CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

A farm is a socio-economic unit which not only provides income or profit to a farmer, but is also a source of happiness to him and his family. It is also a decision making unit, where the farmer has many alternative uses of his resources in the production of crops and livestock products and their disposal. As such the farm units are the micro units of vital importance, which represent the centre of dynamic decision making in regard to guiding the farm resources in the production process. A farm unit may be likened to a cell of an animal's body. What a cell is to a living organism, so is the unit of a farm to the economic body of a country. The vitality and growth of the organism depend on the sound condition and proper functioning of protoplasm, nucleus and other constituents of a cell. In like manner, the economic prosperity of a country depends, largely on the viability and the use of the right amount and proportion of various ingredients of a farm unit—land, labour, livestock, implements, machinery, buildings and other capital resources and managerial ability.
The rational allocation of land among different crop enterprises is a matter of crucial importance both from the point of view of increasing income of the farmer and increasing agricultural production of the country. With the introduction of high yielding and short duration varieties of crops, the study of cropping pattern and resource use has assumed special significance in shaping agricultural production programme in the country. During the last decade many changes have taken place in the technological, biological and economic factors that have a determining influence in shaping the crop pattern in different regions. Naturally, these changes warrant adjustments in the existing cropping patterns. The changes which can be introduced, however, depend on the opportunities available in each region, the profitability of suggested changes and the practicability of implementing them from farmer's point of view. In some regions, the scope for any appreciable changes may be limited. Similarly, the scope for change may vary on farms of different size groups or even from farm to farm in the same size group depending upon the availability of production resources.

Today, in most of the advanced countries people are prosperous, because the farmers are prosperous, mainly, due to better allocation of resources among various uses and adoption of improved technology. They operate their farms on profitable footing through increased production per unit of cultivation. But in under-developed countries the people are poor, because the farmers are desperately poor due to poor resources with
which they have to operate their farms. Their economy is mainly
dependent on agriculture and as such their seasonal and annual
prosperity rises and falls with the ups and downs of agriculture.

The farm management picture in India has shown a greater
change as a result of the green revolution. The introduction of
H.Y.V. seeds and the greater emphasis on the development of minor
irrigation works, greater use of fertilizers and pesticides have
opened new possibilities and opportunities for the farmers to
improve their farm productivity and increase the level of farm
income. In District Meerut, Block Mawana, the farmers too have
developed a high degree of entrepreneurship in organisational
and operational efficiency of farming. They have specialized in
sugarcane cultivation. They grow only a limited number of crops
like wheat for foodgrains, fodder crops of livestocks and sugarcane for meeting cash needs. Their farming is more commercial
oriented as factors and product of market are relatively well
developed. The availability of assured means of irrigation and
other agricultural inputs, well developed infrastructure facilities, intensive use of labour and machinery power etc. are the
attributes of high level entrepreneurship of the farmers.

Thus, having considered the above points in view, the
present study was undertaken in Block Mawana, District Meerut,
during 1975-76, with the following objectives:
Objectives

1. To study the farm structure, cropping system and employment pattern.

2. To determine the level of capital investment on different farms.

3. To work out costs and returns on crop and milk enterprises.

4. To analyse productivity of different resources used on the farms.