LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study was undertaken in one of the districts (viz. Ludhiana district) of the State and for two agricultural years because of time and resource limitations. Had it been possible to cover larger area and to extend the study to a longer period, the results would be of still greater significance.

The pattern of mechanisation and adjustment opportunities on crop farms were examined on one representative synthetic farm-firm in each size-group. The variability within the size-group could not, therefore, be studied. The selected farm-firm could not, thus, be assumed to fully represent the particular size-group.

The adjustment opportunities on partly and completely mechanised farms were studied assuming that scarce land resource could be rented in, labour hired in and working capital borrowed to any extent. This situation could be true only in individual cases. But all farmers in the study area could not rent in land, hire in labour and borrow
cash in desirable amounts. This analysis, therefore, shows only the directions in which surplus resources could be used to increase incomes on individual farm organisations.

The crop activities for the programming analysis could not be classified according to their sequence in crop rotation for want of experimental data on complementary, supplementary and competitive relationships between various crop enterprises.

The estimated annual use of power units and equipment represented their modal use on all categories of farms—small, medium and large. But in actual practice, this use would vary on farms of different size-groups. Again, the estimated present annual use of power units and equipment was far less than their expected use on the reorganised farms. The fixed costs of power-machine combinations for the performance of various agricultural operations were, therefore, somewhat inflated. But this did not influence the results of this study in a significant manner in as much as it did not affect the relative position of competing crop enterprises.

As farm technology advances and possibilities for further increasing the intensity of cropping are developed, the farmers would need such power-machine combinations as would complete all farm operations in shorter period. Then, the farmers might seek to include suitable equipment in the machinery systems for their farms for
mechanising the spreading of farm yard manure in their fields and
the harvesting operations of groundnut and other crops. Besides,
suitable combines might be designed and perfected for harvesting,
threshing and winnowing of wheat under local conditions. Again,
farmers in the operational area of this study who, at present, appeared
to be satisfied with the gradient of their fields might like to include
levellers also in their machinery systems. At that stage, a repeat
study will have to be conducted to find out suitable power units and
their machinery systems to meet the needs of the changed farm economy.