

**STUDY OF WATERUSE UNDER SOME IRRIGATION
TANKS IN THE BOMBAY DECCAN**

by

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PREFACE

Underuse of the available irrigation facilities is not a new problem in Bombay or other States of India. However, the problem has at present acquired added significance in view of the paradoxical situation facing the country, under which, on the one hand considerable public investment is being made in irrigation projects for securing the much-needed increase in agricultural production, but on the other no adequate use is being made of the available irrigation potential. Public interest in the problem of non-full utilization of irrigation has unfortunately not yet manifested itself in a systematic effort to study the various aspects of wateruse by the farmers.

In this work I have made a modest effort to fill this vacuum by conducting a study on the economic problems associated with the use of water supplied by some irrigation tanks in the Bombay Deccan. The core of the study is based on the data collected by me from 233 selected farmers.

On May 1, 1960, the State of Bombay was reorganized on a linguistic basis. The region studied in this work is now comprised within the new State of Maharashtra. However, for convenience in quoting publications of the

former Government of Bombay and other literature published before the reorganization, the old name of the State has been used throughout the work.

The greater part of this study was completed between June 1958 and May 1960. I am grateful to the authorities of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, for the award of a Research Fellowship during this period.

The entire study was carried out under the guidance of Prof. D. R. Gadgil, Director, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. I have no words to express adequately my debt to him for his valuable and inspiring guidance.

I have to thank the officials of the Public Works Department for making available to me the necessary project records and for the help given at the time of conducting field work. I must also record my thanks to the selected farmers for the hospitality extended to me during my stay in their villages and for the patience shown in answering the numerous questions I had to ask for collecting data.

Finally, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention what I owe to Messers A. R. Kulkarni and B. D. Kanetkar of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. Mr. Kulkarni gave considerable help in processing the data and in the analysis of resource productivity.

Mr. Kanetkar went through the draft of most of the chapters
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