CHAPTER - IV

COOPERATIVE FARMING IN ALIGARH DISTRICT

A CASE STUDY

It has been concluded in the last chapter that the cooperative farming societies have not played their role in increasing agricultural production and creating new employment opportunities. To arrive at a definite conclusion a case study of the cooperative farming societies working in Aligarh district has been made in the following pages.

The basic aim of this study is to examine the areas of successes and failures of the cooperative farming societies from the point of view of their potentiality in increasing agriculture production providing employment opportunities and developing agro-industries. The existing cooperative farming societies are likewise assessed in the light of their present achievements.

To arrive at definite conclusions the author has visited a number of cooperative farming societies and discussed their problems with the members and office bearers of the societies, officials of the Cooperative Department of Aligarh District as well as prominent leaders of the blocks.
and districts. The information so obtained has been further supplemented by my personal experience and association with the movement.\textsuperscript{1}

The Aligarh district has been selected on account of its unique position as the first district for Intensive Agricultural District Programme, commonly known as Package Programme. This was implemented in Uttar Pradesh from the Agricultural Year 1961-62 with a view to increase food production by providing all the wherewithals of production simultaneously to exhibit the proper application of modern scientific method of crop production. Thus, Aligarh provides an opportunity for a comparative study between cooperative farming and individual farming helped by the Package Programme.

A BACKGROUND OF ALIGARH Aligarh is one of the western districts of Uttar Pradesh which lies between 27.5° to 78.7° longitude. Like a saucer it is situated in the plains between the river Ganges and its tributary Jamuna.

The texture of Aligarh soil varies from clay loam to sandy loam, the loamy soils being to the extent of about 50 per cent. From productive point of view these are found to be a deficient in their nitrogenous and phosphatic constituents and come under the class of

\textsuperscript{1} The author was benefitted by his experience as Director of District Cooperative Bank, Aligarh, and participation in the cooperative farming seminars of Aligarh district. Also the author has worked on the UGC's research project entitled "A critical study of the cooperative farming societies of Aligarh" in 1967 which gave him sufficient insight in the matter.
poor to very poor.

The annual rainfall, based on the average of last eight years, is about 920 mm. About 57.4 per cent of the net cultivated area is irrigated, the main sources of irrigation being State tube-wells, canals and masonry wells. The drainage system of the entire district is very poor indeed as all the four rivers, viz., Nim, Kali, Sengur and Karvan, instead of taking away rain water, flood large areas almost every year during rainy season.¹

The district is served by 648 kilometres of arterial roads. About 47 per cent of the roads are kutch and 288 kilometres of arterial roads are suitable only for fair weather transport. Two railway lines, one broad-gauge of about 104 kilometres and other meter-gauge of about 64 kilometres intersect the district.²

Administratively the district is divided into six Tehsils, seventeen blocks and 1,746 villages.

There are 1.5 lakhs agricultural families with an average holding of 6.4 acres. The main crops of the district according to acreage are bajra, wheat, pea, barley, maize, gram, sugarcane, arhar, masoor, cotton, paddy, juar, potato and groundnut.³ About 78 per cent of the cultivated area is covered by foodgrains. Bajra and maize are

² ibid., p
³ ibid., p
the important food crops of the Kharif season, while wheat, barley, gram and bajra each account for about 18 to 28 per cent of the gross cropped area. Commercial crops cover only a comparatively small area; sugarcane about 5 per cent and cotton about 2 per cent. There being no large size sugar factory in the district, sugarcane crop does not appear to compete in any large measure with food crops. About 80 per cent of area under wheat, 50 per cent under barley, 20 per cent under maize and 28 per cent under gram is irrigated.¹

