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Farm Planning and Management, E. F. Daniel, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi, 1960. Pp. 280. Rs. 11.00

Planning implies choice as between alternatives. Production planning becomes necessary for a better and fuller utilisation of resources at the disposal of a producing unit. Mr. Daniel who was engaged for two years in farm management studies at the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India under a T. C. M. assignment, has made an attempt to show in this book how a farm can achieve better results by scientific readjustments in its production-plans. The method which has been followed in the analysis is that of case-studies.

The first few chapters of the book have been devoted to a general discussion of the problems of farm planning in the context of well-defined conditions and restrictions as to topography, soil-type, availability of land, labour, capital and other opportunities - limiting the level of performances of the individual farm. In course of this discussion the basic principles of farm management involving the process of combination of different enterprises by appropriate substitution of one enterprise for another have been elaborated; possibilities of linking extension service to the task of farm planning using it as an educational tool for the individual farmer have also been explored; illustrative models of more profitable alternative plans for six representative farms emerging from the analysis of their present operations and resources have also been presented in this connection to indicate the role of farm management as an educational tool.

Subsequent chapters furnish elaborate case-studies of six farms each in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madras, West Bengal and Bombay on the basis of farm management investigation which was previously conducted at selected centres. In each of these five case-studies the present use of resources of each of the farms along with its results in terms of income has been compared with three alternative plans indicating possibilities of shift or addition in the use of resources. Alternative plans mainly consist in provision for diversification of crops including cash crops, increase in the use of fertilizers and seeds, irrigation arrangement and readjustments in cropping system to ensure fuller utilisation of labour and to allow for price-changes. It is particularly interesting to note that the improved plans are more successful in increasing output than in increasing the use of labour.

Alternative plans presented in the book are, of course, improved plans. The task of indicating alternative plans has been rendered easier, just because of the fact that the illustrative farms were those which were using their resources at a level much below the level of fullest utilisation. Farms at full utilisation-levels would have required complicated tools for the discovery of more productive alternative plans. The work is, however, highly stimulating and instructive. It offers a very simple approach to the study of farm planning. It indicates the prospects of farm planning in a very lucid and forceful style. The book will be particularly useful for extension workers and persons engaged in farm management studies.

G. C. MANDAL