

## A Study of Agricultural Planning Procedure Being Followed at Village level

By

VE. SABARATHNAM<sup>1</sup> and P. R. H. ACHARJEE<sup>2</sup>

### ABSTRACT

A study conducted to find out the extent of the steps followed in planning agricultural production programmes at village level revealed that three important steps *viz.*, classifying problems formulation of sub-committees and giving provision for periodic evaluation of results had not been followed in planning agricultural programmes at village level. Only two steps had been followed. Cultivators had not at all been involved in five steps. In other steps their involvement was only partial.

### INTRODUCTION

There should be a programme carefully prepared based on the needs and interests of the cultivators to promote agricultural development so as to make it significant and effective. Since the introduction of Panchayatraj, village panchayats are involved in the task of preparing and implementing village agricultural production plans with the assistance of block staff and villagers. Narasinha Rao (1960) suggested that a village agricultural operation programme should have two main heads *viz.*, evolving an integrated and intensive farming scheme with all necessary provisions and making the farming community in practice, conscious of and competent in the various operations contained in the scheme. Satwant Singh (1960) reported that

farmers must be taken into consideration at all levels of policy making and execution. Ramanathan (1963) observed that at village level preparation of panchayat agricultural production plan is the only means of involving cultivators in the village to intensify agricultural efforts. Leagans (1961) suggested that people who function as members of planning committee at the local level represent major interest groups, various economic and social levels of people, major vocations of the locality and other important elements in the area. Vidyarthi (1961) suggested the formation of a village level. The specific objectives of the study were to describe and appraise the steps being followed in planning action committee to prepare the agricultural production programmes at village

1. Assistant Professor of Agricultural Extension, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai and 2. Associate Professor of Extension, Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Allahabad.



agricultural production programmes at village level and to know the extent of farmers' participation in village agricultural plans.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Chaka block of Allahabad district in Uttar Pradesh. Four villages namely Chaka, Dandi, Purekhagan and Sarangapur were selected for the study. The respondents belonged to the following three types: Members of agricultural production committee-24, cultivators selected at random-40 and village level workers-4. After going through available literature, a set of 13 steps was identified as essential and desirable for planning agricultural extension programmes at village level. Various instructions issued by the Block office regarding the subjects were also collected. These details secured as guide lines for developing a schedule for collecting data. The prepared schedule was pretested and administered to the respondents. Data were also collected by going through the records maintained by the panchayats and village level workers in connection with agricultural production plans.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The steps to be followed in planning agricultural production programmes were explained one by one to the respondents and they were

asked to report whether each step was followed in planning agricultural productions programmes or not. The extent and the manner in which the thirteen steps were followed are furnished in Table 1. The village agricultural production committees had been formed in all the villages studied. The committee consisted of panchayat pradhan, one panchayat member, the president of co-operative society, two to five farmers, the school master, the village level worker and the panchayat secretary. The results indicate that there was only partial agreement (15.9 per cent) regarding the procedure to be followed and the roles to be performed. It is surprising that none of the cultivators reported that agreement was reached regarding any one of the items. Regarding the step third, only 52.9 per cent of respondents reported that influential persons were identified. Data regarding the situation were collected analysed and evaluated. Though it is important that the objectives of the village agricultural production programmes should be discussed with people in Gram Sabha, a majority (55 per cent) of the respondents in the negative. None of the respondents reported to have undertaken the fifth step of classifying the problems or defining the needs.

The study indicates that only 41.2 per cent of respondents were in agreements that the sixth step was followed.



Table 1. Extent of steps followed in agricultural planning at village level as reported by respondents (N=68, M. V. A. P. C. \*=24, VLM \*\*=4, Cultivator=40)

Steps	M.V.A.P.C.*	VLM **	Followed		Not followed	
			Cultivators	Total	M.V.A.P.C.*	Total
Formation of village agricultural production committee	24	4	40	68 (100)	Nil	Nil
General agreement regarding procedure to be followed roles etc.,	13	4	—	17 (15.9)	Nil	40 (58.1)
Identifying people collecting and analysing data	24	4	8	36 (52.9)	Nil	32 (47.1)
Discussion of objectives of plan at Gaonsabha	12	4	15	31 (45)	12	25 (37)
Classifying the problems of defining the needs	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	24	40 (68)
Finding solutions to problems	24	4	Nil	28 (41.2)	Nil	40 (58.8)
Formulation of sub-committees	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	24	40 (68)
Selecting problems with due regard to priorities	24	4	Nil	28 (41.2)	Nil	40 (58.8)
Preparing a plan for work	20	4	4	28 (41.2)	4	36 (53.8)
Giving publicity, soliciting suggestions and participation from public	24	4	40	68 (100)	Nil	Nil
Advance arrangement of supplies and teaching aids	22	4	30	56 (82.3)	2	10 (14.7)
Carrying out the plan of work systematically in a co-ordinated manner	4	4	Nil	8 (11.8)	20	40 (58.8)
Giving provision for periods evaluation of results	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	24	40 (58.8)

\* M. V. A. P. C. Members of village agricultural production committee

\*\* V. L. W

Village level worker. Figures with in brackets are percentages



All the cultivators reported that they were not involved in this step of finding solutions to problems. It is further noted that sub-committees had not been formed in any of the villages considered for the study. The results show that selecting problems on priority basis had been done ignoring the cultivators. Though 41.2 per cent of respondents reported that a plan of work was prepared, it was only breaking up of annual target. A majority (82.3 per cent) of the respondents reported that advance arrangement was made in the case of required inputs and teaching aids. The step of carrying out the plan of work systematically in a co-ordinated manner and giving provision for periodic evaluation of results were not followed

as reported by the majority of the respondents.

#### REFERENCES

- LEAGANS, J. P. 1961. *Programme Planning to meet People's Needs. Extension Education in Community Development*. Directorate of Extension. Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi: 108-118.
- NARASINHA RAO, P. V. 1960. An agricultural operation programme. *Kurukshetra* 8: 5-7.
- RAMANATHAN, S. 1963. Village Agricultural Production Plan. *Panchayatraj* 9: 12-14
- SATWANT SINGH, 1960. Farmers and Food Production. *Kurukshetra* 8: 13-15.
- VIDYARTHI, G. S. 1961. *Developing Family Village and Block Programmes. Extension Education in Community Development*. Directorate of Extension. Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Government of India, New Delhi: 123-131.