The land tenure pattern emerging from the various land reforms measures carried out in Uttar Pradesh consists of two main classes of cultivators, viz., Bhumidars and Sirdars. Both have permanent and heritable rights. The Bhumidars also enjoy transferable rights, but not the Sirdars. Sirdar cannot use the land for purposes other than agriculture, horticulture and dairying. He is treated as a tenant of the State and has the option to acquire Bhumidari rights on payment of a purchase price equal to 10 times the rent of land payable by him (if paid in lumpsum). An area of about 1.62 lakh hectares (roughly 39 per cent) is held under Bhumidari about 2.43 lakhs hectares (58 per cent) under Sirdari and 0.12 lakh hectares (3 per cent) under other tenures (Adhivasi and Assamis). Majority of the cultivators in the district have not availed of the facility to become Bhumidars. The

fact that Sirdars cannot dispose of their land limits sharply their credit worthiness for loans granted from cooperatives. Recently they have been given the right to raise loans on the security of land with the support of two sureties from amongst the Bhumidars, but their credit worthiness is regarded only as one-fourth of that of the Bhumidars. The crop-loan system has recently been introduced to remedy the situation. The leasing of land is not common since the Urrat Pradesh Land Reform Act does not permit leasing except by persons suffering from disability. But any person may get his land cultivated by arrangements called 'Sajhedari', i.e., partnership in cultivation.

The work of consolidation of holdings, started in 1968, has been completed in the district. With the consolidation of holdings, there is a greater eagerness among farmers to construct surface wells for irrigation. As a result of it the construction of masonry wells, construction of private tube-wells, repair of broken wells, installation of Persian wheels, boring of wells, fitting of pumping sets, etc, was undertaken. The loans were provided under the grow more food programme and National Extension Service for increasing agricultural production as is evident from table 27. It had its favourable effect on production as indicated in table 28. However, still much improvement is desired.

At present there are about 550 primary cooperative credit societies in the district out of which 40 societies have lost their records.
TABLE 29

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Construction of H.wells (in numbers)</td>
<td>923</td>
<td>1,090</td>
<td>1,335</td>
<td>2,651</td>
<td>4,828</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Boring of wells (in numbers)</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>1,434</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Installation of P. wells (in numbers)</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>1,260</td>
<td>1,742</td>
<td>2,574</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fitting of pumping plants (in numbers)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>220</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Construction of Private tube-wells (in numbers)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Repair of broken wells (in numbers)</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Extension of Kachha Guls (in miles)</td>
<td>80.1</td>
<td>176.6</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cleaning of old Guls (in miles)</td>
<td>520.8</td>
<td>976.7</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>1,140</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Construction of kachha wells (in numbers)</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>State tube-wells (in numbers)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Loan advanced under:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i) G.M.F. (in Rs.)</td>
<td>17,50,000</td>
<td>3,50,000</td>
<td>7,00,000</td>
<td>14,10,000</td>
<td>27,00,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ii) N.E.S. (in Rs.)</td>
<td>6,00,000</td>
<td>2,65,950</td>
<td>3,50,000</td>
<td>8,50,000</td>
<td>13,00,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Such a high casualty of records makes one sceptical that the action might be deliberate. One can also conclude that all is not well with the cooperative farming societies and their management. Thus, neither their accounts have been audited for the last several years nor the outstanding overdues have been realized. About 50 per cent of the agricultural population has been brought within the fold of the cooperative movement may be entirely due to the pull of the Government. The District Cooperative Bank, Aligarh, has advanced an amount of Rs. 20,333 during the year 1966-67 to the cooperative farming societies as short-term loans. The recovery of the loans give a poor picture. The loans advanced to the societies were not recovered in time. Every year the amount of overdues has noticed and increased. Some times the overdues are realised after a long correspondence and filing cases for arbitration.

The table 30' gives the basic data of district Aligarh.

### TABLE 30

**Basic Data of District Aligarh (1963-64)**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Area in square miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Geographical area in hectare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Rural</td>
<td></td>
<td>14,78,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Urban</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,86,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Density of population per sq. mile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Number of Government Agricultural Farms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Number of seed stores</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Basic</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Package</td>
<td></td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Cooperative</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Contd.)
(Contd.)

IRRIGATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Coverage in hectares</th>
<th>Percentage of total (irrigated area)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Tube-wells</td>
<td>47,755</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canals</td>
<td>91,451</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sources</td>
<td>83,644</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total ...</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,22,850</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of net irrigated area to net area sown: ... 57.4

Although the irrigation facilities have increased and the coverage of the irrigated area stands to 2,22,850 hectares but in view of the fact that the net sown area of the district is 3,88,389, the existing facilities are not sufficient for rapid agricultural development. The net irrigated area is 57.4 per cent of the net area sown. Unless the irrigation facilities are increased yield per acre cannot increase rapidly.

