

## P R E F A C E

Many authors have enriched the literature of agricultural economics with their respective studies on the size of the farm. These studies have been made from different view points. It is important and interesting to study the influence of increased pressure of population on the one hand and the effect of land reform measures on the other hand upon the size of the farm in India. Such a study is all the more necessary in the context of the process of technological change through which Indian agriculture is passing. Technological possibilities of agriculture is related to the size of the farm. It is interesting, therefore, to study the position of the size of the farm in India with special reference to the technological possibilities. The present work is an effort in that direction.

We have studied first the important aspects of the size of the farm and position of agricultural technology in India. Next we have shown the relationship between 'size' and 'efficiency' of the farm in India. This has been followed by a discussion of how far the pre-requisite conditions necessary for the introduction of technological change is present in India and the extent of scope for the introduction of agricultural technology at present. Agricultural technology has been divided into two parts - mechanical and biological - and their problems and possibilities have been discussed separately. We have then studied the nature of the production function of the Indian agriculture and have given our recommendations for better allocation of resources. Our study also includes careful analysis of the employment

position as prevalent in our agricultural sector and the impact of technological change on the rural employment front. A brief suggestion for the improvement of the rural employment situation has also been given. The relevant aspects of land reform measures, particularly the question of fixation of ceiling and floor has been discussed next. The problem of uneconomic farms and surplus land (due to <sup>the</sup> composition of ceiling) has also been attended. In conclusion we have recommended to formulate a suitable land policy upon which technological change and prosperity in agriculture will depend.

Our study reveals that size of the farm in itself is no great barrier in India for the introduction of agricultural technology. The average size of the farm in India which is 6.49 acres may be accepted to be a viable unit of cultivation in the context of high-yielding variety programme and multiple cropping programme. However, if no suitable land policy is followed the average size is bound to become uneconomic within a generation <sup>or</sup> of two.

Now, a few words by way of expressing gratitude. The work has been done under the guidance of Prof. M. B. Sanyal of the Dept. of Commerce, University of Calcutta. Prof. Sanyal has helped me to improve the standard of this work with his valuable suggestions. I have snatched away much of his valuable time and am heavily indebted to him for all sorts of assistance extended to me. I am also indebted to Dr. ~~S. N. Sen~~ S. N. Sen, Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta and Dr. M. K. ~~Rakshit~~ Rakshit of the Dept. of Economics, Presidency College, Calcutta, for their valued cooperation.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Arun Mukhopadhyay, Lecturer in Economics of Surendra Nath College, Calcutta, whose earnest aid and advice

were of great help particularly at the time of beginning of this work. I am highly obliged to Prof. Rabindra Nath Bhattacharya of Dinabandhu Andrews College, Garia, and <sup>to</sup> some of my colleagues of Diamond Harbour F. C. College for their sincere cooperation and encouragement.

I am specially grateful to the members of my fa-mily, particularly to my mother and wife, who have spared no pains to create the most congenial and conducive environment at home and who gave me adequate inspiration to bear the burden of this work. Thanks are also due to my nephew Sri Swapan Das, the typist, for his active cooperation.

Asok Basu.