

A STUDY IN FARM AND AREA PLANNING : VILLAGE KARKATA *

D. P. APTE

FARM Budgeting and the use of Linear Programming techniques in the formulation of farm and area plans is assuming increasing importance in agriculture in more advanced countries like the U.S.A. and U.K. These methods help the farmers to consider alternative use of available resources on enterprise combinations and to determine the changes needed in the choice and combination of enterprises and in the organization and use of farm resources. Farm planning and budgeting also provide the basis for evaluating their impact on the development of a region and thus help in preparing plans for a region. The main object of the present paper is to study these methods in relation to data available in India for preparing such plans, to bring out the deficiencies in the present data and to indicate what additional data and experimentation would be necessary in preparing more complete development plans.

For the purposes of farm or area planning it is necessary to have comprehensive data regarding the resources of the cultivators and their uses, the input-output relationships for different crop-enterprises, techniques of cultivation, etc. The series of farm management studies sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India contain data which are very valuable in developing farm plans. Besides, in the continuous village surveys which are being carried out at the Agro-Economic Research Centres located in different parts of India, comprehensive data are being collected on various aspects of the rural economy. These data could be used in developing village plans. In the present paper, it is proposed to utilize the data collected in one of the villages in Maharashtra during the continuous village surveys in the Agro-Economic Research Unit located at the Institute by the Central Government.

The selected village is Karkata from Latur taluka of Osmanabad district. The village was surveyed during the year 1955-56. A questionnaire was canvassed to gather from every family in the village information regarding income, occupation, land holdings, demographic characteristics of the family and related data. As a part of the enquiry a sample survey of one-sixth of the total plots of land in the village was carried out to study cultivation practices. In addition to information about cultivation practices of

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