COOPERATIVES (AS ON 31.3.1965)

a) **Credit**:
   - District Coop. Bank - 1
   - Multipurpose Sahkari Samitis - 72
   - Non-agricultural Societies (Credit) - 16
   - Service Cooperatives - 419
   - Large size Cooperative Credit Societies - 59
   - Farming Societies - 22

b) **Production and Sales**:
   - Marketing Societies - 7 (integral)
   - Milk Marketing Societies - 1
   - Seed Stores - 40
   - District Cooperative Development Federation - 1
   - Total membership 1,18,603
   - Agricultural Families 1,50,000
It is evident from this table that Aligarh has a large number of cooperative societies of various types. They can stimulate the growth of cooperative farming in this district.

Analytical Study of the Cooperative Farming Societies of Aligarh District

The cooperative farming was introduced in Aligarh district after the registration of Shri Nagar Cooperative Joint Farming Society on February 12, 1960. Later on, three cooperative joint farming societies in 1962, eight in 1963, three in 1964, four in 1965, and three in 1966 came into existence. At the beginning of 1967, the total number of cooperative joint farming societies was 22 out of which 14 were Pilot and 8 non-Pilot societies. On the basis of their work in 1966, these societies can be divided in the following categories:

(a) Societies Actually Working and Doing Joint Cultivation:
   Lahera, Kaimer, Sangila, Hendu East, Hendu West, Wahoo, Kelora B.pur, Kawalgarh, Bahapur, Shri Nagar, Mahasinghpur, Barter Khas, Joint Farming Societies.

(b) Societies Which Are Dormant And Have Not Started Working On Joint Farming Lines:

(c) Societies Which Are Defunct Or Have Stopped Functioning And Are Under Reorganisation:
   Nagla Sukha and Bhojnagar Cooperative Joint Farming Societies.

In 1967, the number of societies under category (a) were reduced from 8 to 5, under category (b) were increased from 8 to 9 and under
Diagram showing the different categories of co-operative farming societies of Aligarh Dist.
1965-66 & 1966-67

- Societies actually working and doing joint cultivation
- Societies which are dormant and have not started working on joint farming lines
- Societies which are defunct or have stopped functioning and are under re-organisation
category (c) increased from 2 to 8 as is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>1965-66</th>
<th>1966-67</th>
<th>% increase or decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>54.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>36.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It indicates that the number of cooperative farming societies actually functioning was reduced to 5 in 1967 although the number of societies on record was 22 which shows that the management could not work effectively. It is evident from the above that (c) category societies have increased from 9.1 per cent to 36.4 per cent in 1966-67. The percentage increase of (c) class society is as high as 400 per cent (+ 400). In short, the growth of defunct societies is rapid. The basic reason for this alarming situation is poor management and lack of interest as well as absence of cooperative spirit among the members.

These societies are located in different Tehsils of the district and have small membership. With the exception of Bahanpur Cooperative Joint Farming Society all other societies have pooled less than 100 acres of land.}
The Appendix shows that both land owners and landless workers have participated in the cooperative farming societies. The number of members owning land was 260 against 68 members who were not owning land. This was, of course, not a healthy sign as it is encouraging absentee landlordism - the evil of the past on the basis of which Zamin-dari system was abolished. The reasons for enlisting landless persons as member are not valid from the point of view of cooperative spirit. Examples are not lacking when members were recruited to fulfil the requirements of the registration of society, to get patronage of persons having political influence which helps them in taking loan from Government and District Cooperative Bank, to enlist cooperation of persons of high social and economic status in the village like money lenders and traders etc. The membership of such persons instead of helping the movement retarded its pace on account of the vested interests of their profession as money lenders and merchants. It has been noted that prosperous landless members have not worked as farm labourers which created classes amongst the members. For example, in the cooperative farming societies of Aligarh out of 68 landless members only 31 landless members were working on the farm.

