

Co-operative Farming in Practice (An Ideal Farming Family near Guntur)

By

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When there is so much subdivision of holdings and diminished size of farms, it is a refreshing contrast to find a family of ryots not subdividing the holding among themselves, but continuing to farm the entire area jointly, and sharing the produce equitably. Our interest is heightened when we know that the number of brothers who are thus co-operating are as many as nine and not only this, they have also taken more area on lease. The total number of members of the family thus fed from this joint farm exceeds 60. It will be of interest to the readers of the journal and students of agriculture to know some details about this family of co-operating farmers.

Location and extent: The inherited area is 60 acres and the leased area 90 acres. The whole area of 150 acres is held almost as a single block within a mile of Guntur town limits on the south-eastern side. The soil is black soil, typical of the tract and the crops are all raised under rainfed conditions.

Equipment:

Iron ploughs	... 12		
Guntakas	... 10		
Gorrus	... 12	Cattle pairs:	10
Potti guntaka	... 10	Buffalo pairs:	2
Seed drills, Big	... 5		
„ „ Small	... 6		
Markers	... 6		
Carts	... 10		

Labour: Permanent ... 15 men.

Wages Rs. 400/- per annum with three meals in the day.

Nett income for each family: The following statement gives the details of costs and income from the whole farm for the current season 1950-51 and the probable nett income in cash for each family.

Crop	Area sown	Gross income	Cost of production	Nett profit
	Acres	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Ground nut	40	12,000	4,000	8,000
2. Chillies	6	4,200	1,800	2,400
3. Virginia Tobacco	200	50,000	28,000	22,000
				32,400

Paid lease amount on 90 acres @ Rs. 75/- per acre (average)	Rs.	6,750	
Paid land assessment on 60 acres	"	150	
Cost of production of 40 acres of grain jonna and 5 acres of fodder jonna	"	1,500	
Amount spent in purchase of extra food grains and fodder	"	1,000	9,400
			23,000
Nett income for 9 families			2,500
			2,500

Note: Interest and depreciation charges have not been included and this amount may be taken to be equivalent to the value of own labour put in by way of supervision and management in production.

Noteworthy features: About 60 acres every year (June—July) are grown with a variety of quick-growing green gram to be ploughed in as green manure. The cost of production of this crop is more than compensated by the value of the pulse obtained for home use. There is a corresponding reduction in the dose of farmyard manure applied to this area. The lasting benefits of systematic green manuring for these soils have been established years ago by a series of experiments done at the Lam Research Station. Departmental strains are used as far as possible, and they adopt systematic application of artificial fertilisers and also methods of pest control as advocated by the Agricultural Department. They also grow one acre of wheat for their own consumption. They have built on the farm 12 barns for flue-curing of tobacco. Besides curing their own leaves, they also purchase produce from about 30 acres for curing and disposal. The profit obtained by this means has not been included in the above statement. Each member is constructing a new house for his living at a suitable site in the farm area at a cost varying from Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-. In a few years' time it will be a small self-contained colony of co-operating farmers.

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