Preface.

The present study on the 'Evaluation of the Intensive Agricultural District Programme as Implemented in Aligarh District, Uttar Pradesh' was undertaken with the objective of assessing the impact of the IADP in Aligarh. In the following chapters an attempt has been made to evaluate the functioning of the Programme during the period 1961-62 to 1966-67. IADP or Package Programme was started in 1961-62 initially for a period of five years with the objective of achieving a rapid increase in agricultural production, especially foodgrains, through an integrated and intensive use of improved agricultural techniques and providing sufficient production incentives to the cultivators. Aligarh district was selected because it possessed a maximum of irrigation facilities and a minimum of natural hazards.

The Programme has been evaluated with reference to the preliminary arrangements, establishment of institutions, supply of inputs and their utilization and effect on agricultural production. In the first chapter Programme's basic principles and selection of the districts on the pattern suggested by the Ford Foundation Experts and necessary components of the Programme have been discussed. The second chapter relates to the study of Land Reforms in Uttar Pradesh and its impact on the cultivators of Aligarh.
district. In the third chapter, process of farm production planning and its application in the district has been arranged. The fourth chapter of the study is related with the Performance of the Co-operative Societies in the district. The fifth chapter is concerned with the Scientific Demonstration and the sixth is with other allied activities, i.e., Livestock Development, Irrigation Facilities and the Impact of the Programme. The seventh chapter is on Conclusion and suggestions that emerge on the basis of the study.

Excluding the Introductory chapter, emphasis is given on the results of the Sample enquiry of 720 cultivators in 60 villages of 4 of the 17 blocks of the district, in each chapter. The sample survey of the selected villages was conducted to see the impact of the Programme on the cultivators under the three acreage-groups deriving benefits from this approach. The Study is also based on a critical examination of the reports published by the Project Office, Aligarh and Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

The study of the Package Programme shows that in all the package districts including Aligarh the tenant-cultivators are still not in a position to draw benefits in respect of the facilities provided by the package staff. The trend of land reforms has not also been such as to inspire confidence in the minds of the cultivators. The
system of share-cropping is still very common and no entry of these tenants is found anywhere in the land records. On the other hand, the implementation of farm production plans is achieved much less than was expected. The farm plans are prepared by the village level workers but little efforts are made to supplies of inputs according to the plan.

In the field of credit and the supply of inputs through the Co-operatives, it is noticed that as far as the demand aspect is concerned, the cultivators have shown an inclination to obtain these facilities but the supplies have fallen short of demand. The Co-operatives could not reach the desired goal, partly because the Credit Societies are not functioning well from the point of view of distribution of credit and inputs to all the cultivators as directed in the farm production plans and partly because the staff is lacking in initiative and drive. Quite a large number of cultivators borrow money from the traditional money-lenders and other non-institutional sources.

The study of the cultivators in respect of the benefits drawing out of the Scientific Demonstration shows that a good number of cultivators are interested to adopt modern techniques of agricultural production through these demonstrations but they are helpless when the question of obtaining the requisites arises. The village level workers
have instructions to induce the cultivators to visit the site of the demonstrations and convince them to follow the techniques to increase agricultural production. But it was noticed that very few cultivators got this opportunity. A majority of cultivators in the lowest acreage-group were neglected at the time of demonstration and, instead, the cultivators in the highest acreage-group were encouraged to attend them.

The other related activities considered in this respect are the facilities of improvement of livestock and means of irrigation. Not much attention was paid to this side.

The study of the sources of irrigation made available revealed the fact that the cultivators not depending on rain are of a very small number and whatever the facilities for the purchase of water-pumps and the operation of tube-wells are available, are only to the resourceful. As without proper means of irrigation, no efforts of any type, either the use of fertilizer or the improved seeds, will be helpful to speed up the rate of growth in agricultural production. Therefore, an important aspect of the Programme has remained neglected.

All the aforesaid aspects studied are to be dealt with promptness and a keen interest is required by the
staff involved in the Programme. Partiality towards large farmers also has been noticed. The Package Programme has gained wide publicity but it has failed as much remains to be achieved to attain a more rapid rate of development at the district level. The development lies mainly on four fronts: (a) providing a better overall economic atmosphere to encourage the cultivators; (b) strengthening and stabilising the personnel situation and rationalisation of input distribution and credit disbursement procedures; (c) provision of increased supplies of inputs; and (d) popularisation of high-yielding varieties of all the important crops. Having improved the Programme on the above fronts, it is expected the rate of growth can be accelerated. Therefore, a significant conclusion of the thesis is that the real impact of the IADP is likely to take a long time than was originally contemplated.

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