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1 In Lehra Society one of the members was an influential trader and money lender. This society failed to pay the overdues of the District Cooperative Bank, Aligarh. In 1966 notice was issued against this society and with great difficulty the overdues were realized in 1966-67. Likewise the President of the Bhoj Nagar Society is an influential person of the village. His son is Secretary of the same Society although he is a government servant and working as group I (Agricultural Inspector) in Planning Department, Aligarh. This society has also not yet paid dues of the District Cooperative Bank amounting to Rs. 1,900.00.
The farming societies were working on the land pooled by their members. According to the government's direction members were required to pool all their land located within the area of operation of the society for acquiring membership of the society. But the field staff has failed in carrying out the policies chalked out for the organisation of societies because they were helpless and could not go against the wishes of the village leaders and influential persons. The field staff has failed to bring the relevant information to the knowledge of higher officials. As a result persons having big holdings acquired membership of these societies by pooling only a small piece of their land with others and keeping the major portion of fertile land separately. In this manner they enjoyed the best of both the world and evaded the spirit of law. Needless to mention that the Cooperative Societies Act and the byelaws of the cooperative farming societies should be suitably amended to check this evasion otherwise these societies would show poor results and ultimately the common man would discard them for all times to come.

The size of the cooperative farm is neither big nor uneconomic in Aligarh district. The records of the societies show that mostly the members are from the lowest size group of holdings. On examining the nine pilot societies of Group A (Appendix E) it is evident that out of the 112 members 58 are from the lowest group of 3\(1\over 8\) acres or lesser holdings, 29 are from the second higher group of 3\(1\over 8\) to 6\(1\over 4\) acres holdings, 21 from the group of 6\(1\over 4\) to 12\(\frac{3}{4}\) acres, 3 from the group of 12\(\frac{3}{4}\)
acres to 25 acres. Out of total membership of 300 in 22 societies of Aligarh district the distribution of members according to size of holdings is as follows:

- 128 members - 3¹/₈ acres or less
- 95 members  - 3¹/₈ to 6¹/₄ acres
- 70 members  - 12¹/₂ to 25 acres
- 1 member     - 25 to 50 acres

But actually the members have deliberately not pooled their entire holdings. They have as stated above preferred to pool a small part of their total holdings which has increased the number of members of the lowest size group of holdings. This is not conducive from the point of view of the principles of cooperative farming which aims at providing an organisation for the economic development of those who have uneconomic holdings. The number of members having economic holdings is quite large. Their participation should not be encouraged in these societies. It would be better to keep them away from the movement because their mal-practices are frustrating the honest members.

Financial Help:

The government has provided financial help to the societies by contributing towards their share capital and providing loan and subsidies on the pattern discussed in the previous chapter. The cooperative farming societies were given the following financial help upto March 31, 1967:
Production Loan ... Rs. 48,000  
Cattle-shed loan ... Rs. 60,000  
Managerial subsidiary ... Rs. 13,600  
Loan and subsidy for agro-industries ... Rs. 15,000  
Farm development loan ... Rs. 13,500
\[\text{Total: Rs. } 1,50,100\]

Out of this Rs. 30,400 was refunded to the government (production loan Rs. 8,000.00, cattle shed Rs. 20,000 and managerial subsidiary Rs. 2,400), because some societies could not take up the work within the specified time. In addition to this an amount of Rs. 4,000.00, 5,000.00 and 1,000.00 is further to be refunded out of the amount received under the head of production loan, cattle shed loan and managerial subsidiary. The unutilised grants indicate the lack of managerial efficiency and enthusiasm among the members.

The actual amount utilised upto 31st March, 1967, was thus as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loan Type</th>
<th>Amount (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production loan</td>
<td>34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle-shed loan</td>
<td>20,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managerial subsidiary</td>
<td>6,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan and subsidy for agro-industries</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm development loan</td>
<td>61,048</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to slow progress in the work of the societies an amount of Rs. 48,652 has not been utilised by March 31, 1967. This again reflects
adversely on the planning and managerial efficiency of the societies.

