers were given daily work-sheets in which they recorded the number of hours worked, type of work done, and fuel and oil consumed during the day. These work-sheets were then passed on to the office, where monthly reports were prepared.

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