CHAPTER IX

ABSTRACT

Farm planning as a business approach is becoming popular with the farm entrepreneur, the extension worker and the researcher in farm management. Research in the methodology of farm planning suited to the Indian farming conditions is the need of the hour. Exploration of this area will provide basic models for extension of farm planning procedures to Indian farming conditions.

This analytical study on the potentialities and application of farm planning techniques was conducted in one of the development blocks of the I.A.D.P., Ludhiana in Punjab. Data were collected through survey method for two crop seasons (1961-62). A synthetic farm situation based on average of 26 holdings and three actual farm situations, representing small, medium and large sized holdings, were analysed for the purpose of area planning as well as planning of the representative farm situations of the operational area of the study. Programming analysis was used as the main tool in this farm management study.

The farming characteristics of the study area showed that commercial animal enterprises were not popular in the area due to initial heavy investment outlay and farm planning was virtually confined to crop planning process. Various land use categories, farm labour in peak work load periods, picking labour for cotton, irrigation water during critical periods, farm yard
manure and liquid capital were considered the limiting factors to crop production. Among the crop enterprises, there were only a few complimentary or supplementary enterprises and most of them competed for the limited farm resources such as land and capital.

Analysis of the existing farm organisation of the synthetic as well as actual farm situations showed that the farm resource use was not optimum in these situations. More specifically:

1) Practice of following the land in Kharif season needed to be discounted.

ii) More emphasis needed to be laid on the cultivation of Kharif crops, especially sugarcane and cotton.

iii) Labour intensive crops such as sugarcane were better suited to small sized farms than to the large sized holdings due to higher family labour availability on small sized holdings.

iv) Resource use planning increased the returns to the fixed farm resources by 13.1% to 31.7% on the selected farm situations. Synthetic farm situation promised 16 percent increase in returns.

v) Intensity of cropping could be increased with profit.

vi) Resource use pattern could be improved in respect of increased employment of farm labour, more intensive utilization of various categories of land and irrigation potentials.

Improved production techniques were used and changes in the resource use and product-mix were examined. The new input-output coefficients were obtained and the selected farm situations were programmed. The analysis of the new optimum farm plans showed that:
1) adoption of improved production techniques was not feasible without providing seasonal credit to the cultivator.

ii) practice of keeping the land fallow before wheat needed to be discouraged.

iii) leguminous crops such as berseem and senji had complementary effect in the crop rotations.

iv) acreage under Kharif crops such as maize, cotton and sugarcane could be expanded profitably.

v) groundnut gave higher economic returns on its acreage could be increased to the maximum permitted by the land suitability, and

vi) intensity of cropping could be further increased.

Compared to the existing farm organisations, returns to the fixed farm resources increased by 38.1 percent for the synthetic farm situation, 30.3 per cent on small sized holding, 39.3 per cent on medium sized holding and 75.2 per cent on large sized farm as a result of adoption of improved production techniques and rational resource use.

Analysis of resource use pattern of the different farm situations showed that alternative plans improved the present resource use and increased the returns. Irrigation water was used almost to its full capacity. Farm yard manure was purchased. Shortage of working capital was found in both the crop seasons for all the farm situations.

The farm planning procedures, thus, demonstrated the potentialities of increasing the farm incomes in the study area with the existing production techniques and available farm resources of the farmer. If the improved production techniques were used, the scope for increasing farm income was still greater, provided hire or purchase activities were included in the programme.