Over and above the financial help provided under the scheme the District Cooperative Bank also provides short term loan to the cooperative farming societies. During 1965-66 the District Cooperative Bank, Aligarh, advanced Rs. 42,049.00 to the cooperative farming societies. The District Cooperative Bank provided short term loan of Rs. 42,049.00 to these societies during the year 1965-66. During 1966-67 the Bank advanced Rs. 37,245.00 (Appendix 1).

The Appendix 1 indicates that the District Cooperative Bank, Aligarh, has financed to these societies by way of short-term loan. However, due to inefficient management the societies could not fully utilise the finances provided to them. Hence the argument that the cooperative societies have failed due to paucity of funds does not apply in this case. In the light of this case study the diversion of funds to the rural sector through social control of banks also falls to the ground.

The study, however, reveals that the cooperative farming societies of Aligarh have not received loan from the Land Development Bank. For taking loan from the Land Development Bank, it is necessary to authorise one person to undergo the formalities of mortgaging land of the society for obtaining loan from the Bank. As the members have their own individual holdings and have little stake in the society, they were not interested in taking loan by mortgaging land of the society. Also the members have
not shown keenness to mortgage the land of the society and authorise one person for taking loan on their behalf partly due to the lack of confidence in the person so chosen. The study reveals two types of societies – one whose financial position is quite satisfactory and the other whose financial position is good. However, the owned resources (share capital, statutory reserves) of the farming societies are less than 1/3 of their working capital. The total working capital of the societies was Rs. 1,89,748 on June 30, 1966, out of which the share capital stood at Rs. 35,533 (Appendix I). In 1963-64 two societies created reserve fund amounting to Rs. 628.15 which comes to about 1/55 of the share capital. Likewise in 1966-67 the total amount of reserve fund created by five societies amounted to Rs. 3,289.00. There is no significant improvement in the share capital of the societies during the last several years. It points out to the fact that members are not taking interest in increasing the share capital of the society. They are rather preoccupied on their private holdings. The predominance of members having uneconomic holdings would have taken greater attention in the welfare of the society. The future of the societies greatly depends upon their auto-finance. It is desirable that their reserve fund should be allowed to accumulate rapidly so that their future profits may increase and the movement may gain momentum.

* According to by-laws a minimum of 1/10 of the net profit was to be deposited in the reserve fund of the society. No society has deposited more than the minimum provided in the by-laws.
Development Activities:

The performance of the societies is also judged from the point of view of their potentiality of creating new assets. Out of 22 societies 5 societies namely Lehra, Kaimar, Kevalgarhi, Shri Nagar and Nagla Kukha have created new assets through the purchase of land in the name of the society or have constructed building and cattle-shed or purchased machinery (tractor, thresher and water pumping set) etc. A few societies have also invested their funds in purchasing shares of the District Cooperative Bank and other societies (Appendix 1). This shows that the serious societies have great potentiality for ploughing back their profits. They are increasing their assets and revitalising the movement. Such societies should be encouraged by providing further incentives on their developmental activities.

Repayment of Loans:

The financial position of nearly 50 per cent of the societies is depressing because the study reveals that they have not repaid the instalment of loan taken from the District Cooperative Bank and the over dues against these societies have increased from year to year as given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rupees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1963-64</td>
<td>2,489.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-65</td>
<td>20,522.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-66</td>
<td>27,548.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-67</td>
<td>31,564.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is evident from the above that the overdues have increased from 2,489.95 to 31,564.70 which is more than 12 times if compared with the amount of over dues in the year 1963-64. This is a dangerous symptom for the movement. With this speed the overdues will convert the societies into category 'C' and ultimately they will have to be liquidated. The cooperative department should exercise vigilance over over-dues. Early action in the matter is essential to save the movement from decay. So far action has been taken only against Lehra, Sangila, Kewal Garhi and Jafarabad Cooperative Joint Farming Societies. The arbitration cases have been finalised against these societies (Lehra, Sangila and Kewal Garhi) and decree has been issued against all of them. The Lehra and Sangila Cooperative Joint Farming Societies have repaid the loan but the Kewal Garhi Cooperative Joint Farming Society has not repaid the overdues till December 1967. No decree has been issued against Jafarabad Cooperative Farming Society.

Production:

Let me now turn to discuss the productivity of these societies to measure the success of the movement.

In 1965-66 the total production of the societies amounted to

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1 The society passed resolution that the loan amounting to Rs. 1,000.00 may be realized by the District Cooperative Bank from the District Cooperative Bank shares worth Rs. 1,000.00 purchased by the society. As the bank cannot recover the outstanding amount from the shares of the Society on the strength of the resolution, therefore, the Bank could not realise the over dues. But after the resolution of the society to realise the over-dues for the share money, the arbitrator could not decide the matter and decree was not issued against the society.
Rs. 87,780.00 out of which the foodgrains accounted for Rs. 69,910.00, cotton Rs. 6,617.17, oil-seeds Rs. 900.00 and the sugarcane etc. amounted to Rs. 6,823.00.

Per Acre Yield:

Although no record is available regarding per acre yield of the same land before the establishment of the cooperative joint farming societies yet on the basis of the interviews with the farmers and office-bearers of the societies, it can be remarked that there is no appreciable change in the productivity except in cases where better irrigation facilities were provided out of the finances received under the programme. A few cooperative farming societies have recorded some progress in 1967 due to better irrigation facilities, harmonious relations between the members and the use of good quality of high yielding variety of seeds like Larma Rozoo, K 68, Sunehra 64 and Sanker.

If we compare this average yield with the farms managed by individual farmers covered by the package programme, the comparative productivity is distinctly shown in table given below.

TABLE - 32

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average Yield of Cooperative Farms per acre (in mds.)</th>
<th>Average Yield of Aligarh per acre (in mds.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1965-66</td>
<td>1965-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Foodgrains</td>
<td>6.14</td>
<td>17.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Sugarcane</td>
<td>232.8</td>
<td>330.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: The author has prepared this table on the basis of information received from the District Agricultural Department and given in the records of the societies.
Several factors are responsible for this high rate of production on individual farms covered under IAD Programme, namely, adequate use of fertilisers followed by sufficient irrigation facilities, use of Pakistani variety of seeds, imparting of technical knowledge and timely supply of credit. A cooperative farming society is also expected to get all these facilities but it has failed to produce the same results as under IADP. One of the reasons stated for this poorer performance is the lack of interest amongst the members of the society. In fact, the members have suffered from a number of adverse psychological reactions which were brought about by the pooling of their lands, change of status from an independent decision-making unit to that of a farm labour. In addition to these, some cooperative farms have also suffered due to lack of efficient management. The task of overcoming these difficulties is by no means easy and the complex socio-economic psychological forces are working which may collapse the programme. Only cooperative spirit and sound management can revitalise the movement.

Management Problems:

Good management ensures good results and makes the organisation economically viable. In the cooperative societies it has been noted that many adverse results could have been mitigated through sound management.

The general body is the supreme authority. For day to day work the Board consisting of five to seven members is elected from the working of these societies. It appears that the role of management is not properly
discharged. During the year 1965 about three societies did not call their annual general meetings. The Lekhupur and Sokhra societies are now under liquidation because these societies could not take up the work of joint cultivation. The Jafarabad society has not yet repaid the Government loan and therefore, it has not yet been taken up for liquidation. As soon as the loan is repaid this society will be taken up for liquidation. During the years 1965-66 and 1966-67 the financial help provided by the government has not been utilised by many societies. Consequently an amount of Rs. 31,000.00 was refunded to the Government.

This shows that the movement suffers for want of effective management. The cooperative societies have adversely been effected because of lack of enlightened membership. To make agriculture a living profession the cooperative farming societies should pay increasing attention to the development of these activities. This can only be done by strengthening the role of management which is responsible for planning, control, coordination and motivation of its members.

Other Activities:

The record of these societies in the development of employment opportunities through the development of agro-industries or the reclamation of land etc. is poor. They have not attempted to modernise agriculture. Only one society has purchased a tractor, and two societies have arranged for threshers etc. As yet no society has started any industry on the cooperative farm. During 1966-67 Kamer, Shri Nagar and
Barter cooperative joint farming societies were advanced Rs. 5,000 each for the development of dairy farming and fixing rice-pounding machine. The societies have also not availed of the facilities provided under the village and khadi industries scheme due to lack of interest of the members and technical know-how.

The reason advanced for the neglect of agro-industries was the cumbersome procedure of taking loan. No financial assistance has been provided for the development of cottage and small industries on the cooperative farms by the Uttar Pradesh Government upto 1966. However, under the Fourth Plan provisions have been made for the development of agro-industries for which an amount of Rs. 5,000 can be given to a society, i.e., 50 per cent loan and 50 per cent subsidy. This is a healthy change in the policy of the government which is likely to make agriculture a full time occupation and shall inspire members to join the cooperative joint farming societies.

**Field Staff:**

Field staff is a great aid for the development of societies. One senior Cooperative Farming Inspector and one Cooperative Farming Supervisor are provided for the district while overall responsibility rests with the Assistant Registrar of the district. The present Supervisor is a trained personnel who is quite competent in his work. But one supervisor cannot supervise all the societies of the district. Under the circumstances, the societies do not get prompt guidance from him.
It has been noted that the senior farming inspector has not devoted full time to the inspection work of these societies due to lack of provision for the payment of T.A. and D.A. As a consequence for the last several months no T.A. and D.A. was paid to the Supervisor and Inspector of the cooperative farming societies.

Under circumstances the societies were denied the much needed help for the staff. This shows that the State government is not providing the basic help necessary for the development of these societies.

**Education and Publicity:**

Cooperative education, training and publicity are the source of enlightened membership and strengthen the movement. The government has also neglected this aspect of the programme. As a result of it, the scheme of cooperative farming has not reached to the real beneficiaries. The small land owners fear that by pooling the land their ownership will be confiscated and soon the government will take possession of the land. This type of propaganda which is being made on political basis should have been counter acted but the government as well as the State Cooperative Union have not taken a serious view of the situation. With the exception of a few pamphlets, no serious literature for the

* The budget for cooperative farming for the year 1967-68 has not made any provision for the payment of T.A. and D.A. to cooperative farming inspectors and supervisors (verbal discussion with the field staff, Aligarh).
development of the movement was issued by the State Cooperative Union. There are, no doubt, some successful societies whose achievements should be given due publicity to the joint farming.

With the present state of finances the district authorities of the cooperative department and field staff cannot effectively perform their duties. Thus they are indifferent. Needless to mention that the lack of imagination on the part of the Government is hindering the progress of the movement.

CONCLUSION

The above discussion reveals that the societies were organised in a haphazard manner. Their number was shown to publicise the achievements of the targets laid down by the Government for registering the societies. They hardly created any atmosphere congenial for the development of the movement. Examples are not lacking when the field staff gave baseless assurances to the farmers in order to bring them in the fold of cooperative farming. Thus the purpose of cooperative farming was defeated which aimed at providing economies of scale to farmers having uneconomic holdings. The landless members belonging to political parties, money lenders and traders have out numbered the land owning members. These landless members are exploiting the movement and frustrating the small land holders.

The genuine cooperative farming societies have suffered from lack
of finances while the fictitious societies have received sufficient finances. The societies on the whole have suffered because of the poor quality of management. Instances are not lacking where the finances provided under the scheme for the societies could not be utilised and the amount was refunded to the Government as unspent. There are a number of societies that have not paid their dues to the District Cooperative Bank which has in turn adversely effected the District Cooperative Bank. The profits of the societies are meagre and thus reserve funds created by them are also insignificant. They have not started agro-industries for making agriculture a whole-time profession.

In contrast with the joint farming societies individual farmers have shown better results who were helped under package programme. But this does not mean that cooperative joint farming has no future in this country. It can revolutionise agriculture through devoted supervisory staff, proper education and effective management. The case study reveals that the Government has not shown any seriousness of purpose in carrying out the programme. The movement is being dominated by the money lenders, politicians and traders. The small landowners for whose benefit the cooperative farming was introduced are excluded. If organised and managed on the lines indicated in the above case study these farms will not increase the yield many folds but will also develop the small-scale and cottage industries which are essential for the employment opportunities and supplementing the income of the farm workers.

The next chapter deals with the impact of cooperative farming on rural industries.